

ANCHORAGE AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 14th, 2015

OPENING OF THE MEETING: 6:30 pm by Tami M with the Serenity Prayer

READINGS: Service Prayer—Eric M; Decorum Statement—Chris M; Twelve Traditions—Jojo H; Twelve Concepts--Arlene

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Approved by the Morning After Group

ROLL CALL: (½ plus one = quorum) 14 of 19

NEW GROUPS TO BE RECOGNIZED: No More Bent blinds (Palmer) 13 yea/0 nea

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: None

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS: Reports submitted are included here.

CHAIR: (Tami M.) My name is Tami and I am an addict, I would like to thank the Anchorage fellowship for this opportunity to serve as your chair this term. I am looking forward to cooperating and helping the new executive committee in this new year. Unfortunately, I will be out of town for next month's area. Our vice chair, Corry, will chair the next area. I will be available by phone should there be need. In Loving Service, Tami M.

VICE CHAIR: (Corry C.) Present, no report submitted to the secretary

SECRETARY: (Crystal H) Hello family! As usual I will announce that I would greatly appreciate group and subcommittee reports that are handwritten to be turned in to me during or (immediately) after this meeting or email them to aascnasecretary3@gmail.com. If you need me to write that down for you, please let me know as soon as this meeting is over. In loving service, Crystal H

TREASURER: (Charlotte B.) Hello family. It feels like a long time since we were here. Tonight's starting balance is \$522.56. Hopefully, the donations tonight and the Literature income will be substantial to get us back to prudent. I only have one check to write tonight, which is the ACS phone bill for \$82.40 because I paid up the storage bill for 2 months since I knew we would not be meeting. That leaves us a balance of \$440.16 in the account. In Loving Service, Charlotte

GROUP REPORTS: Secretary received reports from the following groups, unless otherwise noted

AK WILD F.I.R.E.S: (Elisha) *Absent 1 of 3*

CLEAN & SERENE: (Doug) Attached, you will find the Clean and Serene Group conscience minutes (to the best of my ability!). Meets at Holy Family Cathedral Sunday's 8:00pm to 9:00pm average attendance is about 30-40 people weekly. 1) Clean and Serene nominates Charlotte for Area Treasurer. Charlotte will provide her qualifications at the Area meeting. 2) Clean and Serene nominates Charlotte for Regional Treasurer. 3) Clean and Serene also makes a motion to waive the 2 year term limit for Regional Treasurer so Charlotte can continue in this position. Motion to Waive Term Limit for Regional Treasurer 4) Clean and Serene nominates Lou Ann for Regional Chair. 5) Clean and Serene donates \$100 to Area (this is 2 months of \$50 each month). Other topics discussed our business meeting: Clean and Serene does not owe Holy Family Cathedral rent this month, but does need to pay St. Anthony's \$60 for rent of their space, which is 2 months' rent. (Rent for each facility is \$30 per month) There was discussion that monies need to be collected for literature (Eric has not submitted any money and has requested additional literature). Clean made a decision to buy as much literature as possible from Eric. This means to buy what he has in stock and put in a separate order for what is not in stock. Clean never buys more than \$500 worth anyway. We discussed activities per the Aug 27 GSF. Doug will bring the questions raised in the notes to the Area meeting. We need to discuss alternating Area with GSF some more. Area needs to collect funds every month because we are on such a shoe string budget. That raised the question, "should we meet just to collect funds?" Maybe so. Charlotte suggested that at the GSF, we could collect funds, or have a brief meeting even, skipping the group reports." In closing, it is vital that we carry the message and remind ourselves we cannot keep what we have without giving it away! We've got to practice and/or educate the GSR's and groups on Traditions. ILS, Donna W. [\$100 donation]

EAGLE RIVER GROUP: (Frank) The Eagle River Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Joy Lutheran Church, located at 10111 Eagle River Road in Eagle River, Alaska 99577. We have been meeting every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Recently, our attendance averages 8 to 10 addicts. We have had as few as 4 in attendance and as many as 24. We generally have 2 or 3 newcomers at each meeting. Every Monday is a literature study. The speaker meeting is the first Friday of each month. Eagle River Group of NA has \$40.00 to donate to Area this month. In loving service, Frank [\$100 donation]

FROZEN CHOZEN: (Wayne W) Present, nothing to report. [\$13 donation]

GONG SHOW: (Patrick G) *Absent 1 of 3*

HIGHER GROUND: (Chad G) *Absent 1 of 3*

THE LATE MEETING: (Marie W) Present, no report submitted.

