

Tradition 6

An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest the problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose. It is best for NA not to be involved with outside functions, because many problems may arise. Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers and this is all we need worry about. In the last tradition we discussed the Primary message of each group was to carry the message to still suffering addicts, but there may be circumstances that would interfere with that. If the group decided to use the NA name to endorse a political candidate or finance a drug rehab we have gone away from our main purpose. We cannot endorse any facility because we want our name to be associated with just our program. We want our image to be what we are and not tied with any other organization. We don't want to think we are better than anybody else cause we endorse someone or something or because we financially help other organizations. Our purpose is recovery and we don't want to get into controversy over who to endorse, or lend money to because the money we get in our program stays in our program. When money or prestige becomes involved people tend to become greedy. The suffering addict may not seem as important anymore. We would not like to be in court fighting over property or money because that would damage our good image. We want to keep our good public image and the best way to lose that is to lend money, and it could cause much disunity. If an NA group should lend the name of NA to any outside enterprise, NA's name might be abused. Also in doing this it could cause problems for the individuals, the group as a whole or the NA name itself. Also if the outside organization did something illegal or immoral, the NA name would be hurt. Good common sense tells us that letting someone borrow something that doesn't belong to them they would not respect it as much as if it was their own. With this we mean that if NA should lend their name to some kind of outside group and something should happen to the group, like if it doesn't have the money to pay the bills or is someone in the group should start doing something illegal and the press, radio, or TV found out about it, then they could put down NA's name or say that NA is no good and has no purpose. If NA decided to finance or lend its name to a drug rehab and the rehab did something that was not in good standard, people might feel that NA is the same way. An addict might hesitate using NA because of those circumstances. This is important because if we as NA lend our name to an outside organization we run the risk of scandal. For instance if NA were to open its own inpatient facility for drug addicts to recover and this facility for some instance develops a bad name due to drugs being brought into the program or embezzlement of funds this would be a tragic to the NA name. It would, in effect, hinder our growth and effectiveness.

Tradition 6

We don't want to get prestigious in NA because we want to reach out to everybody who needs help. To stride for prestige would also be disastrous because it would stray us from our primary purpose, which is to carry the message to the suffering addict. After all, we are trying to stay sober and clean, not trying to be the richest or the best.

Tradition 7

Every group should be self supplied ~~thru~~ their own contributions. NA isn't a program which is trying to get rich. It is a program of helpful, loving, and caring people who just want to stay clean. For NA as a whole to grow our individual groups depend on contributions from their members. Supporting our group makes us responsible people and insures us of our new life's goals without the influence of people who don't understand our illness. This program is growing because one addict helps another addict and he can best understand another addict. Our meetings are for us and we basically stay sober without outside help, so we should support ourselves in the same manner. There are no dues or fees we are totally self supporting declining all outside contributions. We do however ask for donations from group members to help pay for literature, coffee, rent, and any bills we would have to pay. Although its not mandatory for everyone to "chip-in". Some of us don't have the money to pay for our needs and some do. In this program the richer take care of the poorer. Taking care of ourselves makes our fellowship even more precious to each one of us. The group must be self sufficient doing things for itself and making things happen (fund raisers) when money is needed. There are many ways to do this. By giving contributions in meeting is one way. Other ways are by having fund raisers such as dances, skating, parties, dinners, all held with the NA groups. We can help many addicts in sobriety and keep our groups going thru the support of the fellowship. As addicts we contribute to our group and area-services, to support a program that gives us a clean, drug free life. If we ^{don't} want that type of life we wouldn't be here. NA ought not accept outside contributions because it might take the focus off the main purpose of our efforts which is to help the suffering addict. If we accept contributions from outside people they might expect something we can't offer in return. Even if an outside contribution is supportive of our program, they would expect to have some degree of influence. If we let others contribute to our program we might get lazy and lay back and let them do the footwork. Can they really identify with an addict? They might feel we owe them a favor. Maybe they might even want a say in how meetings should be run. Outside contributions to the NA program leave us open to outside personal influences. For example we might be expected to support certain issues that might be against our principles. In our addiction nobody gave us money for drugs, so nobody should give us money to get sober. For most of us money can cause trouble. It can make us greedy. If an NA group needed money for some reason, instead of accepting a donation from some outside organization, the people in that group should pull together and have some kind of a fund-raiser. By having a fund raiser, the people in that group would come closer together and it would also give them something to do instead of sitting around feeling sorry. Also by having a fund raiser the group could proudly say " We did it on our own, with no help from anyone else."

