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Dear Brooklyn AA groups,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving! This message from Brooklyn Intergroup of AA (BIGAA) addresses a question that recently came up during one of our monthly meetings, and which may be on the minds of AA groups in general.

### **Why Does BIGAA Rent an Office?**

[As disclosed in our meeting minutes and reports](#), BIGAA has been renting an office space at a cost of \$1,550 per month since June 2021. Some groups have understandably asked why this expense is necessary and whether it's a good use of the contributions we receive.

We want to assure you that this decision was made carefully and was planned for several years prior to signing our first lease. A savings fund was voted on and created around 2018 for the express purpose of finding an office space for BIGAA. When the time came to use the funds, the matter was once again voted on by all BIGAA group representatives in full compliance with the group conscience and mission of AA at heart.

Prior to securing a permanent office space, our operations were scattered. Literature was stored in basements, meeting prep happened at home, and there was no consistent place for members to meet, organize, or be of service. Our monthly meetings were held in a rented classroom in a Brooklyn elementary school.

The office allows for:

- A stable home base for all of BIGAA's essential operations.
- Hotline volunteers who prefer to take phone shifts in a quiet, professional setting.
- Storage & distribution of literature - We now have a central place to store and sell AA-approved books, pamphlets, coins, and more to help groups stay stocked up.
- Meet in-person - Our committees and service teams now have a reliable place to meet, collaborate, and plan events.
- Build community engagement - It provides visibility and structure for public information, professional outreach, and workshops.

### **Why This Matters**

BIGAA exists to support the groups of Brooklyn, and never to replace or control them. By having a central space, we are simply better able to serve *you*. A functioning office

allows us to respond more quickly to requests, better coordinate volunteers, and create long-term stability for AA service in our borough. Also, we have use of the landlord's real estate office for our monthly meetings, as well as the use of a full kitchen and bathroom.

We know that \$1,550/month is a serious commitment. BIGAA has always been transparent with our finances and treasurer's reports, but we wanted to take this opportunity to address this issue directly and alleviate any concerns you or your group may have. We also want to reaffirm that we rely 100% on AA member and group contributions to operate. BIGAA is dedicated to be careful stewards of those funds, and we will always remain accountable to you. Furthermore, the original cost was \$1500 per month. It was increased to \$1550 with the last lease renewal and it will be \$1600 at the next lease. We have been very happy that our rent has only increased \$100 in four years!

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support, your trust, and most of all, your service to the alcoholic who still suffers. If you have questions or would like to visit the office or talk more about how BIGAA operates, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and service,  
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