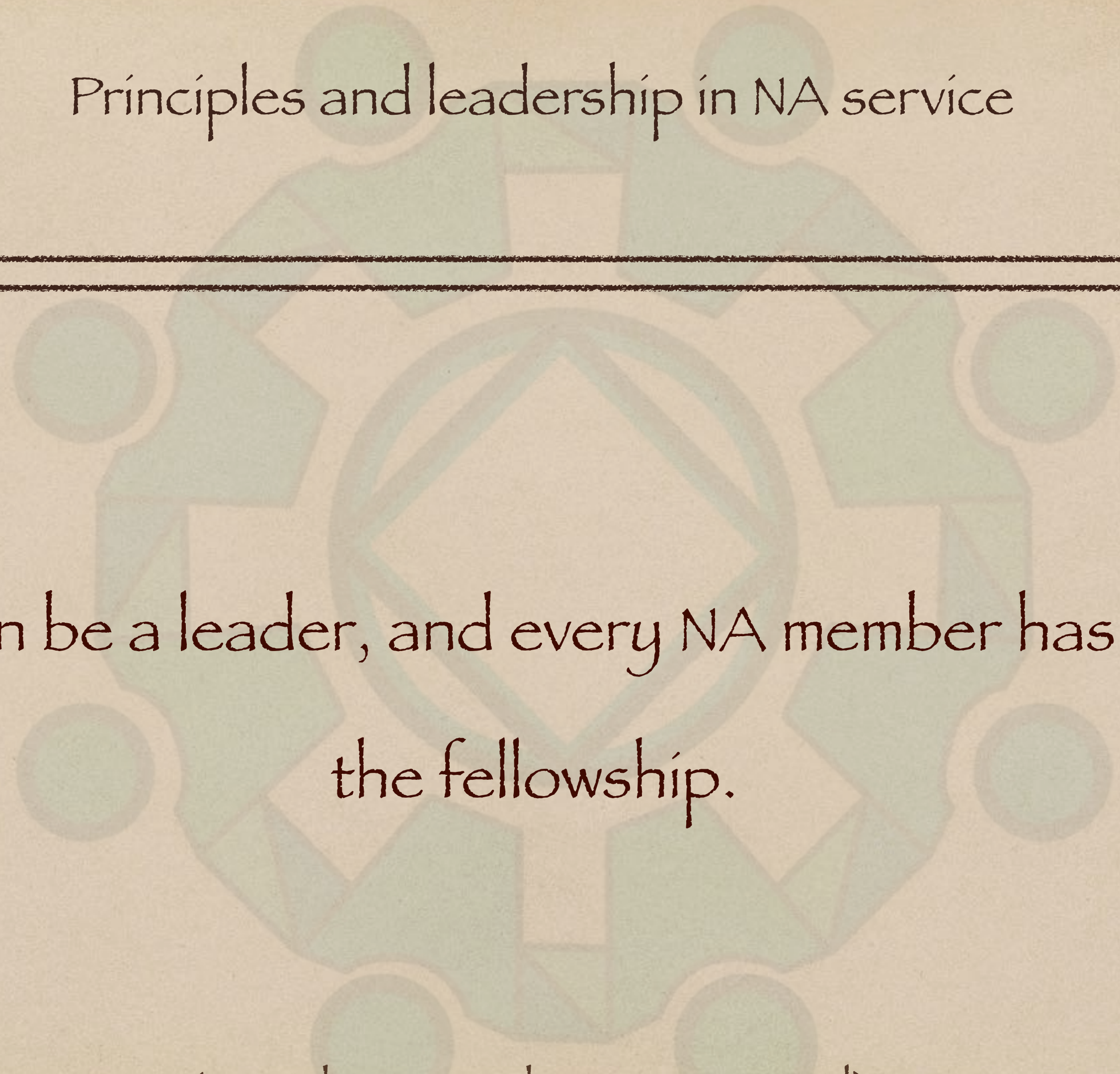


EDM FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WINTER EDM 2024

PRINCIPLES AND LEADERSHIP IN NA SERVICE

SOFIA 2ND OF MARCH 2024



Principles and leadership in NA service

Any NA member can be a leader, and every NA member has the right to serve
the fellowship.

Principles and leadership in NA service (Board approved service material)

Principles and leadership in NA service

Our fellowship's primary purpose is to carry the message "that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

One of the primary means by which that message is carried, addict to addict, is in our meetings. These recovery meetings, conducted thousands of times each day by NA groups around the world, are the most important service offered by our fellowship.

