

1. **Service is a Spiritual Principle;** it is through giving freely of ourselves that we receive. In N.A. we believe that service is an integral part of Recovery, and as a result we have created a "Participatory Service Structure" where the opportunity to service is a privilege of membership.
2. **Service should be inclusive not exclusive,** all N.A. have something to offer and we actively strive to involve as many members as possible in our service efforts. Ultimately, it is a Loving God working through our members that makes it possible for us to achieve our goals. God is non-exclusive!
3. **Our service is for the addict who still suffers,** and we believe that the N.A. Group (see T.W.G.S.S.) is the most important part of our Service Structure since it is the service unit in direct contact with the newcomer. All the other elements of our Service Structure have been created to serve, support, and assist our groups in the fulfillment of their primary purpose.
4. **Our Service Structure is a tool** whos purpose is to do those things for our Groups which would compromise their spiritual integrity or distract them from their primary purpose.
5. **Our services are initiated and completed by our Groups and Members.** Our Service Structure is a closed loop. Our Groups and/or members begin the process with an idea of what needs to be, or could be done to better fulfill our primary purpose, our Service Structure is responsible for implementation of the idea which is finally achieved by Groups and/or members working directly with the addict who still suffers.
6. **The principle of Practical Spirituality is at the heart of our service.** We believe that if it is not practical then it is not spiritual; aa Loving God is at the center of our service and this God has the power to make all things possible and practical.
7. **The resourses we need to fulfill our service projects will always be available when the time is right.** We believe that if a service project is spiritually correct then the finances, manpower, and emotional support necessary to complete the task will be provided without the need for willfull manipulation.

8. **Our service should be simple and straightforward.** Ongoing recovery is a process of simplification and likewise in our services we should strive for simplicity, if our service efforts are in tune with God's will then they will not be complicated. When service is spiritually based there is no need for secrecy, dishonesty, or subterfuge; the spiritual correctness of the service is all that is necessary.

9. **All service should be open and aboveboard,** communication is inherent in the principle of direct responsibility. Open information and full accountability are implicit in our approach to service. We have nothing to fear and nothing to hide.

10. **Selfless service is our ideal.** The Disease of Addiction is our greatest strength because it brings us together, it is also our greatest weakness because it tends to tear us apart. Our disease is one of obsessiveness and compulsivity; it is physical, mental, and spiritual in nature. We recognize that there is a direct relationship between quality of service and personal recovery. We stress the need for each member involved in service to keep their personal recovery (physical, mental, and spiritual) as their first priority. When individuals fall short or fail in their service we treat them with compassion and love rather than rejection, exclusion, or punitive action. We strive for progress and do not demand perfection of each other.

11. **Spiritual Principles are never in conflict.** The services we provide within our Service Structure should always be based on principle. The Spiritual Principles incorporate in our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions should be respected and maintained throughout our services. Our Twelve Steps literally apply to the member seeking recovery, our Twelve Traditions literally apply to our Groups, and these Principles of Service literally apply to our Service Structure. Awareness of Spiritual Principles is necessary for all if we are to survive, to grow, and provide service based on God's will for us.

12. **Ultimately, our service projects are in God's hands.** Trust is a key principle for us, and essential in our service efforts. The trust that N.A. Members give those who serve is equal to the trust that we, as servants, have in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, in Spiritual Principles, and in God. As individuals, we trust our will and our lives to the care of a loving God. Our Groups trust in a loving God as their ultimate authority. Likewise, in our Service Structure we trust a loving God as the source and strength of our service.

TWELVE
PRECEPTS OF
SERVICE
FOR
NARCOTICS
ANONYMOUS

DRAFT

GREG PIERCE - 4/1/88

TWELVE PRECEPTS OF SERVICE FOR NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

1. Service is a Spiritual Principle; it is through giving freely of ourselves that we receive. In N.A. we believe that service is an integral part of Recovery, and as a result we have created a "Participatory Service Structure" where the equal opportunity to serve is a privilege of membership.

2. Service should be inclusive not exclusive, all N.A. members have something to offer and we actively strive to involve as many members as possible in our service efforts. Ultimately, it is a Loving God working through our members that makes it possible for us to achieve our goals. God is non-exclusive!

3. Our service is for the addict who still suffers, and we believe that the N.A. Group is the most important part of our Service Structure since it is the service unit in direct contact with the newcomer. All the other elements of our Service Structure have been

created to serve, support, and assist our groups in the fulfillment of their primary purpose.

4. Our Service Structure is a tool whose purpose is to do those things for our Groups which would compromise their spiritual integrity or distract them from their primary purpose.

5. Our services are initiated and completed by our Groups and Members. Our Service Structure is a closed loop. Our Groups and/or members begin the process with an idea of what needs to be, or could be done to help fulfill their primary purpose, our Service Structure is responsible for implementation of the idea which is finally achieved by Groups and/or members working directly with the addict who still suffers.

6. The principle of Practical Spirituality is at the heart of our service. We believe that if it is not practical then it is not spiritual; a Loving God is at the center of our service and this God has the power to make all things possible and practical.

7. The resources we need to fulfill our service projects will always be available when the time is right. We believe that if a service project is spiritually correct then the finances, manpower, and emotional support necessary to complete the task will be available.

8. Our service should be simple and straight-forward.

Ongoing recovery is a process of simplification and likewise in our services we should strive for simplicity, if our service efforts are in tune with God's will then they will not be complicated. When service is spiritually based there is no need for secrecy, dishonesty, or subterfuge; the spiritual correctness of the service is all that is necessary.

