

10-22-2022 Policy & Guidelines Committee Roundtable on Twelve Concepts of Nar-Anon Service, Part II Concepts 7-12

From Survey: Please describe situations when you were challenged to solve a problem with the help of the Concepts.

UNDERLINED TEXT FROM COMMITTEE

Concept 11 has been helpful when discussing changes to the regional budget.

Absolutely!!!

Concept 11: We have to use money to carry to message to the family members of addicts.

We do not use the funds for self-gain, self-indulgence, etc. We need to be accountable, responsible, and transparent when it comes to funds.

During family gatherings where decisions might be made, I make sure we hear from everyone before decisions are made. I don't invoke C9, but it helps my integrity.

Before coming to Nar-Anon, my mind was not receptive at all. Wanting to be right in everything was the big obstacle. Concept 9, it tells me that each element of a group of people is important, and they can express their thoughts to reach an informed consensus so that it is effective and in unity. Achieving this in my life has co evaluating the other elements of a structure has helped me to apply it in my family, it is possible that mem make a decision that contributes to the common welfare and fulfills the primary purpose, that is why we a consciousness.

As an example of a family situation, at one point we decided with the addict of my life to buy a house, we needed money to complete the payment, so we (borrowed) money to buy it.

At a family meeting, someone told us not to overspend on renovating the house, he suggested investing in the business that would generate more income, but we did not want to listen or consider the suggestion, the expenses of renovating the house were very high, out of emotion we made a decision lightly and spent much more than we imagined, after that we had no money to invest expand our consciousness and open ourselves to new possibilities.

Now I always wonder internally what would the conscience be without different opinions?

We keep Concept 7 in mind when we have discussion, it reminds me to ask others for their input. Concept 8 helps to remember how important it is to share all information with all members with flyers at the meeting, with emails, with text messages, trying to

get the information out there. Concept 10 would be important if or when I was in need for it. I have not had to use it, but I would think that if I am here long enough, I will.

Concept 11 is very important for all members to know and understand.

Concept 12, ...this one was the hardest one for me at first. I think about this concept at EVERY service meeting, or group business meeting. It is easy for someone to think that the long-time members are 'in charge', but this is not so. I try to be mindful and use this concept at all meetings I attend. After all, control issues are what brought me here in the first place!

Your experience is so important to share with the fellowship, Thank you.

You describe your relationships with other members, and you demonstrate that all members are equal, and all viewpoints are just as important to hear as the long-time members' viewpoints. Also, you recognized that Concept 10 is available if needed and we hope that you will always feel secure to use it.

You shared, that you, as an individual member, ask other members for their viewpoint. **Each time you do that** you are building safety and trust for our other members!

And you recognize how important two-way communication is and share some of the strategies (flyers, emails, text messages) that you use to fulfil Concept 8. (How lucky we are to have modern technology!)

We Appreciate your share about Concept 11 and that you help others to understand its importance and how connected it is to our primary purpose to help families of addicts!

Concept 12 embodies all our principles, it defines our service structure and its relationship with our Higher Power, the groups, and our fellowship. The quality of our service, like the quality of our recovery, can only be accomplished in an atmosphere of mutual respect, mutual support, and mutual trust. Our service is the cooperative effort of trusted servants receiving guidance from the groups, not a rule enforced by governance. This underscores that the spiritual foundation of our recovery: the groups and our service-structure must always be one of service, never of governance.

- In my group service the concept 5 and Concept 8 helped me to have clear my functions to avoid double direction thus avoiding conflicts with other servers. Very frequent situations in the groups when we forget that the group delegates to us the functioning of the group supported by the Ninth Tradition, because the concepts are an invitation to put the Ninth Tradition in action. The

presenting of either pro or con voice in the conference. However, only one is allowed to vote in the sessions. If the Delegate decides to not vote in a session, or needs to be absent for any reason, the Alternate Delegate may vote upon notifying the conference facilitator of the absence of the Delegate and the switch in voting person. The Delegate and the Alternate Delegate work together to represent their region by sharing their region's decisions at the WSC

I think C-8, Communication, and C-4, leadership, are areas with challenges. I find that members don't realize all that is going on at various levels in Nar-Anon. Too much happens by word of mouth. I would call on committees to publish what they are doing, make calls for fellowship input, and encourage more participation in general.

There are many committees in Nar-Anon at different levels of service, for instance, world service, regional service, and area service. If the members don't know what is going on are the trusted servants, like, Group Service Representative and Regional Delegates reporting to the groups?

