

Maybe it's me....

For years, I've wondered why 90% of nonprofit members remain inactive while only 10% carry the load. In my journey to advance our mission, I often encountered individuals who were so focused on their own agendas that they inadvertently obstructed our progress.

These toxic individuals can rise to positions of power, acting like obstacles on a complex chessboard, hindering our every move, or maybe they just make you feel irrelevant to the group.

When faced with such challenges, it's crucial to maintain perspective. With over 8 billion people in the world as of 2024, if one person is treating you poorly, it may be time to reevaluate your collaborations. There are nearly 7.9 billion others out there! Instead of pouring more time and energy into a difficult dynamic, consider this behavior an invitation to explore more productive and harmonious opportunities. With over 10 million other nonprofits that align with your values and goals, you have the chance to redirect your efforts and maximize your impact, to become relevant.

If someone's negativity is hindering your work, prioritize your peace and professional growth by exploring alternative paths. You can continue supporting the mission through your membership or dues while distancing yourself from toxic environments. Sometimes, it's essential to "vote with your feet." Go somewhere that God is directing you, where your time and talents will be appreciated.

I've made this choice before, leaving a long-term commitment to a group I thought would be central to my life. This decision affected my family, and I understand the weight of such a choice. While some were supportive, others were less willing to engage a second time when I wanted to step away, even pulling me back to the group only to find the same challenging people I stepped away to get away from.

You might be thinking, “If this happens in every group, it must be me.” I’ve grappled with that thought too. The reality is, in a nonprofit, there’s no Human Resources department to address these issues. Yet, I believe that 90% of the membership can’t be wrong.

Leaving isn’t the only option. You can also foster open communication within your organization. Engage with those who share your commitment to the mission. Identifying allies can create a supportive network that helps counteract negativity and reinforce a positive atmosphere.

This wisdom comes from 40 years of experience. Many of those inactive members unintentionally guided me toward this understanding. While some have moved away or become busy, the lessons remain.

Let’s uplift each other and work together toward a healthier, more engaged nonprofit community. Together, we can create a positive impact!

- #nonprofit
- #NonprofitLeadership
- #CommunityImpact
- #VoteWithYourFeet
- #HealthyOrganizations
- #PositiveChange
- #CollaborationMatters
- #NonprofitWisdom
- #Empowerment
- #SupportYourMission
- #ToxicFree
- #EngagedMembership

- #CollectiveGrowth