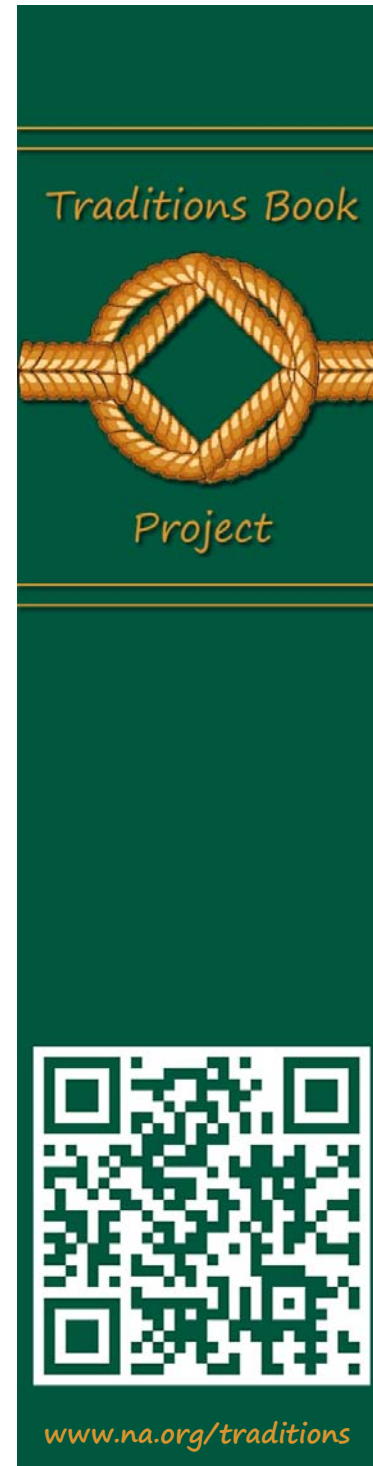


Tradition Twelve

The Twelve Traditions describe a fellowship that takes its collective guidance from spiritual principles rather than from individual personalities. That kind of selflessness is what the Twelfth Tradition means by the word “anonymity,” and it is the spiritual foundation on which Narcotics Anonymous is built.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ If we place “principles before personalities,” where do our personalities fit in our role as NA members?
- ◆ What is a “spiritual foundation,” and how do we build on it?
- ◆ What is the relationship between anonymity and “our common welfare”?
- ◆ What’s most significant to me about Tradition Twelve?

[illegible]

Small Group Workshops

Traditions Book Project—Small Group Input Gathering

The Traditions Book Project was approved at the 2012 World Service Conference as a two-cycle project spanning 2012 to 2016. According to the project plan that was approved, the 2012–2014 cycle would focus on gathering raw materials, input, and ideas about what the Fellowship would find most useful for guidance on the Traditions, and the 2014–2016 cycle would focus on drafting the book, conducting fellowship review and input, and then developing the approval draft for consideration at WSC 2016.

We are excited that we have received input from many area and regional workshops so far. To make it easier for even more members to get involved and share their ideas, a shorter workshop that NA groups could do—before a meeting, after a meeting, as part of a group business meeting—seemed like a great new innovation.

And that's where this material comes in.

These group-focused discussion starters can spark interesting conversations and give home group members a chance to participate and send in their experience, strength, and hope. These questions will help begin that discussion, and if your group has input beyond the scope of these questions—we welcome and encourage that, too!

Tradition Eleven

Tradition Eleven is the cornerstone of NA's public relations policy. Public information work, done properly, is *not* promotion; rather, it seeks to make NA attractive to those who might need us. What we say and what we do reflects on our NA recovery and the NA Fellowship. As responsible NA members, we want that reflection to be a source of attraction rather than a source of embarrassment.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ How do we protect NA's reputation in public relations service work? Or when we participate on social media? Or when we wear an NA t-shirt to the coffee shop?
- ◆ How do we manage our personal anonymity when we participate in social media?
- ◆ Why is my personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film important to NA as a whole?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Eleven?

[illegible]

Tradition Ten

NA members are encouraged to think for themselves, develop their own opinions, and to express those opinions as they see fit... But, for all that, we all know that controversial personal opinions can distract our meetings from their primary purpose... So long as we keep our common welfare and primary purpose in focus, we will avoid the kind of controversy that distracts us from recovery.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ When sharing in meetings, how can we discuss things outside of NA that affect our recovery without distracting the meeting from NA’s primary purpose?
- ◆ What views does NA have on getting clean?
- ◆ When speaking publicly, how can we describe NA without getting tangled in controversy?
- ◆ What’s most significant to me about Tradition Ten?

OK Great! Where Do We Begin?

Choose a trusted servant or two who will help lead the discussion. It will help to read over these materials first and plan the mini-workshop carefully in order to have things go as smoothly as possible. In drafting these materials, we had a 20 minute group discussion in mind, but please feel free to adapt the material in whatever way works best for your group. Run as many or as few workshops as you would like—do them before or after a meeting, with your sponsees, or before/after an area or regional service committee meeting.

Each workshop focuses on one Tradition—the group can choose which Tradition to discuss, or they can ask the facilitator to decide. The materials for each Tradition include: the Tradition, a brief explanatory note based on our literature, and discussion questions. If other questions or ideas come to mind, use them!

Read the Tradition and the explanatory note aloud, and then choose one of the discussion questions to have a conversation about. You may choose to ask one member of the group to act as recorder, taking notes through the discussion, and allow the group to talk for all of the allotted time—or you can talk for part of the time and save time at the end for people to write down their own thoughts. It may be useful to have copies of the Basic Text and *It Works: How and Why* available for members to refer to as they discuss.

