

SPONSORSHIP THOUGHT FORCE FORUM – A SUMMARY

This thought force was started over 9 months ago when I brought the idea to the district meeting and people thought it would be a good idea to research people's thoughts and attitudes on sponsorship, specifically the difficulty in finding one and hesitation in becoming one. So I have gathered comments from people for over 9 months with various opinions, experience and suggestions (as outlined in the handout). We then decided to have this forum last Saturday to further our discussion (*comments from forum are added in italics*). A summary is below:

- Forum helped people to become ready: something that kept them from doing it, opened up
- There is no perfect, set way to sponsor—sponsor and sponsee define the relationship and how often they meet etc.
- Use the Alan declaration more in meetings: Can we order or make a banner to hang in meetings?
- Revise Statements on sponsorship at meetings to always include something on becoming one
- Do we want to develop a task force on developing a more unified statement on sponsorship?
- Someone realized that the fact that he was willing to take phone calls told him he was ready to sponsor
- Suggest that larger meetings have a Sponsor Resource person or coordinator that people with questions on sponsorship can talk with and get resources from
- Lots of laughter when talked about looking for the perfect sponsor; people looking for expertise vs progress working the program
- Discuss realistic expectations on what a sponsor responsibilities are while lightening up on the need for perfection
- How can people that are less visible/vocal let people know that they are willing to sponsor? Stand up and share just that...they are willing.
- Encourage sponsors to put more emphasis on the importance of service with sponsees
- Encourage more people to share on the benefits of being a sponsor...it's not doing a favor...and on sponsorship in general
- The beginners meeting would like support from people who have been in the program for awhile as well as people willing to sponsor.
- People would like more workshops on how to find a sponsor and be one; round table discussions, speaker meetings on sponsorship, and more speakers at meetings to share on sponsorship
- Saturday's parents meeting is having a speaker meeting on June 23 with a sponsor and sponsee sharing together on the topic of sponsorship.