

Western Washington Area 72
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January 2nd & 3rd, 2026

Area Committee Inventory

Friday Evening, January 2, 2026

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Opening & Instructions

Facilitator (Sound & Video):

The facilitator explained the process for the evening. Each table would have **one minute** to report back at the microphones. A light system would be used:

- **Green light** at one minute
- **Yellow light** with 30 seconds remaining
- **Red light** when time expired

Participants were reminded not to worry about sharing everything, as **all written notes would be gathered and consolidated** and made available afterward. The goal was to capture themes rather than exhaustive detail at the microphone.

Unity & Fellowship

Inventory Question 1A

“How is our Area committee and its various standing committees fulfilling its primary purpose of helping our groups in carrying the message and serving the fellowship?”

John B., Newsletter - Group 10

“We found that some committee members were more willing than others, and that it varies depending on the committee and the term.

We also found that there was a lot of information overload. A lot of DCMs and GSRs are kind of overwhelmed with information.

We felt that we could probably do better with follow-through. We come to these quarterlies, we come up with really great ideas, but sometimes there’s a lack of follow-through on things that were identified as important.”

Ganelle, DCM D41 - Group 8 – “Crazy Happy 8’s (Ochos Locos Felices)”

“First, we want to thank you for facilitating this and giving us these questions and doing all this hard work.

We thought the Area is doing a good job communicating via email and managing email addresses at the district level.

In particular, we felt the report backs were good. People were encouraged to participate and ask questions, and the reports given to districts were very informative and easy to report back to their home groups.”

West, DCM D31 - Group 1 – “The Wild Ones”

“Area committee chairs came to district meetings and show support by making presentations and fielding questions.

Standing committees support districts with presentations, workshops, and resource materials.

Consistent communication channels, like the Area 72 Newsletter, help groups and districts stay informed.

Area committee chairs also help support remote groups and districts with access to submitting materials and printing the Area newsletter.”

Karrie C., Member - Group 7 – “The Super 7s”

“We felt that Area 72 really stands out as a shining example of service when compared to other areas.

There are some improvements that could be made. We talked about having more service workshops for committee education.

We also talked about DCMs bringing area chairs into districts to help educate district chairs, because a lot of members are still unsure about committees.

And most importantly, we talked about finding ways to garner enthusiasm for service.”

Inventory Question 1B

“How does the Area committee foster unity at Area Quarterlies and Assemblies? Examples? What else can we do?”

Dan H., DCM D3 - Group 13

“First, we talked about who the Area committee actually is.

We came up with things like showing up with a good attitude, taking notes to share back with our districts, participating in fellowship like the ice cream social, and sitting with somebody new — meeting new people.

We had mixed thoughts about sitting with neighboring districts. Maybe at the first quarterly, sitting with different districts helps you listen to more people.

We also talked about maybe doing a host or no-host dinner. We were kind of in favor of that.

More swag came up. And possibly a feedback form, to hear what worked and what didn't.

Also, engagement activities to help connect GSRs.”

Alex, Member - Group 2 – “Where Two or More Are Gathered”

“We feel the Area does a good job allowing everyone to give input. Everyone can be heard, everyone can come to the mic and express their opinion.

Random seating helps orchestrate unity — that's been a fun experience.

The ice cream social helps bring people together.

One thing we thought could help more is education about who the electeds are and what they do, and why.”

Cheri D., DCM, District 33 - Group 6

“We liked how the Area did a good job dispersing us around to different tables so we could get to know new DCMs and members.

We also like that we are discussion-based. That fosters unity, because we don't jump straight into motions — we talk things through first.

We like that elected and appointed trusted servants make themselves available for GSR schools and DCM schools.

Some things we thought could change were more opportunities for fellowship and getting to know each other.

Possibly using Zoom for Q&A.

Also considering attire and seating arrangements for elected and appointed servants, and making sure we're inviting terminated special builds back into service.

We had a variety of people at our table, and that was really valuable.”

Sansannah, Alt-DCM D3 - Group 9

“Unity is helped by having translation and assisting the Hispanic community. The Hispanic community builds unity and has the ability to carry the message.

One concern we raised was that there can be too much work and not enough spirituality.

There can be a preoccupation with procedure and correction, when really our job is to interact with and support the fellowship.

We also talked about DCMs reminding groups to register online so that GSRs and groups can be involved.”

