12 Concepts Presentation – NAATW 2018

**Keith Davis, alcoholic, sobriety date September 4th, 2002, current Delegate, Panel 67, Area 65 Northeast Texas. I’ve been to all 5 of these workshops, on my own dime at times. Because I believe in the importance of this work. If this part of the panel sucks, blame Don, I learned I was participating 45 minutes before we began. Thanks Don. No, seriously, I am glad to participate my own recovery today.**

1. Groups should hold final responsibility and ultimate authority
   1. **Where this is manifesting is how we are becoming a global community? Nowhere does it say that the Districts, Areas, or Regions were designed to be political lines - these were designed to overcome the fact that having community en mass was not possible, but it is today.**
2. While the groups hold ultimate authority - the conference is be the actual voice and effective group conscience
   1. **As a Delegate, I do not have a constituency, I am accountable to A.A. as a whole. Why are we resistant to using tools to find out what the “whole” wants?**
3. Right of Decision
   1. **Our ability to make decisions is becoming faster, but so is our ability to gather information and to report back those decisions.**
4. Right of Participation
   1. **This should be a no-brainer - can you imagine out excited Bill would be about the methods we have to participate today. That being said, the problem with overall participation lacking at times has rarely been because of a lack of a method - apathy, ignorance, resentment, selfishness are what will kill us, the Internet does not have that power.**
5. Right of appeal
   1. **We are all well aware of out the voice of the majority (or the minority) is using today’s communication tools, like social media, to drown out the voices of the minority - how vigilant we must be to assure that we use these tools raise the voice of the minority!**
6. Groups delegate to the Conference, the Conference delegates to the General Service Board, and the board delegates to the office
   1. **Are we going to keep avoiding the use of technology for Delegation because of some outdated sense of “holding on to our important past”? The value of the past expires the moment I can’t back it up with spiritual value of today.**
7. Traditional power of the Conference vs legal power the General Service Board
   1. **A.A. is full of actual lawyers, jailhouse lawyers, and those that are sure that the legal profession is full of sharks, but we can all agree that the legal outweighs the spiritual in the rest of the world. We are a spiritual organization that has a little business to attend to. The great spiritual value of the board surrendering its power the Conference should be an example to us all.**
8. The Trustees role should be one of planning and oversight - not of implementation.
   1. **With the technology advances of today, and the ability to band together based on need instead of geography, are we at a point that we can start to withdraw some of the services from office and A.A.W.S.?**
9. Leadership, ever a vital need!
   1. **For those of us that know, we need to lead the way online, not just in person (see my Facebook talk later today for more on this subject).**
10. Authority equal to responsibility
    1. **Before I was a Delegate, I see what looks like an entrenchment of power at times, almost a “we know better” attitude. Now, that I am one, I don’t see that much. What is the problem then? Not the amount of authority, obviously, but the willingness to give it up and the communication of that fact. We (meaning those us who are Trusted Servants), need to make it know that if the groups want all the power back, they should have it - we need not fear the chaos that would cause. This is the evil and corroding thread.**
11. How well the General Service Board’s direction is executed depends on how well they choose their committees, directors, staff, and consultants.
    1. **Yes, we need to choose those that have the skills and experience, but none of that should supersede the importance of choosing those that are willing to serve and sacrifice - those that are trying to sponsor others, giving away all that they have.**
12. Warranties
    1. Do’s and don'ts
       1. No perilous wealth and power
       2. Sufficient operating funds / prudent reserve
       3. No unqualified authority
       4. Importance of full discussion and substantial unanimity
       5. No punitive actions & no public controversy
       6. No government
       7. Importance of democracy
    2. **Like the Traditions, the Concepts were not designed to protect me from you, but you from me, AA from me, and me from my own ego or like a prayer that I have used for 16 years, God, please, save us from ourselves!**

**I am technologist by trade. Ha! Who am I kidding? I think I came out of the womb a nerd! I am quick to adopt the new gadget or technology idea. In fact, to David’s point about the polling process we used this year, there is a significant flaw, which I would be happy with discuss with you later, but do I think we should abandon it? Heck no. My first sponsor told me once when I was anguishing over a decision, he said “pray about it, become as well informed as possible, and feel free to go screw it up” (I cleaned up his language).**

**However, that’s just an implementation of spiritual principles in my life today. God is everything or else he is nothing, what is our choice to be? The books says it’s a choice - not a belief. We choose that He is by our actions, not by our words, when we take a chance and do what we think is best (importantly, not what we think is simply good enough). Are we sober by God’s grace or do we think now with all of this experience that we can now implement a man-made solution? I know that no a member in this room actually believes that nonsense, but something happens when you put a group of us together “for the good of AA”. The Concepts were designed to keep us from getting “to big for our britches”…but have we? Let us know look deep into how we can sacrifice more, or otherwise we may one day find we are just too big of an organization for those spiritual principles - I had that problem, when I came to AA, I saw what looked like a flimsy reed. Hopefully, as a whole, we will grasp this reed and find once again that it is the loving and powerful hand of God.**