Q of the Month August 2018

**Tradition 8: “Nar-Anon 12th step work shall remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”**

This month the topic is service. The annual assembly will be upon us shortly and there are 4 positions to be filled- Treasurer, Alternate Delegate, Vice-Chair and Narateen Process Person.

If you ask for testimony, people who are in service will deliver. They will say service has been rewarding. They will say it has been more of a personal growth experience than they ever expected. They will say they have learned about team work, cooperation, mutual respect and unity in a different way than they knew before. I like to say, I may not know the answer, but I know where to find the answer. We are a group of volunteers, doing service work as best we can, and we are learning as we go.

As a group of non-professionals, we are equals. We have no boss, no leader. Our Chair, Dale, keeps order in our regional committee work and teleconferences, but he does not direct us. His role is to keep us focused, on task, and on time. We have not had a Vice- Chair for the past year. Because the Chair position is only a 2 year term, it is imperative that a Vice-Chair be elected at the upcoming assembly. This nominee should be organized, have a working knowledge of the Nar-Anon service structure and can facilitate a variety of personalities and skill sets through a project or event.

We have been beyond fortunate to have Rod as our Treasurer for several years now. This position is perfect for someone who likes to work mostly alone and is not terrified by numbers, decimal points and budgets. Rod uses an Excel spread sheet for his financial reports, but he is more than happy to help the next treasurer with his or her preferred tracking method.

The Narateen Process Person position has been held by Kathy S from the North Kansas City area. She has labored and researched outside agencies to get our regional Narateen requirements up and running. We now have 2-3 Narateen groups getting ready to start. The NTPP handles background checks and ensures all teen safety requirements are in place. This is currently a one year position, with an optional additional year.

The last position available this year is the Alternate Delegate. This fall, Ruth will step down as Delegate and Theresa will move from Alternate Delegate to Delegate. This position is a 3 year term as alternate with a sequential 3 year term as Delegate, for a total of 6 years. Thanks, Ruth! That’s a long stretch! The Alternate Delegate and the Delegate attend the World Service Conference in Torrance, California, every even year, in April, to vote the Group Conscious of the Midwest Region’s NFGs for or against changes to the Nar-Anon program, to approve literature and to elect to the BOT. Robert’s Rules of Order are used at the WSC. On the Regional Service Committee, the Alternate and the Delegate answer questions that arise regarding the Guide to Local Services or the Guide to World Services. The Alternate and the Delegate serve in both the regional and the world levels, as liaison positions. The ability to convey thoughts through speaking and writing are highly desirable.

While these open positions are good reasons to do service work, they are not the only reasons. What we don’t often talk about, but perhaps should talk about is doing service work because it is the right thing to do. Period. We are asked in our program to do service work at every level.

We start by setting up the meeting room and welcoming newcomers. We clean up after ourselves, turn off the lights and store our books and tissues.

We take on the group roles. We lead meetings, we purchase literature, we participate in workshops or volunteer at retreats. We become the secretary or the treasurer or the GSR.

Yes, service is a commitment. We are asked to share in the responsibility of keeping our group healthy and growing. We are asked by our program to take turns. We are told by our program to take breaks from service so others have the opportunity to serve.

We pray we can hear the whisper and glimpse the path that our Higher Power is showing us. We do service because we know it is the next right thing to do.

Questions:

1. **Have you served?**
2. **Is this your time to serve?**