Communication & Participation

Inventory Question 2A

“What prevents more members/groups from participating in Area service? How can we lower those barriers?”

Joe T., DCM D19 - Group 12

“One of the challenges we talked about is that this really needs to start at the sponsor–sponsee level — encouraging service work early and planting that seed.

We also talked about home groups creating service positions that help get people involved, especially newcomers, so they can start thinking about district and area service.

Financial constraints came up. Groups may pay for GSRs to attend assemblies, but individuals still have to pay registration and then get reimbursed later, and sometimes that's a real challenge.

Some solutions we talked about were area members going out to groups to share this information, sharing costs, and using Zoom more.”

David J., DCM, D14 - Group 3

“Area service can seem like a lot of work. It can feel really intimidating.

There’s often a lack of understanding of the A.A. service triangle at the group level.

The time commitment — attending quarterlies and assemblies — can feel overwhelming.

We also talked about concerns around politics within AA, and that can be a barrier.

As far as lowering barriers, we talked about encouraging people to attend service manual studies, GSR and BCM training.

But more importantly, we talked about the language we use around service. If I go into a group and say, ‘This is tedious, it’s a lot of work, I’m exhausted and it’s not fun,’ is that really encouraging anyone?

What kind of culture are we building with the language we use?”

Darrell - District 45 – Table 14 - “Two Better Than 12”

“Some of the barriers we came up with were living remotely in rural areas.

Financial constraints and smaller groups that don’t have as much Seventh Tradition support.

We also talked about uninspired individuals — we see that at our home groups.

Politics within AA came up again.

One idea was trying to send an entire assembly on Zoom.

We also talked about Zoom viewing parties so people still have camaraderie, encouraging mentorship, and simply telling someone, ‘I think you’d be really good at this,’ as a way to inspire service.”

Ray H., Eastside Intergroup – Group 5

What prevents more members and groups from participating is often intimidation.

There's fear of not knowing what we're doing here.

People are uneducated about service, what the qualifications are, how much sober time is needed, and the commitment involved.

To lower those barriers, service sponsorship was a big one.

Workshops were mentioned, reminding people of available service positions, and letting them know they can talk to a Third Legacy chair as a mentor.

Reassuring people that it's not that difficult and that we'll be there to support them."

Inventory Question 2B

"Where does communication tend to break down between groups, districts, and the Area, and what would help strengthen those connections?"

Mary W., Alt DCM D45 – Group 15 (Online)

"From the DCM perspective, it can be hard to know what to share back and forth between the Area and the GSRs.

There's so much information coming down, and from a GSR perspective it's difficult to really understand what the role of the district is versus what the role of the GSR is.

Those were really the two main points that we talked about."

Houston L., Area 72 Registrar – Group 16 (Online)

"We felt that information coming from the Area to districts and groups needs more education around communication processes — things like Google Drive, Gmail, and the Area website.

There's a general lack of understanding about how to use Gmail and the tools that are available.

People are also overwhelmed by the amount of email.

We talked about better utilizing Third Legacy chairs to encourage groups to have active GSRs who are bringing information back to the members."

Emily, Member - Group 4

“We also found that technology challenges are coming up as we move into a more digital landscape.

There needs to be a balance between pointing members to information and summarizing that information for monthly business meetings once you recognize and solve for accessibility issues — meaning information that can be digested — it becomes easier.

We also talked about adding a simple calendar of events so people know what’s coming up.”

Lori, Alt-DCM D2 - Group 11

“We looked at this as committee members needing to recognize that different committees have very different time commitments.

Some people don’t really understand the job description or how much work is involved in each position, and it can be very intensive.

Technology came up again, and we talked about making positions more clearly defined so people know what they’re stepping into.

We also talked about districts not always knowing all of their registered groups.

Distribution of Area minutes in a more consistent way would be helpful.”

Leadership, Rotation & Participation

Inventory Question 3A

“How are we encouraging future leaders in our districts and the Area?”

Dan H., DCM D3 - Group 13

“We talked about attraction — that we, as DCMs and participants, are the attraction.

Having a good attitude matters. Not making service feel strict, allowing folks to make mistakes and learn from them.

Area committee chairs inviting PCMs to events and activities helps people feel included.

We also talked about how appointed reports can sometimes fall on deaf ears if they're not supported by PCMs.

More participation by DCMs was encouraged, and a lot of us felt encouraged just by coming to the quarterlies.

Time and money can be a burden, and that's something we need to be mindful of."

