

### **1. What is the basic purpose of our district?**

Members generally said that the purpose of the district is to be the link between the groups at the top of the triangle and General Service at the bottom of the triangle. This link allows the groups to be represented at the General Service level as well as allow the groups to become more informed about items being done and discussed at the General Service level. The district also provides a resource to groups and individuals to carry the message in ways it cannot on its own through workshops and a sense of community as well as promote unity within and between groups.

### **2. What more can our district do to carry the message?**

Members generally said the district could facilitate more workshops and work with CPCPI, encourage struggling or lonely groups, promote anniversaries and celebrations or events, put more information on the website like upcoming events and make it easier to use, develop a "highlights" flyer about important information to take back to the groups, and develop a "speaker exchange" program to encourage members from groups to speak at others. It was said that doing these things could promote unity between groups and participation from groups at the district and area level, give a better understanding of what is discussed at the district level, and a better understanding of the service triangle.

Workshop ideas:

- Service triangle
- Stepwork
- Sponsorship
- Traditions

### **3. Is our district attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs? (or, is the district doing everything it can to support groups as they carry the message to a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs)**

Some members said that they felt groups were doing well in this regard, though many more mentioned items and ideas to improve on it. One of the items that was discussed was the accessibility of some of the meetings for individuals who are wheel-chair bound or hearing impaired. Some of the ideas of how to address this included clarifying on the meeting schedule (through intergroup or the Meeting Guide App) which groups were wheel-chair accessible or had ASL interpreters. For groups that are not able to include individuals who are hearing impaired, a line item in the budget could be made to provide equipment like a microphone for groups to borrow to accommodate this. Another item discussed was some groups felt that they were not very diverse in their attendants which made them feel that they were not effectively carrying the message to *all* alcoholics. Some of the ideas for this issue included taking meetings to or bringing individuals from local treatment centers and taking meetings to places like historically black colleges, other places of worship, and nursing homes.

**4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we do as a district to retain members?**

Many members felt that the representation at the district meeting was very good, especially compared to where some members had lived previously. It was voiced that having a comfortable meeting space with things like good lighting and climate control help retain membership and asking members what they do or do not like about a meeting space to change what can be changed. Some of the things mentioned that could be affecting attendance at the district is that some members may not feel welcome to come or may be overwhelmed at the district meeting and that there could be a breakdown in unity within groups which inhibits them from electing a GSR that would then go to the district meeting. Some of the proposed solutions that could encourage more attendance included sending representatives to “dark” groups and encourage them to send a GSR representative, welcoming any newcomers, emphasize that the district meeting is an open meeting, bringing spouses or friends, and having a raffle.

**5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better? (Was suggested we talk about service sponsorship rather than traditional sponsorship)**

Some members felt like service sponsorship isn't really discussed. Some mentioned that the GSR school was good, but also proposed solutions which included temporary service sponsorship for newcomers and asking for members that are willing to be a service sponsor, having a workshop on service sponsorship, participating in service manual studies, and attending conferences like SSASAA.

**6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our district members and other A.A.'s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?**

Members felt that this item was done well for the most part. However, the question was raised as to whether this question was relevant as the whole point of the district meeting was to receive information that would then be brought back to the groups. One particular question that was asked was whether the district meeting was open or closed. Many didn't know the answer to that but some mentioned how they felt it was open to any *alcoholic* that wanted to attend. There was ultimately no decision made and was decided it could be a good item to discuss and come to a group consensus with.

**7. Does our district emphasize to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean-up, and other household chores that are essential for our Twelfth step efforts?**

Most members thought that they do a great job. It was mentioned that the meeting space is shared by several members but their homegroup in particular is the one that is called when

the Masons mention concerns about the lights being turned on and off. They wondered how best to communicate this. Do the masons call each of the groups? Does a primary group distribute the information?

**8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?**

Members felt they did well in this regard

**9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?**

Members felt they did well in this regard; those who want to serve are given the opportunity

**10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?**

Members felt they did well in this regard however having A/C issues can make it distracting. It was mentioned that that was out of member's control but another member mentioned they couldn't remember the last time it was surveyed for other places to meet.

**11. Does our district do it's fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A. - as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service?**

Members mentioned they *could* do more but there was a lack of volunteers, however what they do, like sobriety picnics, get-togethers, and events like the alcathon and assembly, they do well

**12. What has our group done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community - the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?**

It was mentioned that the intergroup office mostly takes care of this item and it may be best to keep it separate from the district as a result. However, it was mentioned that communication between the district and intergroup could be improved by putting the intergroup meeting dates on the website and announcing them for interested members as well as bringing chairs from the intergroup office to bring reports to the district.

**13. How is our district fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?**

A member felt that the district is fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition by using a surplus policy that was reviewed regularly. Most members passed on the question.