

● 12 Nov 2023

Active Area 82 Committee Workshop

Newfoundland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia

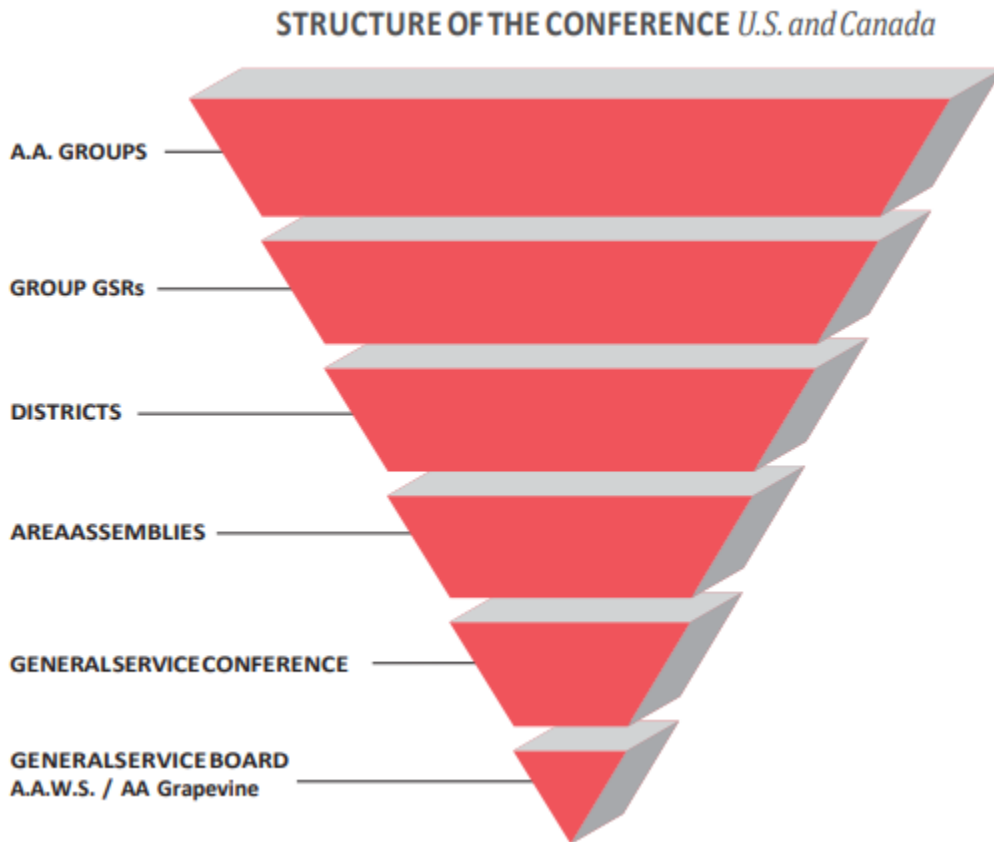
Area 82 Inventory

Host: Dwayne MacD Area 82 AGSD;

Facilitator: Dale S Past GSD Area 86.

Secretary: Michael H. District 1 DCM

Zoom ID: 812 5238 4026 Password: 597704



Introduction

Area 82 AGSD

- Opening remarks
- Serenity Prayer
- AA Preamble
- Introduction: Guest Facilitator Mr. Dale S Past Delegate Area 86

Facilitator - Mr. Dale S.

- Opening remarks seeking opinions of the Area 82 Inventory questions.
- **Safety Statement of Area 82 Inventory workshop, " Everything that needs to be said, be said. It's very important that everyone finds " it " a safe place."**

Area 82 Inventory Questions Feedback

Question 1. What is the basic purpose of the Area? Area Committee? Area Assembly? Are we fulfilling these purposes?

- We are not fulfilling these purposes. Just had fall assembly, and Committees were not present.
- Area 82 could do a better job. A little more organized communication. Average AA member does not know much about Area 82.
- Carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, member thought that was being carried out.
- Does not understand the value of Area.
- Area 82 serves as a communication conduit up and down.
- Area 82 Agenda Items go to groups and back to GSD.
- Room for improvement regarding GSR's - the same few represent their groups. The majority do not participate.
- Area, Area Committees, and Area Assemblies (we) can do all the work in the background to make 12 steps possible.

Question 2. What has the Area done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of physicians, judges, members of the clergy, and others who can be helpful in reaching those in need of A.A.?

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- Members are completely unaware of what's going on. Gap in communications.
 - Bridging the gap is very active.
 - Grapevine is communicating well.
 - Public Information contacts the Professional Community with Public Service Announcements, Advertising on Buses, etc.