The challenge of understanding the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service is lack of understanding and knowledge by our members. How do we help them understand traditions and concepts> The best way is to hold workshops on traditions and concepts led by members of our fellowship that have studied them and have a working knowledge of traditions and concepts. If no one in your region or area feels they can lead such a workshop, ask members from other regions, areas, groups or Policy and Guidelines Committee to do a workshop for your members.

A sub-committee of the region was developing a convention, hybrid & online, in cooperation with NA. NFG was assigned rooms and registration table in convention center. AV rental & CAL literature was yet to be purchased. As the date of the convention drew near, COVID-19 rules and risks from pandemic were going to decimate our attendance. Considering C-11 we reversed our intention to have an in-person presence at the convention center and will only have an online convention.

Although you were probably disappointed that you had to do it, it sounds like your committee made an informed and thoughtful group conscience. Your group of trusted servants, with authority delegated by the groups, in compliance with Concept 11 managing your funds responsibly and Concept 6 -inviting a loving higher power to influence your decision, upheld our primary purpose to carry the message the best way possible and to has many members as possible, to help families and friends of addicts, under restrictive circumstances. Well done!

the proper election both Delegate and Alternate share in the responsibility to be present at the WSC. Both share in the

A situation that we went through in my group, usually the group conscience was not listened to, but a member would say something and only ask if we agreed, then it did not seem to me that the Concept 6 was being respected. Concept, it is not only what a member says, it is what the conscience thinks, the motion is made and seconded, we listen to a member who is in favor and another one who is against and with all the information clear it is put to vote by the group conscience, at the beginning it was uncomfortable to be guided by the Concepts but today my group respects this Concept 6.

Concept 6 & 7 speaks to this issue. When attending a group conscience when something like this happens you can ask to speak. Then state these two concepts and explain your understanding of what you feel is being violated.

Thank you for this experience.

Concept 9 is always a challenge for me.

It was easy for me to discuss things with those who agree with me. If not I stopped both the very discussion and relationships. When I started to work on Traditions, I had to accept Tradition 12.

This Tradition asks me to work with those with whom I may disagree. That was a new idea for me.

Why should I?

Concept 9 opened a new page in my recovery.

I learnt that an effective group conscience is a fully informed group conscience.

And often the lone voice, offering new information can save us from hasty or misinformed decisions.

We had a situation in a conference committee. There was only one voice who suggested to hold online 2023 conference. This very server informed the body and gave the information and experience that other members did not have.

We have consensus and invite loving HP in making this collective decision.

My sharing of a situation that was making me uncomfortable with a fellow who was present, and he rebutted me by saying that I was going on to carry the principles of Nar-anon by expecting loving treatment and non-judgment for carrying out my process seeking my well-being and then helping another.

Heated, if I am not well, I cannot deliver the message to the one who is suffering. A sort of discussion ensued, and half agreed, and half disagreed. That is why it is necessary for me to work on the study of the Concepts.... Thank you for sharing - our principles guide us in making choices and carrying the message to others.

ems you used C9 so that all viewpoints were carefully considered, even if we don't always agree, we can consider C6 and invite a HP
o influence our GC decisions.

From survey:

Please submit your question(s) regarding the 12 concepts that you would like to be discussed at the roundtables.

UNDERLINED TEXT FROM COMMITTEE

There is a meeting in our region that has voted to not participate in the region, uses non-CAL literature, & spends excess 7th Tradition donations for pizza parties & other activities. What can we do?

There are also groups in our Region that do not participate in Area or Region either. But as our Tradition 4 describes; "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other Nar-Anon Family Groups, or NA as a whole." It is that group's decision not to participate. For further reading in the Guide to Local Service ,GLS, states in section **Autonomy of Groups**, "It is not within the authority of the RSC, NSO, or WSO to close a group because they disapprove of the manner in which a group practices the Nar-Anon program."

Although, in our Region, 7th Tradition group-funds have been used for Pizza Parties, Concept 11-"Nar-Anon funds are used to further our primary purpose to carry the message and must be managed responsibly" and although C11 may have been violated, we, more seasoned members of the region, volunteer and attend isolated meetings, share our experience, strength and hope about 7 tradition funds. We may also introduce our new literature, *Our Traditions, Principles for Groups and Beyond*, which explains Tradition 7 simply and concisely. Not only are the groups fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions, as suggested in Tradition Seven, but the entire service structure is as well.

