

# INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION of SAA, INC.

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To area delegates and GSRs...

We have before us now a special opportunity to examine and comment on the newly drafted *Twelve Concepts for SAA International Service*. These concepts are the work of a subcommittee of the ISO Conference Steering Committee, which was convened following a clear statement by the Conference several years ago that SAA would be best served if we had our own concepts.

Since its inception, our fellowship and the International Service Organization (ISO) have subscribed to the Twelve Concepts for World Service of Alcoholics Anonymous. They are, in fact, codified in the Bylaws of the ISO of SAA along with a strong expression of gratitude to AA, the original twelve-step program.

To fully understand the need for and function of the concepts, we might consider how they fit into the bigger picture of our fellowship, the twelve-step program, and the ISO. At the outset, it is important to recognize that the principles expressed in the concepts are the same as the principles that undergird the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions. They are the spiritual principles referred to frequently in *Sex Addicts Anonymous* (the Green Book).

The difference among the steps, traditions, and concepts lies in their primary application. The Twelve Steps are primarily related to our individual recovery program. They suggest the actions each of us should take to achieve recovery from addictive thoughts and behavior. As expressed in the Green Book, they are the heart of our recovery program.

The Twelve Traditions, on the other hand, are about unity, and they apply primarily to the function of our local groups. They are designed to keep our groups healthy and focused on our primary purpose of carrying the SAA message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.

The Twelve Concepts apply primarily to the service structure and service functions of SAA. While applicable in principle at all service levels, they primarily apply to the ISO, assuring that at the level of international service the principles of the program are being applied consistently and conscientiously in support of the fellowship.

Organizationally, the ISO is at the bottom of the “inverted triangle”—responsive to the needs of the fellowship, which is at the top of the triangle. In order for that to happen, the fellowship must provide spiritual guidance, which occurs through ascertaining the will of our Higher Power and expressing it through advisory actions of the ISO Conference.

## **How then shall we proceed?**

Your Conference Steering Committee recommends the following approach:

1. Take one concept at a time.
2. Read the concept carefully. (Optional: Read the corresponding AA Concept.)
3. Consider the principles identified by the subcommittee as related to this concept and note if you think any other principles are expressed in the concept.
4. Read the corresponding proposed SAA concept.
5. Consider if you think the proposed SAA concept adequately expresses the principles as identified by the subcommittee.
6. Send any comments, concerns, and suggestions you may have about the concept to the subcommittee at [twelveconcepts@saa-iso.org](mailto:twelveconcepts@saa-iso.org).

Your input is valued and will be considered by the subcommittee and adjustments to the concepts will be made if thought appropriate.

As mentioned before, this is the way that you as a member of the fellowship can help reach a consensus on the value and appropriateness of the proposed concepts.

In the meantime, the ISO Board of Trustees, Literature Committee, and Conference Steering Committee are drafting a joint motion that will propose a process by which these new SAA Concepts might be adopted. This motion will be presented to the Conference at its annual meeting in October 2021.

You will receive more information when the process motion and associated background information is completed. Until then, go to work on the proposed concepts and become a contributor to the welfare of the fellowship and the ISO.

In grateful service,  
ISO Conference Steering Committee