Thought Force Topic: Service Structure

Background Info: In our 2012 Area Inventory there were a significant amount of people who were unclear about our service structure and what it was for. Here is an opportunity to share about that. Consider what you know and experience about service and its structure – Group, District and Area. Use a Service Manual if you need to.

Charge: Brainstorm ideas about how we can more clearly communicate our Service Structure and welcome members into service. How can we attract? What do our Legacies offer for guidance? How are we following or not following the Legacies?

This is not a DOING group, or a DECISION-MAKING group, this is an IDEA group! Brainstorm, discuss, write and create new ways for us to think about Service Structure and what we can do to "attract rather than promote" service at many levels.

Five KBDM Questions

1. **What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?**
   - need more information, like a diagram?
   - Upside down triangle. Diagram on p 166 of the Service Manual
   - We need more of those short version SMs at meetings
   - Guest "Service" Speakers at Groups
   - Decode acronyms
   - Encouragement and clear expectations helps encourage people to try service
   - Role modeling helps
   - Members need to share, and feel part of something.
   - We need to know we're not alone, we need to share hope

2. **What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?**
   - smaller groups have fewer resources
   - Could knowing more about Service Structure help groups not feel overwhelmed?
   - We don't have to reinvent the wheel ourselves.
   - Groups can work together – share resources
   - We have to avoid excluding people

3. **What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc) and our fellowship's environment (technology, geography, demographic, etc) that is relevant to this topic?**
   - Technology can intimidate people, making them feel left out
   - Keep primary purpose at the forefront, use a notebook to keep the Group informed
   - Do not overload group members with information
   - What service positions do not need access to computer?

4. **What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?**

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- Stay consistent with the Legacies
- Insure anonymity v. secrecy
- We are trusted servants and volunteers – not professionals.
- Professional people have to leave their expertise at the door.
- Follow Traditions at meetings
- Use Group Inventories more

5. **What do we wish we knew, but don't? (use the back if necessary)**
- What about a list of "outside world" skills and how they could be used in service?
- What about a short "service pamphlet" on the website about jobs?
- Acronym List
- How to reach everyone?
- How to motivate people to serve?

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