Nar-Anon's only purpose in this world is to help families and friends of addicts. It is through this singleness of purpose that we gain our strength. When spending Nar-Anon funds, it follows that our primary purpose should be always kept in our hearts and minds. As Trusted servants we might ask ourselves, "Is this expenditure helping families of addicts?" "Is there something that could be done with the money that might reach more families who still suffer?"

I attend committee meetings wherein we do not have an assigned leader. We keep no notes, minutes, or give reports. The meetings seem chaotic. What should I do?

Seventh Concept, Eight Concept.

There is no firm rule about how to apply the concept of participation and personal responsibility of a member to every situation. But the atmosphere of love, respect, and frank open discussion helps the service body to make decisions.

Concept 8 gives us the idea of effective communication. With the help of these 2 concepts, we can do something to change such situation.

1. Make inventory of the structure and discuss the results on the business meeting.

2. Make direct appeal to the groups in a straightforward communication without any fear to have integrity and ask for help. The final responsibility and authority for Nar-Anon Services rests with the Nar-Anon Family Groups.

3. Ask for experience from other service structures.

4. Read CAL.

Guidelines for healthy meetings, Nar-Anon Group inventory.

5. The last action I can do is stepping down from the service structure if I did everything I could and realize that the situation is so unhealthy that my service stopped being a tool for my recovery.

I Wanted to put a motion in for changing WSO 2023 proposal for in person again. I believe that it should be hybrid to get more voices to the table. Found 4 concepts pertaining to this issue. Money being managed properly and Groups voices.

The concepts are working best when using all of them together. So, we cannot mention only the first 6 concepts as it was decided for this roundtable about the sharing above. We need also the second 6 concepts for better understanding.

Every member can use a motion to bring his/her voice to the group and from there it will be brought to the appropriate service structure (C2). The members here discuss, consider every aspect, and finally vote on the motion (C9). That service structure has to fulfill the result of the group conscience (C3) - so also on the WSC. Each region should have the possibility to vote at WSC (C7) - the group conscience on the WSC is the voice of the whole fellowship.

According to C11 Nar-Anon funds must be managed responsibly.

How is Concept 8 applied in communication from world service to the members?

World Service is an open statement. However, world service committees work are and communication with the fellowship depends on their duties outlined in the Guide to World Services. For example, Newsletter Committee communicates quarterly with the release of the newsletter. Most World Service Committees use the newsletter to inform the fellowship. A few world service committees have roundtables quarterly or twice a year like this committee. Board of Trustees meeting minutes are on the fellowship's website.

We have sometimes had issues with people talking longer than others might like - I could see using these concepts (at least considering them) before moving forward with addressing concerns.

Concept 9: All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.

It's important to listen to what someone has to say instead of how long they take to say it.

An informed groups conscience is vital for decision-making. It is easy to ignore the one member in disagreement with the rest especially if the majority thinks alike. That one voice can be the voice of reason.

A member petitioned the region for a redress of a personal grievance. Although the member was not a member of the service body, the region respected C9&10 and gave the member time on the agenda. Did we do the right thing?

Yes – any member may bring an issue to the region and find help to resolve differences.

How do we apply the principle of rotation in the structure's services to prevent them from becoming government services and not service services?

The Guide to Local services mentions requirement for certain positions P.5.2 and 6.2

Concept 3: The groups hold the final authority. Groups elect a GSR who serves on the group's behalf and represents the voice of the group at RSC.

Rotation of service throughout all the service positions from groups to ASC and RSC is strongly suggested to encourage rotation. This spiritual principle of service helps us to help those who come after us.

Concept 10: The authority delegated by our groups to the service structure is the authority to serve, not govern. This is a "We" program, not an "I" program. The spiritual foundation of our program is to recover together....therefore not one person can benefit or control.

The RSC, votes; I vote with them. HP speaks through prayer, listening, and through my sponsor -- I see how my defects influenced my decision to join with others as time and discussion reveals with help of HP. I set regrets aside and speak out of the pain of my experience to restate my latent understanding to my peers. They feel no different than when we took our original group conscience saying only, "majority ruled." Is a group conscience necessarily a vote that carries as is modeled in the WSC? Is the model a democracy where the majority vote carries on the issue or is there a higher value on unanimity than 3 speakers for 3 minutes each "in support" vs 3 speakers for 3 minutes "in opposition" allows? What do our Concepts of NAR-ANON Service support regarding disagreement, discussion, and resolutions of the whole body of service?

