**Q of the Month Tradition 9 May 18, 2019**

**“Our groups, as such, ought never to be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”**

Our groups, **“as such,”** ought never to be organized. The spirit that fills the room when we gather for a meeting - When one person helps another - When one member shares something another member has been longing to hear - When a paragraph of literature is read that results in a long awaited A-ha moment - When we work the steps in our own way and in our own time, without judgment - The empathy, experience, strength and hope we share - The energy and love that flows between us. This is the “as such” that ought never to be organized. There is no right or wrong, there is no one way or only way. There is no final exam. The only authority in Nar-Anon is a loving Higher Power as expressed through our group conscious.

We understand that **“ought never to be organized”** does not mean we operate fast and loose. We meet at specific times on specific days at specific places. We rely on schedules, websites and event calendars. We have volunteers who lead the groups, collect donations, welcome newcomers and do outreach among other services. Whether a Nar-anon Family Group or an Area or a Region, we follow a structure that serves most of the people most of the time.

The work we do in service ought to always be done in a spirit of unity. As a service body whose goal is for all family groups to have access to resources that promote healthy and thriving meetings, we must work together for the common good. Having a collective of service volunteers teaches us to surrender our personalities to the will of the group and to trust the process of what we can accomplish together with the guidance of our Higher Power.

In order to keep our family groups focused on recovery, groups usually turn over other tasks to service committees or individual volunteers. Trad 9 tells us that these volunteers are directly responsible to those they serve - the family group. Likewise, the group has a responsibility to be attentive to our service bodies- to be timely in our responses, to forward information to our members, etc. We share responsibility when we participate, and when we acknowledge each other’s efforts. When trusted servants are excited about service, we feel it. When those we serve are grateful, we want to do more.

Every group participates differently. Some groups will do more outreach. Some groups will be more vocal. Some groups will be more community minded, or hold more step meetings or hand out more literature. Some groups will hold business meetings once a month, others once a year. Some groups have had the same treasurer for 10 years, others keep donations in a coffee can and pay in cash. Some groups prefer to keep to themselves. Some groups will never attend an Annual Assembly. Others look forward to it every year.

**Q. The question is not, Who is doing service right? The question is, Is what your group is doing for service working?**

**Q of the Month Trad 9, Part 2 June 2019**

**“Our groups, as such, ought never to be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”**

What is the current state of our region?

Our region, the Midwest Region, is made up of Nar-Anon family groups in Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois and Arkansas. The Regional Service Committee (RSC) is made up of the following six positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate and Alternate Delegate. The Outreach Chair, Convention Chair and Narateen Process Person are all subcommittee chairs who may also serve as a GSR.

It is common to go without a Vice-Chair (VC) until shortly before the annual Assembly and elections in October. The VC is a one year position. It is a necessary position only because the VC will become the Chair. In the absence of the Chair at a meeting, another RSC member simply fills in for the purpose of running the agenda/meeting. The Vice Chair position is currently unfilled. Dale will be leaving his position as Chair in October. We will need a Chair.

The treasurer position is a 2 year term and can be re-elected for a second term for a total of up to 4 years. Rod has been in the treasurer position for 5 years. He should have already been replaced. Regardless, he must leave that position in October of this year, if not sooner. While Rod is unique in his ability to provide spread sheets, cost comparisons and the history of our finances over time, none of these services must be done. The position requires a trustworthy person to receive and deposit monies into our account and to withdraw monies via checks to pay our bills or purchase necessary goods. Even an account balance is not necessary on a monthly basis.

The Alternate Delegate position is a training position for becoming the Region Delegate. The primary job of the Delegate is to vote the region’s group conscious at the World Service Conference (WSC) in April every other year. Between 40-60 motions are brought before the delegates to be voted on. These include changes to our existing program, changes to the process (CAR = Conference Agenda Report) and approving or rejecting new literature. (CAT = Conference Approval Track) Additionally, elections at the World Service level are conducted for the Board of Trustees. The secondary purpose of the Delegate is to be a liaison between the World and the Region - to clarify guidelines and traditions, to be well versed in the steps and traditions and to be a resource for GSRs.

The Alt Del position is a 3 year term. Currently this position is unfilled. If elected today, it would be a 2 year and 5 months term. As Delegate, Theresa will attend the WSC in Torrance, California, home of the Nar-Anon World Service Organization, from April 30-May 4, 2020. Her Delegate service position will end in October of 2021. At that time, the Alt Del will become the Delegate. If an Alt Del is elected in October at the assembly, it would be a 2 year term. Dec of 2019 is the very last opportunity for a potential Alt Del to attend the WSC next spring and observe the voice and voting processes before becoming the Delegate. It is well worth the experience to observe the WSC before attending as the Delegate.

**As you can see, significant positions need to be filled if we are to continue as a region.**

A few years back we went without a secretary for a long time. After a time of struggle with the RSC members taking turns trying to capture the minutes, we decided to go without. It worked for the short term, but once Cathy became secretary, she had well over a year’s worth of meetings to type up from the recordings. Without a treasurer, we really can’t let bank statements pile up and not attend to our bills. Without a Delegate, we lose our voice and vote on any world- wide decisions being made about the fellowship.

Q. If there are no volunteers or worthy candidates for these positions come October (Assembly) what are your ideas for how we proceed? Can we proceed?

Q. Are there other brainstorming ideas we haven’t considered?

Q. Does anyone want to speak to why we are in this position? Reasons? Solutions?

Q. Is your Higher Power whispering to you?

*No one can make or force anyone to do something they do not want to do, but we can do things differently. Please give this some attention and open-minded thought so we can have a discussion of ideas. Thank you, Theresa*