Article III—Purpose

Section 1. Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of this organization is to aid those who have a desire to stop cluttering. The general purpose of this organization is to coordinate efforts to carry the message of recovery to those whose lives are affected by clutter, by practicing the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Clutterers Anonymous, as adapted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Section 2. Aim & Objectives

Clutterers Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem with clutter and help each other to recover. We achieve this as individuals, groups and a fellowship by practicing our 12 Steps of Recovery and by being guided by our 12 Traditions. Each of them embodies a set of principles for living life effectively, inside and outside CLA. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop cluttering. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. Our fellowship is based on suggestion, interchange of experience, rotation of leadership, and service. Clutterers Anonymous is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology, or religious doctrine; we take no position on outside issues. Our primary purpose is to stop cluttering one day at a time, and to carry this message of recovery to clutterers who still suffer.

(Copyright © A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Reprinted with permission.)

Section 3. The Twelve Steps of CLA

1. We admitted we were powerless over clutter—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God’s will for us and the power to carry that out.

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Section 4. The Twelve Traditions of CLA

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon CLA unity.

2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

3. The only requirement for CLA membership is a desire to stop cluttering.

4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or CLA as a whole.

5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the person who still suffers.

6. A CLA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the Clutterers Anonymous name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7. Every CLA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. Clutterers Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

9. Clutterers Anonymous, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10. CLA has no opinion on outside issues; hence the Clutterers Anonymous name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television, and all other media.

12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are reprinted and adapted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Permission to reprint and adapt this material does not mean that AA has reviewed or approved the contents of this publication, nor that AA agrees with the views expressed herein. AA is a program of recovery from alcoholism only - use of the Twelve Steps in connection with programs and activities which are patterned after AA, but which address other problems, does not imply otherwise.

Section 5. Incorporation

CLA WSO is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes as making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.)