



K.I.S.S. - Keep It Simply Spiritual

February 7, 2012

In 2012, we embrace one of our most basic ideas - KISS. You can insert whatever words you'd like for the second "S." We prefer spiritual.

Current events in the fellowship and in NA service seem highly complex, yet relying upon the spiritual principles that define an NA Group ("NA as such"), will help us keep it simple and easy to understand. We are faced with some fairly complicated ideas presented to us in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR), the resulting Conference Approval Track (CAT). We are expected to consider and develop Group Conscience on the SS Proposals and the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT). Some of us have a hard time sorting out all of the acronyms and what they mean.

So let's back up just a few steps and review what we know for sure:

N.A., as such, is our Groups. Our Groups are defined by 24 spiritual principles, the Steps and Traditions. Our literature specifies that an N.A. group is any group that meets regularly, at a specified place and time, for the purpose of recovery, provided that it follows the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

Right, you say. We already know this. And we know that our groups' primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers, which can be enhanced through simple, effective, spiritual service. So what is service?

Don't we have service committees, offices, activities, hot lines and other activities in N.A.? They are services we use to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. N.A. is a fellowship of men and women, addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. The services that we mentioned are the result of members who care enough to reach out and offer help and experience so that our road might be easier.

Right again, you say. We get this. There's clearly a demarcation between "NA as such" and our structural services. Well, fortunately, there are also specific policies for those who offer help through service positions: "Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern." (Good thing we also know that "govern" means rule, preside over, oversee, administer, direct, run, manage)

"We may create service board and committees directly responsible to those they serve."

With that in mind, how do we square the massive overhaul of our service structure with keeping it simple? Where did these ideas come from anyhow? From groups? From Areas? Or were they assembled by the very service boards and committees meant to serve *US*?

Almost all of us can agree there is an increase in apathy toward structural service: Fewer people doing more jobs, or positions going unfilled. NAWA Inc. heard that a few years ago and concluded that the answer must be to completely overhaul our entire service structure, which in NO way addresses the lack of participation in service. Know this:

You and your home group have had NO opportunity to vote on the SS Proposal. You have only had the opportunity to vote on its funding. You are not now being given the opportunity to vote on the SS Proposal. Your regional service delegate will only be asked to participate in a "straw poll" for approval. Do NOT equate that to your Home Group voting on these changes. There is nowhere in the Conference Agenda Report or the Conference Approval Track that allow you to vote yes or no on continuation of the SS Proposals. The ONLY way to stop this speeding train is to instruct your regional service delegate to vote NO on all resolutions, straw polls, motions that may be developed under new business, budgets, funding, etc. **Vote. No. On. All.**

We agree that it's time for a change, but not those suggested by the SS Proposals included in the CAR and the CAT. To the contrary, we believe the change should simplify the service structures, not make it more complicated and removed from our home groups. All services, all changes, all decisions, should come from a true, fully informed Group Conscience, rather than any service board or committee consensus. Any apathy will be reduced by MORE inclusion, not more exclusion.

KISS - Just say no to the SS Proposals. Say no to the straw polls and the resolutions (check out resolution 7 if you want a real scare), and the motions and the budgets and the proposed \$500,000 in funding. Changing a trust document doesn't cut it. It's time to restore the trust that once existed between NA Groups and the service board and committees must be, by definition directly responsible to them.