

How Regions Develop CAR Consciences

For the 2012 World Service Conference, regions were asked,

“How does your region reach a conscience about WSC matters?”

The answers varied greatly. Many took this question to mean, “How do you become informed about WSC matters?” However, over 60 regions (out of 112 regional reports received) gave some information about how they develop a regional conscience. Most of these were evenly divided between a group tally, a regional assembly of some form, and an area tally, with the last option being slightly less popular.

- ❖ Group tally – 18
- ❖ Regional assembly – 14 (those who take a group tally at the assembly are counted above)
- ❖ RSC – 4
- ❖ Area tally – 16
- ❖ Member tally – 7
- ❖ RDs only – 3
- ❖ Don’t discuss WSC matters – 3
- ❖ Through zonal forum – 1

Additional detail in reports included

- ❖ Some regions allow absentee and online voting by groups.
- ❖ Some allow open participation from any member at the RSC.
- ❖ Some make a point of giving the delegate a vote of confidence at the RSC prior to the WSC to vote on any additional matters that might arise at the WSC.

Group Conscience: Our Traditions and Concepts

Tradition Two 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.

“Our direction in service comes from a God of our understanding, whether we serve as individuals, as a group, or as a service board or committee. Whenever we come together, we seek the presence and guidance of this loving Higher Power. This direction then guides us through all our actions.”

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Two

Tradition Nine NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

“Groups share information and guidance with the boards and committees serving them. Then these boards and committees report back to the groups to which they are responsible, describing their operations, discussions, and plans. Responsible service boards and committees consult the groups in matters directly affecting them and seek direction from the groups in matters not already covered by existing policy.... Whenever possible, organized service work should be kept distinct from the groups so that they can remain free to simply and directly fulfill our primary purpose, addict to addict. The boards and committees we do organize, we organize on the basis of need only, using the simplest guidelines possible.”

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Nine

Concept Three The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.

“The NA groups maintain final responsibility and authority for the service structure they have created. Yet if they must involve themselves directly in making decisions for all of our service boards and committees, the groups will have little time or energy left to carry the recovery message in their meetings. For this reason, the groups entrust the service structure with the authority to make necessary decisions in carrying out the tasks assigned to it.”

Twelve Concepts for NA Service, Third Concept

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

“We apply the Sixth Concept when we listen not just to the words our fellow members speak, but to the spirit behind their words. We apply the Sixth Concept when we seek to do God’s will, not our own, and to serve others, not ourselves, in our service decisions. We apply the Sixth Concept in our groups, service boards, and committees when we invite a loving God to influence us before making service-related decisions.”

Twelve Concepts for NA Service, Sixth Concept