

Notice anything different since **2020**?

Before 2020

- Meetings were almost always held in person, and usually indoors.
- 7th Tradition was done by cash primarily.
- Alkathons, Workshops, Committees, Council, and General Service met in person.

After 2020

- Meetings are held online, in parks, and many are hybrid.
- 7th Tradition contributions can be done online.
- Alkathons, Workshops, Committees, Council, and General Service meet online or in hybrid formats.

And now here's *another* one....

- Nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations were not eligible for federal tax credits.
- In order to mitigate larger unemployment claims, the CARES Act granted one-time eligibility for tax credits to **ANY organization who paid employee wages, including healthcare expenses in 2020 and 2021.** San Diego Intergroup is one of these. The credit is called The Employee Retention Credit –“ERC.”

But wait! Isn't this against the 7th Tradition?

The ERC federal tax credit is “refundable,” meaning the credit received is for wages and payroll taxes already paid by the employer. San Diego Intergroup, under Tradition 8, pays for “special workers” to operate Central Office, and this includes wages, health benefits and payroll taxes.

The long form of the 7th Tradition states, “**any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise.**”

The ERC was not solicited from the IRS, and the ERC is not a “gift” from the IRS. They are not refunding San Diego Intergroup because we asked them for help. Bill W. says in the 12 x 12, p.165, “whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune.” Yes, the IRS calls a lot of tunes, but will not be suggesting how the credit is spent.

Finally, just as literature sales are not reflected on the Profit and Loss Statement as “Contributions,” the ERC is a business transaction and is reflected on the Profit and Loss Statement under “Employee Wages.”

What are we going to do with the ERC funds?

As the long form of Tradition 7 reminds us, “experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority.” Because of this, and nonprofit regulations, the ERC will need to be spent as soon as possible. On what?

From Bill W., writing in 1967 in the Grapevine, “**the answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office ... or the world service Headquarters.**”

With this in mind, San Diego Intergroup's Coordinating Council has formed an ad hoc ERC Committee to collect ideas on how the funds can be used for this purpose. Your group can submit ideas to your Coordinator on the Coordinating Council. If your group doesn't have a Coordinator, 1) elect one!; and 2) you can submit your **group's** ideas to SDAAERCAhoc@gmail.com and they will be considered by the ERC Committee.

The San Diego AA Coordinating Council meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Go to www.aasandiego.org/intergroup for details.