

October Tradition and Concept of the Month with checklists*

Tradition Ten

No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

Concept Ten:

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

1. Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
2. Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority?”

* The traditions checklists were published in The Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. The Concepts checklists were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office. The version used is the revision dated July, 2002. This handout brought to you by the District 15 Love and Service Committee.