



**GSR Orientation Packet
Colorado Regional Assembly
July 24, 2005**

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Introduction

The purpose of this document and presentation is to allow all those who attend the Regional Assembly the chance to become familiar with the terms we use, how our service structure is organized and how the members of the Colorado Regional Service Committee do business. This document and presentation is in no way meant to replace the service literature that is currently available to our fellowship. It is the author's hope that it will inspire further research and discussion by all of those in attendance today. All quoted material is presented 'as-is', there has been no attempt to correct usage, syntactical or grammatical errors.

Preliminaries

Alphabet Soup – Making Sense of All Those Acronyms

GSR

The Group Service Representative is the go-between each Narcotics Anonymous Group and the various levels of our service structure.

*"These GSRs form the foundation of our service structure. GSRs provide constant, active influence over discussions being carried on within our service structure. They do this by participating in area service committee meetings, attending forums and assemblies at both the area and regional levels, and sometimes joining in the work of an ASC subcommittee. Group Service Representatives bear great responsibility. While GSRs are elected by and accountable to the group, they are not mere group messengers. They are selected by their groups to serve as active members of the area service committee. As such, they are responsible to act in the best interests of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their own groups' priorities." **Guide to Local Service pg. 36***

GSRA

The Group Service Representative Alternate is the member who attends service meetings when the GSR is unavailable. Many groups use this position to allow the member addicit the chance to learn about service while preparing to take over for the GSR at the end of their commitment.

ASC

The Area Service Committee is the committee that does most of the work of the fellowship in providing services. This acronym is often added to a area's name to simplify references in guidelines and correspondence; for example the Pike's Peak Service Committee may refer to itself as PPASC or PPASCNA where the NA stands for Narcotics Anonymous.

RSC

The Regional Service Committee is a service body to pool and develop local service responsibilities. This acronym is often added to a region's name to simplify references in guidelines and correspondence; for example the Colorado Regional Service Committee may refer to itself as CRSC or CRSCNA where the NA stands for Narcotics Anonymous.

CRCNA

The Colorado Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous is the annual celebration of our recovery. The Convention is a sub-committee of the Colorado Regional Service Committee and takes direction and is responsible to that body for decisions made as part of the convention cycle

RCM

The Regional Committee Member is the representative of each area on the regional service committee.

"They serve as the core of the regional service committee... RCMs keep their areas in touch with the larger world of NA by providing information in neighboring areas, functions being sponsored by the regional committee, reports relevant to subcommittee affairs and important issues being discussed at various levels of service." **Guide to Local Service pg. 51**

RD

The Regional Delegate is the representative of the region who attends and is a full participant at the World Service Conference carrying their region's conscience.

"The regional delegate serves as the primary contact between NA's world services and the local NA community. On one hand, the delegate provides information on current world projects to the regional committee. On the other, the delegate offers local perspective to the work of world services." **Guide to Local Service pg. 89**

RDA

The Regional Delegate Alternate may be looked at as our region's Regional Delegate in training and will participate in the World Service Conference in the event that the Regional Delegate is unable to attend or is not present on the floor of the World Service Conference.

"The delegate often consults with the alternate, asking for different perspectives on world service affairs and seeks to involve the alternate in helping carry the workload."

Guide to Local Service pg. 90

RMFNA

The Rocky Mountain Forum of Narcotics Anonymous is:

"a problem discussion and solution clearinghouse for the Narcotics Anonymous regions located in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming." **<http://www.rmfn.org/mission.php>**

WSC

The World Service Conference is an event held in even numbered years that brings the regional delegates, from every seated region in the world and the World Board together to make decisions that affect the direction our fellowship will take over the next two years. The next World Service Conference will be held in California April 23, 2006 through April 29, 2006.

"In each biennial meeting of the World Service Conference, our fellowship comes together in one place at one time to share experience, strength, and hope with each other. The purpose remains to solve common problems among those already here and fortunate enough to have discovered this new way of life and—more importantly—to redouble our efforts to carry the NA message to the addict who still suffers.

The World Service Conference is held every two years. It typically takes place the last week in April within seventy-five miles of the World Service Office. Regional delegates, together with members of the World Board and the executive director of the World Service Office, meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. In addition, the conference meeting includes members of the Human Resource Panel and the two WSC Cofacilitators. All are fully funded to attend the weeklong meeting."

A Guide to World Services pp 6-7

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

CAR

Conference Agenda Report is the document that outlines for the fellowship those issues to be discussed at the next World Service Conference. It is generally available in late November preceding the World Service Conference. For example the Conference Agenda Report for the 2006 World Service Conference will be available by November 23, 2005.

"The report contains the proposals and motions that the fellowship is being asked to consider and form a fellowship wide group conscience on. One copy of the report is mailed to each voting participant of the conference, each RD alternate, and the mailing address of each region.

The Conference Agenda Report includes reports, proposals, and motions from the World Board and any proposals or motions submitted from regions.

Statements of the financial impact of each motion appearing in the CAR will be included from the World Board. Reports may include a summary of events leading to the presentation of the proposals that are included. Material presented to the fellowship for approval will be written in a form that lends itself to a yes/no vote and specifies the conceptual changes involved to affirm and support this process. Only material approved by the World Board is sent out to the fellowship in 'approval form.' All motions submitted to be placed in the Conference Agenda Report that attempt to change, amend, or delete WSC policies, shall include those policies, or sections of those policies, which each motion attempts to amend. Further, it shall be the responsibility of the maker of the motion to provide this information along with the motion."

A Guide to World Services pp 11-12

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

WCNA

The World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous is a celebration of our recovery that rotates around the world to allow addicts worldwide to attend. The convention is generally held in odd numbered years, the next convention is September 1, 2005 through September 4, 2005 in Honolulu, HI. The World Board is responsible for the convention and acts in concert with local support committees to have an event that is memorable for all who attend.