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. The text also mentions the need for regular audits to ensure the integrity of the financial data.

In the second section, the author details the various methods used for data collection and analysis. This includes the use of specialized software tools and manual verification processes. The document highlights the challenges of handling large volumes of data and the importance of having a clear protocol for data management.

The third part of the document focuses on the implementation of internal controls. It describes how these controls are designed to prevent errors and detect any irregularities. The text provides examples of control procedures and explains how they are integrated into the overall business process.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the need for continuous improvement and the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest industry practices. The author also expresses confidence in the reliability of the data and the effectiveness of the implemented controls.

Tradition 7

How can we who are addicts expect those who aren't to give to our program when there is not a common goal for them. Reliance on outside donations will contribute to the downfall and/or collapse of a group when the donations cease. There must be a struggle which brings the group together. All for one and one for all. If everything was given to us it wouldn't seem worth it. Not one of us donates to anything without expecting something in return. Reliance on outside contributions will never make the group unified in it's goal - clean drug free people carrying the message to those who still suffer. When money becomes the primary purpose of something it can often lead to arguments and bad feelings. If we accepted a large contribution, people might want to use NA for personal gratification. If we as members contribute our money that we earned it would make us feel more a part of the group. Sometimes when issues of money come up it causes people to be greedy. If we took donations we might start competing with each other to see who could raise more money. That could cause conflict inside the groups. If that happened the suffering addict might not seem important anymore and that would defeat our primary purpose. We know that when others give us something we don't care as much about it as if we gave it to ourselves. You shouldn't have to be dependent on others outside the NA groups because they probably don't understand what the real purpose and function is. No one understands what it is like to stay sober than a recovering addict. It is very important for a group like NA to remain free from outside contributions. One reason is that the group should be anonymous. It gives me hope to know that addicts and only addicts get together to help one another and the result is NA.

Tradition 8

NA should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers. If we had professionals doing Twelfth step work it takes away from the very thing that makes this program work, and that's one addict helping another. We can best understand one another and we don't need to hire any professional for this. The reason for remaining non-professional is so that people in the program do not become intimidated by professionalism or feel that just anyone is running the show. NA should always remain non-professional for the simple reason that there shouldn't be anyone in charge of anyone else. We need to help one another stay clean. We stay clean because we help someone else to stay clean. If we hire a professional we won't be doing the necessary footwork to stay clean. A sponsor should be another addict in the program. We should sponsor somebody cause we want to spread the message, not cause we are getting paid. If things ran on a professional level that would corrupt the program. People could want to stay in for momentary reasons rather than to be sober and that would defeat our primary purpose. There is a good reason to employ special workers in a fellowship as large as NA. Without a doubt there are going to be things that need to be done that can't be given out on just a commitment basis. Any volunteer, would after a long period of time, get tired of mopping floors or constantly making coffee. We may hire special workers for our service centers because we cannot do a job like answer a phone 24 hrs a day or print literature. We have to hire these kind of services. Our literature conference had to hire a copy machine, our world service office might have to hire a secretary, these are the the type of things we can hire someone for, but not for 12 step work. A special worker could serve NA and not be a part of NA. A NA member can be hired but the two things should be separate. The special workers are for the benefit of the program and to help keep the brain of the program functioning for the benefit of NA members. Such as with Hot Lines where their will be someone constantly at the phone to hook the caller up with a person in the program or vice versa. Service Centers must find dependable people to do these jobs, to make these centers presentable; and for this reason we may employ these type of workers. The answering service for NA is an example where it would definitely pay to employ a reliable person to answer the phone and give out necessary information to whomever may be requiring about NA. Another example is possibly secretarial help employed by world services. If we were always sweeping floors, mailing literature, and answering phones we would not have much time for helping suffering addicts. Although NA is non-professional, we do have professionals in our membership. Should NA become professional, problems of money and leadership would come about. These problems were covered in previous chapters. Also if anyone became a profession NA member, personalities could create problems.

