

Conference **A**genda **R**eport 2021

Fellowship Service Conference



www.nahelp.org
www.nahelp.nl

www.nahelp.se
freerecovery.org.uk

Conference Chair Report

Greetings from Nebraska,

This has been a very unpredictable year with everything going on in the world. It has not stopped addicts from dying. Nor has it stopped addicts from recovering. The FSC needed to be moved this past year due to the statutes in PA at the time. We moved the conference to Atlantic City, NJ and had a great time Fellowshiping and going over the motions and where we hope for our Groups to move towards. It showed great resolve seeing addicts wanted to come together despite the circumstances. At the conference we found some communication problems with the IPs that were put out to the Fellowship for review. It was agreed it was not correct to move forward with those motions so they were tabled for the upcoming year. This was all explained meticulously in the 2020 draft of the FSC minutes. The proposals will become motions on January 1st, 2021 and we have those motions in this report. This includes all of the input that the Groups that made the motions took from other Groups. Proposals come to the conference in June, and then the Groups that brought those proposals have until January 1st of the next year to make changes before they become motions. It is important for Groups to communicate with each during the time from the end of the conference in June until January so that any concerns or suggestions can be made during this time. It is such a privilege to be part of a service structure that is directly responsible to the Groups. Motions only come from Groups so if there are things your Group feels needs changed please bring your proposals to the conference. One suggestion that was made was for Groups to bring written reports or send written reports to the secretary if they want. This will help make sure things are clear from how each 2 The New/Old NA Way Group stands as well as help make sure nothing is changed from what Groups have conscientized before the conference. We are here to serve the Groups so if there is any way we can serve please let us know. Can't wait to see you in June.

In loving service,

Eric D 2020 Chair Servant Fellowship Service Conference
(for Narcotics Anonymous)

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Motions

2021-A

Most Perfect Vehicle Group

Revise the Meeting List - Adding whether a Group is a Closed meeting or Open Meeting, and Verifies attendance papers or not.

Intent: *To strengthen the meeting list and make it more simple to understand whether or not a group is open to the public, if children are welcome, and if someone who needs a verification paper signed is able to get a signature.*

Group Contact: Matt F. (856)803-8857

2021-B

Most Perfect Vehicle Group

Revise the meeting list- List states in alphabetical order followed by the days of the week and time

Intent: *To make the meeting list more organized.*

Group Contact: Matt F. (856)803-8857

2021-C

Most Perfect Vehicle Group

To place Clean time requirements on positions to serve at the FSC.

Intent: *To clarify that total abstinence is being free from all mind altering mood changing chemicals (including drugs to treat the symptoms of the disease of addiction: Antidepressants, Psychotropics, MAT, & DRT) and we need to be totally abstinent to serve. Placing requirements such as 1 year, 2 years etc to be sure that the trusted servant has the program experience necessary for the position.*

Group Contact: Matt F. (856)803-8857

2021-D

No Matter What Group, Hengelo NL

Move domain name www.anonymifoundation.org + web page and domain name www.nahelp.org to a new Hosting Company and build it with WordPress.

Intent:

- More functionalities in building the webpage
- Cheaper hosting
- Improving accountability
- More secure

Group Contact: Remon H. +31(0)642091629

*** An attachment is included on page 14 with more details about the motion.**

2021-E

The Rabbit Meeting

To have line numbers and page numbers on every piece of review and input literature.”

Intent: *“To keep our review and input literature consistent, and to make it easier for input to be understood when submitted.”*

Group Contact: Bill C. (610)809-9771

2021-F

The Rabbit Meeting

To have the name of the group added to the review and input literature.”

Intent: “ *To make available the group name that has written a piece of literature. The group can be asked questions during the input and review process”*

Group Contact: Bill C. (610)809-9771

Motions being brought back to The FSC 2021

Motion 2019A

(This is a substitute motion replacing the original motion. **At the Conference the Groups will have to decide whether it will be treated as a first year motion or not.** The original motion was replaced after input and suggested changes.)