9. All service should be open and aboveboard, communication is inherent in the principle of direct responsibility. Open information and full accountability are implicit in our approach to service. We have nothing to fear and nothing to hide.

10. Selfless service is our ideal. The Disease of Addiction is

our greatest strength because it brings us together, it is also our greatest weakness because it tends to tear us apart. Our disease is one of obsessiveness and compulsivity; it is physical, mental, and spiritual in nature. We recognize that there is a direct relationship between quality of service and personal recovery. We stress the need for each member involved in service to keep their personal recovery (physical, mental, and spiritual) as their first priority. When individuals fall short or fail in their service we treat them with compassion and love rather than rejection, exclusion, or punitive action. We strive for progress and do not demand perfection of each other.

11. The services we provide within our Service Structure should always be guided by principle. "True Spiritual Principles are never in conflict" and the Spiritual Principles embodied in our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions should be respected and maintained throughout our services. Our Twelve Steps literally apply to the member seeking recovery, our Twelve Traditions literally apply to

our Groups, and these Precepts of Service literally apply to our Service Structure. Awareness of Spiritual Principles is necessary for all if we are to survive, to grow, and provide service based on God's will for us.

12. Ultimately, our service projects are in God's hands.

Trust is a key principle for us, and essential in our service efforts. The trust that N.A. Members give those who serve is equal to the trust that those who serve have in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, in Spiritual Principles, and in God. As individuals, we trust our will and our lives to the care of a loving God. Our Groups trust in a loving God as their ultimate authority. Likewise, in our Service Structure we trust a loving God as the source and strength of our service.



PRAYER - "GOD, grant us knowledge that we may serve according to Your Divine precepts. Instill in us a sense of Your purpose. Make us servants of Your will and grant us a bond of selflessness, that this may truly be Your work, not ours - in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction." (Basic Text)

TWELVE PRECEPTS OF SERVICE FOR NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

1. **Service is a Spiritual Principle.** It is through giving freely of ourselves that we receive. In N.A. we believe that service does not equal recovery, but rather that service is an integral part of personal recovery. It is one of the ways that we fulfill our Ninth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Steps. We have established a "Participatory Service Structure" where the opportunity to serve is both a privilege and right of Membership.
2. **Service should be inclusive not exclusive.** We believe that all N.A. Members have a responsibility to serve in some way and something positive to offer to the addict who still suffers. We actively strive to involve as many Members as possible in our service efforts. Individually, we do not claim credit for the results of our service; we understand that, ultimately, it is a Loving God working through each of us that makes it possible for us to achieve our goals.
3. **Our services are initiated and completed by our Members.** Our Service Structure begins and ends with the Member; is a closed loop. Our Members begin the process with an idea of what needs to be done, or could be done to help fulfill our primary purpose. Our Service Structure is responsible for implementation of the idea which is, in turn, finally achieved by Members working directly with the addict who still suffers.
4. **Our service is for the addict who still suffers.** We believe that the N.A. Member is the most important part of our Service Structure. "The therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel." The N.A. Group provides an "Atmosphere of Recovery" where the N.A. message is manifest. All the other elements of our Service Structure have been created to assist, support, and serve our groups in the fulfillment of their primary purpose. The "Point of delivery" of our service should be as close to the recipient as possible, and our Service Structure (Member - Group - Area - Region - World) reflects this principle.
5. **Our Service Structure is a tool.** Its purpose is to do those things for our Members and Groups which might compromise their spiritual integrity or distract them from their primary purpose. We try to keep the "Recovery" aspects of N.A. separate from the "Business" aspects of N.A. The "Business" of N.A. begins in the Group and is carried through the rest of our Service Structure, which is neither separate from nor strictly a part of the Narcotics Anonymous program.
6. **The principle of Practical Spirituality is at the heart of our service.** Our Eleventh Step teaches us to seek knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out. We discriminate between "Self will" and "God's will" by applying this principle. We believe that if it is not practical then it is not spiritual; "Self will" is like swimming upstream and "God's will" is like swimming downstream. A Loving God is at the center of our service and this God has the power to make all things possible and practical.
7. **The resources we need to fulfill our service projects will always be available when the time is right.** We believe that God gives us opportunities when the time is right. If a service project is spiritually correct then the finances, manpower, and emotional support necessary to complete the task will be available. When we try to make things happen we fail and when we let things happen we succeed.
8. **Our service should be simple and straightforward.** Ongoing recovery is a process of simplification and likewise in our services we should strive for simplicity, if our service efforts are in tune with God's will then they will not be complicated. When service is spiritually based there is no need for secrecy, dishonesty, or subterfuge; the spiritual correctness of the service is all that is necessary.

9. **All service should be open and aboveboard.** communication is inherent in the principle of direct responsibility. Open information and full accountability are implicit in our approach to service. In order to maintain the integrity of our services we monitor our motives and inventory our methods. If we maintain our focus on our "Primary purpose" and keep our actions consistent with our spiritual principles then we have nothing to fear and nothing to hide from each other.

10. **The services we provide within our Service Structure should always be guided by principle.** "True Spiritual Principles are never in conflict" and the Spiritual Principles embodied in our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions should be respected and maintained throughout our services. Our Twelve Steps literally apply to the member seeking recovery, our Twelve Traditions literally apply to our Groups, and these Precepts of Service literally apply to our Service Structure. Awareness of Spiritual Principles is necessary for all if we are to survive, to grow, and provide service based on God's will for us.

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Other possible names:

- Twelve Concepts of Service for Narcotics Anonymous
- Principles of Service for Narcotics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous - Philosophy of Service