MORNING AFTER: (Mike L) Present, no report submitted. [\$265 donation]

THE NA WAY: (Charley D) The NA Way group meets every Saturday at 7:00 to 8:30 pm. It averages about 20 to 35 people in attendance, with approximately 1.5 newcomers per meeting. Expenditure report: Rent is paid for September (\$100). The treasurer's laptop crashed so that now funds are not accurate, this why the NA way will not be donating to Area this month. The group has no nominations for Area or Region. This month a few members expressed that they would help out. In loving care to service, Charley D.

NO MORE BENT BLINDS (new): (Annie) Present, no report submitted

OUR GRATITUDE SPEAKS: (Keith) *Absent 1 of 3*

OUT AND ABOUT: (Jes K) Out & About still meets every Friday night at 7:30 in the Big Room at the Alano Club. We get anywhere from 10-30 people at our regular meetings, and we have started doing periodic Speaker Jams again! We had about 80 people at our last Jam! We have no donation this month. Thank you, ILS, The Members of Out & About. Respectfully, Jes K

ROUNDAABOUT: (Ronnie) Present, no report submitted. [\$100 donation]

SISTERS IN THE SOLUTION: (Jojo) My name is Jojo & I'm an addict, Sisters in the Solution has rent and supplies payed, we just changed location to Joy Christian Church on Tudor Rd. We are in desperate need of women's attendance & home group members. There is a treatment center that joins us every Monday and I'm sure they would love to hear other women's shares. We don't have any nominations. We have no donation this month. In loving service, Jojo.

UNITY, ACCEPTANCE, AND ADDICTION (UAA): (Rob T) UAA meets every Friday at Eugene Short Hall # 210 [U.A.A. Campus] from 6:30 to 7:30, also included is free parking. We are donating \$50 to Area this month. No nominations. In loving service, Rob T. [\$50 donation]

WALK YOUR TALK: (Maike) We meet Monday through Saturday from 12-1 at First Baptist Church on 27th. Corner of Northern Lights and la Touché. Our attendance has improved ... YAY! We have restarted the Saturday meeting until further notice. We wish Popeye Bill a happy retirement to the Kenai!!! He will be missed. We have potluck lunch on Wednesday please join us. Bring a dish or just enjoy. We have a donation of \$ 150.00 this month as we have a few months to make up for. Ready to vote. In grateful service. Maike. [\$150 donation]

907 RECOVERY: (Nikki) Hi, my name is Nikki, I'm an addict. I'm GSR for 907 recovery. Our group meets Saturdays & Sundays 4 -5 pm at Alano Club. Membership is growing. Sometimes up to 20 people with a lot of newcomers and treatment centers. Rent is being paid. Donations are low, we are asking for word to be spread. We have a lot of newcomers needing sponsors. In loving service, Nikki. [P.S.] We do not have a donation for area tonight.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER: POSITION OPEN

PUBLIC INFORMATION: (Chris M) Public Information meets the Sunday after Area meets, here at Peggy's at 6 pm. We have been told about an event/fair happening on September 20th that P.I. might have a booth at. We have a mail-out coming up and would love to see new members attend. ILS, Chris M.

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: (Lori H.) Good evening family. I am pleased to announced H&I is going well. We are of course in need to of volunteers to carry the message into facilities. Our meetings are held at Golden Donuts 3rd Tuesday 6:30-7:30. We do meet tomorrow. We are working with DOC to provide ARCNA's main speaker meetings to the inmates incarcerated. We have done this in past years so we are hopeful it can work out again. In loving service Lori

ACTIVITIES: POSITION OPEN

LITERATURE: (Eric M.) Hello family. Eric, I am your area Literature rep. I'm bringing \$352 from July sales and \$508 from August sales. Due to insufficient funds at area level my inventory is very low. I am asking all groups to come together and let me order your literature for your groups being that there are only a few meetings that go thru me to get literature. Due to area being halfway through September the next order will probably arrive just before the beginning of October. With help from you by letting me know what your group might be needing from me I can place the order with your group needs in mind. Please I'm asking please contact me so I can become a better servant to the addict who still suffers that's looking for recovery. Thank you for letting me be of service. Eric M.