"The primary purpose of the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (WCNA) is to provide a special celebration of our recovery, a reflection of our diversity, and a demonstration of our unity."

A Guide to World Services pg 34

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

WSO

World Service Office is the place where the special workers employed by Narcotics Anonymous Worldwide Services actually carry out the duties of providing services to our worldwide fellowship.

"The purpose of the World Service Office (WSO), our main service center, is to carry out the directives of the World Service Conference in matters that relate to communications and information for the Fellowship of NA, its services, groups, and members. The World Service Office achieves this purpose by maintaining correspondence with NA groups and service committees, by printing and distributing WSC-approved literature, and by maintaining the archives and files of Narcotics Anonymous."

A Guide to World Services pg 3

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

"The World Service Office is currently comprised of our Chatsworth headquarters, a branch office in Brussels, Belgium, and a distribution center in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada."

<http://www.na.org/reports/ar/2004/NAWS.pdf>

NAWS

Narcotics Anonymous World Services is the legal entity that allows our fellowship to do business with the public in general and provide services and support to the addicts of our fellowship worldwide. Narcotics Anonymous World Services operates the World Service Office in all its locations worldwide, and publishes and distributes our literature.

"NA World Services, Inc. employs forty-nine full-time employees and two part-time employees."
<http://www.na.org/reports/ar/2004/NAWS.pdf>

FIPT

The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust is the legal document that protects and preserves our fellowship's intellectual property (our literature and logos) in a manner that is recognized by legal entities throughout the world.

"A set of documents describing how NA's literature and logos are managed and protected for the greatest benefit of the fellowship as a whole. Contains its own glossary of terms. Approved by the fellowship in April 1993."

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

"The purpose of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust is to lay out the collective decisions the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship has made over the years concerning its literature and logos. Anyone who has any questions about how NA literature is to be developed and approved, who "owns" it, how it may be changed and who may change it, who may print it, and what is to be done with the money resulting from its sale can easily refer to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust. In this one comprehensive document appear the policies our entire fellowship has created to preserve the integrity of its published message and the accountability of its publishing services."

<http://www.na.org/legal/fipt93b.htm>

CAL

Conference Approved Service Literature is literature that is intended for the service bodies within our service structure that has been approved by the World Service Conference. An example is the Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous (**http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf**).

WB

The World Board is comprised of members of the fellowship elected at each World Service Conference to six-year terms. Their terms are staggered to provide continuity of the board. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms (twelve years) on the World Board. Any region or Zonal Forum may nominate members for consideration by the conference. Human Resources Panel also nominates members for consideration of the World Service Conference.

"The World Board will consist of up to eighteen members elected by at least 60% of the World Service Conference. These conference-elected members will have equal participation rights, including voting on the board and at the World Service Conference. Board members may not, however, vote on items that have been submitted to the groups in the Conference Agenda Report or on any other items of Old Business at the World Service Conference."

A Guide to World Services pg. 14

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

World Pool

The World Pool is comprised of members of the World Fellowship who volunteer their abilities and skills for World Service Conference projects and to be considered for the World Board, or the Human Resources Panel.

"The purpose of the World Pool is to constitute a pool of trusted servants willing and qualified to serve on the World Board, the WSC Cofacilitator positions, the Human Resource Panel, and the World Board's committee and workgroup projects. The pool consists of a compilation of information about members, demonstrating a variety of recovery and service-related experience, as well as any skills necessary for the successful completion of world level assignments."

A Guide to World Services pg. 18

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

HRP

The Human Resources Panel is a panel comprised of addicts who facilitate the selection of World Board Nominees World Service Conference Co-Facilitators and Human Resource Panel members. Human Resources Panel members are elected by a simple majority of the World Service Conference participants.

"...Facilitates an election/selection process that will allow the World Service Conference to base trusted servant choices upon the principles of ability and experience, helps to allow members to be nominated from around the world without having to be present at the conference to receive due consideration, and create a more open opportunity for world services to benefit from our collective resources by providing an established and recognized process by which to do so."

A Guide to World Services pg. 3

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

CBDM

Consensus Based Decision Making is a spiritual based method of committees and service bodies to arrive at a decision. The theory is that decisions made in this manner will let all participants to walk away feeling they can fully support those decisions.

Service Structure -- The Inverted Pyramid

The Service structure of our fellowship allows us to further our primary purpose – carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. We rely on our members to create and maintain this structure on the local level. The discussion below goes from the top of the pyramid – the recovering addict– to the bottom – World Services. It is intended to allow those who are unfamiliar with our service structure to understand what service is all about and how the individual addict fits in.

The Addict

The entire service structure of Narcotics Anonymous depends on our membership – addicts who have chosen a new way to live. Any addict regardless of clean time can be of service to our fellowship. Things as simple as giving encouragement to the addict just walking in the door for the first time, providing rides to a meeting or simply giving another member a hug are examples of service to our fellowship. On a more concrete level many groups offer opportunities to serve, such as coffee-makers or greeters, that are available to any addict regardless of clean time. Without willing addicts to fill these positions of service our fellowship becomes one of US and THEM, those who serve and those who don't.

The Group

The Group is the fundamental element of our service structure. Our groups provide regularly scheduled NA meetings and allow us to recover in the company of other recovering addicts. Although an addict can recover without the support of a group, it is difficult; therefore, service to our groups in any capacity is actually service to us. Someone needs to open our doors, make coffee, run our meetings, and be there for the still suffering addict. If we neglect to be of service to our groups, the group may survive but will hardly thrive. The strength of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole depends on the strength of our groups and that strength depends on addicts becoming willing to serve in whatever capacity they are able to. One of the most important service positions of the group is the Group Service Representative. This member has the responsibility to carry their group's collective conscience to the rest of our service structure through the Area Service Committee and periodic Regional Assemblies. It is through our GSRs that we give direction to our service structure as a whole. Just as the group supports its members, the rest of the service structure is intended to support our groups in fulfilling our primary purpose.