Emily, Member - Group 4

"From an Area perspective, recruiting happens by meeting with people and having confidence in them.

Saying to someone, 'I think you would be good at this,' is a big part of encouragement.

From the district level, creating a culture of engagement means including GSRs and members in business meetings and quarterlies.

Making it fun.

Explaining the service structure and giving people a chance to mingle and connect helps."

Darrell - District 45 – Group 14 - "Two Better Than 12"

"For us, it's all about encouragement and recruitment.

In our district and home group, we offer to help train people and mentor them.

A lot of us felt it's best to approach someone one-on-one so they don't feel uncomfortable in front of a group when being encouraged to step into service.

We also talked about always having alternates for positions — even something as simple as a coffee maker — so there's always someone ready to step in when it's their turn."

Houston L., Area 72 Registrar – Group 16 (Online)

"We talked about being encouraging about the benefits of service, not discouraging about how much time it takes or personal frustrations.

The blessings of service came up — inclusion, growth in recovery, learning more about AA, and meeting elected and appointed trusted servants.

There was a big emphasis on service sponsorship — the value of having a service sponsor and being guided in that area.”

Inventory Question 3B

“Are we electing our Area officers with care? What changes would help members better understand candidates’ experience and qualifications during the election process?”

Donna, Archives Steering Committee - Group 5

“We all agreed that yes, we are electing our Area officers with care — but not as carefully as we could be, and that we can do better.

Some of the things we talked about were having candidate lists and service resumes available prior to the assembly, possibly in the newsletter.

This could also be addressed at the July quarterly.

We talked about better educating DCMs, GSRs, and potential electeds on what the qualifications are and what ‘available’ really means.

Through discussion at the July quarterly and pre-assembly materials, facilitators should explain what the needed qualifications are for each position.

We should not campaign, but people do need to qualify themselves for the job.”

Mary W., Alt DCM D45 – Group 15 (Online)

“We agreed that there really isn’t enough time to get to know the people who are making themselves available.

Two minutes is not enough time for the type of positions that are being elected for, especially to understand what the job entails and the time commitment.

As we go through the process, it feels very rushed.

We also talked about whether people should be allowed to re-qualify themselves if they are coming up a second or third time for a position.”

David J., DCM D14 - Group 3

“A lot of good things have already been said that we agree with.

We acknowledged that our process has elected delegates who have represented us very well at the General Service Conference.

But we believe the process could start earlier than the day of the voting assembly.

Two minutes to elect someone to a very important position — sometimes someone we haven’t really seen or heard from — is not enough.

We talked about service resumes being submitted to the Area Secretary prior to the assembly, also, possibly through the newsletter.

We also discussed setting a basic level of sobriety for elected positions.

We already require service resumes for appointed positions, but not for elected ones, and that could be something to look at.”

Joe T., DCM D19 - Group 12

“A lot of what we discussed has already been said.

We talked about having more time before the voting assembly for people to submit forms and resumes so members can get to know them better than just a two-minute qualification.

We also questioned whether two minutes is enough, especially if someone is qualifying once for multiple positions.

We talked specifically about the treasurer and alternate treasurer positions, and whether those might be better appointed rather than elected, because of the proficiencies and responsibilities required.

Handling money may require more than just a two-minute qualification.”

Accessibility & Barriers (time, financial, language, etc.)

Inventory Question 4A

“What accessibility challenges do alcoholics in Area 72 face attending our events and meetings? What actions do we currently take to meet those needs? Where could we improve?”

Lori, Alt DCM D2 - Group 11

“One of the things we talked about was financial accessibility.

A lot of people don’t really understand what’s involved in attending Area events or service positions.

Time was another issue — people feel like they don’t have enough time, but we also talked about how we used to find time to drink, so maybe we can find time to participate.

We thought having clearer job descriptions, timelines, and expectations would help people understand what they’re signing up for.

Human contact was also important — sitting with a newcomer, showing up early, helping set up, and being welcoming.”

Sansannah, Alt-DCM D3 - Group 9

“We talked about accessibility not just in terms of attending, but also preparation.

Time, transportation, and distance were big issues, especially for people traveling from far away.

Financial obligations vary by district, and some districts can support members more than others.

Pre-planning is important.

We also talked about simplicity and directness in materials and processes, so people know what to expect.”

Cheri D., DCM, District 33 - Group 6

“We agreed that finances are a major barrier.

