

## Sponsorship Thought Force Forum – May 19, 2012

### Start with the Serenity Prayer

#### Introduction

- I'm Mary and I'll be facilitating this forum today;
- I'm not the expert or authority on any of this; I'm just sharing comments that have been given to me
- We have a lot to cover, but I want to start by giving you some background on how this thought force was created

#### Historical background to how thought force started:

- Saturday meeting has been discussing the lack of sponsors for 2 years
- Organized a panel discussion on the topic a year ago
- Serving as GR, I heard other meetings talk about a similar problem
- Talked to people from other Districts in Northern California and heard the issue was not as prevalent.
- So, in discussion with others, we began to wonder if some attitudes or culture in our district regarding sponsorship may be contributing to people having difficulty finding a sponsor or being willing to serve as a sponsor.
- So we formed this thought force to explore the issue and I've been gathering comments from people throughout the district for the last 9 months, which can be summarized briefly with:
  - Consensus that people need to ask someone to be sponsor, but we could offer some guidance
  - Wide variety on what people think in terms of who is ready to sponsor? Need to define "ready".
  - Many comments about **fear** of what a sponsor needs to be or do
  - Expectations of oneself seem to be getting in the way of people becoming a sponsor which in turn makes it difficult for newcomers to find a sponsor.
- The idea of a thought force is to gather together all the knowledge and resources that is necessary to discuss an issue:
- So today, as we discuss sponsorship, we'll share comments that I have received (so we don't have to duplicate things) and have people share from the literature so we are all aware of what guidelines *do* exist.
- As we proceed, I encourage everyone to think about how you interpret these guidelines and if we may be able to aid recovery by examining and changing our attitudes.

#### **We'll divide our discussion into 3 sections:**

- 1. Finding a sponsor**
- 2. Becoming a sponsor**
- 3. Being a sponsor**

Let's start with what is sponsorship -

**\*\*Read from the Sponsorship brochure: *What is sponsorship? page 2 – 3***

How many people here do not have a sponsor?

How many people here are currently sponsoring people?

How many people here are not currently sponsoring but are exploring the possibility?