"NA groups are formed by addicts who wish to support one another in carrying the message directly to other addicts and in participating in the activities and services of NA as a whole. NA groups – not NA meetings are the foundation of the NA service structure. Together, the NA groups are responsible for making service decisions that directly affect them and what they do in meetings as well as those that fundamentally affect the identity of Narcotics Anonymous"

Guide to Local Service pg. 27

"NA groups are local, informal associations of recovering addicts. They are the foundation of the NA service structure. Groups are formed for the primary purpose of carrying the NA message of recovery, and all of their activities should reflect that purpose. Conducting Narcotics Anonymous meetings is the primary activity of an NA group."

A Guide to World Services pg. 1

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

Area Service Committees

The Area Service Committee is our interface between our groups and the community in general. While our groups build and maintain an atmosphere of recovery for addicts in general, it is our Area Service Committees that carries our message out to the community so they may learn what we offer and where we offer it. Among the responsibilities of the ASC are maintaining current meeting lists, getting information out to the public to know where we are (Public Information), setting-up and maintaining phone lines, carrying our message to addicts who are unable to attend our regularly scheduled meetings (Hospitals and Institutions) and supporting the groups who make up our areas.

"The area committee is the primary means by which the services of a local NA community are administered. The area committee is composed of group service representatives, administrative officers (chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer), subcommittee chairpersons, and the area's regional committee members. The area committee elects its own officers, subcommittee chairpersons, and RCMs."

A Guide to World Services pg. 1

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

*"Area Service Committees are ultimately responsible to the groups they serve. Narcotics Anonymous groups send group service representatives (GSRs) to serve on the area committee. While still maintaining the final responsibility and authority for area services, they invest enough delegated authority in their GSRs – and through them, the area committee – for the necessary work to get done." **Guide to Local Service pg. 47***

Regional Service Committees

The Regional Service Committee exists solely to support the areas and groups that make up the region. They also schedule regional assemblies so the groups have the opportunity to directly provide direction to this committee.

“Regional service committees exist to pool the experience and resources of the areas and groups it serves. The RSC is composed of regional committee members (RCMs) elected by the region's member-areas; these RCMs elect regional committee officers from among themselves. RSCs organize assemblies at which group service representatives (GSRs) and regional committee members discuss a wide range of service matters, including those likely to come before the World Service Conference. The region's delegate to the world conference is elected by the GSRs and/or RCMs at the regional assembly or RSC”

A Guide to World Services pg. 1

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

*“Regional committees generally do not perform direct services – that is, they don't run phone lines, organize H&I panels or carry out a public information program. Regions are formed simply to pool and develop local service resources that can be used by the groups and areas in better fulfilling their responsibilities.” **Guide to Local Service pg. 88***

Colorado Regional Service Committee

Here in the Colorado Region our **RSC**, does provide some H&I services in geographic locations that do not have active groups. An example of these services are providing literature to prisons in the remote areas of our region.

The CRSCNA is comprised of up to two **RCMS** from each of our eight areas, an administrative committee, the Colorado Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous subcommittee, a Public Information subcommittee, a Hospital and Institutions subcommittee and various resource positions. The trusted servants of the administrative committee include a chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, web servant, regional delegate and regional delegate alternate.

The administrative committee members are generally elected at the April Regional Assembly for the terms defined in the **CRSCNA** Guidelines found at:

<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

This committee meets in odd-numbered months throughout the Colorado Region to conduct business and organizes at least one Regional Assembly every year in April where the **GSRs** provide direction to the Regional Service Committee. The **CRSCNA** also is responsible for providing and maintaining the regional meeting list and providing a website (**<http://www.nacolorado.org>**) to allow addicts throughout the region to keep current with what is going on within the region as a whole.

*“The Colorado Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous (**CRSCNA**) was formed simply to pool and develop local service resources that can be used both by groups and areas in better fulfilling their responsibilities. Regional committees generally do not perform direct services – that is, they don't run phone lines, organize H&I panels, or carry out a public information program. Although **CRSCNA** members may offer experience, strength, and hope in addition to suggestions, the **CRSCNA** does not have binding authority over the decisions or activities of any Area or Group within the Region.”*

Colorado Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Guidelines pg. 1

<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

Regional Assemblies are held to elect trusted servants, approve changes to the **CRSCNA** and subcommittee guidelines, gather the region's conscience on the **Conference Agenda Report**, and to disseminate information from The **World Board** and **NAWS**.

*"One purpose of holding a Regional Assembly (usually in April) shortly before the biennial meeting of the World Service Conference is to bring representatives of NA groups (**GSRs**) and areas (**RCMs**) together with the **RD** and **RDA** for the purpose of developing a collective conscience concerning issues affecting Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. It is not merely to tabulate votes on the motions in the **Conference Agenda Report (CAR)**. Open discussion about the **CAR** motions is more valuable to the RD than a simple "yea" or "nay" vote. It is these discussions which will give the delegate clear indications of the region's collective conscience concerning world issues. And it is these indications that will guide the **RD** when participating at the **World Service Conference**."*

*"Another purpose of holding a Regional Assembly (usually in April) is to elect members of the **CRSCNA** administrative committee and standing subcommittee Chairpersons. Only **CRSCNA** members and **GSRs** in attendance will cast a vote. Only groups on the most current Regional meeting list or registered with the **WSO** will be permitted to send a **GSR** or elected designate."*

*"The purpose of holding a Regional Assembly shortly after the **World Service Conference** is to go over the events of the **World Service Conference** as reported by the **RD** and **RDA**."*

Colorado Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Guidelines pg. 10
<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

Zonal Forums

Zonal Forums are outside of the service structure of Narcotics Anonymous and are formed to help regions come together and pool information resources and share solutions to common problems.

