

Because not every member has PowerPoint, I have transferred these bullets into an MSWord document for easier download and viewing. Hard copies are sent to members not having computers.

These concept bullets, questions, were compiled for presentation at the Fall 2004, Southern Zonal Forum. They are intended to provide insight into the principles of the 12 Concepts for NA Service. There is no right or wrong, approved or unapproved, good or bad information here... just more information to better each of us in our efforts to serve.

Concept #1

“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.”

- Is your group aware of the service structure?
- Is the group aware of the organized services available?
- Does your group know of the financial, and general responsibilities of the service structure
- How well does your group participate in this process?

Concept #2

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

- How well does your group communicate within the service structure
- How does your group communicate its content/discontent on the administering of services
- Does your group feel left out of the loop?
- What can your group do if they feel they are not the final authority?

Concept #3

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

- How does delegated authority work?
- How does your group feel about the small details of service?
- Is your group looking at the qualities of the people that we are entrusting to make decisions for us?

Concept #4

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

- How does your group select trusted servants?
- When there are open positions how does your group deal with the situation?
- How does the group deal with limited leadership selections?
- How does your group deal with rotation/entrenchment?

Concept #5

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

- How well does your group divide tasks?
- When task overlap, how does the group deal with this issue?
- When jobs are uncompleted, or not done at all how does the group react to this?

Concept #6

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

- Do we truly take a spiritual approach in making decisions?
- How is group conscience different than voting?
- How does time matter in this process?

Concept #7

“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 process.”

- Do we actively seek support from all members of a service body?
- Are we willing to listen to diverse opinions in the process of decision-making?
- Do we listen to the dissenting voice and really try to understand the position?

- Are we unified in our decision and do we support our decision, even if we don't totally agree with the majority?
- What exactly is the decision-making process? Should it involve voting if consensus cannot be reached?

Concept #8

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

- Do we tell our trusted servants how we want them to communicate with us?
- Are there guidelines given to trusted servants specifically spelling out responsibilities and reporting requirements?
- How do we become better communicators in service situations?
- What determines if communication is effective?
- How do you reach a diverse fellowship with differing communication needs?
- What place can the Internet play in communicating to those we are responsible to?

Concept #9

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

- Why should we be responsible for considering all viewpoints if we already have our minds made up?
- What can the dissenting voice tell us?
- Isn't waffling or inconsistency: to be swayed by another person's viewpoint?
- Can you disagree with a decision and still support the group consensus?
- What can we do to let members of a service body or group know that it's okay to say what they feel – to give input, especially if they hold a minority opinion?
- How can those who have more experience or clean-time appear less intimidating and encourage those who do not, speak freely?
- Have I used my clean-time or stature within a service body to influence the outcome of a decision?

Concept #10

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

- How do we petition a body in the first place?
- How many times do we have to listen to the same grievance before moving on?
- What procedures can we put into place to make sure everyone feels comfortable expressing grievances?
- What if your grievance involves the Chairperson, RD or other leader?
- What happens if the group does not allow you to address your grievance?

Concept #11

“N.A. funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.”

- How can we be sure that NA funds are always used to further our primary purpose?
- What safeguards can we establish to protect our trusted servants against false accusations and protect our funds from mismanagement?
- What training do we provide treasurers at any level of service?
- What do you do if you suspect money has been mishandled or stolen?
- What do you do if you find yourself being the one who has stolen or been accused of misappropriating NA funds?

Concept #12

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

- What is the spiritual nature of NA?
- How does that differ from government?
- Can we effectively deliver services by using only spiritual principles and not having any governance?
- What can we do when we find a service body is trying to govern and has lost sight of spiritual principles?
- How do we empower groups to realize they are the authority to which we are responsible?
- How do we develop and encourage strong leadership at the group level?