Send the input all together as a group, or each member can send their thoughts individually. If you want to make it simple, take a picture of your hand-written notes with your phone and send it to us at: worldboard@na.org. (Try to make it legible, please!)

Thanks for participating!

Having the Discussions

These workshops are meant to help groups have a 20-minute discussion, but you are welcome to have shorter or longer discussions based on the group's wishes. The questions are meant simply as a starting point—we hope your discussions are energetic and inspiring, and that you challenge each other to see the Traditions in a way you didn't see them before.

- ◆ Choose which Tradition to discuss.
- ◆ Begin with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- ◆ Assign a member to take notes, and have that member capture the unique experiences and ideas members share, not just a list of spiritual principles or literature quotes.
- ◆ Have a member read the Tradition and the Tradition excerpt from the Twelve Traditions sheet.
- ◆ Have another member read additional paragraph and choose one question for discussion. Or, skip the question and just talk!
- ◆ Try to have as many members as possible share their experience and ideas in response to the question. Facilitator can ask members to clarify or expand on thoughts, but try to allow everyone to share before debating interpretations.
- ◆ Try to end conversation at the agreed-upon time. If members still have energy for more discussion, feel free to keep going, move on to another question, or continue the conversation at the “meeting after the meeting.”
- ◆ Snap pictures of your note sheets with your phone and send them to us at worldboard@na.org, or go to www.na.org/traditions and fill out a questionnaire. You can also mail note sheets to:

NA World Services

PO Box 9999

Van Nuys, CA 91409

Tradition Nine

This Tradition is all about keeping it simple; not that we are disorganized, but that we create service boards and committees to serve the groups so that “NA, as such, may retain its uncluttered, direct approach to carrying the message.” The key to making this work is communication—along with a shared sense of responsibility to our primary purpose.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ What do we need boards or committees for?
- ◆ How do we maintain effective communication between groups and their boards or committees?
- ◆ Talk about the relationship between this tradition and our primary purpose.
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Nine?

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Tradition Eight

Tradition Eight reminds us that our members need no professional credential to be effective in carrying the NA message. The heart of the NA way of recovery from addiction is one addict helping another. We don't sell recovery; we share it freely with others in a spirit of love and gratitude. However, Narcotics Anonymous groups, service boards, and committees may require professional help in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ What is the difference between a professional and a non-professional approach to treating addiction?
- ◆ If our professional work brings us into contact with addicts, how do we treat those individuals as members rather than clients if/when we see them in the rooms?
- ◆ What is the relationship between this Tradition and anonymity?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Eight?

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Tradition One

One way to look at placing our common welfare first is to say that each of us is equally responsible for NA's well-being. As each individual member relies on the support of the fellowship for survival, so NA's survival depends on its members.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ How does my personal recovery depend on NA unity?
- ◆ How do we practice unity when we disagree on something important?
- ◆ As a member, what are my responsibilities to NA? What are the responsibilities to NA of a group, or a service body?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition One?

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Tradition Two

If we are to find guidance from an ultimate authority, we need to find means of hearing that guidance together. The mechanism we use is group conscience. Group conscience can be thought of in much the same way as personal conscience. Group conscience reflects a collective awareness of, understanding of, and surrender to spiritual principles.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ What is group conscience?
- ◆ What is the difference between leadership and governing?
- ◆ How do we invite that ultimate authority into our process, and how do we recognize it when it's there?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Two?

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Tradition Seven

The principle of self-support includes money issues, but goes much further than the funds we contribute. Whatever a group needs to fulfill its primary purpose should be provided by the group itself. Group service and active group membership are two vital contributions to group self-support that don't cost any money at all.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ Why is the commitment to self-support so important?
- ◆ How do our efforts to be self-supporting contribute to unity?
- ◆ When the line between self-support and outside contribution is hard to see, how do we find a solution?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Seven?

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Tradition Six

By establishing boundaries, the Sixth Tradition helps our groups avoid some of the problems that commonly arise between organizations. By helping our groups avoid such problems, Tradition Six allows us to devote all our energy to carrying a clear NA message to addicts seeking recovery.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ What is the difference between cooperation and endorsement or affiliation?
- ◆ At what point could a cooperative relationship begin to blur into affiliation or endorsement?
- ◆ What kind of conflicts might we run into with outside enterprises, and how can we address those disagreements?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Six?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tradition Three

The Third Tradition helps us grow by encouraging us to welcome others. Membership is a personal decision reached by each individual. Our task is to fan the flame of desire, not dampen it. The wording of the Third Tradition reflects the broad focus of our First Step.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ How has my group made members feel more welcome? Less welcome? How have I personally done so?
- ◆ Can a group decide who can be a member?
- ◆ How does this Tradition support our common welfare?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Three?

[illegible]

Tradition Four

Autonomy gives groups the creative freedom to find individual ways to carry the message and every group has a niche to fill both in the fellowship as a whole and in the local NA community. But autonomy does not relieve groups of their obligation to observe and apply the spiritual principles embodied in the Traditions.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ How do we know what affects NA as a whole?
- ◆ How do we find the balance between autonomy and responsibility?
- ◆ Why are autonomy and creative freedom so important in Narcotics Anonymous?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Four?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tradition Five

The Fifth Tradition asks us to practice integrity by keeping our purpose foremost. When all is said and done, our primary purpose can only be to carry the message to the addict who still suffers because that is all we have to give.

Discussion Questions

- ◆ What can we do to further our primary purpose—as individuals, groups, service bodies?
- ◆ What is an atmosphere of recovery, and how can we foster it?
- ◆ What distracts us from our primary purpose? How do we recognize that we're distracted?
- ◆ What's most significant to me about Tradition Five?

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