

June 20, 2023

Facilitator: Jerry – A72 Secretary District 36: Paul (DCM), Kent (GSIG Liaison), Patrick S (Alt Treasurer, Alt GSR for Duvall Candlelight), Mike L (Alt DCM), Natalie C (Corrections, GSR for HOW Women's), Tami B (Registrar)

1. Serenity Prayer

2. Introductions

3. Jerry: Purpose of the Inventory: Prepare for future actions. No motions or decisions tonight. Talk about things, spot issues, that may be a discussion item for future District meetings. No need to convince or persuade anybody. Express opinions freely and openly

4. Ground rules

a. Raise hand to speak

b. Speak no more than 2 minutes; Paul will be timer

5. Discussion

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think is the basic purpose of the District Committee? Do you think we are achieving this purpose? (All participants answered)

a. Get all the GSRs in one place, bring back District news to the groups. We are achieving this purpose as far as we have GSR participation

b. District is conduit between groups and larger org . Yes achieving purpose as far as we have participation from GSRS

c. District is conduit between groups and other districts. Yes achieving purpose

d. Provide services back to the groups

e. Serve the groups within district; liaison for info between larger AA org and the groups. Impressed with how that is being achieved and how it is available and how it was available to her and the opportunity to serve as GSR.

f. Liaison between local groups, the District, the Area, GSIG, and ESIG. Works both ways. Delegate, quarterlies, bring back to the groups and carry our vote to the District. We provide meeting place where any GSR or anyone in the District can come in and participate and see what District is doing. Planning of events. Participation comes and goes year after year but really happy with the core group that we have currently.

g. Support our groups, connect our groups to other parts of organization. Achieving purpose? I wish I was more sure that our groups know we are out here, that they know they can reach out to us. People struggling with new service position. I don't get questions as soon as I would like. Lose people as they think its too big. Always room to get better. People out in the woods here are pretty autonomous and thing they don't need us.

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

a. Identifying our groups that don't have a GSR. Solid communication path to our groups. Get out to our groups on some recurring basis.

b. Bring Mike's GSR handout to the groups who don't have GSRs attending District. We've been talking about it, now we need to do it.

c. We have the positions and we have the GSRs. We spent a lot of time getting the positions filled. Would like to see more attention to committees. Spend more time talking about Corrections has what they need, are we doing BTG, PI, this is the way to reach more alcoholics. Like to see more time spent doing that.

d. I personally could do more. As a GSR I enjoy, have passion for coming back to my group, inviting people to District. If there was a campaign or focus on GSRs, and in-person GSR assembly where they bring one person. In person events, coming out of Covid, we do great work. Gratitude Dinner was awesome. Sometimes reporting back to group people don't know what you're talking about. Help people understand what is happening.

e. Gratitude Dinner – no one really called it out as something that the District does. Arguably the most important event of the year for getting everyone in the District together. Everyone loves it. We should recognize it as an important function of the District.

(Procedural question – can people speak twice on the same subject? Jerry – no)

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

a. No, we are not reaching enough people. A lot of changes due to Covid, going to Zoom. People meeting outside of formal meetings.

b. No, we are not reaching as many people as we could. Especially coming out of Covid, remote work, all that time alone was a great opportunity for people to be alone and think that their problem is special.

4. 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.?

a. Role of CPC and David in that role has worked to get some of our flyers out in public places. Elizabeth before him was putting flyers out in places like post offices. We have the website, and stickers for people to remind them about the website. Those are the ways we

But we haven't done school panels and we don't have a treatment center in our district. We have a panel at Milam.

b. Hooked up David with ESIG panel that goes to high schools. Our doctors out here don't seem to get what it means to be an addict or an alcoholic. Its hard to get this thing rolling again. We just need to bring this up when we get together. We don't do a lot of District-sanctioned events. We did fishing trip. And we go to different Eastside breakfasts etc.

c. We could talk about committees at District, figure out how we can help with CPC/PI in our different parts of the Valley. We could reach out to places like Acres of Diamonds, offer to take a meeting there so they don't have to worry about childcare.

d. We used to have packets, we could bring them to our doctors office

e. Would love to know what I could do, help put together packets. Maybe talk in District about attraction vs promotion and what we can do. Had experience where Snoq Valley Hospital recognized her alcoholism. That was life changing. Would like to help.

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

a. What does this question mean? (Jerry – do we have different races, sexes, segments of society. But many districts are homogenous.)

b. We are a very white district but we do not have enough participation from Hispanics. Don't know how to engage Hispanic community but that is where we are unrepresented.

