

## Tradition IX

**SHORT FORM: 'AA, AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.'**

**LONG FORM: 'EACH AA GROUP NEEDS THE LEAST POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION. ROTATING LEADERSHIP IS THE BEST. THE SMALL GROUP MAY ELECT ITS SECRETARY, THE LARGE GROUP ITS ROTATING COMMITTEE, AND THE GROUPS OF A LARGE METROPOLITAN AREA THEIR CENTRAL OR INTERGROUP COMMITTEE, WHICH OFTEN EMPLOYS A FULL-TIME SECRETARY. THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE, IN EFFECT, OUR AA GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE. THEY ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF OUR AA TRADITION AND THE RECEIVERS OF VOLUNTARY AA CONTRIBUTIONS BY WHICH WE MAINTAIN OUR AA GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AT NEW YORK. THEY ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE GROUPS TO HANDLE OUR OVER-ALL PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THEY GUARANTEE THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPER, THE AA GRAPEVINE. ALL SUCH REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE GUIDED IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, FOR TRUE LEADERS IN AA ARE BUT TRUSTED AND EXPERIENCED SERVANTS OF THE WHOLE. THEY DERIVE NO REAL AUTHORITY FROM THEIR TITLES; THEY DO NOT GOVERN. UNIVERSAL RESPECT IS THE KEY TO THEIR USEFULNESS.'**

Make a list of areas of your life, e.g.

Home  
Work  
AA  
Friends  
Other

Ask, with each of these areas (where relevant):

- Do I serve myself, a part of the whole, or the whole?
- Do I give orders or suggest?
- Do I let others make mistakes?
- Do I let myself make mistakes?
- Am I rigid or flexible?
- Whom or what do I listen to, to plan my day or life? God or fear?
- Do I mask irresponsibility as 'handing over' by being chaotic and refusing to plan at all?
- Do I manipulate?
- Am I disciplined by rules, suffering, or cheerful submission to divine order?
- Do I seek God's will through prayer? Do I surrender to what comes to me?
- Are my relationships spontaneous, unpretentious, unrehearsed, and candid?
- Do I take myself or life too seriously?

Particular questions applicable to the home group:

- Is my group sufficiently organised?
- Is it over-organised?
- Do the leaders rotate?
- Do they lead through service or govern?
- Are they trusted?
- Are they experienced?
- Does universal respect prevail within the group?
- Does the group provide money to the AA structure to perform those tasks the AA group cannot perform alone?