Facilitator Training Session

Scenario One

Topic – Atmosphere of Recovery

Outcome – Find ways to improve the atmosphere in our groups

Key points

- The importance of a warm, welcoming atmosphere within our NA groups is undisputed, regardless of how much time in recovery we have
- Sometimes our meetings are a poor reflection of the NA program; they can be disorganized or chaotic, with disruptive members and no message of recovery
- Often we lose members, old and new, when we cannot offer an atmosphere of recovery, and sometimes our members or potential members don’t feel welcome
- As NA members we are responsible for what happens in our meetings
- We have spiritual principles that we can apply to this situation – these include unity, anonymity and self support

Workshop situation – 30 members with clean time from 6 months to 10 years are attending an Area Learning Day. There are no other sessions running at the same time.

Scenario Two

Topic – Our Public Image

Outcome – find ways to improve the image of NA in the community by discussing the importance of our roles

Key points

- A negative public image directly affects our ability to carry the message of recovery
- Professionals are more likely to refer addicts to us, and addicts are more likely to find us if we have a positive public image
- Informing the public about who we are is not the promotion that our traditions caution us about
- NA communities that do set out to build and maintain their public relations in a deliberate fashion often see explosive growth
- Our image means much more than just PI, it includes the impression people have (or don’t have) of NA

Workshop situation – 100 members with clean time varying from 60 days to 15 years are attending this workshop that is being held at a busy regional convention.
Small Group Discussion Question

What are some of the things the group can do to create and maintain an atmosphere of recovery? (For example, change the room set-up so that it’s more conducive to an atmosphere of recovery; acknowledge newcomers in some way—with phone lists or introductions; etc.)