1st Concept
To fulfill our fellowship’s primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.

Responsibility

The primary responsibility of an NA group is to conduct its recovery meetings. The service structure ensures that other services are fulfilled effectively without distracting the groups from their own primary purpose.
2nd Concept

The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.

Authority

The service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction. The groups have final responsibility for and authority over the service structure they have created.
3rd Concept
The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.

Delegation

Delegated practical authority is not a blank check, the groups still bear final authority.
To make this work, we must carefully select trusted servants.
4th Concept
Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.

Leadership

Leaders help us organize, focus our energy and resources, and act in unity. Without good leaders it will be challenging, if not impossible, to achieve these goals.
5th Concept
For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.

Accountability

We need to eliminate confusion about who has authority to do what. Whoever is given the authority will be held accountable for the fulfillment of that task.
6th Concept

Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.

Spiritual Guidance

We need to bring the spiritual awakening of the Twelve Steps to bear in making service-related decisions. It is not, however, merely a euphemism for “voting” and is not itself the NA decision-making process.
The **12 Concepts** provides our service structure with guiding principles to serve the groups. They are not the **law** for NA service. They are valid only to the extent that they prove **helpful**.
7th Concept
All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision making processes.

Participation

NA service is a team effort.
The full participation of each member of the team is of great value as we seek to express the conscience of the whole.
8th Concept

Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.

Communication

Regular communication is essential to the integrity and effectiveness of our services themselves.
9th Concept

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

Open-mindedness

To check judgment, to guard against hasty or misinformed decisions, and to invite the sharing of new ideas, our services must consider all viewpoints when making plans. This is essential to the development of a fair, wise, balanced group conscience.
10th Concept
Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.

Fairness

The Tenth Concept encourages us to treat each other with respect and provides us with a means of making amends when we wrong others.
11th Concept
NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.

Finances \ Responsibility

The sole absolute priority for the use of NA funds: to carry the message. The importance of that priority calls for total fiscal accountability. Direct contributions to each level of service help us to enhance accountability.
12th Concept

In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.

Service, Not Government

Within the context of the Twelve Concepts, as a body, this concept serves much the same function as Tradition Twelve in the context of the traditions. It brings our consideration of concepts for NA service back to the spiritual root of selfless service.
Many Thanks

For Your Attention
Brainstorming Questions

1. What do we mean when we say that NA is a spiritual society? Does a spiritual society approach the decision-making process differently than other organizations? (Concept 2)

2. Is “group conscience” just NA’s way of saying “voting”? (As in, “Let’s take a group conscience on that.”) In what way is group conscience distinct from our decision-making process? In what way is group conscience a fundamental part of that process? (Concept 2)

3. “An effective group conscience is a fully informed group conscience.” Why is it important to make sure all viewpoints are considered when making service decisions? (Concept 9)
4. Does your group receive regular communication from the trusted servants, service boards, and committees that serve it? Does your group regularly communicate with those trusted servants, service boards, and committees? How has this communication—or lack of communication—affect your group? The service structure? (Concept 8)

5. Does NA have leaders? If so, what kind of leaders? Does a fellowship that makes collective decisions need leaders? (Concept 4)

6. Does your group have leaders? If so, who are they? In what sense can they be called “leaders”? Could your group do without leaders? Could a service board or committee do without leaders? (Concept 4)
Brainstorming Questions

7. According to the description in this concept, what are some of the skills and personal traits we seek when selecting trusted servants? What is the real foundation of NA leadership? (Concept 4)

8. What is the difference between service and government? (Concept 12)

9. The difference between a governing organization and a service organization is often not of structure but of spiritual foundation and purpose. What is it about NA's primary purpose and its spiritual identity that says “our structure should always be one of service, never of government”? (Concept 12)

10. The essay on the Twelfth Concept talks about how gratitude, humility, communication, and selflessness help our structure remain “one of service, never of government.” Discuss these things. (Concept 12)
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European Delegates Meeting

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