

## **Task Force: Communication & Strengthening the Links of Service**

### **HANDOUT**

#### **List of Spiritual Principles** (there are others!)

Abundance	Group conscience	Patience
Acceptance	Honesty	Presume goodwill
Attraction not promotion	“Keep an Open Mind”	Principles above personalities
Autonomy Balanced with responsibility	Keep the AI-Anon focus	Reasoning things out with each other
Common bond	Knowing our roles	Singleness of purpose
Compassion and understanding	Kindness	Surrender/Trust
Courage	“Let it Begin with Me”	Tolerance
Equality	Listen	Trust my Higher Power
Forgiveness	Mutual respect	Unity
Freedom	Open mindedness	Willingness

#### **Some suggestions for communicating using Spiritual Principles & encouraging use of the Links of Service:**

##### **Abundance**

- Highlight the many resources available through the Links of Service.
- Encourage your Areas to use Past Delegates as a resource; these folks are trusted servants who can offer us their knowledge, experience, and broad perspectives.

##### **Acceptance**

- Expect questions and be ready to support anyone who asks a question.
- Share your experience, strength, and hope with breakdowns and successes in utilizing the Links of Service, as a reminder to everyone that we are all humans doing the best we can.

##### **“Let It Begin with Me”:**

- Model the behaviors you hope for others to learn (ex: using Links of Service, beginning conversations with a base of spiritual principles, referring to the *Service Manual* and Conference Approved Literature (CAL) for conflict resolution).
- Share your experience, strength, and hope with using spiritual principles for conflict resolution: How did you first discover this approach? How did it feel the first few times you tried this new way of interacting?

## **Knowing Our Roles:**

- Practice Concept Ten by pausing before responding to questions, in order to allow the person currently serving in the most direct Link of Service to act as the resource to the member with the question.

## **Listen:**

- Seek to understand rather than to be understood.

## **Mutual respect:**

- Be present at group, business, district, and Intergroup meetings and LISTEN to what others have to say before sharing words of “wisdom.”

## **Open mindedness:**

- Ask and invite members to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns about their personal experience with the AI-Anon program and respond with humility, patience, and sincerity.

## **Presume goodwill:**

- Begin by setting the tone, reminding all who participate that we can Presume Goodwill.
- Incorporate the Conflict Resolution Toolkit into group and District Meetings BEFORE conflicts arise.
- Use an accepting and inclusive tone when approaching conversations involving conflict.

## **Principles above personalities:**

- During district and Area discussions, agree beforehand to allow the trusted servant whose function is most closely related to the question at hand to respond (ex: questions about money are referred to the Treasurer; questions about WSO functions are referred to the Delegate).
- Identify the spiritual principles relevant to the conversation, research them through CAL, and focus comments on the principle rather than on the individual.

## **Unity:**

- Frequently revisit the “WE” in our program – we do not ever have to do it alone in any level of Service!
- Refer new or potential trusted servants to local job descriptions for service positions, as well as the *Service Manual*.
- Reach out to members who are new to their service positions, just as we reach out to newcomers in our meetings, to encourage Service Sponsorship, and to guide them gently in the direction of the person in the Link of Service who can best help them.

## **TF: Communication & Strengthening the Links of Service**