We also talked about how many people don’t fully understand what accessibility issues really are.

Room size and crowding can be difficult for people with mobility issues, including those using wheelchairs or walkers.

Food lines can be challenging, and we talked about making sure people with mobility issues can be helped first.

One improvement would be asking more specific questions about accessibility needs on registration forms.

Committees could also send out more information about venue accessibility ahead of time.

DCMs could ask members if they need rides, and we should always be thinking about our elders.”

Alex, Member - Group 2 – “Where Two or More Are Gathered”

“We felt that the accessibility committees are doing a great job of informing the Area.

We’d like to see more workshops explaining what those committees do and how they do it.

Interpreters were mentioned as doing a good job, including reimbursement for community members.

One place we saw possible improvement was making it clearer how to access ASL interpreters if they’re not visibly present on site.

We also asked whether time itself is an accessibility barrier, especially for people with young families.”

Inventory Question 4B

“What are the barriers to service in our Area, and what could we do to remove or reduce those barriers?”

Ganelle, DCM D41 - Group 8 – “Crazy Happy 8’s (Ochos Locos Felices)”

One of the barriers that’s already been said is money.

We know the registration fee can be waived, but a lot of people don’t know that, and there are still hotel, food, and gas expenses.

Another barrier we identified was language.

Not everything is translated, and Spanish-speaking members don’t always have access to the same information.”

Melissa K., Alt DCM D8 – Group 10

“We talked about barriers like beating each other over the head with process — lots of ego and infighting.

Being too quick to use the Traditions to say ‘no’ instead of asking questions and allowing ideas to be tried and maybe fail.

There can be too much time spent troubleshooting and not enough perspective.

New servants watch existing servants and think, ‘I can’t do that — the job is too big and too complicated.’

To overcome that, we talked about being more unifying and supportive.

Asking ourselves, in the part of AA we help steer, are we only riding the brakes, or are we willing — within the Traditions and Concepts — to help create transparent ways to try new things and learn from them?

And really asking whether our service jobs are about helping carry the message or protecting our AA careers.”

Wild West, DCM D31 - Group 1 – “The Wild Ones”

“We talked about reducing service barriers by making sure the flow of information reaches the group level, and that information also flows back from the groups to the Area.

One barrier is that districts and groups don’t always fully understand the structure and purpose of the Area.

Some Area positions are becoming very specialized — like technology and finance — and not everyone has the skill set for those.

Time required for Area positions can be challenging for members with busy lifestyles.”

Joey, D32 – Group 7 (“Super 7s”)

“We found that a big barrier is the need for better connection and communication between districts and the Area.

There’s often a lack of experience in districts, especially with new chairs, and there’s no mentor for them.

Time commitments, distance, and money were all barriers we identified.

We talked a lot about service sponsorship.

Another barrier is that events are usually on Saturdays, which is hard for people who work weekends. Hybrid or weekday options could help.

And I just want to share my personal experience — inclusiveness matters. I was sitting alone at a table, and the Super 7s invited me over and included me. That helped me feel part of and gave me the courage to speak here and grow.”

Technology & Innovation

Inventory Question 5A

“How are we using technology to connect and serve our Area? What could we do better? What new tools or approaches could help us be more effective?”

West C., DCM D31 - Group 1 – “The Wild Ones”

“We talked about District 25 being one of the first online-only districts.

Area 72 has one of the strongest commitments to hybrid meetings out of any Area.

The new digital newsletter launch improves accessibility and also supports non-English-speaking members.”

Dan H., DCM D3 - Group 13

“We focused more on what we could do better.

We talked about doing Area-hosted watch parties for the Pacific Northwest Conference and for PRAASA.

We also talked about doing that for quarterlies, so GSRs and others who don’t normally attend can still stay plugged in.

Making recordings of quarterlies and other meetings available for GSR consumption was discussed.

We also talked about continuing to build out the newsletter and website.”

Kelly R., Alt DCM D14 and Dave H., D19 – Group 5 (“We are Alive!”)

“One of the things that came up today was a little card that you tap on your phone and it pulls up the Area website automatically.

It takes you right to the newsletter.

I just want to say — boom — out of the park, Area 72. This is awesome.

Zoom, the website, QR codes, the newsletter — all of that is working really well.

The problem isn’t the tools.

I go into a home group and say, ‘Hey, check out the website,’ and they say, ‘Website? What website? What Area?’

