**Q of the Month June 2018**

**Tradition 6**

**“Our family groups ought never to endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim; but although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Narcotics Anonymous.”**

Our primary purpose must be clear in order for us to stay on track. It is not enough to “kind of know,” or “think we know.” We are unlikely to be distracted by things that are totally unrelated to Nar-Anon. However, those things that are very closely related to Nar-Anon are where we are most likely to be led astray. While we may feel linked to other helping organizations, such as churches, treatment centers, addiction education programs, other support fellowships and other 12 Step or recovery programs, ultimately we stand alone as Nar-Anon.

Our primary purpose in Nar-Anon is to help families of addicts. The three very specific ways we do this are by practicing the 12 Steps of Nar-Anon, by encouraging and understanding our addicted relatives and by welcoming and giving comfort to families of addicts. At times it can be difficult to keep the line that divides us clear. We are hopeful and excited about recovery, yet, in equal measure, we are suspended in grief as we watch our loved ones slip further away from us. Sometimes we want to band together with other groups of people who support recovery or who share our views on addiction. We may think about what we could accomplish if all recovery groups, advocates, professionals and fellowships worked together to fight addiction.

This past weekend, I started down the path of being distracted by *what could be* when I participated in a “Rise Up Against Addiction” 5k race hosted by another recovery network. As an individual, participation is a choice I can make. As a Nar-Anon member, participation is a choice I can make. What is not a choice, is to form a team of Nar-Anon members, and call ourselves “New Perspectives Nar-Anon Team.” What is not a choice is to raise funds as a Nar-Anon team and donate those funds to another organization. What is not a choice is identifying a group as Nar-Anon at an event sponsoring another organization. In the excitement of the day, I saw the bigger, grander picture of everyone working together, but in reality, it was just another entity’s fundraiser. I can still do this race next year. I can form a team. I can raise funds through donations. What I can’t do, is involve Nar-Anon in this event, in any way. I even need to research if I may leave Nar-Anon business cards there as a resource.

Two character traits I found in my research of Trad 6 that I hadn’t considered before are Ego and Caretaking. Blowing off anonymity and desiring to be noticed, by name, by group, by action, etc is to place ego amidst Nar-Anon, a place ego does not belong. Secondly, we must guard against care-taking because it is easy to say “yes” and many of us are prone to taking care of others but not ourselves.

**Q. How might our groups be diverted from our primary purpose?**

**Rescuing? Instructing? Providing literature? Groups competing? Hoarding money?**

**Q. How might our groups be perceived as endorsing or being affiliated with our meeting space?**

**Self-sustaining/Rent? How listed in bulletin? Use conference approved literature only?**

Prepared by Theresa C, Alt Del MWR. Sources: SESH p171, Guiding Principles p 99-108