

APPENDIX III

AA Principles in Service

Traditions & Concepts in Service

Intergroup Representatives (IGRs/ALTs) help support communication, unity, and shared service among AA groups. The following Traditions and Concepts are especially helpful in guiding effective service work.

Tradition One — Unity

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

IGRs/ALTs help strengthen unity by encouraging cooperation, respectful communication, and participation in shared services that benefit the fellowship as a whole.

Tradition Two — Group Conscience

“Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

Intergroup decisions are made through informed group conscience rather than personal authority. IGRs/ALTs are encouraged to listen carefully, participate respectfully, and represent the conscience of their home groups whenever possible.

Tradition Four — Group Autonomy

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Each AA group manages its own affairs. Intergroup exists to support groups through shared services, not to govern or direct them.

Tradition Five — Primary Purpose

“Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Intergroup services such as hotlines, meeting lists, public information, and events help support AA’s primary purpose. IGRs/ALTs help keep service discussions focused on carrying the message.

Tradition Seven — Self-Support

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Intergroup services are supported through voluntary contributions from groups and members. IGRs/ALTs may help communicate how shared services are funded and supported.

Tradition Nine — Service Boards

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Intergroup committees and trusted servants exist to carry out practical service work. These service bodies remain accountable to the groups they serve.

Tradition Twelve — Anonymity

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions...”

IGRs/ALTs are trusted with protecting member anonymity and maintaining confidentiality when appropriate, especially in public communication and online spaces.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service

The Twelve Concepts help guide AA service structure and decision-making. They emphasize:

- Accountability in service
- Delegated responsibility
- Participation
- Communication
- Trusted leadership
- The importance of minority opinion

IGRs/ALTs are encouraged to become familiar with the Concepts over time as part of growing in service.

Principles Before Personalities

Healthy service work depends on ***placing AA principles ahead of personal opinions, conflicts, or prestige.***

Effective service work includes:

- Respectful listening
- Patience during disagreements
- Avoiding gossip and resentment
- Focusing on the common welfare
- Seeking cooperation rather than winning arguments

Informed Group Conscience

An informed group conscience is reached after members have:

- Access to relevant information
- Time for discussion
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Opportunity to hear differing viewpoints

IGRs/ALTs help support informed decision-making by bringing accurate information between Intergroup and their home groups.

Minority Opinion

AA encourages members with differing viewpoints to be heard respectfully before final decisions are made.

Hearing minority opinions can:

- Improve understanding
- Prevent rushed decisions
- Strengthen unity
- Help ensure all voices are considered

IGRs/ALTs are encouraged to participate with openness, humility, and respect for differing perspectives.