Never Alone, Never Again Group of Texas Group

Motion for ASIS to maintain a stock pile of \$5000 worth of literature and phone number where Groups can order literature. For this to happen ASIS would have to rent storage space and assign a trusted servant to receive and fulfill the orders. The trusted servant assigned would need to be given access to our current printing company. This could evolve into a service center as we grow. Passing this motion in no way precludes the inventory of literature to growing beyond the \$5000 amount.

Intent: *To function more as a formal service center*

**This will be considered a second year motion when it comes back*

Contact: Travis (828) 734 -1877

2019 H

GSRs, ASRs, RSRs, or any other Representative empowered by a Group to bring its conscience may not submit reasons for votes unless the Group has instructed them to do so, even if they have knowledge of such. This motion failed with 78.6% approval from Groups. This motion can be brought back if a Group chooses to bring it back. The Group that made this motion has become a meeting. So it would have to be picked up by a different

Group if it does not pass in 2021.

Contact: Chubs (775)990-3509

**This will be considered a second year motion when it comes back*

2020 A

A Different Look Group

The Groups of the FSC approve the IP “A view of NA Groups Conscience”

Motion number 2020 A, Intent number 1: To provide in information as a blueprint for understanding Group Conscience, establishing an atmosphere of recovery to protect the integrity of the NA message.

Motion number 2020 A, Intent number 2: To copyright this IP.

Motioning Group Contact: Alan F. – Phone (215) 499-0864

***The IP is included in this magazine at page 10**

2020 B

A Different Look Group

The Groups of the FSC approve the IP “Total Abstinence”.

Intent number 1: To define what being clean is in NA.

Intent number 2: To copyright protect this IP.

Motioning Group Contact: Alan F. – Phone (215) 499-0864

***The IP is included in this magazine at page 6**

The following motion has been pulled from the Conference after the Different Look Group and the Historical Perspective Group agreed to move forward with motion 2020 B.

2020 D

Historical Perspective Group

To approve the I.P. Total Abstinence

Intent: to clarify our message of Total Abstinence within the Fellowship of NA. This issue is a major concern within the Fellowship where we are allowing a corporation to define our message as being other than total abstinence. This I.P. clarify our message of total abstinence. It also has been out since 2013 for input and review with no input coming since 2013.

Footnote: It is already approved by are Home Group and Other Home Groups in NA. It is on many of tables that Groups have approved this I.P it has gone through the test of time.

Motioning Group Contact: Bill A. (484) 951-3305



TOTAL ABSTINENCE IP **Motion 2020B**

Let us admit that medications and drug replacements hold a special hazard for all addicts, not merely those with a history of abuse of these drugs. To the addict, medication or drug replacement represents a means of control, like any other tool of control it's use can become compulsive. Keeping in mind that we are not doctors, modern medicine often mistreats addiction with drugs. Drugs, whether self-prescribed or prescribed by a doctor, are a major part of our problem. How can drugs possibly be the solution?

WE ARE NOT DOCTORS

If we are not doctors then what are we? We are a fellowship of addicts seeking recovery from addiction. When we talk about addiction we are talking about being addicted to drugs. Our recovery program is one of total abstinence from all drugs. "Total Abstinence" is not a medical opinion but a practice of our principles. It is not an outside issue but one that is essential to our recovery. We follow a spiritual, not religious program that provides recovery through the 12 steps and 12 traditions of NA.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE

