ABSTINENCE, SERVICE, TRUST & RESPONSIBILITY, UNITY – ITALY, 2013

This session can start with a personal share (physical, emotional, spiritual, miracles).

Abstinence – most important thing without exception

ABSTINENCE SKIT

Service – a must! ... group, ig, nsb, region, world service

Service:

• Go to meetings & conventions / set up the chairs / be a speaker / call new members / start new mtgs / take on group, ig, nsb, region, & world level service

• Receive Experience, Strength, and Hope/ contribute / excitement / pass the message / meet new people /rewarding / being around more recovery / giving back some of what was received / self confidence & acceptance from others

Service gives a stronger recovery, keeps abstinence / gets out of "me" and help others

Service

• Service is the 12th step - I have to do it, I can be useful
• To have willingness and enthusiasm is important
• Service is a privilege and a responsibility (duty) – help keep OA alive & well
• "Can’t keep it if you don't give it away"
• Strengthens meetings & members / doing service – foundation of our recovery / unity (unlocks isolation)

1. If asked to give service – consider, pray, have an open mind – others may see something in you that you do not.
2. If asked to give service – say yes, after deal with feelings of inadequacy through learning on the job (anyone can do service).

ASK WITH A SHOW OF HANDS WHO HAS SET UP/PUT AWAY CHAIRS ... DID/ DOES SERVICE AT THE WORLD SERVICE LEVEL? Great... now read # 3 below

3. Encourage others to do service (personal touch ... personal invitation to positions) / only sponsor sponsees if they’re willing to do service.
4. Stress that it helps ourselves 1st and indirectly helps others.
5. Show passion for service.
6. It’s fun! (humor, games)

QUESTIONS
1. What is the most rewarding service for yourself in OA that you did? What did you get out of it?
2. What service have you done in OA which benefitted the most to other OA members? What do you think this gave the others?

TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY
1. Responsibility in service - "I am responsible"
   • Responsibility is in recovery & unity
   • The Steps and Traditions are responsible answers to our physical, emotional, and spiritual problem
2. Trust with faith
   • Trust is synonymous with faith, but also of confidence
   • Let’s reflect on the values and on the behaviors which create trust: honesty, fairness, humility, clearness, acceptance, ...
3. When trust and responsibility meet
   • Step Twelve, Sponsorship, Groups

UNITY

• Traditions -

  1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon OA unity.

    At a meeting, a member comments, "I know we're not supposed to give advice, but I just have to tell Mary how she should handle her problem."

    Break of Tradition 1.

• Twelve Concepts of OA Service -

  1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for OA world services reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

    *Higher Power expressed in representative group conscience; Twelve Traditions respected.

    *Voting members unite in participating at all service levels; "Best decisions" made for OA as a whole.
Concept 1

1. It doesn’t really matter that some members don’t speak during a Group Conscience. They can depend on the more experienced members to find the right answers. (F)
2. The group conscience is the same as majority rule. (F)
3. Members are expected to comply with a group conscience decision. (T) Bonus question: explain why.
4. After a group conscience, there is no recourse to reconsider a decision. (F)
5. Every member has a right to speak, creating an informed group conscience. (T)
6. Minority points of view are welcome during a group conscience discussion. (T)

You’re convinced that a decision made by your group was misguided and will thwart the spirit of several traditions. It’s bothering you so much that you have to do something about it. How will you take this action using the principles in Concept 1?

Consider and describe how the spiritual principle of Concept 1 helps members, groups, and service bodies in our fellowship.