Group Service

Session Goal:
To collect input for the revision of *The Group Booklet* while helping members think about bringing new tools and fresh energy to their home groups.

Materials:

- Summary Table of Contents from *The Group Booklet* handout
- Brainstorming Guidelines
- Session Note sheets
- Pens

Note: This session profile could be used as a 90-minute workshop or members could choose to do it at the home group in two smaller sections by taking the large group discussions in one setting and the small group discussions and recap in a different session.

Introduction — 10 minutes

Title Slide

This IDT session profile focuses on best practices for groups, as a means of generating input for the project revising *The Group Booklet* (including IP #2, *The Group*) and *A Guide to Local Services*.

Quote Slide

The fact that we, each and every group, focus on carrying the message provides consistency; addicts can count on us. Unity of action and purpose makes possible what seemed impossible for us—recovery. Basic Text, Tradition Five

Sometimes when NA is working, it feels almost magical. But the atmosphere of recovery in our groups doesn't happen by magic; it takes effort and attention, creativity and consistency. There is so much going right in our groups! Every day, NA groups around the world are changing lives and changing history through the seemingly small acts of making sure the coffee (or tea) is hot, the literature is on the table, and the newcomer is acknowledged with a loving smile.

Of course, there's always room for improvement. We learn from other groups, from service materials, and sometimes from the practice of group inventory.

GTLS and TGB Slide

One way we share what works for us in service is in material like *A Guide to Local Services* and *The Group Booklet.* Those publications are pretty old, and we've learned a lot since they were published. At WSC 2026, participants agreed on a goal to create a contemporary guide to service in NA to replace *A Guide to Local Services*. They agreed to consider a modular approach like the Service Basics series that would include guidance on how to incorporate virtual groups in the service system and information on zones, and would allow for the possibility of alternative-format versions of content in the future (such as videos).

This IDT session profile focuses on best practices for groups as a means of generating input for the project revising *The Group Booklet* (including IP #2, *The Group*) and *A Guide to Local Services*. The groups are at the heart of this effort. We need input from as many different kinds of groups across our diverse and creative Fellowship. Our Traditions remind us that groups are autonomous, but we have a lot to learn from each other about how we create NA groups that are vital, sustainable, and effective at carrying our message.

The three places that currently best describe what a group is and how it functions are IP #2, *The Group*; *The Group Booklet*; and *A Guide to Local Services.* Informal research has indicated that relatively few NA members are familiar with the contents of these resources. Since revisions are already underway, it might not be the best use of our time to review those materials; instead, we want to bring forward the table of contents of *The Group Booklet* as a possible outline for a workshop to think with.

Content would also include information on virtual meetings as well as hybrid and in-person, encouragement for members to step into service, mentorship, and how to reach members—including personal outreach and the use of technology.

Large Group Discussion **25 minutes**

TGB quote Slide

The *Group Booklet (GB)* tells us that *This booklet does not even attempt to say everything that could be said about operating an NA group. What you'll find here are some brief answers to a few very basic questions: What is an NA group? How does the work get done? What kinds of meetings can a group have? When problems arise, how are they solved?*

In other words, this piece of service material addresses the practical matters of what an NA group is and how it operates. There are broader, more philosophical conversations that can address what an NA group is and why it matters, but that's not our work today. We want to stay focused on the nuts and bolts of what makes an NA group.

6 points Slide

At the 2026 World Service Conference, participants discussed modernizing *The Group Booklet* to describe the things that all NA groups must share. For example, when conference participants were asked "what makes an NA group an NA group?" they replied that the six points that describe an NA group in *The Group Booklet* are still valid as a baseline:

1. All members of a group are drug addicts, and all drug addicts are eligible for membership.
2. As a group, they are self-supporting.
3. As a group, their single goal is to help drug addicts recover through application of the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.
4. As a group, they have no affiliation outside Narcotics Anonymous.
5. As a group, they express no opinion on outside issues.
6. As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.

The majority of delegates at WSC 2026 added one more idea about what makes an NA group an NA group: As a group, they use only Fellowship-approved NA literature in their meetings. *The WSC did not discuss whether that meant groups only read* current versions *of NA literature.*

Large Group Questions Slide

On your tables you'll find a one-page (somewhat condensed) version of the Table of Contents from *The Group Booklet*. Read through it together, and consider:

Are these topics relevant now? What should be added, removed, or maybe moved to A Guide to Local Services?

What is missing?

[Facilitator: encourage participants to share ideas, and record on Post-Its or whiteboard at the front of the room.]

Small Group Discussion **30 minutes**

Small Group Slide

Now let's break into small groups for a conversation about our homegroups. We'll have about 30 minutes for this; each table please choose a facilitator and a note-taker.

Think about your home group as it functions today. Groups are autonomous and they can be very different from one another.

What works well in your home group format?

What does your group most need help with? Are there questions your group has?

What ways has your group found to solve problems together?

Large Group Recap **20 minutes**

Recap Slide

Facilitator: again, share results on Post-Its at the front of the room.

What did you hear in the small group discussion that seemed particularly interesting or useful?

What kind of service materials would your group find useful?

Closing **1 minute**

Closing Slide

Online at na.org/inputforms you'll find the input form for this and other issue discussion topics. The form asks more than we could cover today, so it's a chance to dig deeper into what works—and what

doesn't. You can respond on your own, with your home group, or with any members willing to sit down and talk about group service.

Your ideas and your words are vital to this process: NA World Services can't do it without you, and wouldn't want to. Every group and every NA community does things a little differently, and it's in those differences that we find the practices that keep groups alive and make meetings more interesting.

Our hope is twofold: strong input from members and groups to improve *The Group Booklet* and *A Guide to Local Services in NA*, and the chance for everyone to share ideas about what strengthens the NA groups we each participate in. We hope you'll take some good ideas home with you—and that you'll respond to the input form online at na.org/inputforms. The deadline for this input form is 1 March 2027.

This is one of four IDTs this cycle. The other three are:

- Attracting Members to Service and Mentoring Them
- Welcoming New Members
- Area Service (the two service topics will feed the revisions to *A Guide to Local Service in NA* and *The Group Booklet*)

As workshop material is available, it will be posted to na.org/idt

Thanks everyone!
