**Understanding and Honoring Our Group Conscience**

**Presentation Basic Outline Recap and Application Questions**

**Area 35 District 4**

* One Authority – God as He may express himself through our “group conscience”
  + Second Tradition
  + First Concept of Service
* A.A.’s Primary Purpose - group unity & the suffering (15.1 million adults suffer from alcohol abuse)
  + A.A. Preamble
  + Step 12
  + Tradition 5
  + Responsibility Statement
* Elements
  + Collective
    - Every voice is valuable; direction not given to only one or a few individuals
  + Fully informed: Practice mutual trust and respect in sharing and listening of perspectives, ideas, and opinions
    - Ensure the minority opinion is heard
  + Achieve substantial unanimity (agreement) – at least 2/3 of members
  + Allowing adequate time for sensitive decisions
* Personal responsibility and accountability
  + Seeing and hearing “t*he G-d of your understanding*” through others and yourself
  + Continuing to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the guiding spiritual principles provided in our Traditions and Concepts of Service
  + Practicing spiritual principles over personalities
  + Sharing perspectives, opinions and ideas with courage, honesty, and humility
  + Being of service whether as a GSR, DCM, committee member, etc. and ensuring roles are rotated
  + Taking a Group Inventory on a regular basis - [*https://www.aa.org/assets/en\_US/p-16\_theaagroup.pdf*](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-16_theaagroup.pdf) (pg 29)
  + Reading A.A. literature
  + Keeping up-to-date of issues and concerns affecting our organization locally and worldwide

**Group Conscience Checklist**

* Does the group decision honor unity and the carrying of the message?
* Is the group well informed about the subject? Has sufficient time been given before a group conscience vote is taken?
* Have all sides been respectfully heard and thoroughly discussed?
* Has sufficient time been given before a group conscience vote is taken? Has attention been given to the minority point of view?
* Has the vote been a substantial majority?
* Does the action go against our Traditions/Concepts of Service?
* Is the principle of group rotation honored?
* Is a Group Inventory done on a regular basis?

**Practical Application Questions**

**Substantial Unanimity**

1. Are my decisions focused on A.A.’s primary purpose?
2. Am I practicing principles over personalities?
3. Am I willing to support the group conscience decision if I don’t agree with it?
4. What can I do to help bring about a 2/3 decision, if not a unanimous one?
5. Has adequate time been given for sensitive issues?

**Collective**

1. Am I acting responsibly by being part of my home group’s decisions?
2. Am I seeing myself as well as everyone present in my group as a valuable member?
3. Does our group have a GSR, the guardian and carrier of our important decisions to the larger A.A. Service Structure?
4. Am I encouraging rotation of members in different committees and as delegates in our district, state, and national activities?

**Personal Life Application Questions**

* Do I see and hear “*The God of my understanding*” within myself and others?
* Am I being honest and objective with myself and with others?
* Am I courageous in sharing my perspective and ideas?
* Am I honoring the opinions of members of my family and friends?
* Am I open minded?
* Am I willing to listen?
* How do I act toward those who disagree with me?
* Am I respectful or do I try to force my opinion on others?

\*\*And when asking yourself the above questions, always ask “why or why not?”

**Full informed, minority opinion heard, and willingness to stay open-minded**

1. Am I respectful of someone holding a different perspective than my own?
2. Do I allow my need to be right to close my mind to other possibilities?
3. Am I helping ensure a healthy debate on issues by remembering the goal is an equal exchange of ideas?

**Full information, individual points of view and the practice of A.A. principles**

1. Do I have courage to share my opinions with my group?
2. Do I know the meaning of our guiding principles as stated in our Traditions and Concepts for Service?
3. Am I reading A.A. literature and keeping up-to-date on what is happening in the A.A. organization?
4. Does my group take a Group Inventory on a regular basis?
5. Am I contributing to service work within my group and elsewhere in the A.A. Service Structure?