

Napa District 11
District Inventory, November 11, 2023

Inventory Questions:

1. How effective are we in communicating with all our groups?

Many groups have no GSR, so they don't have communication with District. As a GSR he does try keep his group connected and informed

We make an attempt, core meetings are really connected, but on the whole it's not very good. District could do better reaching out to groups individually, perhaps with a District liaison or member at large

Better passively, eg website has lots more info than 10 years ago, but still need to visit meetings in person

Pretty good with the groups. Up-valley people attend multiple groups so hear a district report somewhere. I need to ask my group what they want and open up communication to district, not just from district.

Subdistrict meetings, when we ask what do GSRs want, there's not much response. They don't know what they want, maybe it's because some GSRs are new. What would you offer going meetings when you visit? Don't know, but try to lead by example and be enthusiastic.

Does pretty well reporting to his group, website is also very helpful, sometimes feels like a one-way communication.

Appreciate the website and tech people, it helps keep the groups and members more connected. Recommends napa.org as a reference for district info.

Remember it's our own experience, make sure GSRs know what their resources are, and we can sort through the various reports at different meetings.

2. Do all AA's know about district meetings and have the opportunity to attend?

All AAs have opportunity to attend, website is excellent and has the info on where and when. Maybe a good portion don't care or don't know, so getting more information to the fellowship at large about the district and what it does could be helpful.

GSR announces the district at her meeting and offers zoom info, but no one has ever attended. Also tries to keep reports short and upbeat so it's attractive

Sponsor gave him a copy of the General Service Manual when he was new. He attended various GS events since then and gotten involved.

Used to always announce district and Area meetings and invited folks to join her. Done with enthusiasm and excitement. Will start do it again.

Could announce at a meeting with no GSR. Zoom link and website make it easy to attend. Needs to make it sound more fun and interesting.

Not sure everyone needs to know about the District meeting, especially newcomers. Need to be a 3 legacy sponsor and educate sponsees on District, Area, steps, traditions , and the concepts.

Be positive and celebrate successes when sharing with folks in meetings. We can discuss faults at District meetings, but be more positive when speaking at regular meetings.

3. Has enough effort been made to explain to all, the value and purpose of a G.S.R.?

During agenda topics time, great job. Outside of Agenda topics, not so much. Need to improve on this area by gathering group consciences about District and Area motions.

New GSR hadn't gotten it until going through service manual and getting a service sponsor. As evolve as a GSR, and learn more of importance, I get better at explaining. Important to talk about how service has changed our lives.

Agree that agenda topic time, not so good when not. Good explaining role of GSR during election at group level. Better to discuss with people one on one, rather than at recovery meeting or business meeting.

Could do better based on how few groups have a GSR. Sub-district meetings reinforce importance and value of GSR. Could do better based on how many groups have GSRs.

Purpose of GSR clear, but if they stay around, they can become a district officer, and continue to grow beyond that role, maybe even in Area.

Explaining is one thing, but when at a function or group you are representing General Service. When presenting you need to be a good attractive representative. Your actions are how people will learn.

A lot of effort goes into teaching a GSR, lots of resources available, reading the service manual and getting a service sponsor. Service is good and we need to make it more attractive

Need a two sentence description, existing ones are too long.

Need to emphasize what service does for your own sobriety, and getting out of self

4. How well are our groups informed about what is happening in A.A. worldwide?

GSRs, those that attend district, etc, do a good job of passing on info to their groups.

Understanding AA as a whole takes longer, not so good at it.

Need to do research, what's going on in South America for Americas Conference, European, Africa, don't get passed on.

Don't know but service sponsor knows. Good at Area and Nationwide, but not worldwide.

Box 459 is a good resource, report back from the conference is also a helpful resource. Maybe put links on the website

5. What additional activities can we engage in, to carry the message?

Workshops, make them fun and not too wonky, getting together outside regular business meeting might be good.

Organize workshops and sharing sessions on Service activities. Have a yearly GSR workshop to inform district members. Missing out by not doing our own agenda topics workshop.

Unity Day once a year, something similar would be good. Break out sessions would be a way to inform people.

I like what's being said about more informative outreach, like the NAPYPAA folks. Important to explain the importance of service, even engaging newly sober people.

Don't socialize much in GS. That would be great, let's start it up again. Have lunch after the meeting, year end and panel end parties.

PICPC is a good way to reach lots of professionals, and has lots of service positions

6. Do new G.S.R.'s stick with us, or does our turnover and missed meetings seem excessive?

Doesn't keep track, sees familiar faces, but hard to know as a GSR.

Don't have the data to answer the question. Waited many years to accept a GSR position, but it was tough in the beginning. Intend to complete commitment.

GSRs that come in stay. Staying for another commitment less likely. Coming in to the middle of a panel makes it tough.

