

PROPOSED DRAFT - April 16, 1969

BY - LAWS
of the

Parent General Service Organization
of Narcotics Anonymous
In the Greater Southern California Area.
Regional.

Adopted May 1969

PREAMBLE.

General Warranties of the General Service Organization: In all its proceedings, the General Service Organization shall observe the spirit of N.A. Tradition, taking care that the Organization never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient funds to operate, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Organization members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Organization action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Organization may act for the service of Narcotics Anonymous groups in the Greater Southern California Area, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that the Society of Narcotics Anonymous, the Organization itself, will always remain democratic in thought and action.

NAME AND PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION.

1. The purpose of the Parent General Service Organization of Narcotics Anonymous shall be the administration and coordination of N.A. activities common to the various groups comprising its membership. These activities include:
 - a. Furthering the N.A. program in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.
 - b. Maintaining a central office or business meeting once a month, as a communication center for N.A. in this area or as a whole.

Specifically excluded from the objectives of the General Service Organization are the operation of any club, clubhouse, or drying out place, and the endorsement of any public or private projects on addiction as outlined in Tradition Six.
(4/16/'69)

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Membership.

2. The membership of the General Service Organization consists of a Representative and an alternate Representative from each N.A. group, provided that such groups shall have been registered with the Greater Southern California Area General Service Organization for sixty (60) days prior to the date or recognized at a meeting of the General Service Organization. Each Group Representative and alternate shall serve for a period of twelve (12) months, subject always to recall by the group he represents. Each member Group shall be entitled to one (1) vote in the meetings of the General Service Organization.

Meetings.

3. The General Service Organization shall meet monthly. A special General Service Organization Meeting may be called at any other time: (a) by a majority vote of the General Service Organization, or (b) by petition to the General Service Organization signed by the representatives of at least 25% of the registered groups. In this latter case, the General Service Organization shall immediately instruct the Secretary or General Service Organization manager to issue proper notification of the special meeting to all the member groups. Proper notification of regular and special meetings of the General Service Organization shall consist of written notices mailed to all groups at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
4. At a General Service Organization meeting held upon proper notification, those Group representatives present shall constitute a quorum, and a simple majority shall govern for voting purposes.

ZONE STRUCTURE.

5. The Greater Southern California Area has been divided into zones. Their total number and the number and identity of their component parts are subject to adjustment in response to growth and in the interest of optimum democratic representation. Proposals for readjustment properly originate in the groups concerned, or by recommendation of the General Service Organization, subject in both instances to final approval of the General Service Organization.

GENERAL SERVICE PARENT ORGANIZATION How Formed - Zone Level

6. a. To form and maintain a General Service Organization, Group Representatives within each zone shall elect from their own body a Delegate and Alternate Delegate who will represent that Zone on the General Service

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Organization for a one (1) year term, subject always to recall by the zone or group he represents. No person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as Delegate. However, a Delegate who at the designated election has not served one full term shall be eligible for re-election to a full year term.

- b. Membership in the General Service Organization shall be limited to N.A. members who have been continuously clean at least ninety (90) days, and maintenance of sobriety shall be required throughout their term of office.

How It Functions

7. a. General Service Organization shall hold regular monthly meetings. (By tradition such meetings have been held the third Wednesday of each month.) Special meetings may be called (1) upon petition by at least 25% of the representatives of the registered groups or (2) by the Delegates of at least one-quarter of the active Zones, or (3) in an emergency by the Chairman on a matter of "major determination" as defined in Paragraph 8 (a). Reasonable notice of such meetings shall be given to all Delegates.
- b. At its first meeting in January, the General Service Organization shall select from their own members a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who will assume their duties immediately. The Chairman shall preside at all General Service Organization and Inter-Group meetings. Upon his election, the General Service Organization Chairman shall resign as Zone or Group Delegate, enabling his Zone or Group to elect a new Zone or Group Delegate, thus insuring all Zones and Groups equality of representation. At General Service Organization meetings the Chairman may vote only in the event of a tie. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of Chairman.
- c. A quorum to conduct regular and special General Service Organization meetings shall consist of Delegates from two-thirds of the active Zones or Groups. A quorum being present, matters before the General Service Organization shall be decided by a simple majority vote, except the withdrawal of funds from the reserve account shall require a two-thirds vote.
8. To insure continuity of service, the General Service Organization shall select for a maximum one (1) year term to begin February 1 and to end January 31, a Director who is not a member of the committee, for Public Relations Coordinator:

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Further, the General Service Organization shall select Directors who are not members of the General Service Organization for each of the offices of General Service Organization Manager and Treasurer.

- a. The General Service Organization Manager shall be selected for a term to begin February 1 of each ODD numbered year, to terminate January 31 of the following ODD numbered year.
 - (a.) The General Service Organization Manager shall be given the responsibility and the authority to report thereon at each monthly meeting of the General Service Organization. He shall refer to the G.S.O. matters of major determination of policies, major expenditures or unusual fund commitments, and major changes in personnel.
 - b. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term to begin February 1 of each EVEN numbered year, to terminate January 31 of the following EVEN numbered year.
 - (b.) The Treasurer shall be one of the co-signers of the bank accounts. He shall make a report of contributions and expenditures at every regular monthly meeting of G.S.O. and shall submit each quarter a complete financial statement.
 - c. Public Relations Coordinator - The Public Relations Coordinator shall handle requests for information about N.A. from local news media, cooperate with procedures of local radio and T.V. programs concerning addiction and N.A., and furnish speakers for non- N.A. organizations. He shall make a complete report thereon at each monthly meeting of the G.S.O.
9. Persons serving as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Service Organization Manager, Public Relations Coordinator, or Treasurer of the General Service Organization shall not succeed themselves in office nor serve in another of the above designated offices until a minimum of one (1) year shall have elapsed since their last period of service. However, the Vice-Chairman may succeed to Chairman, and after a period of one year service as Chairman, he shall then come under the no-succession order. Any Director may be removed during his term of office by a majority vote of the General Service Organization.
 10. Subject to the approval of the G.S.O., the G.S.O. Manager shall hire a qualified person, or otherwise himself, record and transcribe the minutes of all G.S.O. and Inter-Group meetings. The minutes shall be submitted to the Chairman before publication.

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11. All groups within a Zone shall be notified by the Recording Secretary if their duly elected Representative is not present at two (2) consecutive G.S.O. meetings. If the Zone remains unrepresented at the third consecutive meeting, the Recording Secretary shall notify the groups that their Zone is considered inactive.
12. The activities of the G.S.O. shall be financed primarily by the contributions of its member groups and secondarily from such occasional projects or activities as may be authorized by the G.S.O.

The G.S.O. may accept donations from N.A. members conforming with the general practice of Narcotics Anonymous. The acceptance of bequests from any other source or donations from any outside source is prohibited. The G.S.O. shall not accept the responsibility of trusteeship for, or enter into the distribution or allocation of any fund, or funds, set up outside of the General Service Organization.

13. Matters which relate to policy affecting groups in this area, or affecting N.A. as a whole, shall be automatically tabled for thirty (30) days by the G.S.O. and referred to the Zone level for discussion, consideration and recommendation to their Delegates in each Zone.
14. These By-Laws, representing our table of organization, may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the Group Representatives present at any regular meeting of the G.S.O., providing that a copy of the proposed amendment has been submitted to each Group at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which action is to be taken on the amendment.
15. It is hereby brought to the attention of whom it may concern that Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.

Adopted:

CHAIRMAN

DATE

RECORDING SECRETARY