"Zonal forums are service-oriented sharing and/or business sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another. Although not a part of NA's formal decision-making system, world services and zonal forums interact in many ways. Zonal forums are invited to provide reports on the floor of the World Service Conference and, when requested by the conference, may also answer specific questions or address the body."

"World services typically attends zonal forum meetings, and may provide funding for some participants' attendance at zonal forums."

A Guide to World Services pg 2

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

Currently the Colorado Region is a part of the Rocky Mountain Forum; other members include the Montana Region, the Upper Rocky Mountain Region and the Utah Region. The Rocky Mountain Forum maintains a website that documents its activities and provides a repository of documents created by its members that address common issues and solutions.

Narcotics Anonymous World Services

Narcotics Anonymous World Services provides the services to allow groups, areas and regions to serve our primary purpose in the local area. NA World Services serves as the publisher and distributor of our literature and provides updates to the worldwide fellowship through the NA Way Magazine and NAWS News. NA World Services also provide a web site where much of the information used in this document was drawn from. NAWS is accountable to the fellowship through the direction received at each World Service Conference. The World Board is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the activities of NAWS.

“World services are those services that deal with the problems and needs of NA as a whole and that NA offers to its members, its groups, and to society. The basic purposes of our world services are communication, coordination, information, and guidance. We provide these services so that our groups and members can more successfully carry the message of recovery and so that our program of recovery can be made more available to addicts everywhere.”

A Guide to World Services pg 2

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

World Service Conference

The World Service Conference is a biennial event where the direction of NA World Services is set. The Regional Delegates and their alternates from every region in the world meet to approve the CAR, to discuss issues that are currently important to the fellowship worldwide, to provide direct input from the regions to the World Board and NA World Services, and to develop solutions to problems common throughout our fellowship.

“It is the nerve center of our fellowship. Our conference is the one time and place where all of our world services come together. Unlike all other service bodies of NA service, the conference is not an entity, it is an event—the coming together. Every two years, regional delegates, the members of the World Board, and the executive director of the World Service Office meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. The purpose of the World Service Conference is to be supportive of the fellowship as a whole and to define and take action according to the group conscience of Narcotics Anonymous.”

A Guide to World Services pg 2

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

World Board

The World Board members direct and are responsible for the activities of NA World Services. These members are elected at the World Service Conference for six-year terms. These addicts from the fellowship in general who have expressed an interest in serving at this level and have demonstrated the leadership and administrative skills necessary to effectively lead our fellowship between World Service Conferences.

“The board serves as a primary resource for the NA Fellowship by providing the support needed to carry our message while ensuring that the service and support provided are of the highest quality possible. The World Board manages all activities of world services including oversight of the operations of the fellowship’s primary service center, the World Service Office.”

A Guide to World Services pg 3

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

World Service Office

The World Service Office provides for the day-to-day needs of our fellowship worldwide. This office maintains an inventory of and sells our literature worldwide, provides the fellowship answers and solutions to specific problems, and helps to develop the fellowship worldwide. The actual work of Narcotics Anonymous World Services is accomplished by the special workers at all its locations.

"The purpose of the World Service Office (WSO), our main service center, is to carry out the directives of the World Service Conference in matters that relate to communications and information for the Fellowship of NA, its services, groups, and members. The World Service Office achieves this purpose by maintaining correspondence with NA groups and service committees, by printing and distributing WSC-approved literature, and by maintaining the archives and files of Narcotics Anonymous."

A Guide to World Services pg 3

http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf

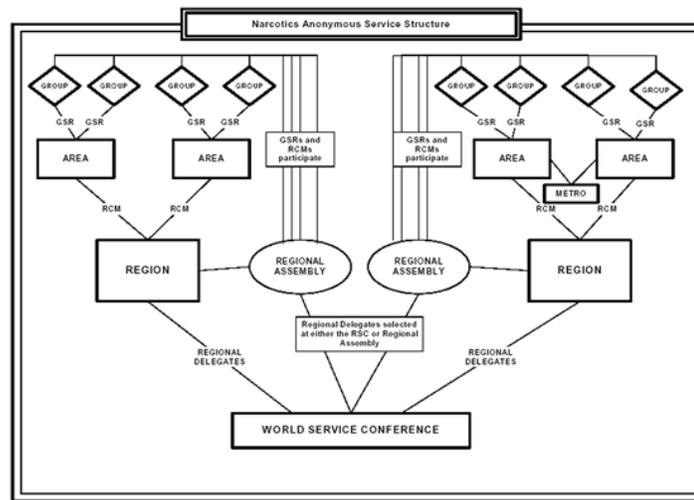


Figure 1 - Narcotics Anonymous Local Service Structure

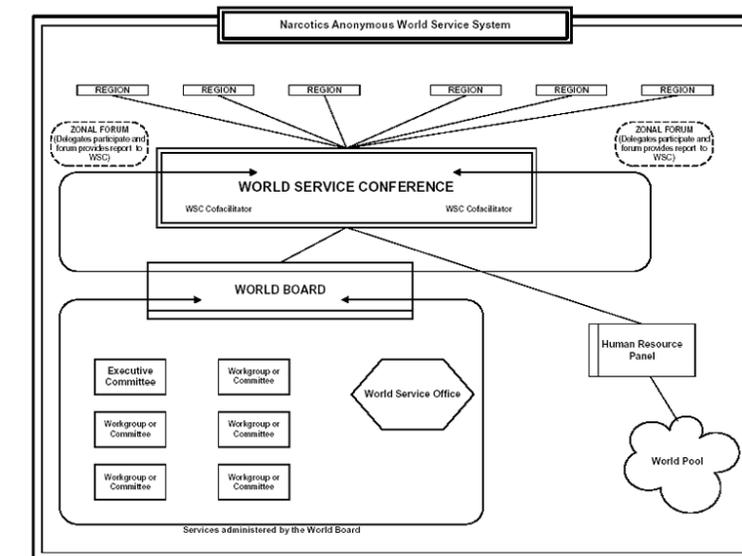


Figure 2 - NA World Service Structure

Why We Are Here

That is really the question isn't it? The Colorado Regional Service Committee welcomes all the participants who have given up their time to attend the Assembly. This event has two distinct parts this orientation to help newcomers and old-timers alike to feel comfortable with what will hopefully happen here today, and the Assembly itself. If at any time you have questions or concerns over what is happening here today. Please do not hesitate to ask someone – remember the only ignorant question is the one that is not asked.

