

## **Inventory Ad-Hoc Follow Up Final Report**

First, we wish to thank our Area Chair, Sue, for asking us to take part in this service to the Assembly. The real work of an inventory takes place during the follow-up process and we were honored to be a part of it.

This committee met four times to go over the notes and report backs from the Area 30 Inventory, which took place the previous year. We feel it is important to note that, while we discussed everything that was given to us from that Inventory, there were a number of items that we felt we could not provide any recommendations or suggestions for action. The reasons for this range from certain items that were matters specifically concerning Districts and Groups, other items we felt the Assembly was already handling very well, and still others simply didn't lend themselves to actionable items.

It became obvious at an early stage of this process that the majority of issues brought up during the Inventory were the result of communication problems at various levels. Our hope is that the solutions we propose here today will help resolve these issues.

This report will be divided into two sections: Suggestions and Recommendations. The Suggestions are items that we feel we could not ask the Assembly to legislate in a specific manner. The Recommendations are action from this Ad-Hoc Committee for concrete changes in how the Assembly functions. However, it is important to understand that these motions should be brought to the Groups for their discussion and input so that we can all return to the November Assembly with an Informed Group Conscience.

### **Suggestions:**

1. That the Alternate Chair make an effort to attend bookie swaps around the Area to book more Area Road Show commitments.
2. That the Area Chair ask that anyone who is willing to be a Service Sponsor stand up so that anyone looking for a Service Sponsor may know whom to ask.
3. That anyone giving a report at either an Assembly or at the monthly Area Meetings stick to the pertinent matters in their report and leave out the housekeeping items such as what time the meeting was opened, number of attendees, who read the Steps/Traditions/Concepts, etc.
4. That the Districts consider providing agendas to their members at their business meetings, perhaps following the Area agenda as a template.
5. That all members of the Assembly, be they voting members or not, encourage others to participate in Service at the Area level—especially those AA members who belong to groups that are not participating in the Assembly.
6. That use of the AA Service Manual and the Area 30 Handbook be encouraged so that members can be better informed about their roles and in the workings of the Assembly.
7. That all Area 30 Officers—not just the Delegate, Alternate Delegate or Committee Chairs—perform outreaches to the Districts and Groups.
8. That those who engage in debate use references to the literature whenever possible.
9. That discussion be encouraged over the topic of what it means to choose our trusted servants with care.
10. That future workshop topics include: Service Sponsorship, The Spirit of Rotation, The Twelve Concepts for World Service, and Leadership in AA.

## Recommendations:

1. In the interest of fostering better communication among all members of the Assembly, we recommend that all Area 30 Assemblies have a combination Orientation and Round Table session in the morning. The proposed structure of this would be as follows:
  - A. Start registration at 8:30, instead of 9:00.
  - B. Orientation from 9:00 to 9:15. This would include DCMs, GSRs Interested AAs and Newcomers to the Assembly.
  - C. Between 9:15 and 10:00, breakout into two Roundtable groups: DCMs (moderated by the Alternate Delegate), and GSRs, Interested AAs and Newcomers (moderated by the Service Seminar Chair).
  - D. These roundtables would provide an environment for people to share their experience and gain ideas and/or learn solutions to problems from hearing others' experiences (example: "Our Group Treasurer ran off with the money—what do we do?!).
  - E. Also, topics can be brought forward to spur discussion such as:
    - a. How to give a GSR/DCM report.
    - b. How to develop effective agendas for business meetings.
    - c. Encouraging participation in General Service.
    - d. Familiarity with the AA Service Manual and the Area 30 Handbook.
    - e. Service Sponsorship—how it works, how to find a Service Sponsor, etc.
2. In the interest of helping those who come into Service behind us, we recommend that the Assembly purchase a number of pins saying "Ask me about Service Sponsorship" for willing Service Sponsors to wear.
3. In the interest of communication and facilitating an Informed Group Conscience, we recommend that every two years at the September Workshop Assembly prior to the Election Assembly, the currently serving Area Officers have a workshop panel in which they would describe what their positions entail for anyone interested in standing for election.
4. In the interest of choosing our Officers with care, we recommend that at the Election Assembly, prior to the start of the elections themselves, the Facilitator read the paragraph at the bottom of page 19/top of page 20 in The AA Group Pamphlet:

"These service positions may have titles. But titles in AA do not bring authority or honor; they describe services and responsibilities. And it has generally been found that giving members service positions solely to help them stay sober does not work; instead, the group's welfare is of primary concern in choosing officers. At election time, a review of Traditions One and Two can be helpful."
5. In the interest of choosing our Officers with care, we recommend that at the Election Assembly, prior to the start of the elections themselves, the Facilitator read the following passage from "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need":

"A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest

of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own—well, he really isn't a leader at all.

Good leadership originates plans, policies and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.”

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow members of this committee: Marc, Jackie, John, Jerry, and Jan. Their thoughtful and diligent work made this committee a pleasure to work with, and I appreciate their willingness to serve.

In Service,

Andy F  
Ad-Hoc Committee Chair