The cornerstone of the Narcotics Anonymous program is total abstinence from all mind and mood altering chemicals. Total abstinence is the first thing we hear when we arrive in Narcotics Anonymous. Total abstinence is the beginning, middle and end of our recovery. Our clean time, and our recovery from the disease of addiction begins with that first step. This pamphlet will address some of the spiritual principles we have used in our program to reach total abstinence from all mind and mood altering chemicals. We understand that there are cases where addicts are hospitalized and given narcotics for things such as major medical emergencies or major accidents. Our Basic Text already gives us the answers to these situations such as "Using local anesthesia, avoiding our drug of choice, stopping drug use while still in the hospital, and spending extra days in the hospital in case withdrawal occurs are some options". This pamphlet is not focused on these issues; this pamphlet is focused on drugs used by some doctors to treat the disease of addiction. So to the newcomer who has been put on any of these type of medications, please keep coming back. Although as addicts we are not responsible for having this disease of addiction, through NA we are given a choice to recover. Once we make this choice we are responsible for our recovery.

SURRENDER

The process of surrender is a result of living in utter desperation and pain. It is the result of working double overtime to find a solution that does not require giving up drugs completely. It is difficult to accept that drugs are the problem when we have not been able to find peace and serenity by any other means. When we make the decision to surrender, we get relief from the pain of making our own decisions. Surrender is positive for us because we find hope. Once we have surrendered, we open opportunities for other addicts to help us with our problems. We have seen many

addicts surrender to this program and detox in the rooms of NA and live productive lives in society. We have also seen many addicts go to other places and detox and come back to NA and celebrate total abstinence in the rooms of NA. We know any addict can get and stay clean but they must surrender to the program of Narcotics Anonymous for that to happen. Surrender is just the first step to this process, there are many other key spiritual principles you will need along the way such as...

WILLINGNESS

We surrender to a program of total abstinence when we absolutely can not continue using and there is simply no fight left in us. Now we must become willing to follow some simple suggestions that we hear in meetings. We may not believe that these suggestions are going to help us but we do them anyway because we don't know what else to do. We may think that we don't need a sponsor but we get one anyway because we are afraid not to. We need to become willing to do anything to stay clean.

Willingness is a spiritual principle because it allows us to get a grip on the fact that before change can occur; we have to give our permission. We have to stop holding back inside. We have to relax our personal will with all its preconceptions and preferences so we can look at alternatives. When we want to select something new in our lives, the choice is up to us. Without our willingness, we never get to make the choice and remain tied up in many of our past limitations, illusions and habits.

'Willingness to try is the beginning of doing our part. However grand or humble that might be, it is a state of readiness replacing depression and anxiety.'

Once we become willing to put down the preconceived notion that total abstinence is impossible and surrender to the fact that we are just like everyone else in NA we can then move on to...

COMMITMENT

Commitment is one of the spiritual principles that most people don't connect to the first step. In past editions of the Basic Text it's written "Now the question is: "If we are powerless, how can Narcotics Anonymous help?" We begin by asking for help, and this is accomplished by working and living the twelve steps" where the spiritual principles we have discussed in this pamphlet come from. They are the backbone to a life of complete abstinence; without them we will die. Once we surrender and become willing to do what ever is necessary to become abstinent we need to stay committed to the process in order to not go back to the way of life we once knew. We need to make a commitment to a home group and stay clean no matter what. A commitment to a sponsor is also very important to this new way of life for we can not do this alone!!!

OUR SOLUTION

Our first step says "We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction that our lives had become unmanageable". If we still believe that limited drug use is possible then we have not taken step one, we have not surrendered, and we will use

again. Step one is more than an admission of powerlessness, it must be followed by a change of actions. We must stay away from people that are using even if it means we must avoid family members, friends and co-workers. We might have to break free completely of everything and everyone we know. There is no substitute for surrender. This may be very uncomfortable but we do it anyway because we know in our heart of hearts that is the only way. Based on a life of desperation and a glimmer of hope we make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understand him. To sum up step three in a nutshell it is simply a decision to take the rest of the steps and to understand that they are the solution to maintaining total abstinence. Faith comes after this way of life becomes a reality. This way of life comes to some very fast and to others very slow but it doesn't come at all if we are still clinging to the idea that we can have it while still using. Remember these 4 things.

1)The cornerstone of the NA program is total abstinence.