Principles and leadership in NA service (Board approved service material)

Leaders in NA or trusted servants

Because we have seen so much success in our growth as a fellowship, it can sometimes seem that most of the work of NA has already been accomplished. When the doors to our meetings are open, it isn't always clear what more should be done to further our primary purpose.

The truth of the matter is that all of our services need a constant influx of talent, creativity, and willingness from our members in order to continue helping our groups carry the NA message.

Principles and leadership in NA service



ICE BREAKER

DO WE NEED LEADERS IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS ?



Attracting members to service.

We have a collective responsibility to infuse our service bodies with an atmosphere of recovery where people feel welcome and encouraged to grow. In such an atmosphere, our trusted servants are more likely to feel effective and productive, and our service bodies grow stronger. When we put aside our personality differences and work together to develop the best qualities in our members who are willing to serve, our areas, regions, and subcommittees become fertile ground for cultivation

Attracting members to service.

All too often, members who would otherwise be willing to get involved in service can be put off by overwhelmingly extensive policies and procedures or tiresome debates and parliamentary gymnastics.

Simple solutions such as having a tradition and concept study meeting before business meetings or conducting service learning days can help raise knowledge and awareness of our guiding principles.

By discussing these principles together, our trusted servants can work toward common understandings of how to apply them in service environment

Attracting members to service.

Large group discussion:

In your groups/areas/regions, have you experienced difficulty in attracting members to service?

Fulfilling service positions?

Selecting our trusted servants

When trusted servants who are well-versed in our guiding principles hold positions of leadership, we often find that we can move from a culture of rigid guidelines and debate to one with more open discussion, inclusion, cooperation, and consensus-building

Selecting our trusted servants

The task of selecting leaders in our service bodies can be difficult at times. It might seem unkind to subject a member to intense scrutiny simply because that member has expressed a willingness to serve. In keeping with our Twelfth Tradition, our Fourth Concept calls upon us to consider leadership qualities carefully even if it feels uncomfortable to do so. We need to keep in mind that we are not judging our fellow recovering addicts' value as NA members or as people; we are simply evaluating their potential to be effective in a given trusted servant position.

Selecting our trusted servants

Many members in our fellowship are wonderful living examples of the principles of our program and have a variety of leadership qualities. If their particular skills and experience do not match those necessary for an open position, we should strive to help them find other ways to serve.

To put a member in a position for which he or she is not well-suited does a disservice both to that member and to our service efforts

Selecting our trusted servants

Large group discussion:

Did it happen that you had difficulty selecting a member for
a service position?

Communication

The effectiveness of the service structure depends on the continued unity of the NA groups, and on their continued support and direction. These things can only be maintained in an atmosphere of honest, open, and straightforward communication among all parties concerned.

Communication

.... it is important that we select members to serve who are able to explain things clearly and listen well. A good delegate, for example, will be able to distill the essential points from a lengthy discussion and relay them to the region so that everyone understands.

COMMUNICATION

Large group discussion:

How can good communication help us delegate authority more easily to our trusted servants?

ROTATION

It's easy to become very attached to a particular service position or role we have filled, and some of us become reluctant to allow others to step up and serve.

“I had an H&I panel for almost a decade, and a member with five years clean showed up at a subcommittee meeting offering to take on a panel. The subcommittee chairperson looked right at me and asked if I was ready to practice the spirit of rotation. Although part of me resisted, I knew it was time.”

SPAD 30th of March

Rotation

What can we do to be more inclusive in our service efforts? How can we attract and retain members in service? How do we balance our need for continuity with the practice of rotation?


What processes do we go through to select our trusted servants? How does observing the principle of rotation help keep our group healthy?

How do we balance our needs for both rotation and continuity? What are our practices regarding training, support, and mentorship? Are we willing to leave a service position open rather than electing a member who is not well suited to the role?


ROTATION

Large group discussion:

“Effective NA leadership knows not only how to serve, but when it will serve best to step aside and allow others to take over.” Discuss rotation of leadership.




SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSIONS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1- ATTRACTING MEMBERS TO SERVICE

What are some of the ways that can help us attract members to service?

A faint, light green illustration of a group of people standing in a circle, holding hands, is centered in the background of the page. The figures are stylized and semi-transparent.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

2- SELECTING OUR TRUSTED SERVANTS

Does a fellowship that makes collective decisions need leaders?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

3- COMMUNICATION

How could good or a lack of regular communication can influence the integrity and effectiveness of our service structure?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

4- ROTATION (and continuity)

“Effective NA leadership knows not only how to serve, but when it will serve best to step aside and allow others to take over.” Discuss rotation of leadership.



“The full fruit of a labor of love lives in the harvest and that always comes in its right season”

From the preface of the “Basic text”.

Thank you for your attention
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