

28 December 2017

From: FRANK H

Dear fellow Members,

I resigned as Vice Chairperson during the monthly Area Service Meeting in Fergus Falls, effective immediately. Here are the reasons:

1. Each month I have been verbally disrespected by members and the body has done nothing to stop it. Disagreeing with me is one thing. Attacking my person, my recovery and my motives is unacceptable.
2. I do not believe that any relationship, that involves so many different people, can thrive without ground rules for communication that are in writing, agreed to by all, and respected by all.
3. Before I was elected I made it clear that I believe the ASC needs a format, just like at a recovery meeting, which spells out the ground rules for communication that all agree to follow, and that is passed on from Trusted Servant to Trusted Servant and not dependent on Personality. No recovery meeting can long survive without "ground rules for communication". We call it a meeting format. Because of the nature of a service meeting "ground rules for communication" are even more important I believe. Our literature is weak in this area. Steps, Traditions and Concepts speak of the importance of the principles but not once describe how a simple format, like a recovery meeting, can do the same for the service setting. In fact no methods for accomplishing that in the service setting are suggested and I do not understand why.
4. I agreed to serve and committed to helping us move towards a format that would develop organically rather than have a committee put together, as was done in 2013 when the format in use was taken out of the guidelines and not replaced with another. In 2013 we went from having a format that could just be read and followed at each monthly meeting, to having nothing at all. Leadership by "strength of personality" has become the style.
5. The new book, "Guiding Principles", as well as the Twelve Concepts emphasize the practice of all these principles in all our affairs, including service.
6. The Twelfth Step, in the "Step Working Guides" states:

"What about NA service? Strangely enough, some of us reserve NA service as the one place where we forget our principles. We cease giving people the benefit of the doubt in a service setting. We openly accuse others of hatching plots, and we say cruel things because we're not practicing the principle of kindness. We set up impossible processes for those we elect to do a job because we're not practicing the principle of trust. We become self-righteous, belligerent, and sarcastic. Its ironic that we seem to want to attack those whom we trust with our very lives in recovery meetings. We need to remember to practice spiritual principles in any meeting, whether service or recovery. Service gives us many opportunities to practice spiritual principles."

I will be attending the ASC as a member. I have remained committed to the ASC all these years and I love NA as a whole and what our literature asks of me. Nothing can change that love. I love you all. –Frank H