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# What happened to the 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition

Aug. 23, 2012



## What happened to the 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition

Traditional management models are hierarchies. Authority and decision-making power are concentrated at the top of an organizational pyramid. Orders are issued and carried out by subordinates. This model is about centralized power and control by those at the top of the pyramid. The inverted pyramid in an organization challenges this traditional model.

The inverted pyramid is a model for a reversal of traditional management practices. NA members are closest to the newcomer, those of us in the trenches, are now placed at the top of the pyramid and become the managers. The NA group member is empowered with the decision-making authority and freedom of action when we are guided by the 12 Traditions. The NA member now empowered to direct

the service structure also holds it directly responsible (accountable). This is what our 12 Traditions require of us, the NA group member. Here is how the Traditions support the Inverted Pyramid for your NA Service Structure.

Simply put, the 9<sup>th</sup> tradition describes the inverted pyramid mandated by the 2<sup>nd</sup> tradition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tradition states: 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. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tradition tells us for its purpose there is one ultimate authority, God being expressed through our group conscience. Then it further states the role of leadership in the group, Trusted Servants. It also states our leaders do not govern. What does govern mean? The Dictionary says; to exercise continuous sovereign authority over, especially: to **control and direct the making and administration of an organization or government.**” In plain English make decisions and that violates group conscience. Now we know what the ultimate authority is. It is group conscience as our 2<sup>nd</sup> tradition states.

The 9<sup>th</sup> tradition tells us how to have direct responsibility and service transparency by utilizing the inverted pyramid model. It states in tradition 9:

NA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. First what is NA as such? It is the recovery meeting. The organization referred to there is we don't make business decisions or have group conscience during the recovery meeting. That is for recovery only. However the tradition says we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. Here is where our service structure begins. The first committee we set up is the group steering committee GSR, Secretary and Treasurer. They are directed by and accountable to the individual NA members of that group. Those group Steering Committees can get together and form an Area Service Committee. And they are directed by and accountable to the groups who are directed by and accountable to the individual NA members of those groups. The Areas can get together and form a Region. A Service Committee directed by and accountable to the Areas directed by and accountable to the groups directed by and accountable to the individual NA members. Next the Regions get together and form what is known as the World Service Conference directed by and accountable to the Regions directed by and accountable to the Areas directed by and accountable to groups directed by and accountable

to the individual NA member. WSC, with our approval, can create offices and Boards directed by the structure all the way up to the groups and members.

### Inverted Pyramid

NA Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Group \_\_\_\_\_  
AREA \_\_\_\_\_  
Region \_\_\_\_\_  
World Service Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
  
WSO-NAWS-Board \_\_\_\_\_

During the last several WSC's the inverted pyramid has been reversed to a corporate structure and group conscience is dead in NA

Current so-called service  
NAWS-WSO –World Board \_\_\_\_\_  
WSC \_\_\_\_\_  
Regions \_\_\_\_\_  
Areas \_\_\_\_\_  
Groups \_\_\_\_\_  
NA Member \_\_\_\_\_



The NA member is now directed by and accountable to NAWS. Is this what you want?

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