

George Friday

Candidate for Program Committee Chair

Member since June 2020

I intend to provide practical support and direction that leads to increased organizational capacity to understand difference, intersectionality, and how to consider these issues when conducting work to serve the organization's vision, values, and mission.

I want to work for programs and initiatives that cultivate power in service of positive change. We can begin by exploring and promoting understanding of how power -- both positive or liberating and negative or oppressive exercises of power -- actually operate even when no harm is intended. We can facilitate shared thinking about planning strategies that cultivate positive or liberating exercises of power and reduce or eliminate negative or oppressive exercises of power. This begins with the notion that ideal work to build power for needed change with accountability is best accomplished in the context of community. I will focus on building capacity to plan and sustain effective actions, activities and programs.

This approach involves work at the personal, interpersonal, organizational, systems, structural and cultural levels. It involves organizing programs and projects in ways that maximize meaningful engagement by those most affected. And, it involves guiding the group to reveal needed practices and tactics that will lead to achieving the organizations' missions, vision, and goals. I know how to conduct this process and how to transfer skills to others.

I believe we best learn/change using methods and interventions that focus on societal influences, interpersonal relationships, systems, effective actions plans, people, and history without personal attacks, shame or blame. In this way new insights and constructive ways for addressing differences, conflict and implementing change are created.

When successful we will realize a justice driven movement -- created from the roots up, *transforming* branches and committees from well-wishing but inactive into skilled effective members acting strategically, sustaining strong relationships with those most affected by injustice, following their leadership and/or supporting emerging leaders. We will be a better organization.

Find more candidate information at wilpfus.org/story/candidates-documents.