Tradition 9

NA as such, ought never be organized: but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those services. NA should not be organized because we are a group that helps one another. We have no leaders, we have each other. If we had leaders or persons who were supposedly more important than others there would probably be resentments and ego problems, and we would not benefit from the program as we do now. Peoples egos would be affected. Plus individual members would lose their voice in the program. NA should not be organized because there are no leaders of NA. Everyone should work as a group. Unity is needed to hold our program together. By having no leaders then the group gets all different opinions and this helps the group. No one person takes on decisions by themselves, we decide on things as a group. There should be no leaders but only examples to follow. Everybody is equal. By staying unorganized it gives everyone the freedom to run their program as they see fit for them. NA should not be organized, because its not really unified when only certain people make all of the decisions. When I think of not being organized the first thing that comes to mind is a bunch of people running around with no purpose or direction, but whats really meant is there should be no leaders or followers. You never should have to answer to anyone or have more authority than anyone else. Each member is a recovering addict. We all are only one day a way from a drug or a drink. We work as a group trying to achieve sobriety. No member is more important than another no matter how long he has maintained his abstinence. If we had a leader then we would have to choose who comes in and who doesn't and that would cause alot of conflict, but NA isn't like that and anyone can join us. With an organization there comes rules, and we are all individuals who read to find our own way of staying sober and living life. Everyone has a voice in NA and if we had leaders controversy would start alot of disunity. The main thing is to help the other addict and you can pick who you want to help you. We are a bunch of people helping ourselves and eachother stay alive. Politics have no place here. But there is a need for service boards and committees. We need them for organizing different functions to help NA. Our service boards are all made up of members of NA. They are no more powerful then other members. Service committees are formed so we may operate on the group level and grow as a whole. We have Committees that are formed to help us decide on business. Service boards and committees are important because they help NA grow as a whole by being a positive service to all groups and members. Also they give more people oppurtunties to become involved in the program many people can grow by being in service to others in other ways it helps to spread the word to people such as their future committees. We have committees and things similar to this to help our groups keep some kind of order. We have committees for each group to keep it running as smooth as possible, with people having certain responsibilities to the group. This way we can keep our groups going and get and give the help we need, to eachother.

Tradition 9

We have no one in charge so no one can make a decision on his own, the whole group or committee must vote on the policies. We need input from others so we may have a clearer picture of what the program needs as a whole. And all committees should remain open so anyone can find out whats being done in the program at any level.

Tradition 10

NA has no opinion on outside issues, hence the NA name ought never be drawn into controversy. NA is not opinionated because our primary purpose is to help the still suffering addict. If NA had an opinion people would think that's what NA stands for. If we worried about outside issues then we would get off the real reason why we came to NA and that was to save our life. We should never form an opinion on a public matter because we may not fully understand the circumstances involved in that issues. The NA group is made up of individuals from every walk of life, where personal opinions and ways of life would separate the group if it were not for our common problem. The NA association if we get involved with public issues we can only living confession to ourselves and lose train of thought on our own issues and priorities. We should talk about our opinions and never try to influence others to our cause unless it will help their or our own sobriety. If NA was asked an opinion on a public issues such as abortion, the death penalty, etc. there would be alot of controversy we would divert from our primary purpose. The NA primary purpose is to attain sobriety and function as a whole. No one persons opinion can be used as the whole programs opinion. We could even be divided. If there was an issues that half NA felt one way and the other half felt the opposite way and we took a public opinion, the program would divide and not many addicts would be coming into the program or twelve stepped. An important thing we must remember is that everyone is entitled to an opinion no matter how unimportant that person may seem to us. No one of us is better than another. It doesn't matter what age, race, creed, religion, or lack of religion you are. We want to be here for everyone. We have to remember that we are all equal. People would be trying to campaign their opinion to other people alot of attitudes would result. NA would be very clickish. Certain meetings would stand for certain issues the newcomer wouldn't have a chance, what if his opinion be different. He would not feel welcome. NA is for any addict no matter what his opinion is on any issues. Even his own program is up to him how he runs his life not NA. We are only intrested in what you want to do about your problem and how we can help. If NA gave opinions it would mean taking sides to certain issues. By doing that people might not agree with NA and hesitate using the program. This could problems if a conflict of opinions should arise, there would be friction between the outside party and NA thus, taking focus away from our primary purpose, to save the suffering addict. If we were about outside issues then we would get off the real reason why we came to NA and that was to save our lives. Also by putting time into any outside groups is priceless time that could be put into our sobriety. Which should be our number one priority. Our primary goal is staying straight and by getting into politics or anything in that matter will stray us from our first goal. If the program started to back polictical figures or start lobbying in the senate to have bills passed or laws it would start to drift away from it's true purpose of helping other addicts ot recovery and people would be campaigning to get the largest amount of members to back there own ideas to gain their own prestige. Our main purpose is to help the suffering addict, we have no business getting involved in outside controversy. By getting involved we would risk the good feeling from working together.

