

**RESOURCES FOR**  
**chapter twelve**  
**FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**contents**

Fellowship development inquiries..... 1  
    Activity questions ..... 1  
    Post-trip follow-up questions ..... 2  
Sample letters ..... 5



# FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT









A broad range of potential fellowship development activities are discussed in Chapter Twelve of the *Public Relations Handbook*. Following are some resources that can be used and adapted to various fellowship development opportunities.

## Fellowship development inquiries

Before beginning a fellowship development activity, you may find it helpful to ask a series of questions of your committee, and also to the group, service committee, or NA community that you hope to reach. These questions are presented as samples and may be modified to meet the needs of each fellowship development endeavor.

### Fellowship development activity questions for an NA committee

*Following are examples of questions that a committee could ask prior to initiating any fellowship development effort.*

-  What do we hope to accomplish with the assistance we are offering?
-  How much do we know about the NA community we are preparing to contact?
-  Do we know how they perceive their current situation? Have they asked us for the help?
-  What are some of the challenges that we might face? Is there a history of conflict or turmoil with the identified fellowship development group? Are there geographic concerns? Are there language barriers? Are there cultural differences?
-  When we consider our current service structure and trusted servant resources, what do we think is the ideal way to achieve our goal? Could a new sub-committee or ad hoc be formed? Would the fellowship development activity be better served by combining efforts with another service committee?
-  What communication strategy and method (phone call, email, or land letter) would help us reach the identified group? Would the project be best served by sending a group of trusted servants? How can we best attract the identified members or group toward cooperation with this project?
-  How would we evaluate the effectiveness of this project?
-  Will we be able to continue our support for an extended period of time? What are the ways that we can continue that support? What is the projected period of time for which support will be needed (six months, a year, etc.)?

### Questions for the identified community who needs assistance

*These sample questions can be used as a guide by the committee that is reaching out to the identified fellowship development community. The committee could use all or some of these questions to gather information and to help in the planning process. If questions are to be included in a letter, these questions could be the basis of the letter.*

- ✎ How many NA meetings do you have each week? What is the approximate size of the fellowship in your area?
- ✎ Do you have members with clean time? With service experience? What is the range of clean time? Service experience?
- ✎ How are your meetings attracting newcomers? And, if meetings do not attract newcomers, why? How do the groups support the atmosphere of recovery in the meetings?
- ✎ Have you formed an area service committee in your community? How do you provide services? Do you have any specific subcommittees for service provision such as hospitals & institutions, public information, etc.? What resources (trusted servants, members, and financial) do you have available to carry the message of recovery?
- ✎ Geographically, how far apart are your meetings from one another? Have you ever come together as a fellowship for an activity or event? Please describe any challenges that you may have with travel in your community.
- ✎ Have you considered that you might be better able to carry the NA message of recovery with some assistance from a neighboring service committee? Are you willing to consider partnering with our committee in an effort to better serve our NA communities?
- ✎ What do you see as the most effective way for us to help you? Learning day workshop? Help in the development of a service committee? Our attendance at your committee meetings? Your attendance at our committee meetings? Other ideas?
- ✎ Are you in communication with other NA members or service committees that are outside your immediate area? Have you teamed with other NA members or communities to provide services?
- ✎ Are you in contact with NA World Services?
- ✎ Do you have NA literature available for your groups? Would additional literature help your groups/members?
- ✎ Is there any other way that our committee might be of service to your members? Please explain.







*These last three points are for communities whose primary language is not English.*

- ✎ Do you have literature available in your language? Do you have literature available in English?
- ✎ Have you translated any literature? Do you need help with translating literature?
- ✎ Do you have any English-speaking members? Does English literature have any value for your community?

## **Post-trip follow-up questions**








*While it may not be appropriate in every situation, sometimes a committee may decide upon a fellowship development trip. If that is the case, following are examples of questions a committee may want to ask the community they visited. The responses may help a committee to improve its*

*fellowship development efforts. Ask the recipient community to provide as much detail as possible in their answers.*

-  What were you hoping would be achieved as a result of the fellowship development visit? How successful was the travel team in meeting those goals?
-  How did your NA community respond to the visit?
-  If your community desires a follow-up visit from us, what would be the goals of that trip?
-  Were the recovery and service materials used during the visit helpful?
-  Were the members and trusted servants who visited your community helpful? Well-informed? Were they good communicators?
-  Do you have any other feedback that would help us to improve future visits?



