

The N.A. fellowships foundation is the spirit of service. Here service is not directed by any governing body but the trusted servants are governed by the service.

In the past we have had dedicated people in the fellowship who found it difficult not to govern. Because others were not encouraged to assume personal responsibilities, they found it more and more impossible not to be pushed into the position of being 'the leader' 'the authority' 'The indispensable father'. The end result was no chain of service and fewer and fewer recoveries. Few of us are strong enough to be free of ambition by ourselves. The temptation to lead, to advise and finally dictate is too much for most of us. Prudence dictates that we create our own safeguards against ourselves.

One of the purposes of a trustee board is to preserve balance in our thinking and save us from insular or sub-culture ambition.

One function is custodial in the sense that it is the care-taker of our traditions in the present. Future policy or tradition improvement ought to be that which they deem wise from experience. Any suggestions or modifications they offer for the fellowships scrutiny and approval ought to be made in the light of their (the memberships) experience.

The trustees should be our guides in improving our movement, our business affairs, our intergroup relations, our public relations, our literature output (future publishing company) and our world wide services: last but not least, to be responsible in expediting those affairs dictated by the group (overall) conscience.

The trustees should not now be, nor should they ever be, regardless of circumstances or conditions, even for any short term emergency period, a governing body or a central government. We feel that our experience as expressed in Tradition # 3 can be equally applied to the trustee board no matter what its size.

The board should always be composed of one non-addict member more than addict, regardless of what the future size may be.
ex. 1 to 2 -- 2 to 3 --- 3 to 4 etc.

Suggestion-----

(Altho' at present we have what are called 'By-Laws' and these are very simple, since we trimmed them to the bone and then only to cover those things necessary at the beginning/ May we suggest that these be among the first of things to be considered by the board, so that we can truly say that there are no rules in the fellowship. If our present groups and committees will inaugurate those methods that have been found to be most satisfactory in the past, since they are entirely sound, we will find that we should be able to, not amend or enlarge or strengthen them but eliminate any need for them entirely.

Other than our traditions, which are the voice of conscience and experience in the past, we have no need for rules or regulations within the body of N.A. itself. In associated services which do not use the N.A. name but are made up of our members, such as 'Institutional committee' etc. they will make their own rules to govern their own programs. We trust of course, that they are always mindful of their responsibilities and their group conscience. Since none of us can discipline or compel or force our opinions on another person or group of persons, we ought to often remind ourselves of the futility and hopelessness we each experienced in trying to go it alone in the past. If our movement as a whole is to survive, expand and grow then we will learn, as the individual does with the twelve steps, that the traditions will save us from headaches, heartaches and assorted ills; that when our conscience and consciousness speaks, we will make our own musts in the name of unity of purpose so that not only we but those yet to come will find this way of life.

Altho' it may sound as tho' the board themselves have little or no power to act, in reality and in honesty we will find that if we do our job in the spirit of service to and for others, with no rewards or approvals anticipated, if we make whatever decisions we are faced with, not on the basis of what is good or not good, but on the foundation of what is right, I think we will find in the end that the power and faith will be given freely where and when we deserve or need it to get a job done.

Succession of trustees.

The trusteeship is at present a permanent post, it may however be necessary to make replacements for reasons of health business or death.

When a trustee is no longer able to serve, his or her successor should be chosen as follows----

Non-addict trustee.

A.---In case of death or inability to be present--the remaining trustees and the chairman of the Fellowship body (General Service

~~Committee~~

Conference-Central Committee- Steering Committee or whatever the name may then be.) acting for absent member shall choose a successor who in their opinion has the qualities in keeping with the post. They should accomplish this in any manner that the trustee body decides on, either by lot by vote or otherwise.

B. Where trustee is still present he or she shall act with the others, as above, in choice of successor.

Addict trustee

A. as above shall apply regarding proxy for absent member.

B. Names of THREE (3) addict members of the fellowship chosen by Conference Committee or? with due regard for their length of abstinence and activity in our fellowship, shall be presented to the remaining trustees, with any recommendations necessary. Their choice, made in whatever manner they choose, should then be accepted by the fellowship as final.

Our Purpose (General)

To broaden the scope of our fellowship, to add depth and breadth to the meaning and extent of our services, to represent the fellowship at the public level, to oversee all public relations, to guide and advise us in financial matters, to be a guide in final choice of printed matter relating to the movement since this matter will be both our private and public voice, to offer to the fellowship, thru' their representatives, any proposals relating to the fellowship as a whole, which will advance our main purpose. To act to the best of their abilities as servants of the fellowship and to carry out the movements wishes in the best manner possible within the framework of the traditions.