Orientation

One of the problems I heard expressed over and over again at the Worldwide Workshop I attended is that the Group Service Representatives felt confused and left out at Regional Assemblies. They knew they were there to do something, sat through the entire assembly where something happened and left without really knowing what went on. My intent in creating this document and presenting it is to help everyone in attendance feel that at least they have a clue as to what is going on. I do not expect to be able to educate all of you into all the intricacies of service in Narcotics Anonymous, but I do hope I provide each of you with enough information and resources to feel a part of the process today. Following this presentation we will get on with the business of the Regional Assembly.

Assembly

The Colorado Regional Service Committee is charged with holding at least one Group Service Representative Regional Assembly every year. The Assembly is the forum for our groups to provide direct input to the committee members about the concerns of their groups. It also provides an opportunity to meet with addicts from throughout the region and network with them to discuss problems and explore solutions. Today our agenda includes conducting the business of the CRSC, approving or disapproving the guideline changes and a brainstorming session over the two World service Conference Discussion Topics – INFRASTRUCTURE and OUR PUBLIC IMAGE.

What to Expect Today

Committee Business

The CRSC uses the opportunity of the Regional Assembly to conduct our July service committee meeting and asks all in attendance to feel free to actively participate in this portion of this event. The agenda for the meeting is set by the regional chair and includes reports from all the committee members updating the committee on their activities since our last meeting. We also present and consider proposals from our member areas, pay our bills, deal with requests that the committee has received via e-mail or postal mail and decide if the region will make a donation to Narcotics Anonymous World Services.

Guideline Changes

In order to change the guidelines by which the CSRC and its sub-committees do business, any changes to the existing guidelines can only be made by the Regional Assembly. The CRSC publishes those changes at least sixty days before the Assembly so the groups have the opportunity to look over the changes and come ready to approve or disapprove those changes via the Consensus Based Decision Making process. The guideline changes that will be discussed and decided today are presented below in the Supporting Material Section.

Issue Topic Discussions

The Regional Delegate sets the agenda for the Assembly portion of the event. Using the opportunity of the representation of the fellowship of our region, our Regional Delegate will lead a brainstorming session on the WSC Issue Discussion Topics.

Our Public Image

NA's public image is often directly dependent on the strength and stability of our fellowship's infrastructure. When we conducted the Public Relations Roundtable meetings with professionals who interface with our fellowship, their concerns sounded familiar:

- *confusion about which NA phone number to call in a large city (and no one available to answer the phone once a number has been found),*
- *a lack of confidence in the safety and recovery available at NA meetings (that is, predatory behavior at meetings is a direct reflection upon NA's image to the public),*
- *NA being overwhelmed by potential members sent from drug courts,*
- *lack of identification in some meetings by target populations—youth, prescription drug addicts, professionals, etc.,*
- *not seeing NA as stable or reliable, and*
- *a lack of awareness of the existence of various NA literature or periodicals.*

These are only examples of how professionals see us and don't even include the difficulty most of us face with NA's public image when trying to find a meeting facility or start a new H&I panel. Whether it's a professional considering sending an addict to one of our meetings or a high school administrator taking a chance with a presentation to their student body, a positive public image is crucial to our primary purpose. We feel that it is time to begin squarely facing some of the messages we've been putting out to the public. Our relationship with the public is something we cannot avoid. We are not a secret society—we are an effective and viable solution to drug addiction and it's time we consistently behave that way. The first step is being honest about the challenges we face in our own local communities, which is the place where practical solutions can arise. As our literature says, "if a solution isn't practical then it isn't spiritual."

<http://www.na.org/publicimage.htm>

Infrastructure

What is infrastructure? Basically, it is our service structure and the system in place to help us carry the message of recovery. It is the group, area, region, and committees and how they relate to each other. It is the framework that supports what we do in NA.

In our efforts to coordinate discussion within the fellowship, we thought this might be a good opportunity to share a unique global perspective with you. It has become especially clear that our fellowship's infrastructure is in need of some attention. We have common problems—whether in rural communities or large metropolitan areas, whether our local fellowship is made up of newly clean members or members with longtime recovery. We hear the same things from members throughout the world as we heard from delegates in their regional reports to the World Service Conference:

- *areas that don't meet regularly due to lack of trusted servants,*
- *not enough willing members to serve on committees or get involved in service,*
- *phone lines going down or going unanswered,*
- *issues with mismanaged funds,*
- *problems with unity,*
- *losing meeting venues, and*
- *unproductive service meetings.*

We all know that if there were easy answers to our infrastructure weaknesses we probably would have found them already. Discussing local infrastructure with other members may not produce immediate solutions, but as we know—not everything of value is quick or tangible. Sometimes the creativity we need to actually solve our problems can come from having a real discussion outside of the normal business of our group, area, regional, or committee meetings. Just think about the ways our personal recovery has evolved through honest sharing and listening to what others have to say. Solutions come over time and instant gratification does not always serve us in recovery or in service. This much is clear: in order for us to make NA's message truly available to any addict seeking it, our fellowship's infrastructure will have to become steady and reliable. It will take all of our many ideas, and our various perspectives to begin the hard work of strengthening our infrastructure.

