

How do Districts support institutional meetings that do not pass the basket?

Tradition Seven states that we are “fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Therefore, Al-Anon groups do not accept literature or monetary donations from the facilities.

Introductory meetings can be held at institutions, such as hospitals, treatment centers, correctional institutions and shelters, or anywhere attendance changes frequently. Such a meeting is not considered an Al-Anon group and does not have its own group representative. Experienced Al-Anon members share the responsibilities for conducting introductory meetings and inviting those in attendance to try a regular Al-Anon/ Alateen meeting.

Many facilities have restrictions regarding their residents’ possession and use of money; consequently, those responsible should follow the rules of the unit and assess the financial circumstances of the residents before deciding if a collection should be taken. A collection basket is not usually passed at an institutions group for newcomers or at presentations for beginners, families, and staff.

Groups in the surrounding district or the information service/intergroup can be asked to provide literature or financially assist with group expenses. They can also have fund- raisers to support the institutions groups. Some fund-raising ideas are; dinners, round robins, or workshops, as suggested in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Funds have also been raised by:

Member donations- send around a separate basket each week for contributions to be used for the institutions groups

Support from district or institutions committee funds- list as a budget expense

The AIS/intergroup could offer financial support through its institutions committee.

Al-Anon groups, directly or through their district, are encouraged to help with the cost of literature and other expenses at these Introductory meetings.