

Spectrum Institution Meeting – Group Conscience

August 17, 2009

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1. Primary Purpose

The group conscience places emphasis on the word “its” in the fifth tradition. We believe that each effective group of Alcoholics Anonymous has “its” own message. By defining this message and agreeing that carrying this message is our primary purpose, all further dilemmas or motions raised in group conscience need merely to pass one test...Will this enhance our primary purpose or distract us from it?

The group has defined “its” message as: Hope is available through God dependence and service to others. This message is carried most effectively by one alcoholic sharing with another, using the Big Book for guidance and inspiration.

This is an institution commitment, sponsored by IntoAction.org. The group consists of members of Alcoholics Anonymous who support this primary purpose, regardless of which traditional group of AA they belong to.

Reference The fifth tradition short form: Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Reference The fifth tradition long form: Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

2. Group Conscience Meetings

In the spirit of the second tradition, the group has decided to place emphasis on the word “informed” as it is explained in the published literature concerning the traditions (in 12 & 12, A.A. Comes of Age and several pamphlets describing A.A.’s Twelve Traditions). Informed group conscience is desired over simple group conscience. The group believes that two or more people can be in agreement and still be delusional. The group has adopted the following guidelines for two reasons: (1) to minimize the chances of the group conscience meeting distracting us from our primary purpose of being available to

the man/woman who is still suffering, and (2) to minimize attracting people who are not committed to the primary purpose of the group, who would join/vote/steer group conscience decisions without being informed.

Guidelines:

1. All efforts to be as informed as possible are always preferred.
2. Avoid group conscience meetings immediately following the meeting, except in extreme circumstances and only when they are guaranteed to be so short as to not affect our ability to talk with the newcomer after the meeting.
3. Schedule regular group conscience meetings once every six months (October and April) at a location other than the church at a day & time other than meeting night.

Reference The second tradition short form: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Reference The second tradition long form: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

3. Scheduling Speakers

We believe that all efforts should be made to ensure that speakers at our home group carry a message that will help the group to achieve its primary purpose. We believe that our ability to do this would be severely limited by simple geography if we assign this responsibility to one person. Therefore, the group has assigned the responsibility to all home group members to, in their normal travels, look for speakers that are carrying a similar message to the group's message, attain their contact information and forward that information to the elected speaker scheduler who has the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure that someone is scheduled to speak each night,
2. Recognize anniversaries of home group members, with the following guidance:
 - a. Employ all efforts to schedule only speakers who are carrying a message similar to the group's message,
 - b. Joining the group does not automatically qualify the person to speak for his/her anniversary. If the speaker scheduler receives a request from a celebrant who claims to be a home group member and the speaker scheduler believes or suspects that the celebrant is not carrying a message that will help the group achieve its primary purpose, he/she is expected to deny the celebrants request to speak at his/her anniversary. It is suggested that the speaker scheduler gather the opinions of as many other home group members as possible before making this decision,
3. Solicit home group members to continue to scout for speakers to schedule.

4. Service Structure

This being an institution meeting and not a traditional group, we answer to and operate at the pleasure of the institution's administrative representatives.

Reference: The fourth tradition short form: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Reference: The fourth tradition long form: With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

5. Treasury

There are no costs accrued for this meeting and no contributions collected.

Reference: The seventh tradition short form: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Reference: The seventh tradition long form: The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

6. Positions & Rotation

Speaker Scheduler	Steve F.	Undetermined
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7. Old Business

None

8. Treasury Report

See Treasurer

9. Inventory