WHY IT WORKS THE TWELVE STEPS OF N.A.

We keep what we have only with vigilance, and just as freedom for the individual comes from the Twelve Steps, so freedom for the groups springs from our Traditions. As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience; our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
6. To finance this message, to end ignorance, to reform, to heal, to end the N.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A, as such, ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. A has no opinion on outside issues; hence the N.A. name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Understanding these Traditions comes slowly over a period of time. We pick up information as we talk to members and visit various groups. It usually isn’t until we get involved with service that someone points out that “personal recovery depends on NA unity,” and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. The Twelve Traditions of NA are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our Fellowship alive and free. By following these guidelines in our dealings with others, and society at large, we avoid many problems. That is not to say that our Traditions eliminate all problems. We still have to face the problems as they arise: communication problems, differences of opinion, internal controversies, and troubles with individuals and groups outside the Fellowship. However, when we apply these principles, we avoid some of the pitfalls. Many of our problems are like those that our predecessors had to face. Their hard-won experience gave birth to the Traditions and our own experience has shown that these principles are just as valid today as they were when these Traditions were formulated. Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us. They are truly the ties that bind us together. It is only through understanding and application that they work.
Greater Providence Area Meeting

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
GREATER PROVIDENCE AREA ASC Meeting
(Open)
4th Sunday of the month Beneficent Congregational Church
300 Weybosset Street
Providence, RI 02903

Agenda
Executive Committee 12:00–1:30 pm
Literature Sales 1:00–2:45 pm
Subcommittees (H&I, PI, Policy, Phone Line, Finance, Convention) 2:00–3:00pm
New GSR Orientation 3:15–3:30 pm
Area Service Committee Main Meeting 3:30–5:30 pm

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New England Regional Phoneline
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1-866-624-3578
Visit us on the Web @ www.gpana.org
Meetings Weekly: 61