

## Small Group Discussion Questions

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

It is critical for us to remember that, although our groups are autonomous, our service bodies are not. Our Concepts remind groups to delegate the authority necessary for services to operate. But they also remind us that final authority always rests with the groups, this doesn't mean that Tradition Four has no meaning for service bodies. There are at least two critical ways service bodies need to consider this Tradition, and they are very different.

*First:* All our services exist in order to help the groups to carry the message.

*Second:* Ways in which actions affect the groups and NA as a whole.

### **Discuss: How do our service efforts affect our local groups?**

**Group 1** – Helplines for newcomer, having a key to door, outreach to groups, attitude toward area meeting. Get a new perspective by going to meeting and try to stay positive and make it attractive. Providing education and services in our area and find out if we can make changes to make our group better.

**Group 2-** People at the Area do not put the groups interests first all of the time. Are people serving at Area trying to sway GSR's? Do they come with an agenda? Are they manipulating the conscience of the group? "Personalities" affecting autonomy and cause disunity.

Trusted servants can influence inexperienced GSR's to sway them to vote a certain way instead of allowing the GSR's voice the group conscience. Trusted servants need to practice integrity and humility.

Be willing to attend the Area meetings that we may or may not support to try promoting communication and unity.

Continue to reach out to renegades and invite them to be a part of. We need to maintain the integrity of the trusted servants by abiding by traditions.

**Group 3-** PR, H&I, Literature Meeting Schedules; Information Liaison from other service committees to groups; Events to show that we still have fun clean.

Homegroup communication- make sure we are carrying the NA message; Using a stamp for papers; Having a single contact person and member to keep up relations with outside facilities; i.e., Professionals and Law Enforcement; Keeping communication open reflects good on NA; How we trust mentally ill persons also reflects on NA.

**Group 4-** Positive, negative and unforeseen; sometimes services can have a negative impact; An application of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition can help us respect other groups and should be followed; 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition has responsibility. We must always check how our actions impact other groups and NA as a whole.

## **How does our service body ensure that our decisions and actions respond to local needs?**

**Group 1-** Go to group conscience to represent, don't complain about how things are done and don't speak your mind during group conscience. Announcements during the month on subjects discussed at group conscience meetings. Keep communication; learn to listen and listen before talking. Each group has its own personality and needs that are not common in all groups.

**Group 2-** Input from local groups at Area- More PR efforts to see what groups need -Use Outreach as a resource. Use Activities to reach out to the youth. Example, near treatment center but nobody is reaching out; Unifying our resources. Outside resources hurting reputation of the fellowship. How do we maintain our integrity? Make sure we are contacting these resources as fellowship. Utilize our Subcommittees!

The Area holds subcommittees accountable by reports at Area and making sure subcommittees are following guidelines.

**Group 3-** Communication; Atmosphere of Recovery; Open minded; Showing up on time; Reach out to all groups; Making sure that everyone/all groups has an opportunity to see reports and give input; Be open to group conscience- open share; understand specifics; ask questions.

Show how to give reports for groups so information gets passed on.

Change-don't ask for conformity; Be open to new ideas; Get people interested in service.

**Group 4-** Meeting schedules: create Area and County schedules, Schedules that are designed in an effort of cooperation and the needs of addicts in the Area.

Using Calendars: Don't schedule over events hosted by other service bodies.

## **How does Humility help us to serve effectively?**

**Group 1-**Nobody is better than anybody else; Try newcomer's suggestions even if you've done it the same way for years-if it doesn't work we can change it; We are addicts who want to put our personalities into it; Humility doesn't make me think less of myself but think of myself less; Active communication and listening goes hand in hand.

**Group 2-** Humility is a process – give up control, check our motives, choose other positions, not just "lime-lighted" ones.; Remembering that Area is there to serve the groups is a way we practice humility; We need to be more flexible and empathetic to groups we don't attend on a regular basis- or ever want to be a part of the Area.

**Group 3-** We don't run SHIT; Openminded; Be more a part of- EQUALS; Do it to further our primary purpose; Asking for help.

**Group 4-** Accepting invitations, what can I do? What can't I do? – Don't take service positions not able to take or unable; There is a place for everyone to serve; Encourage others to get involved and allow them to perform duties; Remove the "I" insert the "We", Allow fellowship and group conscience to determine decisions; allow the natural course to run- Don't force our own will.