WHY IT WORKS THE TWELVE TRADITIONS 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 traditions 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. An N.A. group ought never to endorse, finance, or lend 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 forego 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 films.
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 difficulties 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 our predecessors had to face. Their hard-won experience gave birth to the Traditions and our own experience has shown that these principles are as 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.

JUST FOR TODAY LIVING THE PROGRAM

Tell yourself:
JUST FOR TODAY, my thoughts will be on my recovery, living, and enjoying life without the use of drugs.
JUST FOR TODAY, I will have faith in someone in N.A. who believes in me and wants to help me in my recovery.
JUST FOR TODAY, I will have a program. I will try to follow it to the best of my ability.
JUST FOR TODAY, N.A. will try to get a better perspective on my life.
JUST FOR TODAY, I will be unafraid, my thoughts will be on my new associations, people who are not using and who have found a new way of life. So long as I follow that way, I have nothing to fear.

When at the end of the road we find that we can no longer function as human beings, either with or without drugs, we all face the same dilemma. What is there left to do? There seems to be this alternative: either go on as best we can to the bitter ends—jails, institutions or death—or find a new way to live. In years gone by, very few addicts ever had this last choice. Those who are addicted today are more fortunate. For the first time in man’s entire history, a simple way has been proving itself in the lives of many addicts. It is available to us all. This is a simple spiritual—not religious—program, known as Narcotics Anonymous.

Basic Text, page 87

What is our message?
The message is that an addict, any addict can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom.

Basic Text, page 65

The Narcotics Anonymous Message:
“That an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.”

PHONE NUMBERS

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

Send Mail To:
Greater Providence ASC
GPA: P.O. Box 72792 Providence, RI 02907
New England Regional Phone line
1-866-NA-HELP-U
1-866-624-3578

Visit us on the Web @ www.gpana.org
Meetings Weekly: 50