Disagreements of a personal nature may be brought to the service structure as stated in Concept 10. In the GLS, 2021, page 4-4: "A group conscience is the collective viewpoint on matters affecting the group. Group conscience occurs anytime members make a decision in the best interest of a group, area, region, etc., or Nar-Anon as a whole." The Tradition Handbook also talks about Tradition One and how our common welfare is primary.

#12 What is the difference between service and government?

The meaning from Merriam-Webster dictionary: governance

- *the act or process of governing or overseeing the control and direction of something.*

Governance is based on:

- *strict rules*

- *a chief (one person decides what and how everything has to be done*

- *expectations of self-centered reward (fee, money, prestige, property, ...)*

- *purpose is personal progress, interests, and profits*

- *no unity, trust, or respect*

Service (is based on:)

- *spiritual foundation (spirit of selfless service)*

- *no laws - only spiritual guidelines*

- the guidance comes from the groups
- common goal (spiritual purpose)
- no expectations of reward
- gratitude
- humility
- anonymity
- teamwork
- open and honest communication between everyone
- (decisions are made by) group conscience
- rotation in service positions
- mutual respect, support, and trust
- spiritual awakening
- not blaming or censoring
- opportunity to make mistakes and to learn - not forcing our will or ideas on others.

#12 What is the difference between a governing organization and a service organization? What is it about NFG's primary purpose and its spiritual identity that says, "our structure should always be one of service, never of governance"

The foundation of a government organization is a strict law which everyone has to fulfil is made by one or only some people. The purpose is a material self-centered one.

A service organization has also a structure which are guidelines based on spirituality. The guidelines are made by group conscience. The purpose of a service organization is a spiritual one: to help and support others which need help (T5)! There are no personal expectations, no self-will and not self-centered - the aim is a common welfare and unity (T1)! The foundation of the purpose is love, humility, trust, respect, open and honest communication with respect (C8), working together - nobody dictates to others what they have to do, it is the group which makes the decisions by group conscience (C6) and has the responsibility and delegates the authority which is necessary to fulfill the responsibility assigned to it (C2/3).

From survey:

In all my affairs

How do we put together concepts and everyday life? Please share experience?

For me the 12 Concepts are also very helpful in my personal life with my family.

If there is an event or something great is planned (for example a journey), we can hold a business meeting where we can decide and choose those who want to do a special service. (as a structure - C1). The work which is to be done can be decided

and given to different members if the family (with the help of C4 we choose members who have the ability to do it). Each of

them has to know exactly what is asked, it should be clearly defined (C5) for each of them.

One has to make the purchases (buying) - we need to say exactly who has to do this (who is responsible and accountable). If

not, maybe nobody will do it, or different persons will do it! It has also clearly been defined what we need and has to be bought.

We can give the authority to choose for example, what kind of fruits (we need fruits), if we trust the person (if we had elected

somebody with the help of C4 who has the necessary ability to do it - and to manage money in a responsible way, maybe not

the addict who is still using drugs!)

Can I use Concepts in my family and work life? Please share experience.

Using the Concepts in my personal life.

One of my great discoveries in the service was that the Concepts can help in all my affairs.

I heard this wording but did not understand how to realize it for example in my family life.

I decided to rebuild a house we lived in.

First of all, I violated Concept 6.

I did no attempt to invite a mutual HP into mutual family decisions. I made a decision by myself.

My husband tried to say something, but I did not hear-I had a great "idea". So, I violated concept 9(all elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints)but this is disputable. We did not create a structure to maintain the service on behalf of our family. I did it on my own behalf.

I got great experience. When the process was finished the staircase fell apart. Thanks God everyone stayed alive. Then we had a meeting with my husband, and I got the practical understanding that all the services in the family should be made on behalf of the whole group(family as a whole)(Concept 1).

Concepts 1,2,3,5,6 helped me to realize that the service committee for this process should be created. The services should be assigned to this service structure and a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.

Concept 4 helped me to realize that leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants. We created a service structure, and my husband was elected a chair and the responsibility assigned to me was oral communications in the service of rebuilding the house. My husband was assigned a general management of the project.

We fulfilled the service, performing the defined accountability to the family as a whole.

Then group conscience invited the loving HP (Concept 6),and the decision was made to sell the house. We made a good profit, spiritual and financial. Our relationships became warm and respectful(from my side),and I learnt how to be cooperative. I never was in my family. Financially the project was a success too.