

District 5 General Service Committee

2016 District Inventory Report



To: Members of AA District 5 General Service Committee

From: DCM Committee of District 5

Re: 2016 District Inventory

Summary

District 5 has identified that its members are generally positive about the quality of services provided, financial prudence, and transparent communications from their trusted servants on the District 5 General Service Committee. They also identified that there are numerous areas where better communication, proactive service education, and more group and individual participation in District Service positions would strengthen the District. This report serves to inform the District of these findings and other notable suggestions, comments, or complaints from our members.

Inventory Overview and Processes:

In May 2016, the District 5 DCM Committee performed a District Inventory. The DCM Committee sought feedback from GSRs that asked group members a formal series of questions at a group conscience meeting. Historically it has been typical that the majority of groups DO NOT participate in the Inventory, for myriad reasons. Consequently, the quantity of feedback is skewed to represent groups that are more active in the General Service structure.

To encourage more participation in the inventory process, the District offered an online survey to ask individual members a shortened series of questions. After reviewing the GSR feedback from several groups and the 59 survey responses, the DCM Committee has compiled these Key Findings.

Key Findings:

- 1) Not enough AAs are involved in District Business Meetings, Committee Service work, or events.
- 2) District 5 is financially responsible to the groups it serves , and communicates in a transparent manner. The accurate and timely preparation and distribution of business meeting minutes is a strength.
- 3) Some members were disappointed by the lack of sponsorship and/or service workshops, commenting that more frequent workshops will likely engage more AA members in service work.
- 4) District 5 does not have enough representatives serving in GSR and DCM (and alternates) positions. Awareness of service positions is well known to those already active in District service.
- 5) A majority felt that District 5 business meetings were informative and enthusiastic. Continued focus on timeliness, respect for differing viewpoints and a spirit of cooperation were added comments.
- 6) Among those expressing an opinion, about two-thirds believe their group is fully informed of District 5 business (28 vs 16).
 - a) Furthermore, groups are somewhat receptive, though not enthusiastic, to their GSR reports.
 - b) Most survey respondents (53 of 59) attended their Home Group Business meeting in the past 6 months.

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- c) 54% (32 of 59) said their GSR attends Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies regularly, however, cost and availability of hotel rooms continues to be an obstacle to more participation at Quarterlies.

Action Items

The DCM Committee recommends:

- 1) Continuously ensure that District 5 Meetings are welcoming and that new GSRs and visitors are greeted.
- 2) Create a GSR mentoring program, encouraging Service Sponsorship.
- 3) Providing more printed materials at District meetings, such as minutes, meeting schedules, event/workshop flyers, and AA literature could help strengthen communications.
- 4) Improve GSR sharing sessions and encourage more widespread attendance. (Bring a sponsor, sponsees, new meeting organizer, etc.). Help ensure a positive learning/sharing experience and increase enthusiasm.
 - a) Develop a session to help GSRs deliver very concise oral reports on District Business meetings. Also help prepare GSRs to share the bullet points of an AA brochure or topic to broaden awareness and stimulate further interest.
 - b) Develop a session to help GSRs become familiar with The A.A. Group pamphlet and discuss its contents periodically (i.e. Are all the group positions as illustrated on page 17 filled in your group?)
- 5) Hold and promote more general service workshops to encourage more participation. The DCM Committee is preparing an outreach program asking groups to sponsor workshops in various locations.
 - a) DCMs will ask groups to select a topic of their choice, such as Sponsorship, Service Work jobs and qualifications, Public Relations, etc. This was suggested because the DCM committee is responsible for the Traditions workshop (Spirit of Unity Day) every two years and for the monthly GSR Sharing. Help is needed to do anything beyond that.
- 6) Encourage groups to be receptive, supportive and attentive of their GSR when they have reports or announcements. Encourage groups to elect an Alternate GSR.
- 7) It was suggested in the survey to have a newsletter. Perhaps one could be created for District 5 that might be distributed via e-mail to communicate more frequently. Each newsletter might spotlight a specific committee need, a GSR success story, a group history or event, etc.
- 8) Most groups did not participate in the inventory, and don't participate in the monthly District meetings. District 5 members and groups would be better served if all 12 DCM positions were filled. We currently have 5 DCM openings. Anyone having previously served as a GSR is urged to stand for DCM or Alt.DCM.
- 9) Put a plan together to help interested GSRs in getting hotel rooms at Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies.

In Summary

Group involvement in Service Work is key to District 5's ongoing effectiveness. Continued focus on encouraging group involvement as suggested above should help us improve the District 5 General Service Committee's usefulness to the existing and future groups it seeks to serve.