WEB SERVANT: (Shannon D) Not present, no report submitted.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT: (Sean C) Present, no report submitted. *Secretary Notes:* Fundraiser on September 19th 2 pm to 11 pm at the Central Lutheran Church, with the NA Way meeting at 7 pm (same location) Subcommittee chairs are attending the committee meeting regularly. The have found a good deal on coffee for the convention. The committee will meet again 1 more time prior to the convention. Registration is low, but as expected, need registrations done as soon as possible. If you want to reserve a room at the (Millennium) Lakeview Hotel on the 3rd there are rooms reserved specifically for the convention, you MUST request these rooms by phone or in person to receive the special rate. More information on www.akna.org

RCM REPORT: (RCM-Arlene) Present, no report submitted.

SHARING SESSION:

Group Support Forum Report—Topic: Unity in our Community

See attachment at end of the minutes for the notes/synopsis/findings/follow-up

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations for Anchorage Area Executive Committee: (Guidelines Article VI: elections)
 - Treasurer: Clean and Serene nominated Charlotte B—see attachment for qualifications
- Nominations for Area Subcommittee Chairs: (Guidelines, Article VI, section 3)
 - None made
- Regional Nominations for Executive Committee:
 - Chair: Clean and Serene nominated LouAnn P.—see attachment for qualifications
 - Treasurer: Clean and Serene nominated Charlotte B—see attachment for qualifications
- Motion 1 (From Clean & Serene): Motion to Waive Term Limit for Regional Treasurer. Seconded by Walk Your Talk.
 - That Region waive the 2-year term limit for Treasurer for Charlotte B.
 - The justification for this motion is that Charlotte is doing an excellent job,

understanding the budget and expenses and Charlotte's consistent regional meeting attendance is providing some continuity Charlotte brings a lot of experience to this position and to Region in general. Charlotte is willing to take on this responsibility. There is no financial expense to adopting this motion. Note this motion needs approval by Area, then by members of Region.

- Motion 2 (From 907 Recovery): Waive clean time for James (re: Activities Subcommittee Chair-see previous minutes). Seconded by Morning After Group.

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS:

- Voting on Nominations: Charlotte B for Treasurer at Area and Regional level
- Nominations Needed:
 - AASC executive committee—Chair, Vice chair, alternate Treasurer, Secretary, & alternate Secretary
 - Subcommittee Chairs—Newsletter & Activities
 - Regional Executive committee—Vice chair, Secretary & alternate, alternate Treasurer
- Motion 1 to waive term limit for Regional Treasurer nominee
- Motion 2 to waive clean time requirement for Area Activities nominee

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next AASCNA (AREA) meeting October 6th, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Peggy's Cafe
- Next Group Support Forum meets

MOTION TO CLOSE

Note attachments: Charlotte's Qualifications, LouAnn's Qualifications, GSF Meeting Notes

Charlotte's Area & Regional Treasurer Qualifications

I have 17 years clean. I have been treasurer a couple of times and currently area treasurer. I have been area Secretary. I have been Convention vice chair, Convention Registration committee chair. I have a sponsor who has a sponsor. I have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and traditions and I am willing to serve.

Lou Ann's Regional Chair Qualifications

I have 12 years clean. I have served as Regional Secretary for 2 years. I have served as Regional H&I Chair for 2 years. I am serving as the PI chair, which position I will step down from if elected to Chair. I was the GSR for Soul 2 Soul for many years. I have put on PI and H&I workshops, and helped workshop the CAR. I made this decision understanding that Jeffery W has decided to step down from Regional Chair to focus on "local" service. Tracking costs between each meeting; at Region, which is a benefit to Region currently;

Opened with Serenity Prayer and read Traditions, Concepts, and Vision for Service in NA.

It was a small but very passionate group: Susan S, Mike L, Joe L, Sid, Crystal, Gabby, Doug and Ryan, so Morning After, Meeting on the Corner, the NA Way, and Clean and Serene were represented.

1. There was brief discussion about state of Area Activities:

- No Activities Chair
 - i. Activity Chairs burn out.
 - ii. Lack of support by the fellowship/groups may cause burnout.
 - iii. Support varies from Chair to chair.
 - iv. Groups do not send members to the Activities subcommittee meetings.
- Memorial Day was managed by the Convention Committee.
 - i. Fundraising, charging \$2 for hot dogs, turned some people off.
 - ii. No discussion at Area about doing this.
 - iii. "Memorial Day event would not have happened since we had no Activities chair" – certainly a defensible decision.
- Solstice did not happen (or did it? – on the Knik River?)
- Unity Day was a flop.
 - i. About 5 people showed up.
 - ii. Lack of planning (the old bugaboo failure to communicate)

2. Activities section from the Area Guidelines was read. Most had not read it before. Guidelines itemizes Area events. Anniversary Gig

- Memorial Day Picnic
- Solstice Campout
- Halloween on non-convention years
- Thanksgiving Narathon
- Christmas Narathon

Guidelines mention that two events per year should be fund raising events.

- Anniversary Gig is typically a fundraiser. It is only event that lends itself to fundraising.
- One member does not like it being a fundraiser.
- Other member mentioned our services including H&I, PI, schedules, require more funding than what group donations provide.

3. We read the NAWA Fundraising Bulletin (last page and summary is attached.)

- Main point is that the service committee should consider why or what it is doing in the course of putting on event.
- The last paragraph touched on how important communication is:

"All of the solutions we see to the problems addressed in this bulletin involve communication. We believe that improved communication about the needs of our service bodies results in increased support from NA groups and members. Improved communication improves the accountability of the service structure to our groups and members. Finally, improved communication helps us maintain our focus on spiritual principles such as faith and trust, leading us away from fear, distrust, and self-centeredness."

4. We discussed, "Why have Activities or Events?"

- Providing new members an opportunity to experience a good time clean.
- Learn social skills – as active addicts our skills are not that good.
- Activities are a socially safe environment.
- Opportunity to meet other addicts. Meetings are pretty structured.
- Some did not like Activities much - get social anxiety or bored.

5. What about non-Area events? Comments are in parenthesis. These include:

- 2nd Chance Prom, by Frozen. (Some minor effort to make it an Area event. Event is actually a collaboration by Frozen, Dynamite, and Back to Basics and any volunteers. Preceded by a Fundraiser because it is a "free" event.)
- Cajun Night, by Walk Your Talk – (This is Walk's traditional Convention fundraiser. This is a great group effort.)