So the issue is education.”

Inventory Question 5B

“How are hybrid meetings working and not working – and what improvements would help make them more valuable?”

Mary W., Alt DCM D45 – Group 15 (Online)

“For the most part, we feel that hybrid meetings are working really well.

District 25 is a good example of that.

One thing that could be better is access to better equipment.

Audio and visual quality can be very challenging.

We also talked about better communication between hybrid and online groups, especially around how Seventh Tradition contributions are collected online.”

David J., DCM D14 - Group 3

“We’d echo that hybrid meetings are working pretty well and providing more accessibility.

One area to improve is paying attention to the online experience — sometimes there’s a lot of talking in the room that makes it hard for people online to hear.

One suggestion was putting bullet points on slides when chairs are giving reports, so online participants can follow along visually.

From the in-room perspective, continuing to pay attention to the gallery view and making sure speakers are visible helps people online feel included.”

Rose B., DCM D7 - Group 7

“Hybrid events are really helpful, especially for people with challenging schedules.

We would like to see more weekday options.”

Lori, Alt DCM D2 - Group 11

“We felt there were a lot of distractions in the video feeds.

Some of the Zoom audio quality wasn’t very good.

Affordability of the right equipment could help.

We also thought it would be helpful to provide structure and guidelines at the beginning of meetings about expectations for participation.”

Finance, Transparency, and Self-Support

Inventory Question 6A

“On average, only about 40% of our groups financially contributed to Area 72 in 2025; what do we know about why groups choose not to contribute? How are we communicating how Area funds are used, and why contributions matter?”

Ginger, Member – Group 10

“We talked about lack of funds and lack of understanding of the service structure.

Politics was mentioned as a factor.

We need to communicate the value of contributing to the Area and what that money actually supports.”

Alex, Member - Group 2

“We would like to see more education; roadshows have been great.

DCMs and Alt DCMs go around to dark meetings to find out why they don’t contribute.

We talked about areas of interest like the bus signs and how their 7th Tradition contributions are being used.”

Cheri D., DCM, District 33 - Group 6

“We felt that most groups don’t like the way Area is spending the money.

Groups don’t have a lot of money.

Use more education and simplify financial reports.

We considered workshops for group treasures and making it part of the GSR/DCM schools.”

Darrell - District 45 – Group 14 - “Two Better Than 12”

“We mentioned that groups may not have a lot of money or prefer to distribute it in a different way, like up to GSO.

We need to make groups aware of the fact that once the money goes to GSO it doesn't come back down to assist with district and area committees.

It was also mentioned that the value of a dollar today does not go nearly as far as it did in 1991 when I first got sober.”

Inventory Question 6B

“How can we encourage districts to take responsibility for the travel expenses of guest they invite, in keeping with our Tradition of self-support and shared services?”

Houston L., Area Registrar – Group 16 (Online)

“Some of our input was that DCMs are often unaware of the expectation that districts are responsible for paying expenses when they invite Area trusted servants.

That responsibility supports elected and appointed members coming to give service to districts and groups.

We also talked about better utilizing hybrid or online meetings so there aren't expenses for invited guests.

And a reminder that there are no dues or fees for membership in AA, and that richer and poorer districts should have equal access to Area trusted servants.”

Ganelle, DCM D41 - Group 8 (“Ochos Locos”)

“We suggested being upfront about who is responsible for costs when invitations are made.

Communicating that clearly ahead of time helps.

We also suggested inviting neighboring districts to share some of the costs.”

Joe T., DCM D19 – Group 12

“We had a lot of conversation about what districts currently say about this.

We thought there needs to be something more concrete in writing, maybe in the district or area handbook, about how travel expenses are handled.

This needs to be examined by DCMs.

We also talked about the benefits of Zoom — not just having an Area person come speak at a district meeting but creating special workshops on different days.

Less travel means less expense, which we're all concerned about."

Emily, Member - Group 4

"Making sure responsibilities are clearly stated, creating an annual budget, including travel as a line item, keeping accurate records, and having treasurers share expense reports.

Communicating clearly and often about expectations."

Inventory Question 6C

"How can electeds and appointeds maintain transparency and accountability in travel expenses so that enthusiasm for service doesn't unintentionally lead to uneven or excessive spending"

West C., DCM D31 - Group 1 – "The Wild Ones"

"We talked about maintaining a clear boundary between travel for AA business versus personal enjoyment.