2)There is no substitute for surrender.

3)Recovery is a complete change of everything we think and do.

4)Without commitment to this fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous we will go back to the life we once knew.



Total Abstinence in Narcotics Anonymous

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A VIEW OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS GROUP CONSCIENCE IP **Motion 2020A**

A Narcotics Anonymous Group is any meeting of two or more recovering addicts who meet regularly at a specific time and place for the purpose of recovery from the disease of addiction. All NA Groups are bound by the principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA. Each Group has but one primary purpose—to carry our message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It is the most powerful vehicle for carrying that message.

The definition of conscience is a personal awareness of right and wrong that one uses to guide their actions to do right.

Our Second Tradition states, “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.”

Every Group should have a conscience. A Group without a conscience is an unconscious Group. A Group conscience is where we all come together and invite a loving Higher Power to guide us as stated in our Second Tradition. True Group conscience is a collective Eleventh Step applied to a single issue. It is the utilization of spiritual principles by members of a Group to preserve the common welfare and fulfill the primary purpose of the Group. It is developed by first inviting a loving God to express Himself and then listening to what He delivers through the voice of each and every member. All members should be encouraged to achieve an understanding of the first three Steps. Group conscience in NA is the responsibility of the NA Group and its members. When we surrender and seek out a loving Higher Power’s will in our Groups we can obtain a true Group conscience. A Group conscience develops as a result of the process; indeed it is not the process itself.

When the NA Traditions were transcribed from AA, Group conscience was only a theory. Our predecessors said that they believed in something that did not exist. It is no longer a theory; Group conscience is now a reality.

“Group conscience is a collective understanding of, awareness of, and surrender to the principles within the Group; it is the basis of our decision making process.”—An Addict.

Groups are autonomous and can function as they choose. However, it is important for a Group to strive for unanimity. In other words, make every effort to be 100% in agreement. The unanimous based process works well within an NA Group. The purpose of unanimity is so that everyone should be on the same page when guiding the Group. That way we have a single voice and not multiple voices going on at the same time. The benefit of unanimity is unity. All input should be considered equally from every member. Care should be taken to insure that everyone feels safe speaking their conscience. There are no big I’s and little you’s.

WHAT IS NOT NA GROUP CONSCIENCE?

Conscience is not a popularity contest. Too often we have seen a strong personality sway the Groups' decisions. In Group conscience, what is best for the Group and its members, including those members yet to come, is usually best for the individual. It holds more importance than the personalities involved and is not about control or forcing self-will upon the Group.

Group conscience is not what happens in committee. Groups take instruction only from a loving God as expressed in Group conscience. Therefore, on issues that affect NA, the membership must be consulted directly so that the will of a loving God can be channeled through that process. Then the Groups are able to direct the service structure as to how to serve. Motions should originate only from an NA Group conscience. There is no "conscience" beyond the Group. Every other level of service merely compiles the conscience of NA Groups.

Group conscience is not a matter of simple vote. Instead it is a collective expression of every member's input. The business of the Group, defined by us as "How we spend the material component of the Seventh Tradition", is and always will be distinct from the spiritual business of the Group. The spiritual conscience of the Group influences how the money is spent. Ideally, the business of the Group will follow the conscience of the Group.

Robert's Rules of Order are not Group conscience. They were created to run government; therefore they are a form of governing which conflicts with the Second Tradition. Robert's Rules leaves the minority feeling marginalized. Its goal is to structure the debate and passage of proposals that win approval through majority vote. This process does not emphasize the goal of full agreement. Robert's Rules should not be used in a Groups conscience.

