Just NA facts. Nothing fancy. Nothing false.

What's the "short-circuit" between NA Groups and the current state of our service structure?

The fact that members look for some "authority" other than their Home Group shows a major deficiency in today's version of "structural service." Yet many in NA today look to their Area committees for direction and authority, or to their Regional committees, or to World Services, as if they govern us. Our Ninth Tradition says, "NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." NA, as such, is the Group, and may therefore create service boards or committees. It does NOT say that service boards or committees may create other service boards or committees directly responsible to... themselves.

Who gave Just NA Facts the authority to communicate with trusted servants anyway?

This question is a perfect illustration of how badly our fellowship needs a clear understanding of the Twelve Traditions in 2011. All of our ideas about how to better achieve our personal Twelfth Step and our group's primary purpose originated from some individual member's inspiration at some Home Group meeting. We all want the best method to give 'it' away so we may keep 'it."

Perhaps this is where an important connection has failed: The current state of our service structure and the NAWS-proposed Service System Project did not originate from inspiration at our highest level of service - you and your Home Group. Instead, they both originated at our broadest level of service, the one most distant from you and the newcomer who just walked into your Home Group. It's the level that's most removed from the "it" in "The newcomer is the most important person at any meeting, because we can only keep what we have by giving it away."

The difference between governing and serving...

Most of us learned in our high school civics class that governments delegate power to others and give their subordinates authority; but trusted servants do not govern. Yet many in NA today look to NA services for the authority they already have.

Here's how our spiritual program is designed to work: We embrace the good ideas in Groups, and if we think they might help other Groups, we pass those ideas down through the service structure. Eventually if the idea is good enough and many members like the sound of it, the idea returns to the top through the structure, to our Groups for a Group Conscience vote. And then, our trusted servants represent our conscience

back down through the structure, which may eventually become policy of our Area, Region or even all of NA.

The individual member's personal inspiration from a loving God, which is then validated through the conscience of autonomous NA Groups – THAT is our ultimate authority. Because our "...leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." They keep us informed and represent our Group's conscience.

What is there left to do?

Isn't it time we, the Fellowship, return to the practice of designing services so they meet our needs in furthering our primary purpose? Our Second Tradition answers that question specifically: "...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."

Look to that "ultimate authority" and ask if we became unplugged from service or did service unplug from us?