

## **Task Force on Cashless Means of Payment – March 2021 Update**

The thought force was formed to develop specific recommendations for making cashless donations and registrations possible at the Area level in addition to cash methods.

This was a question that Delegates were asked to bring to our Areas and a thought force explored in 2020. The Covid-19 crisis made cashless payments even more relevant. Online meetings and events have benefited from allowing online payments. Some groups meeting in person shared that handling cash is not sanitary and electronic payment options are preferred

It is thought that having cashless means of payment available may encourage more individuals to donate to the Area. Additionally, electronic payments provide tracking and reporting capabilities that make them more secure and auditable.

The Taskforce met from October 2020 to February 2021 and evaluated various options for supporting cashless means of payment.

We collected information on the electronic payment options offered by Areas and Intergroups around the country, as well as the WSO. We found that 22 of the 59 Areas and Intergroup sites we surveyed accept electronic payments through their websites and some at events. The majority of those that accept electronic payments, process those payments through Paypal.

While we researched a number of electronic payment providers, we found that Paypal is uniquely designed to serve non-profits. In addition to offering simple, easy to implement donation and payment solutions, they offer special pricing to non-profits. They are also one of the most trusted and widely used electronic payment platforms in the country, which we felt would make our members comfortable.

The Taskforce recommends that we adopt cashless means of payment, in addition to cash-based payment, for contributions, registrations and Ohio Area Convention Ways and Means and literature sales. Specifically, we recommend leveraging Paypal to collect payments via credit card, debit card or member Paypal accounts.

The attached KBDM provides more information about our research and reasoning.

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