

**What is the  
NA Group?**



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**Narcotics Anonymous is a global fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. NA is a program of recovery for anyone who has a desire to stop using drugs. We in NA know that it does not matter what kind of drug we used or how much; what matters is what happened to us while using. NA is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs. By following the program of recovery suggested in NA, we have found a new way of life and have become responsible and productive members of the society in which we live.**

**Our fellowship is based on the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts. These are spiritual in nature—a set of principles written so simply that we can apply them in our daily lives. Our Twelve Steps outline our program for personal recovery. Our Twelve Traditions represent experiences that can help NA groups maintain their unity, and our Twelve Concepts are guiding principles for our service structure.**

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# What Is an NA Group, and What Is Its Purpose?

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The coming together of two or more addicts who desire to stop using is what constitutes a group for the purpose of carrying its message. This is achieved through learning to live without drugs by practicing spiritual principles.

**A group has six necessities in order to function as a group:**

1. All members must be addicts.
  2. Any addict who desires to stop using is eligible for membership.
  3. The group must be self-supporting through its own contributions.
  4. The sole object of the group is to carry its message to the addict who is still suffering through the application of the Twelve Steps of NA.
  5. The group must be autonomous, with no affiliations outside of NA.
  6. The group must be governed by the group conscience, not by outside influence.
- The group's public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.
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# The Purpose of Groups

The primary purpose of an NA group is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering addict. However, the group offers an opportunity for all members to participate and to hear the recovery experiences of other members who are learning how to live better lives without drugs. The group has proven to be the most successful vehicle for carrying out the work of the Twelfth Step. After sharing personal recovery experience, strength, and hope, the most valuable thing a member can do is bring potential new members—addicts—into the group. In this way, the meeting becomes a place where newcomers know they can come for help.



- Neither Bulletin No. 18 nor the Group Book contains anything to suggest that meetings with shared needs (such as online meetings or meetings for young people) are inconsistent with our Traditions, provided that such a group does not exclude any addict, regardless of any characteristic.
- Our Third Tradition states that “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using,” and any meeting that turns away a seeking addict, by definition of the Six Group Commitments mentioned earlier (in the first slide), does not qualify as an NA group.

**Important Note:**  
Having Meetings  
with Special Interests  
or Shared Needs is  
Not Inconsistent with  
Our Traditions.



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## Connecting for Unity and Better Service

For the facilitation of communication, unity, and better service to the entire fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, groups should register with the Narcotics Anonymous World Service Office (WSO).

### Group Representative

Group Representatives (GRs) link their groups with the rest of the NA service structure. The primary communication responsibility of a Representative is to present their group's conscience on issues that affect other groups or the entire NA fellowship. This duty requires the Representative to provide the group with information regarding developments in the world service structure of NA, and to share the group's activities, strengths, or problems with the Area Service Committee.

### Area

An Area is a collection of groups that have united to advance the primary purpose of their member groups and the entire NA fellowship. This is accomplished through the cooperation of all groups working together and acting upon their collective conscience. Areas are able to accomplish things that would be difficult for a single group to do alone. An Area is comprised of the Group Representatives from a specific geographic territory who meet monthly with the goal of serving the particular needs of their member groups.

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## Region

A Region is composed of the Area Service Committee liaisons from all the Areas within a specified Region. This service committee is designed to provide service to its member Areas. The structure of the Area and the Region are similar in nature and purpose, but their functions differ slightly. While an Area serves the specific needs of the groups, a Region addresses the common needs of the Areas. The primary function of a Region is to foster unity among the Areas within it. Another function is to carry the message of NA recovery through an ever-widening circle of resources: individual members form a **Group**, individual Groups form an **Area**, and individual Areas form a **Region**; all working together to achieve our primary purpose: carrying the message of recovery to the addict who is still suffering.

## The World Service Conference (WSC)

The World Service Conference is founded by, and accountable to, the entire NA fellowship. Its purpose is to support the entire fellowship, as well as to define and implement NA policies and procedures. The World Service Conference accomplishes this by linking members, groups, Areas, and Regions into a single fellowship, addressing the problems and needs of the fellowship, and actively encouraging NA's primary purpose and growth. In each Conference cycle, the concerns of the fellowship are brought forward in the **World Service Conference Agenda Report**. This provides every member an opportunity to address specific issues relevant to the entire NA fellowship.