- Sponsor – Sponsee Day by Roundabout – (included H&I Orientation this year. Roundabout saves its 7th Tradition for these events.)
 - Speaker Jam by Out and About (Does this Count? It raises funds – they have “Split the Pot”. Serves the Area fellowship so it is an event? If it were less frequent, it would be more of an event.)
 - Rally in the Valley, by Valley Groups. (This is very popular event, popular statewide. Preceded by fundraiser.)
6. After the Aug 1 GSF, two members had a heated discussion because one was knocking the 2nd Chance Prom, because the Prom has a fundraiser for its “non-Area event”. The other member likes the 2nd chance prom and could not see a problem. The one member felt it violated a Tradition. What Tradition would that be? The 4th Tradition states “Each Group is Autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole. “ So does Frozen “affect other groups or NA as a whole” in the course of hosting 2nd Chance? Some people think so perhaps, but how is not obvious. Maybe the thought is that having the fundraiser reduces Area resources.
7. Interesting that both the very popular 2nd Chance Prom and Rally in the Valley are non-Area events put on by several groups within Area.
8. We discussed “How we might do Activities differently?” One member suggested “By Committee”. “Not by Chair”. “Get a committee with all the groups participating.” We read the 5th Concept- “For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined”, so we kind of have to have “the Chair”.
- However, it is precisely this lack of *group participation or representation* that is handicapping the committee. “By Committee” is correct! Chair alone cannot do it; like a head without a body. Also, instead of the “Activities Committee Chair” doing it – Area could set the events up as projects, and groups could volunteer to take the lead on various events. The Chair could act as a *coordinator* giving support to groups managing the project or event. Thus the Chair (coordinator) is accountable for the seed money and expenditures, and communicating to and from Area.
9. What is our next step? What can we take to our Groups?
- i. What events listed in the Area Guidelines does your group want?
 - ii. What non-Area events does your group want?
 - iii. Do your group members attend the events? Which ones?
 - iv. As a group in the Anchorage Area, what events make sense to you?
 - v. Would your group support a Learning Days or Learning Afternoon?
 - vi. Do any of your group members help with events? Which ones?
 - vii. Is your group willing to send member(s) to Activities planning meetings?
 - viii. How does your group feel about fund raising? Does your group understand why Area needs funds?
 - ix. Regarding fundraising, What does Area need beyond current group donation to provide PI, H&I, Narathons, schedules, storage, and donation to Region? (Groups would not know this; Area probably does not know this.) Would groups like to know?
 - x. How does your group or your group members feel about increasing their contributions?
 - xi. What about doing events as projects?
 - xii. How does your group feel about a group making a motion to have an event, then if the groups want the event – event motion passes – Area sets up an event ad hoc committee for each area event.
 - xiii. Why are we not planning for the next Anniversary gig now?
 - xiv. How does Kenai do their Activities?
10. There was discussion whether GSF should be discussing Area issues and concerns – “is this not a *group* support forum?” It seems appropriate because the Groups are Area. (1st Concept) Also participating groups prioritized their concerns, and this was in line after Unity and Apathy.
11. Have we finished with this issue? Perhaps we pick it up after the groups have answered part 9 questions.

Section 3

1. Activities

- a. Organizes events and functions as requested and voted in by AASC. .

These events should include the following annual activities:

- i. NA in Alaska Anniversary Celebration (January or February)
- ii. Memorial Day Picnic (on or about Memorial Day)
- iii. Solstice Campout (on or about Solstice)\
- iv. Unity Day Celebration (synchronized with World Unity Day)
- v. Halloween Celebration (unless Anchorage is hosting the Regional Convention in October or November)
- vi. Thanksgiving Narathon
- vii. Xmas Narathon

Additionally, it is recommended that:

- At least two events per year be fund raising events;
- Activities coordinate with the AASC and other Subcommittees to produce Learning Days and combine it with a fun event;
- And Activities assist with Regional Assembly when it is located in Anchorage (funds provided by Region).

Activities Subcommittee may plan other events. The Area committee seeks to be advised of additional events in advance though it is understood that because of time constraints this is not always possible. Activities Subcommittee may also come to AASC and advise AASC that it will not produce an event because of some circumstance.

- b. Manages, maintains, and accounts for \$750.00 seed money to roll forward monthly and any time funds accrued exceed \$1,500; those excess funds are to be turned over to the Area Treasurer with the accountable report and any other funds collected on behalf of AASC.
- c. The main purpose is to facilitate activities that are consistent with the Twelve Traditions, paying special attention to Tradition One (Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.) and Tradition Five (Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.).
- d. Provides the AASC Treasurer with a monthly written financial report to include all income and expenses prior to disbursement of AASC funds.
- e. Maintains written records of activities, expenditures, mailing lists, etc.



#21 *the generation of funds (fundraising) and the seventh tradition in narcotics anonymous*

This article was generated in December 1991 and revised in 2002 in response to the needs of the fellowship. It represents the views at the time of its writing.

Questions about fundraising and how fundraising relates to the traditions, especially Tradition Seven ("Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.") have been asked on numerous occasions in the past few years. As groups, areas, and regions grow, the perceived need for finances to help fulfill the Fifth Tradition ("Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.") may also grow. When the cost of ancillary services—such as helplines, meeting lists, and literature for use in H&I meetings, among others—is considered, many groups, areas, and regions find themselves in the position of needing or wanting more funds than are provided by members' donations to the "basket" at the group level. It is at these times that questions arise as to how to fund the services that help carry our message to the still-suffering addict. This bulletin will attempt to answer some of these questions as well as offer some simple guidelines about raising funds. We will try to provide a brief historical perspective on fundraising in NA, look at some of the problems that may result from various efforts, and strive to show the relationship of Tradition Seven to this issue.