Some of us might of did drugs because we couldn't deal with what was going on in the world. It would stop alot of people from coming in if they didn't agree with those issues for ex. If I'm Democrat I am not going to join a Republican NA and if I was Catholic I wouldn't join a Jewish NA. You wouldn't have to be a addict by a black addict, a white addict, a rich addict, and so on. Then we would be just as messed up as we were when we were using because we would be depriving someone help and it wouldn't be NA. As a whole, it would be competition. We have to remember that we are all equal. If we dealt with outside issues then they would want a say in what goes on and how it could come down to power and not life. This could lead to the splitting up of groups or the eventual down fall of the whole program. We are in this program to help get our lives and sanity back not to campaign for a mayor or a presidential candidate cause we don't need other peoples promises or favors to help us achieve what we have and can do with just working and following the program as it was meant to be. For NA to have an opinion issue would hardly maintain any logic for several reasons, for one, it would take us away from our primary purpose which is to help one another to get and maintain our sobriety. A second reason is that is an outside issues attracts various opinions it therefore follows that various opinions would also exist inside each NA group. This would cause dissession among ourselves. We depend on unity as a whole to carry out our program and this dissession would make this unity impossible. If by some remote chance our fellowship could arrive of unanimous decision on an issue and our opinion was one we then would run the risk of public controversy if our opinion turned out to be the wrong one. For instance if we supported a candidate for public office and he or she did something illegal, then we would be involved by name in a public scandel. An addict might want to get sober but refuse to go to NA because he might not agree with them. We must remain entirely independent. If we had opinions on public controversy and the NA name was brought up, people who don't agree with us might go against us. I don't think any of us has time for anything other than helping a suffering addict off the street.

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. Our public relations policy is an attraction which means we let people know where NA is and what it does. We should let all addicts all over the world know that they are welcome cause they can come to NA where fellow addicts with the same problem are all trying to help each other. We want to attract people to the program for their own personal benefit. The attraction of NA is based on the choice of living a drug free life. You can use and not use one day at a time. The choice is yours. By not using we can gain many things, but we only promise that you can be drug free if you want to. Reasons for our public relations policy stem from the fact that NA only promises the choice for one day at a time to not use. We cannot make any other promises. In order to promote a product and NA is not a product, one must promise all sorts of good things. Na cannot and does not do this. It is necessary for suffering addicts to come in to the program because of their desire to be sober. If we went out and promoted the program it might lead us to compete against each other to see who could get more people to come in the program. We can let people know we exist but they have to have the desire to stop using. It is up to them to make the first move. We do not give away free toasters, blankets, or TV's. We do not promise to be the best at what we do, and we do not promise growth in material belongings such as a new home or a better job. These things may come about as a by product of our sobriety but all we can promise is that for those wanting to abstain completely and totally from drugs that by regularly attending our meetings and working the program that they can have the choice for complete abstinence one day at a time. The program is based around life and not money or girlfriends and it is a program that ^{you} definitely have to want or you might not stay clean. All the program promises you is that you would not use if you go to meetings and stay with sober friends and the rest comes if you put in to it. It doesn't promise jobs but if you get clean and look for one you might get it. People should come into the program because they want to stop using and thats all the program offers. It doesn't promise that every problem in their life is going to stop or they are going to become rich and famous but if they want to become sober they will find us. We shouldn't promise anybody anything because they might not get it and that is the wrong thing altogether. Our personal anonymity is real important to keep at press, radio, and films because we can't have one person represent our program. People could be seeking fame just so the can see their name in the paper. It would be very bad if a person broke anonymity and the went out using again and word would got around that this guy went to NA and he didn't get help. People would think the program doesn't work. Personal anonimity also helps people who are working with getting the name of NA out to the public from getting real big headed and egotistical. It helps everyone just be themselves and help try and let every addict in the world know they need not suffer from using anymore.