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

a. Seems like we have had committee chairs who don't attend District meeting and don't provide reports in email. We don't have a lot of GSRs show up, only 3-4 show up and most of them have committee positions. But we are new in rotation.

b. Its about attraction piece. Been involved for 2.5 years and I became GSR very early but I try to talk about it more in my meetings. Great resources out there, have been shared by Paul and Mike. Has to be a spark, 'what do I say, what do I do'. GSRs, encourage them to bring someone from their home group. We usually end up with quite a few people. Knowing what they can do, but not everything can be handed to us. Maybe we do District meetings, have a meeting devoted to each chair position to really talk those through.

c. We do have a relatively high level of turnover, in terms of enough people to fill a position and then we see them one or two more times. Would like to see us develop longer term, lighter load service. Numbers of GSRs

d. Jerry – its normal at my district, there are a lot of people (who cycle through)

e. We overwhelm people who show up by giving them committee positions when they first show up as a GSR. They were expecting to carry info back and forth between their group and the District, and all of a sudden we have signed them up to attend conferences and quarterlies and they don't even know what they are expected to do as a committee chair. Should let them attend a couple District meetings before suggesting committee service.

f. WE don't want to chase people off but want to be as welcoming as possible before encouraging them to take more service

7. Do we treat all the officers, GSRs, and committee chairs equally or do we treat some differently than others?

a. No comments

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

a. We could be a lot more effective. Having more fun in District meetings, something that was a draw. Get people to want to come spend time with this group of people. Would like us to be more effective in getting more GSRs involved, more than putting things on website or sending messages.

b. I attend 5 meetings mostly in Duvall, everyone looks at me when they ask for announcements. But when I go to District meeting, how are we getting the message out? Is

someone giving the same message in meetings in Snoqualmie, Preston, etc.? We made the flyer to help out. We need to do more of that. We do have GSRs from those areas, so I know there are hopefully talking about District and GSRs, but don't know for sure.

9. Do all AA's know about district meetings and have the opportunity to attend? How could we do better?

a. We have a flyer that Mike did. Paul went around the different meetings pre-Covid. We should go to the meetings that don't have GSRs to share the flyer.

b. One thing we might be able to do to get people to attend is to have for instance pizza. It is up to us to get to the meetings where the GSRs aren't showing up and let them know when the District meeting is, that it is hybrid, let them know that it is there, encourage them. There are a lot of dark meetings in the area. A lot of ground to cover from Snoq pass to north of Duvall. If we try to encourage them – "throw a cookie at them". We don't do events like we used to. We seem to have split into small cliques that are getting together talking program but as a District level, we need to get our events together for attraction.

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

a. These last 3 questions all seem to be similar.

b. Part of that is explaining to people about general service. The GSR keeps the group informed but are part of the Area and the District. General service for newcomer is just attending meetings and finding a sponsor. But once people have some time they can give back. "I cant sit in a business meeting and hear people argue about things I don't care about". "I don't want to show up and be asked to do more". Talk more about why service is important and then what the role of the GSR is.

11. Do all GSRs have adequate opportunity to serve on committees?

a. Yes

12. Are district officers and committee chairs elected with the appropriate care and consideration?

a. When we last did elections we had good discussion. Maybe more formal information when we are vying for the chair. Maybe we should spend some time talking about what other service someone has done, why they are interested. We tend to be If the person wants the position they should get it. We did choose some goo

b. Don't think we are consistent. If elections were more formal at start of rotation. I don't know what the right process is for certain positions. Are they elected or appointed? What do the guidelines say? I was not familiar with Service Manual until I became Alt DCM. We don't have a consistent process. We may not get a clear enough commitment or expectation from them.

13. Are district officers and committee chairs well-informed of the scope of their service authority and service responsibility by specific job descriptions or guidelines?

a. We point people to the blurb on the role on the website. We have District guidelines document. We've tried to point people to aa.org literature for pamphlet on each position.

b. No, because I jumped into the position before I knew what the responsibilities were. For instance, when I first went to Area Zoom workshops, I asked the Area people if the Quarterlies are optional and was told they were not. I didn't really sit down and read anything about what I was supposed to do. Learning on the job has been OK. But it would be nice to have been sat down, here is what you are doing. I did meet with former DCM prior to rotation starting. The resources are out there.

c. Agree the resources are out there and the current DCM and Alt DCM were great at sharing them at meetings, sharing screens, etc. Really fortunate. I've had people tell me who to contact for [my committees] info. I was not left out. Even if I was, I could ask people. No one has ever not helped. If there is consistency in leadership and can pass that on as new rotations occur, pass on that supportive mentality, we can assist people who want to know.