*Following are some questions the committee may want to ask itself to evaluate, plan, and improve their fellowship development service efforts. Consider the questions that seem applicable to the goals of the trip.*

-  What were our desired outcomes for this visit? Were these outcomes achieved? Where didn't we meet our goals for this trip? Why?
-  Do we think that a follow-up visit is necessary? What do we believe we can accomplish with a follow-up visit?
-  Were the materials we supplied useful? Is there anything else we could bring on future trips to enhance the visit?
-  Did we remain within our budget for the trip?
-  Were our trusted servants well-prepared? (Some of the areas to consider are expenses, travel arrangements, translations, and workshop planning and scheduling.)
-  Did we experience any difficulties due to cultural or legal differences?
-  Additional feedback and suggestions?



# LETTERS

**F**ellowship development includes diverse service tasks such as reaching out to an individual, inviting groups to participate in the service committee, reconnecting with groups that are no longer participating in the service structure, and reaching out to an emerging NA community or service committee. Some of the challenges that you may find in your efforts to connect with members can include language barriers, cultural differences, racial issues, resentments, lack of understanding, and lack of willingness to be engaged. Yet the rewards of fellowship development service may be thought of as spiritual gifts. The isolated or perhaps struggling members connecting with more members in NA may be the spark that keeps their small groups alive and motivated

The committee may find that what works in one part of the world, or with one culture, may not work somewhere else. For these reasons, it is difficult to provide a comprehensive sample of a fellowship development letter that could be used and adapted by your committee for any and all fellowship development efforts. We offer some of the principles of fellowship development—unity, communication, and attraction—that can easily be part of any letter that you compose.

The following sample letter consists of a generic opening and a closing paragraph that you might consider using, along with suggestions for the main body of the letter, which is developed depending on the intended purpose. These are meant as starting points only and may be freely adapted as necessary.

## Opening paragraph example

Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ committee of Narcotics Anonymous sends our greetings and hope that this letter finds you healthy and enjoying your recovery. In the spirit of unity and our primary purpose, we are reaching out to you so that, together, we can better carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering addict. We want to help you to carry that message, and we hope that you will, in turn, help us in our efforts to fulfill our primary purpose.



*Below are examples of what could be included in the body of the letter for identified fellowship development service efforts.*

### **Area service committee to an isolated NA group:**

From our area service committee's records of GSR attendance, we realize that it has been *(insert length of time)* since we have had members from the *(insert group's name)* group attend our area service committee meeting. We believe that all NA groups have a valuable contribution to make to our service efforts and hope to rekindle our relationship to better achieve our mutual goals.

We have recently been working on *(insert brief outline of a few current projects—Issue Discussion Topics, learning days for subcommittees, area convention, etc.)* and desire your group’s experience and involvement in these service projects. These service efforts are helping us to attract new members and improve our service delivery. We are reaching out to you to see whether you want to join us in our service efforts and whether we can be of service to you in your efforts.

### **Area/Regional service committee to an emerging NA community:**

We have recently become aware of the existence of NA meetings in your local area and are excited to make our initial contact with your NA community. We hope that this is the beginning of a mutually beneficial and supportive relationship.

We are the *(provide name of area/region)* covering *(insert geographical details)* and are made up of *(insert number of groups/areas)*. We have recently worked with members from *(insert brief details)* and found that the experience both excited and engaged our members. We want you to be aware of our committee; we can support each other in our efforts to carry the message of recovery to addicts. Additionally, we would like to learn whether you are providing services, how many meetings you have each week, and the size of your NA community.

### **Closing**

We have enclosed a questionnaire with this letter. Our desire is that you complete the questionnaire and we begin to work together. We look forward to hearing from you and anticipate coming together with you in the near future. In the event that we do not hear from you, we will be contacting you again in approximately six weeks. With our combined service efforts, we certainly could reach more addicts.

In Loving Service,

(provide one contact person)

(address)

(email)