

Many Groups chose to participate with the Fellowship Service Conference. They utilize their services such as being on the A.S.I.S. Worldwide meeting list, Communication with other groups, Open participatory services.

We have the Freedom to write our own literature and print it. We are not dictated on what we can do and what we cannot do, as long as our Groups have absolute adherence to the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

Each Group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups, or N.A. as a whole.

Examples of matters affecting other Groups, or N.A. as a whole would be: Verifying Attendance Papers or Non compliance to Total Abstinence. We always need to check to make sure that our actions are clearly within the bounds of our Traditions.

NEEDS MORE INPUT.



Autonomy & Standing On Our Own Two Feet

Anonymi Foundation
P.O. Box 4404
Allentown PA 18105

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Literary Work in progress.
Please copy & share this with your local home group for Review and Input.

Developed and Distributed by the Groups in A.S.I.S. for NA,
The Anonymi Foundation

Please send your input to
nahelp.org@gmail.com

World:

www.nahelp.org
nahelp.org@gmail.com

Netherlands: www.nahelp.nl
nahelp.nl@gmail.com

United Kingdom:
www.freerecovery.org.uk

Sweden: www.nahelp.se
AntigenFriaNA@gmail.com



**Literary Work in Progress
Input & Review
Material Only**

Standing on our own two feet as Groups is possible and is a reality for many Groups. Many times Groups exercise their autonomy by not participating with the local area. "Our Groups are truly self-governing and are not subject to outside control. Each Group can exist on it's own if it must. Each Group has had to grow on its own and stand on its own two feet."

We can choose to participate or not participate.

Often times when a Group chooses not to participate with the local area services is for vast reasons such as being removed for the area services meeting lists, being told they cannot reproduce literature, being told what literature they can use, etc.

"Whether or not we choose to utilize these services for the benefit of a Group is up to us, they are not thrust down our throats. Some have taken offense to this they say that when they started out they were told they had to register their Group. This may be true, but many Groups exist that have never registered."

Groups who do not register with the local service structure are faced with a lot of work.

The Groups who stand on their own two feet have found creative freedom.

We come together in our Groups and do Public Information; we print our own meeting lists with Groups who are doing similar things as we do. We make posters, fliers, and put them up in our community. We do these things so the addict who still suffers can find us and we can carry the message to them, that is our primary purpose as Groups. These are some examples of creative freedom. We do not need to rely on others to do these things for us, as groups we can do these things on our own.

Autonomy is a word many have a hard time understanding. One member shares an example of how he remembers autonomous as a dictator named auto beating the crap out of the Groups and them screaming no mas. The Group instead chooses to stand on it's own two feet rather than accept the manipulation and control from outsiders.

Each Group should have a Group conscience. Without a Group conscience autonomy is not possible. If a Group doesn't have a conscience it will fall when it takes a stand for things that others might not agree with. This has been seen time and time again as some have done things differently than other Groups only to return to what others tell them they have to do because

they did not take the time to have a conscience on the issues.

Powerful personalities can swing both ways, towards getting things going in the right direction, as well as towards things being about ego and self based rather than God based. If the time is taken to ensure it is actually a Group conscience then the Group will have no problem standing up for their autonomy.

When it is based off one individual's opinion (even if it is in line with our Traditions) there is the danger of the Group changing their views and returning to the insanity our disease wants us to return to.

We can sit down with our Group, pray, and discuss how a service structure can serve our Group. Although A.S.I.S. isn't a local Service body such as the local area or Region; it allows us to connect with other Groups that are like minded. A.S.I.S. for NA will not make decisions for the NA Groups it serves. If there is no Group Conscience or no clear majority on a question then A.S.I.S. for NA will postpone action till its direct responsibility is defined. This Structure was created to serve the Groups and only the Groups.