

District 5 Inventory - Key Concerns and Ideas for Improvement

1. Accessibilities

Concern 1:

- Need to populate the district Accessibilities Committee.

Ideas:

- One home group can start by engaging individuals who have expressed an interest in Accessibilities to take meetings to senior living facilities.
- Have an Accessibilities informational workshop to provide education on what accessibilities means, what the committee objective is, and provide AA literature to help with an understanding of this vital service. Populating the district Accessibilities Committee

Concern 2:

- Less than ideal acoustics in the current meeting location

Ideas:

- Investigate microphone and speaker option.
- Have individuals with hearing challenges move closer to the front of the room (maybe have a couple of seats saved for that purpose).

Concern 3:

- The more remote areas of the district are underserved (e.g. Desoto County).

Ideas:

- Perhaps an active Accessibilities Committee could jumpstart the effort to investigate meeting in these locations.
- Research what is happening in the Spanish-speaking communities, perhaps with the assistance of a bilingual member or the Area 15 Linguistic Committee.

2. Communication with groups

Concern 1:

- DCMs have too many groups in their subdistrict to effectively carry information to all of them.

Ideas:

- Redistrict the sub-district by location to better serve all groups.
- Create additional sub-districts if needed to accommodate the group population.
- DCMs can encourage GSRs to move into the Alternate DCM position to divide communication amount the sub-district's groups.

Concern 2:

- Need to increase service participation

Ideas:

- DCMs can encourage participation from GSRs and group contacts.
- The DCMs can encourage GSRs and group contacts to have an alternate GSR or backup contact looped and so there is continuity in the communication and group service commitment.
- DCMs and GSRs can encourage members to just come to district even if they don't have a position, just to see what it is.
- Encourage existing GSRs to join a committee.
- DCMs: Make a point of introducing yourself to new GSRs and explain to them what a DCM is for! Exchange contact information.
- Educate group members that they can take on a small commitment on a district committee with little sobriety.
- Have service fairs.
- Have workshops that explain the purpose, roles, and responsibilities of a committee. This could be in conjunction with a service fair.
- Sponsor members into service – 3-legacy sponsorship.
- There is a list of services provided by GSO. Maybe use the list to enthusiastically show groups all the things that GSO in NY does for the Fellowship. Or make a similar list of services provided by the district.
- Committee Chairs and GSRs: Share “success stories” of committee work and let group members know they can be part of that.
- Be enthusiastic when talking about service.
- Have nametags for district meetings and events.

3. Chores and Reputation of AA

Concern 1:

- Few district members do all setup / cleanup.

Ideas:

- Rotate setup/cleanup. Ask for a volunteer at the end of the district meeting to setup/cleanup at the next district meeting.
- Service-sponsor others to take their turn with setup/cleanup responsibilities. As the saying goes, “many hands make light work”.
- GSRs can encourage their group members to rotate responsibilities. Reference Tradition 9.

Concern 2:

- Need to respect the property and requests of the church from whom we rent space. The reputation of AA is at stake.

Ideas:

- Have a service position to pick up cigarette butts at the district meeting.
- We should remind people to leave it better than you found it.
- Churches sometimes ask that we not use profanity in the meeting. It's the same as leaving the place dirty. They are our host.