

Solutions Session – District 5 Inventory

August 16, 2022

Jen N opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. We went over the questions and answers gathered at our District 5 Inventory held in July.

What additional activities can District 5 engage in to carry the message to Groups and to individual alcoholics? Below are the suggestions/action items from the August Inventory Solutions meeting:

- Continue having events like the Spring picnic that was such a success this year but also have events like workshops that are more AA Service-oriented. Per Jeny, this is already in the works. DCM Kevin L. and Chair Jeny N. have already been in discussions about this. A workshop has been tentatively planned for February since we do not want to collide with planned Intergroup celebrations at the end of this year or the January Quarterly at the beginning of 2023.
Recommendations: Please let Kevin know if you would like to serve on the ad-hoc planning committee for the February workshop.
- Have members of the District 5 General Service Committee support anniversary meetings for groups in our district. It would be especially nice if the Chairperson, DCMs, Committee Chairs could attend. With the group's permission, perhaps the chair or a DCM could give a congratulatory message.
Recommendations: Please let the District know if you are having a celebration so that we can support you. You can do this by announcing it at the GSR Sharing Session and also by sending an email to chairperson@aadistrict5.org and the DCM for your subdistrict/city.
- Improve communication between the District, Area, AA as a whole and the groups: **Recommendation:** DCMs will continue to attend groups that have and do not have GSRs and become friendly with them. Bring them information and offer to speak at one of their business meetings. Perhaps even have a workshop and invite all the groups in their subdistrict. **Recommendations:** Groups, Hold an event/workshop and invite your DCM to speak or present a topic.
- Need more DCMs for those subdistricts who do not currently have DCMs. **Recommendation:** Please consider standing. DCMs are needed for Arcadia, Port Charlotte, and Venice (and more DCM positions will be opening up in October.) Qualifications: 4 years continuous sobriety and 2 years' service as a GSR in any district in any state. (note that some requirements can be waived.)
- **Recommendation:** Please bring a sponsee or another AA friend to the district meeting
- Reinstatement of the hybrid meeting. We are not hearing from many GSRs who are unable to attend due to health issues (wheelchair bound/covid fears). **Discussion at Solution meeting:** There was a lot of discussion regarding reinstating the hybrid meeting. It was suggested that we try again but with a dedicated technology team to ensure things go more smoothly. We have received a WIFI connection now from St. Nathaniel's. Perhaps we could do it on a trial basis and see how it goes. There were strong feelings on this issue from both sides: Of the 21 attendees at the meeting, 11 were against reinstating the meeting under any circumstance and several of those did not want to hold a new vote so soon after the original vote. 10 attendees wanted to reinstate the hybrid meeting because they felt strongly that we should be inclusive. A few voiced the idea that the original motion was a surprise and people weren't prepared to vote. **Action Item for Chair Jeny:** Because of the lack of unanimity on this issue, Jen tabled it so that she could discuss the proper steps to take with her service sponsor.

What more can the District do to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals who can be helpful in reaching those who need A.A.? **Recommendation:** Please contact PI/CPC chair at picpc@aadistrict5.org to get literature packets to take to your doctors, lawyers and other businesses that might benefit; join the PI/CPI committee and also announce the need for committee members at your home groups. (There is still a great need in D5. For example, we need someone who can monitor literature the PI/CPC committee has previously placed at different D5 businesses, such as libraries, etc., and replenish it as needed.)

Does District 5 carry the message to a good cross-section of A.A. members in our District?

Mary P., said that we need more ASL interpreters, but they are quite expensive. **Mary P** will look into the possibility of obtaining a grant and let us know at a future meeting what she learns. **At Jesus' request, the District 5 web committee** has added the Spanish versions of the Group Change forms to the District 5 Business Documents page on the web. They can be found at the following link: https://aadistrict5.org/?page_id=675. (Jesus has been informed of the addition.)

What can we do to get GSRs to go to Area Business meetings (i.e. Quarterlies)? **Recommendation:** Let the district treasurer know if your group cannot afford to pay for a room at the Area 15 quarterly. You may qualify for a scholarship from District 5.

What can we do to encourage attendance at District 5 Business meetings: Answer: Keep them shorter.

Recommendations to do this:

- Keep the GSR sharing session and business meeting short and to the point. Suggestions:
 - Be brief when introducing ourselves. Just introduce by name, district position and name of home group. (don't go into details of home group dates and times, sobriety date, etc.)
 - Committee reports should be under two minutes unless there is a specific issue that needs to be discussed. Give a few highlights, tell attendees when your committee meets and encourage people to join your committee. Point attendees to the business meeting minutes for details.