

WSC AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NA SERVICE

The committee has two items to present to the conference. They pertain to the Twelve Concepts for NA Service and our plans for the completion of *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous*.

Twelve Concepts for NA Service

In the course of revamping the NA service manual, the committee realized it needed additional guidance from the fellowship. There seemed to be no universally recognized principles describing the formation of NA service boards and committees, the final service authority of the groups, the delegation of service authority, the nature of NA leadership, or the fundamentals of decision-making in the NA service structure. How could the service structure be adequately described, this ad hoc committee asked, without such principles?

That question was first put to the fellowship in March 1988. By the end of that year, the committee had roughed out eight service principles on paper, seven of them specific, the eighth a kind of "catch-all" for what hadn't already been covered. Over the next three-and-a-half months, those principles were further defined. A clarification of the role of group conscience in the decision-making process was developed in January 1989.

On April 12, 1989, the first draft of the concepts--known then as "The Twelve Principles of Service for Narcotics Anonymous"--was released for fellowship examination and discussion. As a result of input, gathered primarily from world services, they were revised and released for review by the fellowship in September of 1989. They were now titled the Twelve Concepts for NA Service. A considerable amount of input was received by mail, and workshops were held to obtain input first-hand. As a result of the input received and the discussions from those workshops, the concepts took on a slightly different form and the accompanying essays were virtually rewritten from scratch. This effort resulted in the final-review form of the concepts, which was released in March 1991 for a last round of fellowship review. The input received was then considered and the approval form of the Twelve Concepts for NA Service was completed in November 1991.

Each NA group, each service board, each committee, each assembly, each conference is encouraged to use the Twelve Concepts in guiding its service affairs. The concepts set out to accomplish the following:

- * free up our groups so that they can devote more of their time and energies to carrying our message directly to the addict who still suffers;

- * help the groups to carefully and responsibly delegate authority to the service structure, allowing our NA boards and committees to develop and maintain services that further our fellowship's primary purpose while preserving the final responsibility and authority of the NA groups;
- * be helpful in selecting effective NA leaders and carefully defining their responsibilities, eliminating confusion, delay, and duplication while providing for ready accountability;
- * recall us to our spiritual foundation, reminding us to actively invite a loving God to influence us when we make service decisions;
- * promote better, broader communications throughout our fellowship;
- * encourage equity and open-mindedness in our decision-making processes;
- * enhance our respect for the individual trusted servant; and,
- * further the responsible management of service funds.

If the concepts help us fulfill these ideals, they will have proven themselves valid.

Toward that end, we present the Twelve Concepts for NA Service for your approval.

#3. To approve the booklet, "Twelve Concepts for NA Service" (Addendum 2).¹

Intent: Adoption of this motion will place the booklet, Twelve Concepts for NA Service, in the WSO inventory as World Service Conference-approved literature.

Financial impact: No direct financial impact.

Guide to Service

The process of developing *A Guide to Service in Narcotics Anonymous* has been a long one, and it's not quite yet over. With the completion of the Twelve Concepts, the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on NA Service believes it is now in a position where it can finish the *Guide*.

In 1984, when we were asked to take over the WSC Policy Committee's assignment to "rewrite the service structure," most members of both the conference and the committee assumed that this would be a simple job. We would take the guidelines and motions that had been passed from 1979 forward and use them to write up a simple expository book on how NA service worked from the group to the world level.

When we actually got into the task, however, we realized it was not a simple matter at all. The Narcotics Anonymous service structure was not yet a finished thing. To merely write up a description of this still-evolving structure would do no more good than would the *Temporary Working Guide to our Service Structure*,

¹ Additional copies of the approval form of "Twelve Concepts for NA Service" can be purchased at cost from the WSO. See the order form (Addendum 13) at the end of this year's Conference Agenda Report.