<http://www.na.org/infrastructure.htm>

How We Do It

The **CRSC** uses several processes to do business and gather information for direction. The main process is Consensus Based Decision Making for conducting our business. We directly elect our trusted servants. We use brain-storming for issue identification and problem solution. Each of these processes is described in detail below.

Consensus Based Decision Making

Consensus Based Decision Making is a process for doing business that allows for the greatest participation in forming a conscience about the matter at hand. The CRSC version of this is presented below:

“The use of Consensus-Based Decision-Making admittedly take longer to achieve an outcome to an issue (called a proposal). But, the results are understood by all in attendance at a more significant level of comprehension. In addition, any proposal can be easily changed or modified as discussion progresses. Making a motion, requiring a second and so forth are no longer needed. Trusted servants become a single point of decision-making and thus accountable to their Areas.

1. Bring proposals to the CRSC. Formulate clear proposals in advance with as much communication and collaboration as possible to facilitate the consensus-decision process. Facilitator presents the proposal to the CRSC (analogous to the motion in a Robert's Rules process). Maker of the proposal speaks first to the intent.

2. Open up the floor first for clarifying questions about the proposal (not a debate on the merits but a brief session to be sure everyone understands the proposal).

3. Facilitator asks whether anyone has reservations about the proposal. These are heard and they may be answered or the proposal may be tweaked in a manner similar to the “friendly amendment” process in Robert's Rules.

4. Once all reservations have been heard and answered in this way, Facilitator asks, “Do we have consensus?” Participants respond in one of four ways.

a. Assent. *This means that the addict supports the proposal, all things considered. It may not mean that the addict is in agreement with every aspect, that the addict has heard the discussion and has had a chance to participate in the process of finalizing the proposal, and is prepared to support the final proposal. Assent is signified by remaining silent.*

- b. Assent with Reservations.** *This option is not materially different from the Assent option but is included as a way of giving addicts a place to stand when they do not want to object more strongly, but they do want to note that they have reservations. Assent with Reservations is done by the addict raising their hand and simply saying when the facilitator calls on them, "Assent with Reservations". The assumption is that the reservations have been heard already, and the addict is simply noting that they can support the proposal and continue to have these reservations.*
- c. Stand Aside.** *A common misconception about the Stand Aside option is that it is similar to an abstention. It is not. It is more accurate to say it is similar to a "no" vote. It is a statement that the addict does not support the proposal, but the addict's objection is not of the nature or the severity to warrant a block. Should the number of addicts opting to be Stand Asides reach 45% or more of the addicts present, this will then indicate a consensus too weak to adopt the proposal. The proposal is then either dropped or delegated to the Maker of the proposal or an Ad Hoc Committee for reworking.*
- d. Block.** *This option is also commonly misunderstood. Given that a proposal can be defeated by a sufficient number of Stand Asides, the Block should be an extremely rare step taken only when a participant honestly believes that one of the Traditions or Concepts is directly violated by this proposal, or some very fundamental moral position of the participant is violated. An addict who blocks must be able to articulate which Tradition or Concept or Spiritual principle fundamental to NA is violated by the proposal."*

Colorado Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Guidelines pp 2-3
<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

Elections

While Consensus Based Decision Making is a spiritual means to resolve issues and develop solutions, our trusted servants need to be elected. Only the Regional Assembly can elect Trusted Servants to the Colorado Regional Service Committee Administrative committee.

- 1. A vote will be taken for all elected positions regardless of the number of nominees.*
- 2. If there is only one nominee for a position after nominations have been closed, the election is known as a vote of acclamation and will be indicated as such by the Chairperson. The nominee must then receive 2/3rds of the participating votes to be elected. If the nominee fails to receive 2/3rds then nominations will be reopened.*
- 3. While the voting process is taking place the nominees should leave the room.*
- 4. All **GSR's**, **RCM's**, and **CRSCNA** Officers (except **CRSCNA** Chair) in attendance may cast one vote.*
- 5. The Chairperson will ask who is in favor of the first candidate nominated, then the second, and so on. All votes for a candidate will be counted before moving on to the next one.*
- 6. There are no votes "against" a candidate. The only votes that will be tallied are those in favor of the candidate and those abstaining from the vote.*
- 7. The Chairperson will vote only when a vote total is tied.*
- 8. The final vote totals will NOT be reflected in the minutes. "*

Colorado Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Guidelines pg 4
<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

Brain Storming

Brain Storming is a method of quickly generating discussions and allowing all in attendance the opportunity to contribute. Today we will be modeling our brain storming sessions after those currently in use by the World Board and the World Service Conference. The guidelines and ground rules are presented in the Supporting Material Section, following the guideline changes. It is the hope of the committee that those in attendance today try out some of the techniques we use when conducting business of their respective groups.

Resources for further Investigation

On-line (THE WORLD WIDE WEB)

Colorado Regional Web Site:

<http://www.nacolorado.org/>

Rocky Mountain Forum Web Site:

<http://www.rmfn.org>

Narcotics Anonymous World Services Web Site:

<http://www.na.org>

Colorado Regional Guidelines

<http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRSCNAGuidelines.pdf>

Conference Approved Literature

Guide to Local Services

Guide To World Services 2004 - **http://www.na.org/pdf/2004GWSNA_final.pdf**

The Group Booklet

The Twelve Concepts Booklet

It Works How and Why

Narcotics Anonymous Basic Text

The Addict Sitting Next to YOU!

Sitting in t his room today is probably hundreds of years of shared experience strength and hope. If you do not understand something please ask someone here, instead of sitting in confusion. You have nothing to lose and plenty to gain.

