

On the inside cover of the second edition of "The NA Tree" is a letter which states the purpose of the pamphlet to be an outline of an ideal service structure for NA, "to find answers to some of our own questions and to clarify some of our misconceptions."

The letter is signed by "a group of concerned members." This pamphlet, then, was authored by "a group of concerned members" outside the context of our general service structure -- which, incidentally, the authors of the pamphlet discredit as being "misinformed" (inside cover, paragraph 1), "chaotic" (pg. 3, para. 3) and "non-existent" (pg. 24, para. 5). It should be made apparent to the authors of this pamphlet during the course of this convention that a well-informed, capable service structure is alive and well in N.A.

Under the signature of this letter in the "Tree" is a stamp denoting "NA Approved Literature." We ask if any GSRs here today can recall when your group was asked to vote on this matter.

It is our opinion that the "Tree," if it is to be accepted and approved and printed as our Service Manual, must be exactly that, a manual, limited in scope to:

- (a) concepts of service, and
- (b) mechanics or structure of service.

We address ourselves first to concepts.

1. Such a manual should be free of any material which is paternalistic, judgemental, historical or anecdotal.
2. Such a manual should have, as its primary purpose, the protection and implementation of the 12 traditions through the medium of our General Service Structure.
3. Such a manual should strongly support the concept that the group conscience is the only valid source of decisions affecting NA as a whole.
4. Such a manual should be positive in tone, clear in language, orderly in sequence and consistent within itself.
5. In the existing "Tree," "personal Service, General Service and World Service" are conceptually separated. The World Service Office and World Service Board particularly are set apart from General Service and in fact from NA program (pg. 7, para. 5).
We propose that the General Service Structure is one entity of which the WSO, WSB, WSC, RSCs, ASCs and GSRs are all a part and that all serve and are immediately and directly responsible to the general membership of NA on all matters of moment other than the internal affairs of their temporary committees and sub-committees.
6. All concepts of Service must strictly conform to the spirit of the 12 traditions, to which end a clear group conscience inter-

pretation of the traditions must be taken and clearly stated as the reference and working authority for any actions taken by any service arm of N.A.

Mechanics or Structure of Service.

X 1. Such a manual should contain, as a separate section, the specific responsibilities and limitations of every arm of the service structure. It should clearly state exactly how the group conscience retains control of each service arm and clearly define a policy aimed at deterring utterly the development of "perilous power" in any branch of the service structure.

2. The description of the general service structure should be stated in orderly sequence, illustrating the working of the group conscience so that any member possessed of reasonable reading ability can easily trace how an idea generated by an individual member is taken through the local group conscience to the area GSM, how it is modified by the greater group conscience and how it makes its way through the regional and national levels for consideration on the World Conference level.

X 3. The procedures for voting items into consideration, into policy; into guidelines or for tabling or rejecting items of consideration should be clearly drafted according to Robert's Rules of Order and should clearly state voting and discussion rights of all delegates, committee members, officers, trustees or members affected by such vote. } is this necessary

4. The method for appointing, selecting or electing all delegates, members at large, officers, committee members, spokesmen or repre-

representatives of all branches of the service structure should be clearly defined in an orderly fashion, describing each branch and level specifically from the local group GSR through the World Service Board Trustees. It should be clearly determined and so stated at each level exactly how the power of decision vested in the group conscience operates to protect that vested power in each process of election, selection or appointment.

5. Specific powers, delegated to any branch, office, board, committee or individual should be clearly and separately stated.

* 6. Such a manual should contain any and all charters, articles of incorporation, legal definitions, agreements, contracts or any other binding instruments affecting the functioning, policy making, or financial status of any branch, office or committee of the Service Structure.

7. Such a manual should set forth a recognized method of regular accounting procedures and periodic audits as may be required by law and as may be reasonably expected by the general membership for each branch, office, board, committee or individual of the Service Structure responsible for disbursement or collection of monies. Such statement of accounting procedures should be binding.

8. Such a manual should set forth all legal requirements, restrictions, limitations and liabilities of each branch, office, board, committee or individual in the Service Structure.

9. Such a manual should contain reasonable provision to protect its integrity through a generally accepted system of amendment agreeable to the general membership, provided such system of amendment requires a minimum time lapse of one year from the introduction of any amendment to its enactment.