Tradition 11

I think promotion of NA would take away the spiritual aspects of the program also people would come into the program with the idea they were going to get something for nothing. We should not promote NA because people will come when they are ready. We don't want people to feel pushed or trapped at NA. The public will have a bad image of NA if we go around promoting it. It is also important that we maintain personal anonymity. If a celebrity came to NA and everybody knew it people might start coming to meeting just to see that person and that would make it hard for people to get sober. They might think the program is just a joke. Also the celebrity would have a hard time getting sober because people might say they were trying to help them but they might just want to know them because they are important. We can not go and draft people in to the program and tell them that they have to come because they might not feel it and want it at that time. They might hold a resentment and not come when they need it. Addicts need to have a desire to come into the program not conned into coming. NA needs to put energy into helping the newcomers who want help and not into dragging people who aren't ready and have bad attitudes about the program. Just let them know when their ready we'll be here. A true desire to stop using is important for recovery, and if NA were promoting the program people might be lured into the program without truly having a desire for change. We need to keep our personal anonymity for different reasons. An example would be if we were to be in the paper as being recovered and in NA, someone in our past who has resentments for us could cause trouble, either to us or the program. Recovering is not easy and we can do without unnecessary problems. We might not want certain people we deal with to know we are recovered, such as our employers. It cause problems at work. We need to maintain personal anonymity for our own spiritual growth into the program. We didn't come into the program to become a salesperson or a preacher we came in to get our lives back. It is important to keep personal anonymity from press, radio, and films because people see you on TV or hear you on the radio and you have a slip they will say, look the program doesn't work. One person cannot talk for the whole program because people might judge the whole program by that one person. Na gives us a chance to live again.

Tradition 12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. NA is a spiritual program. Spirituality is an important part of sobriety to many people in the program. It is not required that you believe in any one way or form of spirituality so each person can have his own individual spiritual beliefs. Anonymity of your spiritual beliefs is suggested to help people from having conflicts over another persons beliefs because yours and theirs contradict one another or don't seem to work for him but do work for you. The foundation of our traditions is everyone has a choice on how he wants to run his program. It is important for everyones spirituality to be accepted as true for them. It is important for newcomers to know that if they choose to remain anonymous that they will be accepted just as much as the next person. Different people have different beliefs. Just because we believe in one thing doesn't make it right or wrong. This is important concerning our higher power. In the steps they mention " God as we understand him. " One persons understanding of a higher power might be totally different than anothers. Na is based on anonymity. We don't go by who people are or what they can contribute to the program. All they need is a desire to stay clean. We also have to remember that everyone works their program different and what you do might not work for someone else. Your anonymity is your choice on who you wish to break it with if you so do so, except the press, radio, and films. You have a choice to be who you are and what you want to be, we just want to know how we can help you. We must remember that the most important thing is to help someone to be clean and sober. The principle is to help a newcomer. Help someone who is trying to stay clean and sober regardless of who they are or how they are going about it. Give them a chance. You can learn something from everyone if you can remember to keep the principle of staying clean before anyones personality, style, or way of living. One of the most important things that help a person maintain sobriety is his principles because personalities conflict too easily and could divert us from our primary purpose which is to stay clean and sober. We can't judge people by their beliefs or disbeliefs. Whatever works for them is good for them and we have to accept people for what they are. We can't judge people for their style of clothes or the way they live their lives. If there is a certain person at a meeting that we have a resentment against, we shouldn't turn ourselves off to what they have to say. This is something that most people have to work at. It is hard to listen open mindedly to someone who you don't like, but they might have something to say that sounds good and could help you. There might be someone in the program who you really like and they might say something wrong. It could lead someone to start using again. You have to think of the consequences before your friends. We can't like everybody, but we should be open to their opinions.

Tradition 12

Anonymity is important because if we don't like someone who believes in their higher power we might not like whatever they say and it could be something very important to us. We have to remember principles before personalities because we might go to a meeting somewhere and not like what one person said and like everything else and not ever go back just because of that one person. If there is a person that has a certain image or personality that you don't like, that's fine, you don't have to be best friends with him, but you should still listen to what he has to say. It might help you out. Even the strangest people in the world make sense sometimes and even though you wouldn't want to hang around with them, they can still help you out with a problem. In disliking a person we may tend to block out any suggestions he may make, not take any direction from him or her, or stop ourselves from hearing something that may help us in achieving sobriety or from laying a strong foundation which may help us maintain our sobriety. An easy solution to his problem is to confront ourselves with the twelfth tradition and keep ourselves aware of the fact that we must place principles before personalities. We can get something good from everyone in the program whether we like them or not. Good ideas, suggestions, or experiences we can relate to are not always found when we only share with people who are close to us. They are found by sharing with various types of people who have one thing in common. The choice to stay sober. That is all that is important, not the person, the clothes that they wear, or the color of their hair. This common cause is a principle which must always be foremost in our priorities and that means that anything or things we may find in a person that we dislike must take a backseat to our need to listen to what he or she has offer. It shouldn't matter who anyone is. The only thing that should matter is that we are all trying to or stay clean of drugs. We should always remember to place principles before personalities, to listen to what is being said not to who is saying it. If we were to listen to who was ~~shaking~~ rather than what they were sharing we might be clean today. We should always try and remember to live and let live.