An old timer once said, the right people are there at the right time, for the right reason.

Pushing people is not an attractive way to get GSRs, but ok when they are willing.

Quantitatively is tough. Some people do stick around. It is attraction that gets people in. First year

is difficult, it can be discouraging until you get up to speed. Important not to talk smack, that's a turn off.

Doing it a long time, good service sponsors really help. It really deepens one's sobriety.

Having a good service sponsor helps, harder on Zoom. Personal connection is where the miracle happens.

Just like a sponsor can't take the steps for a sponsee, the district can't always make a GSR stick around. GSR sticking around is ultimately GSRs responsibility.

7. Considering the number of alcoholics in our district, are we reaching enough people?

Easier at group level, tougher at District level. Napa is a small fellowship, go to similar meetings and hear several GSRs give reports. Do we need 5 GSRs for the 5 weeknight meetings?

More meetings than GSRs, District isn't responsible, but can do more to make service more attractive. Currently a good group in district that keep the info flowing.

Don't know how many untreated folks there are in district, maybe PICPC or H&I can answer that.

First half of questions is unanswerable. 2nd half, no we're not reaching them as well as we could we need to promote a better understanding of the program of AA.

Don't have access to info re how many. Best way is letting people know how to get in touch with AA. Have someone in the hospital to talk with folks, have QR codes for meeting schedule.

District does a pretty good job. When you travel to other places there are not that many meetings. Different in rural areas than Napa.

Napa County board for alcohol and drug programs. They know about AA. We're lucky if we have 15-20% of the alcoholics. That leaves at least 80% of people who still need us.

Good meeting access, especially in Napa. How's Spanish meeting situation? Do they need more support?

In last 18 mos much better connection between community and PICPC, better than ever! If you know of something coming up, let PICPC chair know.

8. What is the basic purpose of the District Committee?

Communication and info link between Area and Group. GSO to district.

Also where we can communicate with the community (PICPC), not just other AAs. And we can propose an agenda topic for the conference.

Distribution channel between AAWS and groups in Napa Co.

Structure provides a way to solve problems between disparate groups. We are the guardian of the traditions, that's what the structure is for.

Channel for info from groups to GSO, via conference, also representative of primary purpose

Each group is autonomous, no police powers for censure. We have tried and true historical solutions to problems. The district is the conduit for those solutions.

9. What has the District done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals who can be helpful in reaching those who are in need of A.A.?

PICPC committee is revived and doing good work.

County committee has been a good way to reach professionals in the community. Lots of positive change in last few years in the PICPC committee and connecting with the community.

This panel seems more serious on doing the job better, not fun to be called out on failings, but important for effective growth. Important to remember it's a life and death thing.

Just getting back on their feet after Covid had a bad effect on attendance and involvement. Values being on PICPC committee.

10. Do we try to illustrate a good cross section of A.A. in our message carrying?

Accessibility is the word. Not just physically handicapped. Anything that creates a barrier to recover. Getting better because we're recognizing it.

Pretty good cross-section in meeting. Racially and gender diverse. Many meetings are handicap accessible.

Individual meetings limited by availability of space in their area.

Community dictates the needs. We do a good job of responding to needs of the community, although it may slower than some people would like. We have no restrictions on who can attend.

11. Are our District meetings informative and enthusiastic?

Doesn't get as excited as at Area. Just Zoom doesn't facilitate as much interaction. Enthusiasm is objective and everyone brings what they can to the meeting.

They are informative, and I get excited when there is a specific topic I'm interested in. To see

motions go through the process and come to a conclusion is satisfying. I think we'd be more effective if we were in the same room, just my opinion.

Not sure how good a job I do at bringing info back from Area. I need to smile more.

DCM wants to be informative and supportive. Hopes the GSR schools are helping.

They are informative, and enthusiastic as need. We meet and get our business done, and it's effective and time is well spent.

12. Do our groups carry their fair share of supporting the Area and the General Service Office (GSO)?

Info flow is pretty good up and down. Each group has different % of 7th traction \$. GSO, and Area are having financial difficulties, what about District? New finance committee will help.

At group level, attendance and donations have gone down, while rents have gone up. Supporting intergroup too. Sometimes there's not a lot of extra funds.

13. Are district officers picked with care and consideration?

Hasn't seen them being picked. They're doing their job and very accessible, so I guess they were picked with care.

Follow the process of the elections, available and elected. Support them in their efforts. Appreciates how it takes personalities, etc, out of the process.

He's seen enthusiastic group that are willing to serve. Somewhat limited by not having enough people to fill positions.

Yes they picked with care. Difficult when more than two people, but process works.

Researched in 1956 Grapevine: choose people best for the benefit of the group, not necessarily the good of the individual's growth.