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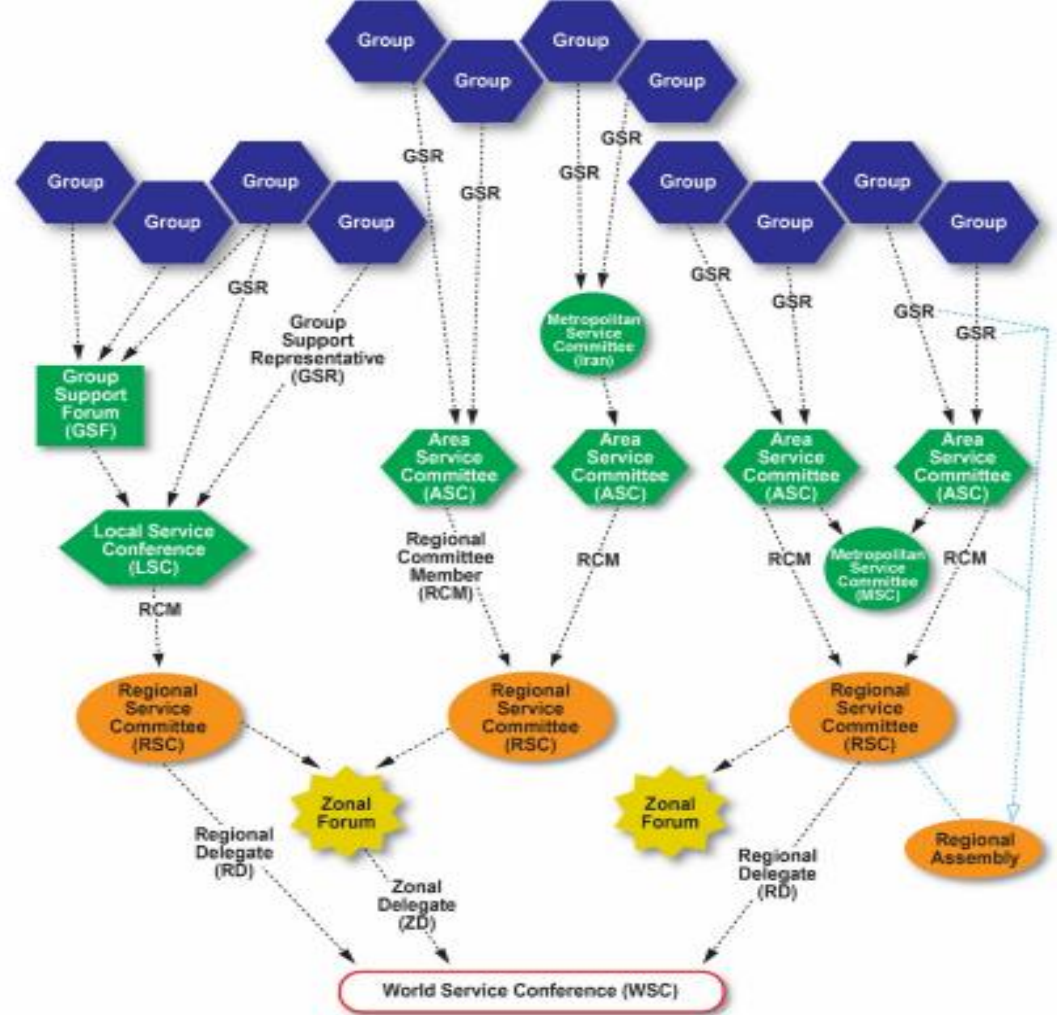
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## The World Service Office (WSO)

One of the most vital functions of the World Service Office is linking our scattered groups and members into a single, cohesive fellowship. Another primary function of the WSO is the printing and distribution of literature. Alongside files and records, the WSO also maintains an archive of NA history. Public Relations is another responsibility of the World Service Office. The WSO is the service hub for our fellowship. To meet our needs as a growing fellowship, our services must operate as efficiently and effectively as possible within the spiritual principles of the NA program.

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What are the  
benefits of having  
small service  
structures in NA?



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## 1) Strengthening Unity and Personal Connection

▪ **Building Intimacy and Trust:** Building intimacy and trust is a process that takes time and effort. It involves being vulnerable, sharing your thoughts and feelings, and listening to others. Trust is built through consistent actions and honesty. It is not a mere number, but a genuine connection between people.

▪ **Direct and Transparent Communication:** Direct and transparent communication is essential for building trust and intimacy. It involves speaking openly and honestly, without hiding your true thoughts or feelings. Transparency helps to build a sense of trust and understanding between people.

▪ **Strengthening Effective Group Conscience:** Group conscience is a sense of responsibility and awareness that is shared by all members of a group. It is strengthened through open communication, active participation, and a shared sense of purpose. In large groups, it can be challenging to maintain a strong group conscience, but it is essential for effective collaboration and decision-making.

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## 2) Increasing Efficiency and Focus on the Primary Purpose

- **Simplicity in Processes:** erom edam era snoisiceD .serudecorp dna selur xelpmoc eriuqer ton od serutcurts llamS 'srebmem dna ,yldiparenergy is directed toward service work rather than being consumed by administrative processes. This principle aligns with the spirit of the Ninth Tradition, which states: "NA ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve".
  - **Focus on Tasks:** sti etacided nac (.cte ,snoitutitsnl & slatipsoH ,noitamrofnl cilbuP sa hcus) eettimmocbus llams A .egassem eht gniyrrac fo ssenevitceffe dna ytilauq eht sesaercni sucof sihT .esoprup yramirp eht ot sucof eritne
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### 3) Encouraging Participation and Personal Growth

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  - **Reducing the Fear of Service:** Ila swolla erutcurts llams a ni gnivreS dna ,ytilibatnuocca ,ytilimuh sa hcus selpicnirp lautirips ecitcarp ot srebmem .noitca ni ecnatpecca
  - **Facilitating the Rotation of Responsibilities:**“ fo elpicnirp ehT Rotation “is a key concept in NA service to prevent the centralization of power in the hands of one individual or group and to allow others the opportunity to grow. In small structures, rotation occurs more naturally and swiftly, preventing dependency on specific individuals .
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## 4) Alignment with the Spiritual Principles of the Program

- **Group Autonomy:** puorG fo elpicnirp eht stcepsr erutcurts ecivres llams A  
"serutcurts esehT .ymonotuAserve "the groups rather than "govern "them. They are tools in the hands of the groups .
  - **Final Authority and Responsibility Rest with the Groups:** era serutcurts llamS  
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  - **Effective Leadership:** stnavres detsurt rieht wonk srebmem ,erutcurts llams a nl  
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**Thank you for being with  
us.**

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