Implementing an orientation at the beginning of each rotation to review Area travel expense policies.

Differentiating between essential events and optional events according to the Area budget.

And encouraging districts to take responsibility for invited guest travel expenses."

[Name unintelligible], Member - Group 10

"We talked about the reporting piece.

Written reports could be more detailed — more in the weeds — especially for people who like to read and understand where expenses are coming from.

Verbal reports could also spend more time painting the picture of what the money is being used for.

We felt that appointed and elected trusted servants are doing a decent job overall, but more clarity would help.”

David J., DCM, D14 - Group 3

“We focused on transparency and accountability.

We believe we need more transparency — not just a single-line budget.

The question came up about how we ensure detailed transparency of travel expenses.

Do we reimburse mileage or actual expenses, and how does that impact the budget?

We agreed that travel expenses should be reimbursed so they don’t become a barrier to service.

But it’s also reasonable to have a per-position budget and to do a quarterly, position-by-position assessment so we can be responsible stewards of Seventh Tradition money.”

Emily, Member - Group 4

“For Area Electeds and Appointeds to balance who goes where.

Actively examine reserves and abundance of funds.

Submit and share in updated reports.

Be clear and upfront on expectations and responsibilities.”

Spiritual Principles

Inventory Question 7A

“When we conduct Area business, where do we succeed and where do we struggle – in applying the Traditions and Concepts?”

Alex, Member – Group 2

“We succeed by allowing everyone to speak at the microphone and hear minority opinions.

The Area Chair asking specifically for minority opinions is a good practice.

We asked whether we are really listening and making extra effort to understand minority viewpoints, especially on difficult topics.

How can we do better at educating GSRs about available candidates?

Perhaps better qualifying candidates going for different positions. ”

Houston, Area Registrar - Group 16 (Online)

“This was our favorite question.

Area 72 is diligent in being discussion-driven and keeping primary purpose in mind.

We’re progressive and innovative, especially with online and hybrid service.

Even when it feels like struggle, we’re being solution-oriented.

The transition from paper to digital newsletters felt like a spiritual experience for many of us.”

Rodrigo, DCM D1 – Group 9 (Online)

“We do work in the group passing the message and putting ads on buses.

We practice the Traditions and Concepts and work very hard in discussions.”

Dave H., GSR - Morning Phoenix Group D19 – Group 5

“We felt we struggle with Concept One — whether the Area committee is making decisions that belong to the groups.

Are agenda items treated as Area decisions, or opportunities for groups to decide?

We succeed when we improve communication from quarterlies to GSRs to groups, with full background information so groups are prepared to vote.”

Inventory Question 7B

“Are Area service responsibilities matched by an equal service authority? Do we trust our trusted servants? How do we show that trust?”

Joe T., DCM D19 – Group 12

“We feel strongly that we trust our trusted servants.

We like that appointed servants have a vote.

We trust that servants are doing their best with the time they have.

If something goes wrong, there’s a process to address it.

Beyond respect, we genuinely care about each other.”

Ganelle, DCM D41 - Group 8 (“Ochos Locos”)

“We show trust by asking hard questions at the mic and feeling heard.

We show trust by delegating.

And we show trust by continuing to financially support the Area.”

Cheri D., DCM, District 33 - Group 6

“We allow our trusted servants to do their jobs without micromanagement.

Sometimes questions have come up in the past about appointed servants who don’t have much experience.

We show our trust by going to them for help, b showing them grace, practicing humility and honesty.”

Mary W., Alt DCM 45 – Group 15 (Online)

“We feel service responsibilities generally match service authority.

When we have questions, we can reach out to trusted servants individually or at the mic.

The Bus Sign project was a good example of talking things through and trusting the committee process.

Steering committees help ensure decisions are collective, not individual.”

Inventory Question 7C

“When we listen to the Minority Opinion, do we seek to truly understand and hear someone’s perspective? How do we prepare ourselves to both share from the heart and listen with an open mind”

Darrell - District 45 – Table 14 - “Two Better Than 12”

“We talked about approaching minority opinion with the mindset that it may be the most important opinion in the room.

When I struggle to listen, I reset myself with the Serenity Prayer.

Minority opinions can change minds if we allow space for them.”

Lori, Alt-DCM D2 - Group 11

“Humility has a lot to do with it, having an open mind.

Be curious, be open.

Look at the diversity and be able to accept something different.

