



Twelve Concepts of Service in EDA

Like the Twelve Steps through which EDA members build strong and resilient recovery, and the Twelve Traditions through which EDA groups find unity through focus on singleness of purpose, EDA's Twelve Concepts provide the foundational principles for EDA service organizations that help EDA groups carry the message of full recovery to everyone with a desire to recover from an eating disorder: delegation of authority to elected representatives empowered to represent the collective conscience of EDA members and groups as a whole in matters affecting other groups and EDA as a whole.

The Twelve Concepts of EDA, in brief¹:

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for EDA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The collective conscience of our whole Fellowship is entrusted to servants—General Service Representatives—elected by each EDA group and responsible to those they serve, to whom the groups' decision-making authority, and its voice in matters affecting other groups and EDA as a whole, is delegated.
3. To insure effective leadership, each service board or committee formed by EDA groups and their elected GSRs—including district, regional, and national service boards such as the General Service Board of EDA and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—is empowered with a "Right of Decision." Each service unit has the responsibility and power to act on behalf of those who have entrusted it with the authority to do so.
4. Service boards and committees including all the aforementioned maintain a "Right of Participation" that includes voting representation. This ensures that those entrusted with service at each level have ownership and responsibility for decisions at that level.
5. Throughout our service units, a "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail. It is essential that minority opinion is heard, and that personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. While levels of service units may be added or removed as needed to enable effective communication and efficient service, the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the elected officers of the General Service Board of EDA.

¹ EDA's Twelve Concepts of Service are modelled on those of Alcoholics Anonymous. Permission to reprint and adapt material published by AA World Services does not mean that AA has reviewed or approved this or any other EDA material. AA is a program for recovery from alcoholism only. Use of AA material in the program of EDA, which is patterned after that of AA but which addresses other issues, does not constitute endorsement by or affiliation with AA. Please see footnote 2 for a citation referencing the original AA Twelve Concepts.



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7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board of EDA are legal instruments, empowering the elected General Service Board officers to manage and conduct EDA world service affairs on behalf of EDA members and EDA groups.
8. The elected officers of the General Service Board are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance for EDA as a whole. They have custodial oversight of separately incorporated service units, exercising this through their ability to elect the directors of these entities. EDA funds should be used to further EDA's primary purpose—to carry the message of full recovery to people who have a desire to recover from an eating disorder—and must be managed responsibly.
9. Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications. Our approach embraces transparency and accountability for all decisions affecting EDA as a whole.
10. For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.
11. The General Service Board of EDA should always have qualified and committed boards, committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our current and future functioning and safety.
12. The General Service Board of EDA shall observe EDA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Fellowship it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.²

² With the exception of EDA's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts, EDA literature does not simply substitute "EDA" in place of "AA." We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the original AA materials, and per guidance from AA World Services, to read AA material as written, without word substitution. Proper references, including a statement such as that found in footnote 1 above, should be provided whenever citing AA material. A citation for AA's Twelve Concepts (short form):

AA Service Guide. (2016) New York, NY: AA World Services, Inc., S113-S115. Retrieved from https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf