

10am - Meeting Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Erica S.

Translation by Nicholas. Thank you for your service!

55 DCMs, GSRs and visitors attended. Erica S. facilitated.

Welcome to 10 newcomers!

Presentation – How Do the Warranties Affect General Service? Denise, DCM, Dist. 12, Sonoma

Our presenter was grateful that she learned a lot in preparing this presentation.

- Our World Service Conference conforms to the 12 Traditions, which express spiritual principles
- In 1955, the 12 Articles laid out the basis of the General Service conference, including its structure and operational details. The charter was also established in 1955
- There was a 1955 resolution to accept the charter and include it in the current Conference charter
- The first 11 Articles can be amended by the conference at any time
- Article 12, often called the “AA Bill of Rights” is very difficult to change or amend as it holds our general warranties
- The By-Laws, which include the 12 steps and 12 Traditions, ensure the well-being of groups in AA as a whole; the By-Laws define the scope of AA and how we regulate ourselves. They are about the mechanics of how General Service works. Amended in 1957, written in 1955, the name of the foundation was changed to the General Service Board of AA.
- In 1962, the Twelve Concepts were written to simplify contents of the conference charter and to eliminate confusion of the entities
- The Concepts explain what, why, how and about how spiritual principles get enacted. They summarize the Charter in fairly easy-to-read language. The illustrated guide of the Concepts is even more user-friendly. Text
- The Twelfth Concept drawn is devoted to six principles. The 12th Concept, Steps and Traditions are difficult to make changes to. Any changes to these three documents require the written consent of every AA group in our fellowship, then 75% of those who respond have to agree on the changes, Text
- The Warranties represent the wisdom and experience which guides our program. They are protection from errors and from the natural temptations of wealth, power and prestige. They guide us on a spiritual path in decision-making. They counsel prudence in order to create harmony, effective and consistent spiritually-based actions.
- We are to represent the 12 Traditions in everything that we do. Article 12, the 12th Concept and the general warranties are all the same and ensure we are all responsible and serve as guardians of our fellowship.

Members Share

Round the table, sharing session-style

- She states that the 12 Traditions help us understand our Concepts and the Warranties are taken out of the Concepts. Concepts #6 and #4 are both about creating a democratic society and the process of decision-making. Warranty 3 is the right of decision. Each warranty will

put us in a Concept. Anything that seems to not feel right – if you look at the Warranties, you may find a solution.

- He liked that presenter tied the Warranties, Concepts and the Articles all together. Concept #6 is about upside-down triangle. The “rulers” of AA are the groups, and the people at the point of the triangle serve the group.
- The presentation increased her excitement for general service.
- He’s quick to criticize Bill W. because of personal issues but the presentation reminded him of the phenomenal job the founders did to craft a society and hand it off to the members. It is a mind-boggling example of tolerance, compassion and love. He wishes the rest of the world and country could follow this approach to working together. He is grateful that we have it here.
- She reflected her appreciation of the presentation and the gift that our structure is
- He noted that these spiritual principles guide us to not tolerate tyranny in any way
- She has tried to read and tried to pick it apart but the presentation made it very understandable
- One of the things that made him stay in AA was the evidence that General Service members believe in the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties
- Many thanked the presenter and said that the mystery about the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties is beginning to clear
- He likes that it is clearly stated that no preference is given to any one member and that we are all equal. No one’s voice is “louder” than another’s.
- He asked, “How can DCMs use these principles in action?” Everyone in General Service is challenged to exemplify the 12 Traditions. Via group conscience, voicing an opinion, we seek to work from the 12 Traditions and to come from our hearts. Our opinions and responsibilities are being enacted with these six principles in mind.
- She is grateful for these documents that lay out a sense of ideals that she wishes the world would reflect. She likes what she sees so far in AA.
- She said, “If Bill W. could just see us now!” There are so many members passionate about General Service! How many people on a Saturday morning want to gather and speak about the Warranties?! It was important to her to have a service sponsor, and she strives to be a conduit and tool to guide her sponsees. The presentation gives her the courage and inspiration to dig in.
- She remembers the first time someone mentioned the Six Warranties in Concept 12. At her District meeting, the subject of previous DCMC who’d stolen district money was discussed. Many members wanted to be punitive. A visiting area officer quietly restated Warranty #5, which talks about no punitive actions. No one said a word after that.
- He noted that the presentation is a great reminder of our singleness of purpose. It is better to do one thing well than a bunch of things poorly.
- She is grateful to live in a society based on spiritual principles, including humility, prudence and compassion.
- General Service always seems to bring us back to the Traditions. We are all inheritors of traditions.
- She notes, “You get a warranty when you get an appliance. If you look at the warranties as guarantees, our Warranties guarantee that the General Service Conference will conform to AA’s 12 Traditions.” They ask General Service Reps to learn, memorize, understand and live the Traditions. The Twelve Steps guide her into developing spiritual principles. The Twelve Traditions keep meetings operating along spiritual principles. The Warranties guarantee no

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matter where she goes to an AA meeting, we are honoring the same spiritual principles. These spiritual principles mean she can go to a meeting anywhere and feel safe, comfortable and accepted.

- She definitely needs to study this more.
- For him, the presentation “opened the hole in the fence” just a little wider and closed up a few gaps.
- He thanked the presenter for the history and noting what can be amended and changed. He is grateful for the simplicity and understandability.
- He notes that these guiding documents guarantee that General Service is actually “service, not politics.” Three parts in the 12th Step address the three legacies, which refer back to recovery, unity and service and to the spiritual principles in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts. It’s a circle and an almost an unbreakable structure because it keeps people’s power-seeking out of the loop.
- This presentation opened his eyes to the miracle that is AA.
- She sad, for her, General Service is not about self-recognition, it’s about service. The Six Warranties are an inventory on how she is serving.
- She said, “The Twelve Steps starts with ‘We.’ They are about us, how we work together and how we help each other and the newcomers.” The “highest level” we reach here is sober. This presentation was a real study of principles before personalities.
- He heard that the Concepts were created so that AA will always be around.

Next Month’s Topic – How Do We Discuss Money in AA? – Presenter: Jon, District 10, Marin

- ALL – Please bring radios. We need everyone to have an opportunity to share.
- Thank you, Nicholas, for translating.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline P., Recording Secretary