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Fellow members,

In our ongoing search for recovery and the avenues that provide it for us, we ~~sometimes~~ sometimes become so involved we overlook possibilities which have already been provided for us and have worked. Sometimes something which formerly worked doesn't seem to work well any more and we search everywhere for reasons why, when the answers are right in our hands.

Our service structure has been provided for us to seek our recovery in and come to terms with some unmanageability in our lives through the use of our principles. These principles are available to us in an ongoing basis.

People who should know (professionals, researchers) tell us we will continue to grow, in fact double in size twice within the next six years. This would give us approximately 250 groups in the Phila. Area within the next six years. At the point we have so much partic. patients in our area setting. They seem to have become unmanageable

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FOR US TO CONTINUE TO SEND ADDICTS SEEKING RECOVERY, REPRESENTING US, TO A PLACE WHERE THIS RECOVERY NO LONGER SEEMS AVAILABLE, OR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES NOT EVEN PROBABLE, IS IRRESPONSIBLE OF US AS GROUPS.

IT SEEMS CLEARLY DEFINED AT THIS POINT, THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NINTH TRADITION IS TO CONTINUE TO SEEK AND PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE WHERE OUR PRINCIPLES CAN BE EXERCISED AND SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS CARRIED OUT AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE. IT CERTAINLY IS NOT TO ALLOW SOMETHING WHICH HAS OUTGROWN THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY EFFICIENT FORM OF SERVICE TO CONTINUE ON BECAUSE OF OUR INATTENTIVENESS.

FOR PEOPLE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THEIR RECOVERY TO FACE A SITUATION, IF FOR ONLY THE SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS AND CONFLICTING OPINIONS SEEMS INSURMOUNTABLE, SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.

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We agree, addicts should not be forced to spend extended periods of time seeking solutions to our service ~~service~~ problems. Time limits only steal from the addict we are trying to reach, and from our recovery by not having the newcomer available to us. IT is impossible to furnish an ideal setting, but it can easily be better.

Our Service guild ~~lacks~~^{says} a designated area within N.A. is any local area, community or town with significant number of N.A. groups. Any set of groups within definable geographic boundaries that need to function together as an area can be a designated area. IT also says that an area services are both geographic and functional designations. When an area grows to a point where it cannot efficiently serve its member's needs, that area should divide. We feel that the area is presently too large and cannot serve the groups efficiently, and that the area will only get larger and more unmanageable. ~~There is a need for~~
~~the area to divide.~~

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We believe ~~our~~ our collective voice
and the autonomous voice of our groups
can be better represented and more clearly
stated with smaller localities than now exist.
Area Service as it now stands represents
the City of Philadelphia and some meetings
in Montgomery County as a locality. This seems
much too large to be considered local. In
our continuing efforts to achieve growth
provide recovery, and further the message to
the addict in the streets, we believe the
time has come for groups in TACOMY
BRIDGESBURG, RICHMOND, KENSINGTON
FRANKFORD, CENTER CITY EAST, FISH TOWN
SOUTH PHILA. EAST to investigate, sit in group
conscience and decide whether it is
time to form their own Area Service
committee or not.

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This can be accomplished with grace, dignity, and continuing unity. If it is approached now with a target date set in the future, it would be easier for all concerned. If we plan and slip away rather than make an abrupt break, there would be less damaged feelings and our atmosphere of recovery would remain strong.

Plans are just plans, and they must be acted upon to become reality.

In Loving Service
Some concerned members.