Setting Up A Group Checking Account

Our 7th Tradition states, “Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

And our 4th Tradition says, “Every group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or FA as a whole.”

In keeping with these Traditions, it is important for our groups—and for the fellowship as a whole—that there be no question regarding any funds held by a group’s treasurer.

The FA World Service Board, in an effort to address concerns regarding our groups’ funds, has therefore established a policy regarding groups’ financial accountability.

That policy advises groups with at least $250 US (or the equivalent in non-US currency) to establish a bank account not affiliated with or linked to any individual member.

In order to set up a bank account, a group needs an employer identification number (EIN). If your group does not already have an EIN, you can apply for one by going to the Internal Revenue Service website and completing Form SS-4. The process is free and takes only a few minutes. (Please note that the World Service Board does not give out the fellowship’s corporate EIN to individual groups, one reason being that to do so would make our corporate accounting much more difficult.)

For more information on this policy or for help obtaining an EIN, please contact FA’s World Service Office at the numbers shown below.