In looking at this topic, it is helpful to understand how fundraising started in our fellowship. Many early groups held a variety of activities such as dinners, picnics, and other social events to promote recovery, unity, and a sense of belonging. While these activities were not specifically intended to raise funds, a number of them turned out to be financially successful, allowing the host group to purchase additional literature or other supplies for their meetings. As the fellowship grew and the need or want for additional services became greater, the purpose of some of these activities changed; instead of celebrating recovery, they were designed to raise funds.

As the fellowship continued to grow and more area and regional service committees were formed, the focus continued to change—in some instances, to make up for the perceived lack of funds being donated from the groups' Seventh Tradition collections. As time went on, more and more service committees began relying on this form of funding, reaching the point, at times, where the success or failure of an event such as a convention determined the area or region's ability to provide services and participate in the fund flow. In other instances, groups, areas, and regions had such success with their social events that they began to put an extraordinary amount of time and effort into these activities, becoming invested in having a "successful" convention, dance, or campout.

A considerable number of problems arose from such practices. The accountability of service committees to their groups was affected as the committees began to rely upon these events instead of on contributions from the groups' Seventh Tradition collections for their funding. In some cases, the various service bodies began to get diverted from their original purpose by "money, property, and prestige." Some groups and service committees began to amass huge "prudent reserves," in some cases amounting to many thousands of dollars. For some groups and committees, this "prudent reserve" grew so large that the body holding it did not have to rely upon contributions for upwards of six months or more, despite the fact that in various fellowship service publications the recommended amount for a prudent reserve is one month's expenses. Merchandising efforts became a "business" in some cases, leading us away from the spiritual focus of our program. It became harder and harder to insure that donations to our fellowship came only from our members at various social events. And some members began to raise concerns that we could be perceived by those outside our program as a fellowship that is more involved with social functions and merchandising efforts than with helping addicts recover from the disease of addiction. As these problems became apparent, members began to share their concerns and started questioning the need for such practices. Some of the questions focused on the relationship between Tradition Seven and fundraising.

While this tradition specifically talks about self-support—declining donations from outside sources—some of the principles underlying the tradition, such as simplicity and faith, may prove to be of assistance in answering questions about funding our services. Our experience has shown that, as recovering addicts, all of our needs add up to the need for ongoing freedom from active addiction. To attain this freedom, we need the principles contained in the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions of NA; recovery meetings where we can share our experience, strength, and hope; and other recovering addicts to help us apply these spiritual principles in our lives. These three things are simple; they do not require us to obtain college degrees or expend vast sums of money.

In our active addiction, most of us seemed to have one thing in common: self-centeredness. As we begin the recovery process, we learn that we "keep what we have by giving it away." We start to learn the value of being a contributing member of our fellowship and of society as a whole. We begin to learn the simple truth that if we want to keep attending NA meetings and help carry the message, we need to contribute our fair share financially as well as contribute our time and energy. Self-support, within the context of Tradition Seven, goes far beyond mere financial support. Along the way, we learn that contributing our fair share is one way in which we can express our gratitude for what has been freely given to us. Over time, we develop faith that as long as we are doing what we're supposed to—practicing the principles of our program—the God of our understanding will take care of us and show us a new way to live.

When looking at the needs of the group, simplicity once again comes to mind. Our needs are simple: a place where we can hold our meetings, literature to help carry our message and, in most cases, simple refreshments. We do not need spacious, luxurious meeting facilities, excessive quantities of literature, or refreshments of every type to attract addicts to our meetings. The simplicity of our message and the effectiveness of our program are sufficient. We do not need large financial reserves if we have faith that the God of our understanding will take care of our needs. Our experience has shown that, when a group's financial needs are not met and that fact is communicated to the members, those needs are generally taken care of. The simplicity of our needs is reinforced by the simplicity of our primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Our experience has shown that we must carry out this simple task to the very best of our ability, for it is the essence of who we are and what we do in NA. We have discovered that, if everything we do is done to fulfill that purpose, generally, we will find the funds necessary to do what we must.