NOTES:

Supporting Material

The following pages contain brief 'cheat sheets' of the 12 concepts and the 12 traditions, the CRCNA guidelines changes, brainstorming guidelines and ground rules. Please feel free to copy and widely distribute.

CRCNA Guideline Changes

Guidelines for use of "Broadcast" mailing lists for the CRCNA Committee

The 'Broadcast' mailing list is designed primarily to inform those persons on the mailing list of events and announcements directly pertaining to the upcoming Colorado Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous.

For questions concerning this guideline – please contact the CRCNA Committee Chair or the Convention Information/Webmaster Chair via the website at <http://nacolorado.org/crcna/> and clicking on the 'contact us' button.

1. Introduction

The list is moderated, which means the Convention Information/Webmaster (CIW) Chair Subcommittee designee selectively enters all entries to an assigned database. CRCNA Chair and Vice Chair has access to add, modify, or delete entries. Broadcasting events or announcements are only available to CRCNA Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Convention Information/Webmaster Chairpersons only.

Control of the use of distribution lists is necessary because:

- excessive and extravagant use could impose heavy strains on network and filestore resources, etc;*
- inappropriate use will cause a negative reaction from those who receive the mail;*
- CRCNA CIW Privacy Policy (see below) forbids excessive use or unofficial use of this list.*

2. Allowable Use

2.1 Communications/Letters/Circulars/Announcements/News

There will be a requirement that all Broadcasts should be of interest to a majority (over 51%) of recipients who have opted to be informed of events, announcements, important news (cancellations), and changes to the CRCNA Primary Event, or sub-events. The Broadcasts will be of substance, and a direct reflection on the professional representation of the CRCNA Committee as a whole.

The messages can be generated ONLY by:

- The CRCNA Committee Chairperson*
- The CRCNA Committee Vice Chairperson on the Chairperson's Behalf*
- THE CRNCA Convention Information/Webmaster Subcommittee Chairperson*

PDF (Adobe Acrobat) files are the preferred attachment form for all Official Convention Information flyers, announcements, bulletins, etc. (see Sec 3 for disallowed attachments). Links to the CRCNA Main Webpage are allowed and suggested in order to keep the overall message within a reasonable size when more detailed information is required.

2.2 Other Categories

No other categories will be acceptable use of the Broadcast List or functions.

3. Disallowed Use

The following will not be allowed:

- *Messages containing subjective attachments that may contain harmful viruses (e.g. Word Documents, Spreadsheets, Executables, and Archives) or formatted text (e.g. HTML format mail.) that references offsite (non-inclusive) data.*
- *Personal items: e.g. for sale, advertising, births, messages, farewells, etc.*
- *Items initiated by individual committee members of a non-general nature.*
- *Repeat reminders of a message already circulated.*
- *"Thank you" messages from a previous email.*
- *Excessively long messages (more than say 40-50 lines).*
- *Anything prohibited by the Narcotics Anonymous Traditions (e.g. Commercial sales, endorsements, etc.)*

4. Mechanism for Distribution

Access to the distribution lists will be restricted (see Privacy Policy below). Distribution will only be available through the CRCNA email system provided by the Regional Colorado Narcotics Anonymous web server. The CRCNA Committee Chairperson and/or CIW Sub-committee Chair appoint access to this server. All Broadcasts will be a representation of the CRCNA Committee as a whole.

5. Privacy Policy

The CRCNA Committee will under no circumstance solicit, distribute, or make public the Broadcast Email List for any reason. Access to the List will remain restricted except to those detailed in Section 1 of this document and ONLY per the allowed use as described in Section 2 of this document. Deviation from this policy may result in disciplinary action by the CRCNA Committee and/or Civil or Federal action depending on the severity of the deviation.

6. Collection

From time to time, or per event, the CRCNA Committee or CIW Subcommittee will collect emails to add to the current Broadcast list. Other Subcommittees or regions may submit email addresses to the CRCNA Committee or CIW Subcommittee. IT IS HIGHLY SUGGESTED that any forms passed around for such a purpose specifically detail the reason for the collection and indicate that at any time removal of an address can be accomplished by a simple reply email asking for such removal.

7. Removal

At any time the recipient of the Broadcast can ask to be removed from the Broadcast List by replying to the Broadcast and stating that request. A simple "please remove" will suffice. Under no circumstance will a reply email be sent to that recipient stating the action has been taken. In this sense, 'no news is good news' will be the standing rule and is most likely expected by the recipient.

8. Changes

Changes to this guideline can be submitted to the CRCNA Committee at any time, and can be amended or updated by the CRCNA Committee at any time without notice.

For questions concerning this guideline – please contact the CRCNA Committee Chair or the Convention Information/Webmaster Chair via the website at <http://nacolorado.org/crcna/> and clicking on the 'contact us' button.

http://www.nacolorado.org/region/CRCNA_Guideline_Proposed_Changes.pdf

SUGGESTED GROUND RULES

Stay open-minded.

Listen and share the time.

Remember to play well with others.

Don't forget why we're here!

Stay focused on the subject at hand.

Lively conversation is productive.

To agree and to disagree...that is the process!

One more time—Avoid repetition.

It's important to **start** and **stop** on time.

and

NO KICKING, SCRATCHING, OR BITING ALLOWED...!

BRAINSTORMING GUIDELINES

One good idea leads to another... good idea.

“No” and “can’t” do not exist.

Creativity has no limits.

Be part of—participate.

Think fast, analyze later...

Judging, evaluating, and criticizing are *not* brainstorming.

And above all...

HAVE FUN!



The Twelve Traditions of NA

First Tradition

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.

Our First Tradition concerns unity and our common welfare. One of the most important things about our new way of life is being a part of a group of addicts seeking recovery. Our survival is directly related to the survival of the group and the Fellowship. To maintain unity within NA, it is imperative that the group remain stable, or the entire Fellowship perishes and the individual dies.

