

TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ShA

- Tradition 1:** Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon ShA unity.
- Tradition 2:** For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God or Higher Power as may be expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- Tradition 3:** The only requirement for ShA membership is a desire to stop shoplifting or stealing.
- Tradition 4:** Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or ShA as a whole.
- Tradition 5:** Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the shoplifter or stealer who still suffers.
- Tradition 6:** An ShA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the ShA name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- Tradition 7:** Every ShA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- Tradition 8:** ShA should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- Tradition 9:** ShA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- Tradition 10:** ShA has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the ShA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- Tradition 11:** Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain our personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, television and films.
- Tradition 12:** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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