Apply Tradition 12, allow different people to voice their opinion“

Dan H., DCM D3 - Group 13

“We talked about this.

The first thing we talked about was that it seemed like an individual experience. We passed it around in groups, and each individual kind of had their own way of navigating the space.

But we all need to show up in the same way.

We also brought up that the minority opinion is a vulnerable position to be in. Recognizing that allows space for someone to go ahead and say it.

If they have what it takes to stand up there and voice their opinion, even though it’s not popular, then give it space.

Conversely, if it’s an opinion that’s been well documented already, it can sometimes be difficult.

But again, not referring them to first and second.”

Steve R., D18 – Group 7 (“Super Seven”)

“We want to remember the importance of group conscience.

My job is to have an opinion and let a Higher Power do the rest.

Sometimes the amendments to the verbiage are cumbersome and time consuming.

We also suggested a pro-con-question mic format to encourage balanced discussion before voting.”

Extra Credit: Inventory Process & Follow-Up

Inventory Question 8A

“When we conduct Area business, where do we succeed and where do we struggle – in applying the Traditions and Concepts?”

Sooz B., Area CPC Chair – Group 10

“Thank you, I’m Suze. I’m an alcoholic and your Area CPC Chair.

The question was: what would make our inventory process more beneficial, and how does our Area summarize, communicate, and follow up on action items?

And really, the gist was an after-action report.

There are staff-driven action items in almost every business.

We had a continuing conversation about taking a thoughtful approach to how people are receiving information.

There’s an abundance of it. The Area may already be communicating or addressing the action item — but is that being heard by the DCMs, and therefore the groups?

So a new, different, or more thoughtful approach to how people are receiving the information.”

Dan H., DCM D3 - Group 13

“Our group thought that having the questions in advance would be a good advantage — slowing down.”

Jordy, Member

“Our group had people where this was the first time doing something like this.

We were hoping to see a report at the assembly or at the July quarterly, so GSRs and alternates can talk to their groups beforehand.

Another idea was addressing one item at a time and allowing GSR comments so that information can flow back into the groups.”

Joe T., DCM D19 – Group 12

“We asked why GSRs aren’t more included in this process.

Perhaps if there was more time before the inventory, DCMs could have district meetings and ask the assigned questions to get more GSR input.

We also asked about follow-up. I see that there’s an ad hoc committee listed, but I don’t hear follow-up at later quarterlies or assemblies about how things went.”

Alex, Member – Group 2

“We too would be interested in hearing back on the results of the inventory.”

Monica, Alt DCM D22 – Group 5

“We felt the inventory is summarized well in the minutes and communicated well in the newsletter.

But we haven’t seen much follow-through on action items.

There isn’t clearly defined authority or responsibility for following up, and we proposed an inventory follow-up committee.”

Ganelle, DCM D41 - Group 8 (“Ochos Locos”)

“Our group liked this format.

We liked the cross-representation of DCMs and service people.

We felt it was a more efficient way of doing the inventory than having people go to the mic for every single question.”

West C., DCM D31 - Group 1 – “The Wild Ones”

“We’d like to implement the top five takeaways from the Area inventory and post them in the Area newsletter.

We’d also like them sent out in PDF form to all DCMs, who would then send them to their districts.

Another idea is to implement a one-hour discussion on Friday night of the following quarterly, breaking into five groups — one for each takeaway — and opening it up for further discussion.”

Pete, DCM D22 – Group 3

“A suggestion to create an ad hoc committee to summarize and create action items, report those at the April quarterly, and continue follow-up reports at the July quarterly and May Assembly.”

Crystal, Past Delegate – Super 7’s

“We had the idea that follow up would be a good thing.

Participation from GSRs and Alt GSRs is a good idea, letting them now they are welcome at this meeting.

We had five people in our group who aren’t part of the Area committee, and it was really fun.

Compared to the last inventory, where there wasn’t much participation at the microphone, this format allowed everyone to feel comfortable sharing in small groups.

I just want to congratulate whoever decided to use this format — it was really enjoyable.”

Facilitator / Area Host

The facilitator thanked the ad hoc committee that prepared the inventory questions and format, naming several members who served.

Appreciation was expressed for the thoughtful participation of both in-person and online members.

The meeting closed with acknowledgment of the collective effort and the value of the discussion for the Area moving forward.

[END]

Respectfully Submitted,

Don N.
WWA72 Secretary