Second Tradition

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Our direction in service comes from a God of our understanding, whether we serve as individuals, as a group, or as a service board or committee. Whenever we come together, we seek the presence and guidance of this loving Higher Power. This direction then guides us through all our actions. [...] When we choose a member to serve us in some capacity, we exercise mutual trust.

Third Tradition

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.

The Third Tradition encourages freedom from judgment. It leads us on the path of service toward an attitude of helpfulness, acceptance, and unconditional love. [...] Addiction is a deadly disease. We know that addicts who don't find recovery can expect nothing better than jails, institutions, and death. Refusing admission to any addict, even one who comes merely out of curiosity may be a death sentence for that addict.

Fourth Tradition

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.

Each group does have complete freedom, except when their actions affect other groups or NA as a whole. If we check to make sure that our actions are clearly within the bounds of our traditions; if we do not dictate to other groups, or force anything upon them; and if we consider the consequences of our action ahead of time, then all will be well.

Fifth Tradition

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom. When all is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers because that is all we have to give.

Sixth Tradition

An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Within the limits established by Tradition Six, we have tremendous freedom to carry the message of recovery and help other addicts. We have clear boundaries set by our identity as Narcotics Anonymous. When we take care to observe those boundaries, our outside relationships enhance our ability to carry the message to the addict who still suffers rather than diverting us from our primary purpose.

Seventh Tradition

Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

By encouraging our group to pay its own way, the Seventh Tradition gives our group the freedom to share its recovery as it sees fit, not obligated to outside contributors. Further, it gives our group the freedom that comes from inner strength, the strength that develops through applying spiritual principles.

Eighth Tradition

Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

In this tradition we say that we have no professionals. By this, we mean we have no staff psychiatrists, doctors, lawyers, or counselors. Our program works by one addict helping another. If we employ professionals in NA groups, we would destroy our unity. We are simply addicts of equal status freely helping one another.

Ninth Tradition

NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

NA groups join together, combining their resources to create service boards and committees that will help them better fulfill their primary purpose. Those boards and committees are not called to govern NA; they are called, rather, to faithfully execute the trust given them by the groups they serve.

Tenth Tradition

Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

There are a great number of addiction-related issues that others might expect a worldwide society of recovering drug addicts to take positions on. [...] Our answer, according to Tradition Ten, is that our groups and our fellowship take no position, pro or con, on any issues except the NA program itself. [...] For our own survival, we have no opinion on outside issues.

Eleventh Tradition

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

The existence of a public relations "policy" implies the importance of a public relations "program" in carrying out our fellowship's primary purpose. [...] As NA groups, service boards, and committees, we deliberately and energetically cultivate good public relations, not as an incidental result of our normal activity but as a way to better carry our message to addicts. [...] Public anonymity helps keep the focus of our public relations on the NA message, not the PI workers involved.

Twelfth Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Anonymity is one of the basic elements of our recovery and it pervades our Traditions and our Fellowship. It protects us from our own defects of character and renders personalities and their differences powerless. Anonymity in action makes it impossible for personalities to come before principles.



Twelve Concepts for NA Service

First Concept

To fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.

The primary responsibility of an NA group is to conduct its recovery meetings, carrying the message directly to the addict who still suffers. Groups join their strength in the service structure, ensuring that other services—H&I, PI, literature development, for example—are fulfilled effectively and without distracting the groups from their own primary purpose.

Second Concept

The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.

The groups have final responsibility for and authority over the service structure they have created. By fulfilling their responsibility to provide their service structure with the conscience and ideas, people, and money it needs, the groups also exercise their authority. Conversely, the service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction.

Third Concept

The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.

In day-to-day matters, the groups have given our service boards and committees the practical authority necessary to do the jobs assigned them. This is not a blank check issued to the service structure; the groups still bear final authority. To make Concept Three work, we must carefully select trusted servants.

Fourth Concept

Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.

Leadership is very important to the welfare of our fellowship. The essay on this concept describes an array of leadership qualities to be considered when selecting trusted servants.

Fifth Concept

For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.

In defining a single point of decision for each service assignment, we eliminate confusion about who has authority to do what. We also clarify accountability for our services: whoever is given the authority for a particular task will be held accountable for the fulfillment of that task.

Sixth Concept

Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.

Group conscience is the means by which we bring the spiritual awakening of the Twelve Steps to bear in making service-related decisions. It is fundamental to our fellowship's decision-making process. It is not, however, merely a euphemism for "voting" and is not itself the NA decision-making process.

Seventh Concept

All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.

All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions; therefore, all of them should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes. NA service is a team effort. The full participation of each member of the team is of great value as we seek to express the collective conscience of the whole.

Eighth Concept

Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.

Regular communication is essential to the fulfillment of all these concepts, and to the integrity and effectiveness of our services themselves.

Ninth Concept

All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.

To check judgment, to guard against hasty or misinformed decisions, and to invite the sharing of new ideas, our services must consider all viewpoints when making plans. This is essential to the development of a fair, wise, balanced group conscience.

Tenth Concept

Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.

The Tenth Concept encourages us to treat each other with respect in the service environment, and provides us with a means of making amends when we wrong others. The essay describes ways in which an individual who feels he or she has been wronged can go about seeking redress of his or her grievance.

Eleventh Concept

NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.

The Eleventh Concept establishes the sole absolute priority for the use of NA funds: to carry the message. The importance of that priority calls for total fiscal accountability. Direct contributions to each level of service help us focus on our primary purpose, and enhance accountability.

Twelfth Concept

In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.

Within the context of the Twelve Concepts, as a body, this concept serves much the same function as Tradition Twelve in the context of the traditions. It brings our consideration of concepts for NA service back to the spiritual root of selfless service. "A structure based on that foundation could only be one of service, never of government."