NA GROUP CONSCIENCE MEETING

As a Group we believe in distinguishing the conscience of the Group from everything else. Because of this distinction, we have our Group conscience Meeting on a separate day or time. In fact, in some parts of the world, it is common for a Group to have a separate Group conscience meeting. We dedicate our Group conscience meeting to God and use it as a vehicle to discover His will for our Group. Carrying the message is so important that many Groups take inventory regularly to help insure that our primary purpose is still in focus. We want to assure ourselves through the inventory process that God's will is running the meetings. The process of taking our Group's inventory is the best effort we can make in allowing a loving God to influence the Group. This allows the Group to present an atmosphere of recovery which makes it easier for God's voice to be heard.

The format we use is simple and allows for free, orderly discussion between Group members. It stresses for our members to express their feelings on how we have been carrying the NA message. It also allows us to add or detract from our Group format to adjust for changing times, as well as providing a place where members may discuss matters affecting NA as a whole. In essence, our Group conscience meeting is ideally a purely spiritual event where we can feel God's presence in the room. Each Home group member seeks their own conscience through conscious contact with their Higher Power and brings it to the Group.

Here is a typical meeting format.

1.Moment of silence/opening prayer

2.The complete 2nd Tradition is read from the book Narcotics Anonymous - Basic Text.

3.Group Inventory - The Twelve Traditions may be used as an outline for a Group inventory. Some Groups use a specific set of inventory questions, such as, “How are we doing carrying the message to the addict that still suffers and reaching out to the newcomer? Are we abiding by the Traditions? Are there addicts our Group isn’t reaching? How can we make our meetings more accessible? What can we do to make new members feel more at home? Has the atmosphere of recovery diminished? Would a change in our meeting format strengthen that atmosphere?”

4.Minutes from the previous Group conscience meeting are read.

5.Group inventory of commitments and their related committees is taken. “How are trusted servants doing?”

6.Old business - Unfinished issues or any concerns or ideas that were brought up during the previous Group conscience meeting are addressed. We may or may not decide to act on these items.

7.New business. Everyone’s input is needed. Group conscience is impossible without every member participating. This is where we might discuss other concerns like format changes. Unless everyone is on the same page and in agreement we do not change anything on the spot. We table it until the next time we meet while we pray, meditate and talk to our sponsors about it. At that time, the concerns become old business. This is what we know as a true Group conscience. There is no need for a sense of urgency or time sensitivity. If it’s a good idea today, it will be a good idea tomorrow. After all of the Group concerns are taken care of, other service boards or committee’s concerns may be addressed.

8.Closing Prayer



A View of Narcotics Anonymous Group Conscience

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www.nahelp.org
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Webpage www.nahelp.org FSC 2020

Motion 2021D

Proposal.

Move domain name www.anonymifoundation.org + webpage and domain name www.nahelp.org to a new Hosting Company and built it with WordPress.

Intent proposal:

- More functionalities in building the webpage
- Cheaper hosting
- Improving accountability
- More secure

Current situation:

1. Hosting company: GoDaddy. We have ownership over 2 domain names (\$45,38 every year for the 2 domain names to renew ownership)
2. Website builder (\$15,75 every month)
3. All on the name of a member (the account)
4. Yearly costs: around \$234,38

At this moment we pay for the website builder every month. July 2020 has been payed for.

Proposal extra information:

1. Hosting company: Bluehost
2. Move 2 domain names. This will cost us \$17,99 to move them and own them the first year. After the first year it will cost \$35,98 every year to own the domain names.
3. No more website builder.
But use WORDPRESS as the webpage builder (An example will be shown at the FSC 2020) and start paying for Hosting only.

Cost: \$2,95 a month for the first 36 months (\$106,2 for 3 years) and after that it will be \$7,99 a month for 36 months (\$287,64 for 3 years)

<https://www.bluehost.com/wordpress/wordpress-hosting>

Why use Wordpress: easier to use and the program Wordpress is free. To host this is also cheaper. Next to that there will be more freedom, functionalities and options in building the webpage. You only pay for extra's plugins or theme's if needed. It also gives us the possibility to allow someone acces to the backend of the webpage to make changes without getting into the hosting account with acces to all the information (finances, ownership of products, etc)

