

When I was early in sobriety and first joined a home group, I would go to group conscience and hear about a "prudent reserve". My initial impression was this was a way our group put money aside for some mysterious reason, never to be needed or used.

The longer I stayed sober I became involved more and more in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Even to the point of being nudged to actions completely contrary to my natural instincts and becoming the central office manager. Some could say Tradition 8 was thrust upon me.

I learned that a prudent reserve was not something that just my little group did, but was something most groups did, the Central Office, Area Assembly, as well as the General Service Office all do. So where are we today? Our traditions of being autonomous, self-supporting and having no affiliations, suggest we stand together as a fellowship, therefore we don't register for stimulus.

The mysterious idea of a prudent reserve, from all those years ago, has now become clearer to me. When Randy and I physically closed the brick and mortar office on March 19<sup>th</sup>, we knew that our book and chip sales would essentially cease. The truth is, that aspect of the office is misleading, as per our published monthly financial statement, all of our sales are a zero sum gain, our support comes from contributions. Now, with all that being said, let me tell you how my Higher Power works within my life. Getting sober and being of service to anyone besides myself was not my plan. Obviously, my plan didn't quite work out, for today I get to witness signs of wonder each day.

I believe it is significant that on Leap Day-2/29/20, the Intergroup/Central Office had a very successful fundraiser. (Lots of people, great food and just tremendous support). We netted about \$4200, money that was critical, for our operations and reserves going forward. Today our needs have somewhat changed, and we've been able to redirect our reserves, in order to continue in the service that is our life blood.

**“We are taught to differentiate between our wants (which are never satisfied) and our needs (which are always provided for). We cast off the burdens of the past and anxieties of the future, as we begin to live in the present, one day at a time. We are granted the serenity to accept the things we cannot change... and thus lose our quickness to anger and sensitivity to criticism “-Big Book 559.**

**As I look out at the present landscape, I’m touched and amazed at the depth of our “Real” Prudent Reserve. It’s not the finances, but the humanity. The people who have set up zoom meetings, the staff keeping our website current, the telephones, Randy and others cell phones, our 24/7 rollover hotline, the Facebook pages and of course all the people behind the scenes willing to do anything they can to carry the message.**

**Alcoholics Anonymous didn’t happen until Bill met Dr. Bob, so we would be nothing without the people, the humanity, the willingness to reach deep into each and every one of us to find that reserve.**

**Our spirituality as a fellowship is our united humanness, the selfless effort of each of us to rise above. Our spirituality is the true prudent reserve of A.A.**

**Gratefully Serving as your Mid Mississippi Intergroup Central Office  
Manager,**

**Paxton**