14. Do our groups carry their fair share of supporting the district, Area 72, and the General Service Office(GSO)?

a. Does that mean funding support? Jerry – ambiguous. Splits (funding) and how many people are provided in service positions. Re funding, I've seen a lot of groups

give funds to District and it can be talked about more as well, at regular meetings. I think it is happening but its not widespread.

b. Actually thinking about both – we at least talk about doing splits. Groups haven't been doing them recently. At least they talk about it. I think its being done. Support, we have been attending Quarterlies. Didn't see a lot of GSRs at the Assembly last year, maybe only 3. Our GSRs don't tend to attend. They are doing hybrids.

c. Contacting groups that suddenly stopped donating. Find out if they have the right address. My home group had the wrong address. When District Treasurer did the report, we saw that my home group which regularly does splits hadn't made any contributions to District, so had to let the treasurer know the new address. Area has new address also. How much in contributions may have been missed.

d. PO will not deliver mail to the church where District meeting is held. We have a PO Box in Fall City. The PO Box is a good address. Somehow get that more published. If anyone has the church address it will not get there.

15. How well are our groups informed about what is happening in A.A. Worldwide?

a. We are trying to promote the website.

b. We get some AAWS info from Delegate, we just got the Delegate report. Because of new rotations and coming out of Covid, we are getting groups back online, in person. There may be things we could be reporting on, but that's not the focus right now.

c. Our groups are not well-informed. For instance the Grapevine app, Grapevine podcast. I didn't know until Delegate report. But District can be choke point if people expect all info to come through the District. We try to show them where things are.

d. Agree. I've never reported on anything worldwide. Would be great to take to meetings. I noticed other Districts, they attend and talk about more conferences, both national and international.

(Time Check) (Jerry: Suggest every one take 2 minutes to either take one remaining question, or anything they want to talk about.)

· Suggestion that we take each of remaining questions and discuss at our District meeting.

· For all of these questions we can use them for discussion points, but there are 2 questions I wanted to find out what people think:

o # 20b – sometimes I lean towards efficiency and shut things done. Is there a psychologically safe environment.

o #16 – Pizza, we did this once but it was a PITA to provide the pizza. Ordering is expensive.

· My thing on #20 is the budget, it was made by small group of people and based on former year. I have used funds as approved. Now I brought up this other motion about spending money on equipment, this was not in the budget. Everyone attending the meeting said yes, make the District more accessible. But I feel like it is a very small group of GSRs and District making those decisions. Should we be spending money that way.

· Eager to respond to DCM's questions. For me, I still feel so new. In meetings, how do they know what to talk about, what are they talking about? Relating back to the Traditions to explain why we are discussing these things.

16. Are our District Service Meetings informative and enthusiastic?

a. Yes, very informative. Appreciate the efficiency. Meeting doesn't go for undetermined amount of time. Service and sobriety is driving force. So helpful to know there will be time that it will be done. Worked with people from prior rotation and they are enjoyable group, we laugh. Sometimes I don't know when to speak up. I don't have an opinion on this, is that ok? There are much more experienced folks than I. Still learning. What are my opinions? Don't need to talk for the sake of talking.

b. Yes, they are informative. We front load reports so we spend 45 minutes on DCM, Alt DCM, Treasurer. Not much time for GSR reports. Would like to spend more time on Committees. Maybe once a quarter each Committee hosts a session where we can learn how to help out. Empower the chairs to reach out to their Area counterpart. Invite them to the District meeting or a different meeting.

17. Do we have an effective system for the accounting and reporting of funds? Not discussed

18. Do we have sufficient operating funds and apply prudent financial principles to their use?

Not discussed



19. Are the issues brought to District made clear so all know what they are voting for or against?

Not discussed

20A. Are all important decisions reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, substantial unanimity?

a. Yes

b. Are we getting enough input from the groups? We can make decisions on their behalf, but are we getting enough input from everybody?

(Jerry – this is Concept 4)

20B. Is adequate opportunity given to all members to participate and speak, in order to arrive at the actual voice and effective conscience of our District?

a. I really like the idea of a little more timing (a timer). Sometimes I don't know what to say. The timer would make it so that no one dominates.

(Jerry – AA universal rules – timer, and no one talks a second time until everyone gets a chance to speak.)

b. Try and set time for the different sections going into it. Try to structure the time better. Great idea.

c. Reiterate, that's a great idea. Specific time for each report.

d. Another good reason to invest in the equipment. Paul can work the time so that will be possible.

21. How do we treat the "Right of Appeal", thus assuring that the minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered?

Not discussed

22. Other thoughts or questions for consideration:

Not discussed

Wrap Up - Jerry

- Send any follow up comments to Paul or Tami (because she is taking the notes).
- All the Districts are alike. We all have the same problems. You guys are doing a great job. Thank you for inviting me.