



**Message of NA:** *"...that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom."*

**Primary Purpose:** *"...to carry the message to the addict who still suffers..."*

*Basic Text - 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. - Pg. 68*

### Step 7

**"WE ADMITTED THAT WE WERE POWERLESS OVER OUR ADDICTION — THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE.."**

Step 6 is a step of preparation and reflection. I have been preparing for a significant change in my life and now I need to make sure that I am ready. I need to make sure in my own heart and mind that I am truly willing for God to remove these defects of character that have enabled my addictive behaviors. It might mean letting go of other things in my life in order to allow God to do the work that needs to be done. I need to determine if I am truly ready. When we tried to clean ourselves up with our own power and "discipline" we kept ourselves agitated, confused, in denial, and worn out, and we were in almost constant emotional pain. We were like the man who tore the scab off his arm every morning to see if his wound had healed. But it was in doing the sixth Step that I saw why I had become so exhausted. I'd been trying to do *God's part* in the spiritual growth and healing process. In the program I was told that my part was "being entirely ready", being ready to *let God* be the controller and life-changer of myself and others. When I did that, my sponsor said, I would see how God's power is released to flow through our lives to clean them only when we quit trying to control the *how* and *when* he is to use that power... At first this sounded like a call to complacency - until I got into Step Seven. This attitude of readiness to let God reach into our lives and uncover and remove the things that make us spiritually and emotionally sick is paradoxically the doorway to active and effective change of specific lifelong habits and sins. But it means turning loose of our control-even of our healing. When we are working Step Six, it is important to remember that we are human and should not place unrealistic expectations on ourselves. This is a step of willingness. That is the spiritual principle of Step Six. It is as if to say that we are now willing to move in a spiritual direction. Being human we will, of course, wander. As we hold known defects of character up to God, we must avoid self-shaming and self-condemnation. The goal here is spiritual release, not spiritual self-punishment. For most of us, this process is ongoing. We will not be healed and sent forward immediately; rather, recovery will be a daily effort to evaluate, balance, and adjust the healthy expression of all of our God-given needs.

Reprinted from 12step.org

### Tradition 7

**"Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.."**

NA's policy clearly states: "We decline outside contributions. "Our fellowship is completely self-supporting. We accept no funding, endowments, loans and or gifts. Everything has its price regardless of intent. Whether the price is money, promises, concessions, special recognition, endorsements or favors. It is too high for us. Even if those who would help us could guarantee no strings, we still would not accept their aid. (Narcotics Anonymous Basic Text page 68) It is in this respect that we ask non-members not to donate. "So, what's the Basket For? At some point, during most meetings, a 7th tradition basket goes around and funds are collected. First, the money going in the basket pays to pay rent for the meeting. Anything that is left over will go to buy literature and supplies and the remainder goes down the service structure to support Areas, Regions, and the world. All of this is helps carry the message to the still suffering addict. Another key part of the Seventh Tradition is that we decline all outside contributions. This limits the possibility of NA being influenced by outside forces or people. Many places would like to give us free meeting rooms. We must insist on paying rent. Our groups remain autonomous. We also must refuse donations of money, materials, and services from outside our Fellowship. If we accepted these funds, it could make us feel obligated. Our sense of obligation may affect our actions and decisions as groups. A related issue would be fund-raising. 1. Fundraising activities at an NA meeting are not usually appropriate because they may detract from our primary purpose and can present an inaccurate impression of the NA message, especially in the eyes of the newcomer or the non-addict visitor. 2. In order to follow the guidance of our traditions, a fundraising event should be planned and held by and for Narcotics Anonymous members. 3. In order to conform to the ideals of the Seventh Tradition, donations from nonmembers should not be accepted. 4. Since there are often times when we sponsor activities where there is a fixed charge for full participation, the term "donation" should not be associated with these types of fees. In this way, we are not confusing contributions with assessed charges for activities.

