

District 9 Inventory: September 17th, 2023.

Present: Benjamin (Area 92 Chair), Ben H., Jan A., Rick, Lauren, Gene, Ron O., Walt, Kari, Virginia, Danielle, Barbara, Janet, Steve H., Marque, Tyler, Nancy, Chris, Marc, William, Greg

Meeting was opened with The Serenity prayer, and then Ben read the Daily Reflection from 9/16/2023.

Traditions read.

Meeting handed over to Benjamin who was our facilitator for the inventory.

Timekeeper: Walt, Note Takers: Janet and Kari.

(Notes taken represent the common thread of the Group Conscious in response to the five questions.)

Question 1: What is the Basic Purpose of District 9?

- What does District 9 do?
- Are we reaching out to the alcoholics still suffering?
- What is the job of District 9?

Some members were not sure what District 9 did and is.

Others saw that it had the responsibility to allow the voices from the local AA groups to be shared with the District and Area level.

Others saw it as a conduit for the group conscious carried to be to District and from the District to Area 92 and beyond. Then a conduit sharing information from Area 92 back through District to groups.

District provides tools: Workshops, Financial responsibility to local AA to provide literature, outreach to local area hospitals, institutions and Schools, AA Social events.

District should be supportive of the local groups in the Primary Purpose of AA.

Some questioned the effectiveness of our District. Several members saw the need to improve our communication to groups and groups to District. Some questioned why members are reluctant to step up and get involved in service. Is the AA Service manual available to members, are GSR's encouraging in the opportunities to get involved in service? Do we encourage all groups to see the importance to have a voice at the District 9 level?

Others saw that effectiveness would improve with District Workshops: GSR and sponsorship workshops were suggested.

Outreach needs more help.

Common thread was that education was needed to understand what District 9 does and is responsible for.

We should make it attractive to be involved in service.

We need to improve our outreach in our community.

There also needs to be more unity within AA in our area, and more respect between GSR's and officers at the District Level.

Actions Discussed:

- Education
- Service sponsorship
- Outreach to community

Question 2: Are our District 9 service Positions Clearly Defined?

- Why is it OK for District 9 to be judgmental about newcomers in relation to holding positions within District 9?

Consensus heard was, NO, our service positions are not clearly defined.

Expressed by several was the need to define roles. We need to do more sharing with the groups what the service opportunities are.

It concerned many that members feel that there the district is seen to be judgmental. It was discussed on the need to have guidelines on timing before service. But we should have consideration for any newcomer who expresses a desire to be involved. Sobriety length should only be a suggestion. Service positions should be open to all. We should show encouragement not judgement.

An important point expressed is: are we leaving opportunity for newer members to be involved?

Action Items Discussed:

- Education from District to Groups
- Clearly defined Service Positions
- Encouragement to those showing interest.
- Service sponsorship

Question 3: Are our District Guidelines Clear and Concise?

- How is the “Spirit of Rotation” being dealt with?

General theme from many who hold service positions was that the present guidelines are not clear and certainly need to be reviewed and updated. Many in the room admitted they knew nothing about them and had never read them.

Spirit of Rotation in the draft guidelines recently presented tried to address stricter suggestions on this. Subject was tabled.

Benjamin asked we District 9 keeps a “Motion History”?

Someone stated that there have been older members who have stayed in Service positions almost constantly due to lack of participation. Should positions be left open if no one steps up?

Several members saw the advantage of newer members working alongside as an alternate in a service position, but questioned how we make it attractive to step up?

It was discussed that it is so important to instill the importance of service to an individual sobriety, are doing this at the group level? How do we attract members to take on service positions?

The present District guidelines again were brought up as in need of review. Benjamin reminded us that our Guidelines document should be seen as a living document: nothing set in stone.

“Rotation is about humility.” Fresh Inspiration: “Influence and control does not bring fresh inspiration.”

A question was asked of how much prayer is in attracting members to Service Positions?

Members taking on Service positions will trip and make mistakes, and in falling will gain experience and will succeed.

Positions will be filled!

Actions Items Discussed:

- Education needed for the future of our District.
- Important to have alternates for all service positions.

Question 4: The District 9 meeting?

- Is our business meeting attractive, informative, and filled with enthusiasm?
- Do we treat each other with respect and dignity?
- Do District 9 members listen with an open mind to the questions from the groups?
- Are we being respectful, open minded and fair?

Those who have been part of the district meeting shared that meetings they have attended have been chaotic. Some have not been part of the meetings said they had heard nothing good about them.

Those who serve at District level who are not officers were left feeling uninvolved and almost not trusted as they presently have no voting privileges, only GSR's vote according to present guidelines. They felt this unfair and should be reviewed.

Benjamin pointed out most Area's and District's allow officers and Committee chairs to vote.

A GSR mentioned that historically officers and Chairs were holding double duties and so were voting GSR's. But someone else reminded us that was then, and now there are more members stepping up who are not GSR's.

Consensus was that at times we do not treat each other with respect and dignity at the District meetings. There is no structure and order to the meeting that causes chaos and cross talk.

It was noted by one member that a recent email string concerning comments requested on "New draft Guidelines" moved into inappropriate conversations that were upsetting and disrespectful. Not the way to do business.

One GSR stated we need to understand why GSR's and officers do not want to be at the meeting. There was a call for our meetings to have more structure and procedure on how business was conducted. Someone commented that they wished the District meeting could be conducted as well as this inventory meeting!

It was hoped by majority that the outcome of the inventory would be a review of the guidelines and a change to promote structure and procedure in the meetings that would reinforce respect and encourage participation in the district.

Members at the meeting need to understand how a meeting should be conducted: maybe "Robert's Rules" light. Agenda published ahead of time, opportunity to add agenda items before the meeting.

Action Items Discussed:

- Need for Structure and clear procedural guidelines to meetings.
- Need to understand and help groups understand the function of District as it relates to their groups. Encourage participation.

Question 5: Do we attract New Members and Groups?

- Will the inventory have actions that “Will Fix Things”?

The general feeling from majority was that our groups are doing well in attracting new members. Each GSR agreed that they are seeing new members. We have a new group that has started recently.

A member asked if the GSR’s are sharing information from the District meetings with their groups and is it shared with a positive attitude? It was felt that at times there is not a positive feeling at the group level to the district meetings.

A member was concerned that some groups do not have a GSR or have a GSR but no representation at the district meeting. It was suggested we need to investigate why this is, and how can we improve this. The negative attitude many have of the district needs to change!

There was hope in the room that the outcome of the inventory would be instrumental in “fixing” the issues of concern in the district.

What Comes Next? Wrap up

Our inventory will only be effective as:

Our complete honesty with ourselves.

Our open mindedness to try new things and ideas.

Our willingness to put into action reasonable ideas and proposals.

Final Actions for Inventory Ad-Hoc Committee:

- Notetakers to combine their recording of the inventory discussions.
- There will be a Goggle meets meeting with Benjamin and the committee within next 2 weeks to summarize the inventory.
- They will prepare a list of suggestions and ACTION ITEMS.
- They will publish the results to all groups and post on D9 website.

Follow up actions for GSR’s.

- GSR’s to take the suggestions and action items back to their groups.
- GSR’s make motions and resolutions on action items.
- Ad-Hoc Committees appointed to explore how actions can be completed and report back to the District meeting.

- **CHANGE HAPPENS!!!**