

TRADITION NINE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Attached are the committees recommended by the Tradition Nine Working Group (the committee to create committees) which was commissioned at the December 2020 CAN-GC.

The committees, or teams, suggested are designed to address the concerns that were surfaced in the most recent Group Inventory. Attention was paid to the Traditions best suited to amend those concerns. Traditions 1, 2, 5 and 12 were specifically looked at.

Tradition One: “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 189. “Without unity, A.A. dies. Individual liberty, yet great unity. Key to paradox: each A.A.’s life depends on obedience to spiritual principles. The group must survive or the individual will not. Common welfare comes first. How best to live and work together as groups.” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 9.

Tradition Two: “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 189. “Some idea may be ethical but “...what we’ve got won’t run on ethics only; it has to be better....This is a matter of life and death, Bill, and nothing but the very best will do!....Bill, haven’t you often said right here in this meeting that sometimes the good is the enemy of the best?” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* p.137,138.

Tradition Five: “Each Alcoholics Anonymous group out to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p.190. “The life of our Fellowship depends on this principle. The ability of each A.A. to identify himself with and bring recovery to the newcomer is a gift from God...passing on this gift to others is our one aim. “*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 10, 11.

Tradition Twelve: “And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessing may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over all. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 192 “Spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice.” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 13.

Next steps:

The January 10, 2021 Group Conscience should approve, disapprove, adjust or add to the committees recommended.

A chairperson for each committee will be selected.

Those chair-people will recruit committee members.

The committees will meet and report back to the group on a date chosen by the GC.

TRADITION NINE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Unity Team

Purpose:

- 1) Enumerate steps/processes the Group can take to engender unity within CAN.
- 2) Come up with creative ways to disseminate these step/processes to the group at large *for clear understanding and participation.*

For Guidance see:

Tradition 2

Idea starters:

Could we create additional service positions at both the Group and individual meeting levels to generate wider involvement (skin in the game) in the structure and process (e.g., greeters at all meetings, a position at each meeting to help set up the room for the *next* meeting using the “Chairperson Responsibilities” checklist, coffee makers, etc. – see the Chicago Group’s service position list)?

How can we reinforce the knowledge within CAN at large of our goal of hearing and considering the minority opinion within the group?

Group Guidelines Simplified (Guidelines Illustrated) Team

Purpose:

- 1) Distill the current Group Guidelines down into a short and easily understood format.
- 2) Come up with creative ways to disseminate that product to the group at large *so that it will be read and understood.*

For Guidance see:

Traditions 1, 2

Idea starters:

Example: When do we table a motion for 30 days of prayerful consideration and when do we vote during the meeting in which the motion is made?

In Case of Emergency Team

Purpose:

1) To flesh out the procedure for calling an emergency GC, establish a venue for the meeting and how the forum is to be conducted (see current Guidelines: Article V, section 5.02.1 and Article X, section 10.01.1). This group will provide more detail than is given in the current Group Guidelines.

2) What do we do in the event of an emergency so immediate that there is no time to call an emergency GC (flood, fire...). Who has authority to act?

For Guidance see:

Tradition 1

Idea starters:

How can we cover all unexpected contingencies?

Who are the possible turn to's? (Group Facilitator, Maintenance Chair, Treasurer, Landlord?)

Communications Team

Purpose:

Devise ways to better communicate CAN initiatives to the Group at large.

For Guidance see:

Tradition 1

Idea starters:

Are there ways to make our use of the website, email list, new bulletin boards, whiteboard calendar and other devices more consistent, cohesive and regular than they currently are?

Should we add a line to the Chairperson's meeting script that encourages members to sign up for the CAN email?

Group Conscience Simplified (GC Illustrated) Team

Purpose:

- 1) Provide the Group with an understanding of the necessity, purpose, structure and methods of the GC.
- 2) Come up with creative ways to disseminate that product to the group at large *so that it will be read and understood.*
- 3) Create “guidelines and tips” for Group Facilitators so they don’t have to learn on the job.

For Guidance see:

Tradition 2

Idea starters:

Do we need to state the purpose of the GC and a general explanation of the desire for inclusiveness in its deliberative process?

Can we explain the CAN version of Robert’s Rules of Order, i.e., how to handle motions as they are made; how to and when to bring up the minority opinion; how to cut off or at least mitigate long discussions or repetitive ideas; how to table a motion; etc.? Possibly create a “steps to a decision” chart: 1. Topic raised 2. Discussion 3. Motion made 4. Seconded 5. Discussion 6. Vote 7. Minority opinion speaks 8. Re-vote 9. Repeat until consensus reached or motion tabled to next GC.

Sponsorship Initiative Team

Purpose:

- 1) State the role of Sponsors in promoting Group unity and service.
- 2) Find/invent tools Sponsors can use to get their Sponsees more directly involved in Group service.

For Guidance see:

Traditions 1, 5

Idea starters:

Is there a way to invent or find a “Sponsor Study” – Like a Step Study but for sponsorship, also divided men and women?

Chairperson Education and Hacks Team

Purpose:

- 1) Provide a simple, interesting and useful guide for chairing meetings
- 2) We count on our chair-people to see that Group guidelines and decisions are followed – supply them with an aid for doing so

For Guidance see:

Traditions 5, 8

Idea starters:

What if we put together something with short essays or anecdotes with tips for chairing – or possibly something like “Living Sober”?

What topics should be considered (having someone to call on if the meeting gets off topic, how to use the “Chairperson Responsibilities” page on the left-hand side of the chair’s notebook, or how to nest baskets)?

How does a chairperson tactfully handle a difficult situation (an attendee doesn’t introduce themselves as alcoholic, or someone isn’t wearing a mask or brings food during a pandemic)?

How is it communicated to the overall group? “How to Chair a Meeting” in the front of the Chairperson’s notebook isn’t read. “Chairperson Responsibilities” page isn’t read. Workshops are poorly attended.

Responsibility to Cooperate with the Group Team

Purpose:

- 1) To explain the obligation of each member to follow the decisions of the Group (whether the member agrees or not).
- 2) Communicate the process for requesting changes to Group policies.
- 3) Come up with creative ways to disseminate that product to the group at large *so that it will be read and understood.*

For Guidance see:

Tradition 2

Idea starters:

Is there a connection between “Follow the dictates of a Higher Power and you will presently live in a new and wonderful world...” (BB, pg., 100) and “God as He may express Himself in our group conscience...” (Tradition 2)? That is, “follow the dictates of a Higher Power as He may express Himself in our group conscience.” Isn’t denying personal desires to submit to the direction of the GC a spiritual exercise?

What do I do if I strongly disagree with a group decision?

Even if I *am* ultimately right and the group *is* ultimately wrong, does it really make a difference in the greater scheme of things? And is there *really* a right or a wrong on group issues?

Is there a risk that when an establish member flaunts group decisions it teaches newcomers that that’s okay?