Reprinted from na-wt.org

### Concept 7

**"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.."**

The Seventh Concept is one way of putting the principle of group conscience to work in the service environment. This concept suggests that each service body should encourage all its members to participate in its decision-making process. By bringing their different perspectives together, we give our service bodies the opportunity to develop a fully informed, balanced group conscience leading to sound, sensitive service decisions. Our service boards and committees represent a cross-section of NA perspective and experience. Each participant's contribution to the decision-making process is important. Determining participation at the group level is fairly simple: if you're a group member, you may fully participate in the group's decision-making process. Determining participation in the decision-making processes of most service boards and committees is a little more involved, yet the same basic principles still apply. Freely expressed individual conscience is the essential element in group conscience at any level. NA service is a team effort. Our service representatives are responsible to the NA Fellowship as a whole rather than any special constituency; so are all the other trusted servants on the team. The full participation of each member of the team is of great value as we seek to express the collective conscience of the whole. There is no firm rule about how to apply the concept of participation to every situation. In an atmosphere of love, mutual respect, and frank, open discussion, each service body decides these things for itself. In significant matters affecting the groups, a service body will want to ask for guidance directly from the groups. In the vast majority of cases, however, the service body will exercise its delegated authority in fulfilling the responsibilities the groups have assigned to it, disposing of the matters in the normal course of its service meetings. NA's principle of spiritual anonymity is the foundation for the Seventh Concept. This principle points our fellowship toward a leveling of the individual's relative importance as a participant in NA service.

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DC AREA SERVICE

Meets 1st Saturday of every month Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St. SW

Admin. Body meets at 10:45am Full body meets at 12 noon Names of newly elected DCASC trusted servants will be posted in September newsletter

- Chair: Joan H. Vice Chair: Darryl J. Secretary: OPEN Asst. Secretary: OPEN RCM: Gloria M. RCM ALT: Earl J. Treasurer: Tecoy W. Asst. Treasurer: Michael J. COC Rep. William W.

DC Area Rep. to CPRNA Program Sub Committee: Vanessa G.

DCASC Subcommittees: Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Meets 4th Sat. at 116 T St. NE 3:00pm Main Conference Room Chair: Sranda W. Vice Chair: OPEN.

Special Events Meets 3rd Sat. of every month at Dorothy Heights Library 10:00am Chair: Robyn R.N. Vice Chair: OPEN

Newsletter Meets 3rd Mon. of every month at Lamond Riggs Library 6:00pm 5401 South Dakota Ave NE Chair: Tammy F. Vice Chair: OPEN

Literature Meets 1st Saturday of every month Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St. SW 10:30am Chair: Eric W. Vice Chair: April C.

Policy Meets 3rd Tues. of every month at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 6:30pm 5301 North Capitol St NE Chair: Eloise C.

Asst. Policy Monitor: Deboria A. Public Relations (PR) Meets 1st Sun of every month at SOME 2:00pm 71 O St NE Chair: Marie W. Vice Chair: OPEN

Celebrating the PROCESS of Recovery

May 2020 Anniversaries &

Acknowledgements Congratulations All!!

DC Area NA meetings are held virtually or closed until further notice.

CPRNA Virtual & Phone Meetings : District of Columbia

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Table with columns: Meeting Name, Day, Time, Status, Web Meeting Link/Phone #, Meeting ID, Password. Rows include 10:30 Coffee Hour, Another Level of Awareness, Sunday Night Spiritual, Joyful Start, Steps to the Courthouse, Last Shall Be First Group, Jump Start to Recovery, Ultimate Weapon Group, Daily Principles, Stone Soul Recovery, Jump Start to Recovery, Yellow Brick Road, One Step At a Time, Better Way, Mt Olivet Group, Women's Step & Tradition.

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Contact DC Link: DC Area Newsletter | PO Box 9863 Washington DC 20016 or dclinknewsletter@gmail.com Submit your service perspectives, Step, Tradition, Concept and Recovery Experiences Submission Deadline: 3rd Monday of each month DC Link On-line http://www.cprna.org/our-areas/news/district-of-columbia-area/

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_