Many groups and service committees have decided to avoid controversy by simply seeking to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. In this manner, they rely solely on attracting new members to their groups by striving to strengthen their personal recovery, working and living NA's Twelve Steps. As new members are attracted, groups grow, Seventh Tradition collections increase, and more money is available for group needs. Accordingly, funds are donated to the area, the region, and world services. (For further information on this topic, please refer to IP #28, *Funding NA Services*.) As services are funded more efficiently, the NA message of recovery is carried farther and better than ever before. The result is that more addicts seek recovery through Narcotics Anonymous and more NA meetings begin. This approach is seen as practical and realistic by many members of our fellowship. These members have reported that frustration over lack of funds and the sense of urgency to raise money can be counterbalanced by the spiritual unity that results from this focus on our primary purpose.

One of the things that has become evident over the past few years, however, is that large segments of the fellowship want activities and merchandise. If we don't assist in these efforts, members may end up conducting them on their own. Whenever this has occurred, the resulting problems have had considerable impact on all elements of NA, affecting our fellowship's overall success in achieving its primary purpose. We strongly believe fundraising activities that divert us from the spiritual nature of our program are inappropriate and should not be encouraged within the fellowship. Social activities designed to enhance recovery and further unity and members' sense of belonging, however, are not only acceptable but should be encouraged.

We believe that fundraising for the sake of fundraising is questionable, at best. There may be times, however, when a group or service committee finds itself in extraordinary financial constraints and begins to consider holding a fundraiser. At such times, we suggest that careful attention be given to the following questions: Are the funds collected from ordinary Seventh Tradition contributions enough to support the group or service committee's actual needs? Are wants supplanting needs? Is the need for the fundraiser of such a nature that not holding it will result in our primary purpose going unfulfilled?

In addition to these questions, we recommend that all aspects of sponsoring a fundraising event be carefully considered.

When these events are held, members of the hosting group or service committee should examine the event with respect to all our traditions, lending their collective experience, strength, and hope to these examinations. One of the major points to consider is the motivation for holding such an event. An examination such as this helps keep us in tune with our principles. The following general concepts have arisen from the experience of our fellowship, and we present them here as starting points for your consideration:

1. Fundraising activities at an NA meeting are not usually appropriate because they may detract from our primary purpose and can present an inaccurate impression of the NA message, especially in the eyes of the newcomer or the non-addict visitor.
2. In order to follow the guidance of our traditions, a fundraising event should be planned and held by and for Narcotics Anonymous members.
3. In order to conform to the ideals of the Seventh Tradition, *donations* from nonmembers should not be accepted.
4. Since there are often times when we sponsor activities where there is a fixed charge for full participation, the term "*donation*" should not be associated with these types of fees. In this way, we are not confusing contributions with assessed charges for activities.
5. It must be determined whether the local NA community is willing and large enough to support the event.
6. All aspects of the fundraising event should be consistent with our goal of encouraging recovery from addiction. We should avoid hosting events that might encourage gambling, appear to offer "something for nothing," or award prizes that are either not recovery-oriented or that otherwise may be seen as inappropriate. For example, a raffle prize such as a car or a television might make someone's living circumstances more comfortable, but at the same time may not be directly related to his or her recovery, whereas a prize of NA literature or tickets to an NA workshop or convention would be recovery-oriented. It should also be noted that, in many USA states and in some other countries, raffles are illegal. It may also be helpful to consider whether raffles—and especially cash raffles or lotteries—appeal more to the spirit of self-interest than the spirit of voluntary support implicit in our Seventh Tradition.

All of the solutions we see to the problems addressed in this bulletin involve communication. We believe that improved communication about the needs of our service bodies results in increased support from NA groups and members. Improved communication improves the accountability of the service structure to our groups and members. Finally, improved communication helps us maintain our focus on spiritual principles such as faith and trust, leading us away from fear, distrust, and self-centeredness.