

“A.A. has no dues or fees, but we do have expenses...”

We all know it costs money to maintain a meeting space. It costs even more money to maintain the New York Inter-Group Office...\$400,072 last year to be exact. The New York Inter-Group office survives mainly on group and individual contributions; the Bill W. Dinner helps fill the gap, but for every \$100 ticket sold, approximately \$13 of that ticket price is raised for the office.

There are 1302 A.A. Groups listed in our meeting book from the 5 Boroughs, Westchester County and other surrounding areas. Did you know that of those 1302 Groups, only 466 contributed to New York Inter-group during the period of October 31st, 2008 through September 30th, 2009. That's only 36%! In fact, group contributions, personal donations and Anniversary Club contributions are at a 10 year low, and the prudent reserve at New York Inter-Group has dropped and alarming 33% in the last 1 ½ years.

If group contributions drop, so does New York Inter-Group's ability to function. Our 7th Tradition states that “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting...” The financial support comes from people like you, voluntarily putting money into the basket to make sure that the doors of A.A. remain open for the still suffering alcoholic. In fact, we have a “*Spiritual Responsibility*” to keep our meeting doors open. In turn, each A.A. Group has a spiritual responsibility to help support the A.A. Service Structure, including New York Inter-Group.

November was Gratitude Month. We urge you to share this letter with your groups and impress upon them the importance of our 7th tradition and supporting the A.A. Service Structure, particularly the New York Inter-Group Office. Encourage members to put \$2 in the basket, instead of \$1. We've been putting \$1 in the basket for over 40 years...and \$1 in 2009 covers a fraction of what it covered in 1969. If you take into consideration a \$4 coffee at Starbucks, or \$11 for a pack of cigarettes...\$2 doesn't seem so much.

Yours in Service,

Brian C.

Treasurer, New York Inter-Group Steering Committee

Breakdown of AA Groups that contributed to New York Inter-Group during the period October 1st, 2008 through September 30th, 2009. Please see the reverse of this letter for a listing of the groups that contributed.

<u>Borough/County:</u>	<u>Bronx</u>	<u>Brooklyn</u>	<u>Manhattan</u>	<u>Queens</u>	<u>Staten Island</u>	<u>Westchester</u>	<u>Other Areas & Misc.</u>	<u>Total Groups</u>
Total Groups:	100	174	345	204	74	126	279	1302
Groups Contributing	<u>50</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>466</u>
Percent of Total	50%	37%	51%	30%	49%	25%	17%	36%