



# *RECOVERY ROAD ONLINE*

## **GROUP UNITY STEP ONE**

**ZOOM UP THE HIGHWAY OF HOPE**



## GROUP UNITY STEP ONE

*Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon Recovery Road Online unity.*

The unity of Recovery Road Online is the most cherished quality our fellowship has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole or RRO dies. Without unity, the heart of Recovery Road Online would cease to beat, our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God, and His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in the deep pits they have dug for themselves, compulsive gamblers would reproach us and say, 'What a great thing Recovery Road Online might have been!' Does this mean some will anxiously ask that in Recovery Road Online the individual doesn't count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it? We may certainly answer this question with a loud "NO!"

We believe there isn't a fellowship on earth that lavishes more devoted care upon its individual members; surely, there is none that more jealously guards the individual's right to think, talk, and act as he wishes. No RRO member can compel another to do anything: no one can be punished or expelled. Our Twelve Steps of Recovery are suggestions. The Twelve Steps of Group Unity, which guarantee Recovery Road Online unity, contain not a single "Don't". They repeatedly say, "We Ought", but never "You Must". To many minds, all this liberty for the individual spells sheer



## GROUP UNITY STEP ONE

anarchy. Every newcomer, every friend who looks at Recovery Road Online for the first time, is greatly puzzled. They see liberty verging on license; yet, they recognize at once that Recovery Road Online has an irresistible strength of purpose and action. "How," they ask, "can such a crowd of anarchists function at all? How can they possibly place their common welfare first? What in Heaven's name holds them together?"

Those who look closely soon have the key to this strange paradox. The Recovery Road Online member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His or her life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If they deviate too far, the penalty is sure and swift: they sicken and die. At first, they go along because they must, but later they discover a way of life they really want to live. Moreover, they find they cannot keep this priceless gift unless they give it away. Neither they nor anyone else can survive unless they carry the Recovery Road Online message.

The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made: most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that they are but a small part of a great whole and that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the fellowship. They learn that the clamor of desires and ambitions within them must be silenced whenever they might damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive, or the individual will not.





## GROUP UNITY STEP ONE

So, at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us, we saw personalities destroying whole peoples. The struggle for wealth, power, and prestige was tearing humanity apart as never before. If strong people were stalemated in the search for peace and harmony, what was to become of our erratic band of compulsive gamblers? As we had once struggled and prayed for individual recovery, just so earnestly did we commence to quest for the principles through which Recovery Road Online, itself, might survive. Our anvils of experience, the structure of our fellowship, was hammered out.

From the beginnings of Alcoholics Anonymous, we reacted to the story of Eddie Rickenbacker and his courageous company, when their plane crashed in the Pacific. Like us, they had suddenly found themselves saved from death; but still floating upon a perilous sea. How well they saw that their common welfare came first. None might become selfish of water or bread; each needed to consider the other; and in abiding faith, they knew they must find their real strength. And this they did find, in measure to transcend all the defects of their frail craft and every test of uncertainty; pain, fear, despair, and even the death of one.

Thus, has it been with Recovery Road Online. By faith and by work, we have been able to build upon the lessons of an incredible experience. These live today in the Twelve Steps of Group Unity; which, with God willing, shall sustain us in unity for so long as He may need us.