

PROPOSED DRAFT 2 April 16, 1969

BY LAWS
of the

Parent General Service Organization
of Narcotics Anonymous
In the Greater Southern California Area.
Regional.

adopted May 1969

PREAMBLE.

General Warranties of the General Service Organization: In all its proceedings, The General Service Organization shall observe the spirit of N.A. Tradition, taking care that the organization never become the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient funds to operate, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the organization members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority, over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Organization action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Organization may act for the service of Narcotics Anonymous groups in the Greater Southern California Area, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that the Society of Narcotics Anonymous, the Organization itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

NAME AND PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION.

- I. The purpose of the Parent General Service Organization of Narcotics Anonymous shall be the administration and coordination of N.A. common to the various groups comprising its membership. These activities include:
 - a. Furthering the N.A. program in accordance with the Twelve Traditions Of Narcotics Anonymous.
 - b. Maintaining a central office or business meeting once a month, as a communication center for ... in this area or as a whole.

Specifically excluded from the objectives of the General Service Organization are the operation of any club, clubhouse or drying out place, and the endorsement of any public or private projects or activities as outlined in Tradition Six. (4/16/69)

General services.

All that we do as individuals in following the Twelfth Step and jointly as members of N.A. in Tradition Five is a part of General service.

Service to others without expectation of any reward is a power greater than ourselves and one of the basic principles of our Society. Now, what are our guides and where are the principles that will give us a solid foundation for present action and future growth?

They are found in our Steps and Traditions and express the N.A. principles of service.

1. Each N.A. group has but one primary purpose- to carry it's message to the addict who still suffers.
2. Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting.
3. N.A. should remain forever non-professional.
4. N.A. as such ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
5. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
6. We try to carry this message to addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

If there is one thing that could be considered the basic keystone that holds all parts of our fellowship's services together, it might be termed G O O D W I L L. Without this, personalities predominate and constructive action is limited.

In accepting the Twelve Steps as a means of personal recovery and by working with others to insure and maintain our personal freedom, we have found faith in the principle of R E C O V E R Y.

In using the Twelve Traditions as guides for our groups, we have learned that U N I T Y is a necessary principle for growth.

Realizing from our total experience the value of personal and inter-personal service in carrying the N.A. message, we know that, that S E R V I C E should be expanded to more fully fulfill our Traditions.

The main reason we are here tonight is because we are dedicated to these principles and this way of life. We know however that NA. activity is an avocation and not a full time occupation. This being so, we each must decide how much of our time and ourselves we can give to better carry the message of Narcotics Anonymous. The old slogan "Let George do it" is not one that most of us can accept, rather let us think "if we do not do these things, who will" Those of us who do, are the chief beneficiaries of the benefits of service and without these we may all again face total destruction and what might have been, may never be.

Some of our problems in the past and present have arisen from misunderstanding of our structure and the functions of it's parts. All units of service should be continuous, cooperative and jointly responsible. Provision for replacement should be made so that we can carry on the business affairs of N.A. at all times, in a balanced and democratic way. Because of our small numbers in the past, and even now, some of our service committees may overlap and members may find themselves serving in more than one capacity. This may cause some confusion, but if we remain flexible we can do those things that are necessary until our ideal structure can be totally followed.

We are here tonight to consider this structure and to adopt a proposal that will give us a really workable method from now on.

As the only appointed Trustee of N.A. for the past four or more years, I have most often been a minority of one. This has never been a satisfactory situation but one that I have had to live with. At business meetings in the past it has been suggested that we add both addict and non-addict Trustees so that we would not have the recurring situation that we have again been confronted with, namely the dis-integration of committees and the subsequent consequences to the entire movement. These things have been talked about suggestions made, people contacted, but never have we completed our proposals.

I believe that now is the time to consider and give your approval to a least a part of this area of service. I have contacted members who have the experience and the willingness to serve and I will offer their names for your approval. I also think that you, as representatives of the groups should choose ~~two~~ others to act in this capacity. There are also several non-addicts who have been under consideration in the past, we will contact them again or others and see if we can get a full board in the very near future.

Names proposed
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Names offered
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Accepted or no.

Trustees are such under a simple trust agreement that states their willingness to act and carry out the aims and purposes of Narcotics Anonymous as set forth in our Traditions and to fulfill their duties to the best of their abilities.

Below are the three fundamental parts of our service that are necessary at present to conduct our affairs and give us balance so that no one part can ever exercise unrestrained power over another or the fellowship as a whole.

General Service Organization As ideally outlined in proposed draft

G.S.O.

By-Laws
of the
Parent General Service Organization
of Narcotics Anonymous
In the greater Southern California Area.

General Service Conference.

G.S.C.

At present will be composed of officers of G.S.O. and Trustees both addict and non-addict of G.S.B. This present unit will be the working and functioning committee. Their joint responsibility will be to conduct the business affairs of N.A. until such time as we grow in numbers and in regional representation to allow the ideal structure to take over its legal functions as outlined in full charter.

General Service Board.

G.S.B.

Composed of appointed trustees.
To safeguard N.A. Traditions
To be responsible for service funds.
To oversee service units, service staff and all functions of present and future units.
Trustees are members of G.S.O. and are co-responsible with them in all decisions affecting N.A. service.

PROPOSED N.A. SERVICE STRUCTURE FOR THE PRESENT TIME.