Question 3. Is Area service attracting only a certain kind of alcoholic, or are we getting a good cross section of A.A. members into service?

- Members are pushed into service which hurts the member and AA as a whole.
- Service takes a degree of AA maturity.
- Everyone brings something to Service.
- Sponsors in service advocate service work to sponsees.
- Members at the group level are encouraged to take on roles.
- We attract anyone who wants to get involved to carry the message.
- Once members do a term, they leave. We must find out why it's not attractive to continue.
- Members are doing service due to apathetic group members not wanting to get involved.
- Some Longtimers excuse themselves from service because they say they've already been in service, let others take it.
- Assemblies are not attractive when we talk about money.
- When we talk about the Assembly, we need to check our attitude when describing the service work to group members. (stay positive)
- We are living in a different world today. People are trying to stay sober with not alot of time to give. Working to put food on the table.

Question 4. Are we forming into cliques and being indifferent to some Group Service Representatives and District Committee Members?

- When asking questions to Area Committee members, I feel they do not like to be asked questions. There's "backlash", not met with Love and Tolerance.
- I've seen a lot of silo conversations. Does not create a feeling of trust.
- Area members asking questions receive defensive responses. We need to not take things personally.
- Clique's do exist. Sometimes it feels like a battlefield. Them against us.
- Respect is a two way street.
- Member questions something at a meeting of a service position, and receives a phone call the next day from someone that wasn't at the meeting. This is a clique, and gives a feeling of uneasiness.

Question 5. Is turnover in service positions excessive or do new DCMs and GSRs stay with us?

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- It appears that after one term, new members leave.
 - Some members wear multiple hats due to lack of service volunteering.
 - We need more members to step up.
 - There is much apathy in the groups.
 - Accepted into group service because I had a pulse.
 - Members do not understand why we need to do Service.
 - There's a need for more education of what Area is.
 - Some groups don't subscribe to the whole service structure.
 - Asked to be responsible. I take responsibility for myself and try to carry the message the best way I know how.

Question 8. Are officers (Group, District, and Area) picked with care and consideration on the basis that officer positions are a great responsibility and opportunity for Twelfth-Step work, or are personalities put before principles?

- At the group level a small percentage show up at business meetings, but everyone has fair opportunities.
- Committee members are not picked with care, but things are running very well. That's AA for you.
- At the local level it is not such a big deal, at Central Service, etc. at times when there is more than one candidate, it becomes a personality choice.
- If only one person is standing, they are elected. Positions should stay open until a person qualified is available.
- Process is not picking but letting their name stand.
- No one just steps into a job. It's definitely more exciting if 5 or 6 people let their resume's stand. At times it's down to the hat. It's exciting to watch.
- " We don't elect the qualified, we qualify the elected."

Question 16. Has our Area become the seat of perilous wealth and power, or do we have an effective system for accounting and reporting of funds?

- I don't think our finances are confusing. It's not a very effective system.
- Not perilous power, but the accounting system leaves a lot to be desired. A budget meeting should not take 4 hours 15 minutes and get through only half of the budget. Discussions should be at a minimum \$250 and we can have a discussion on that.
- Comparative Analysis of expenses year to year should be carried out. We have to be more transparent showing what each line item includes.
- There is a lack of communication, a lack of transparency with the budget items, it creates questions, and gaps are filled with negativity.
- If there was a system in place where the budget line items could be listed properly, and handing out early, whatever that process is, would be wonderful to see. We could all read it, get comfortable with it, and have questions prepared in advance.

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- When there is push back when questions are about the budget, it feels like a power play.
 - The financial ad-hoc committee presented several recommendations last year. This is a step in the right direction. We need to give it some time to play out and develop in the future.
 - As far as power, yes, there is a divide. A perception of the people sitting at the front table feel they have control and power. It's a feeling, it's been heard, and it's been experienced.
 - A lot of recommendations are put in place and change is hard. No one wants to be in a 4 hour budget meeting, but it's really great to see how the budget is put together and it's welcomed. We are all trying to get to the same place and that's good.
 - When people are off course, it's not necessarily power but a lack of humility. Ego needs to be checked.
 - Everything takes time, have patience to allow things to take its course. I have to allow Area to do the business they were asked to do. I don't always point fingers at how the area is doing, I point fingers at how I am doing, of the decisions I make. I have to take responsibility electing people in that position, to do the will of AA. Being part of the solution and not part of the problem.
 - There is not a seat of power at Area level. Committee's are constantly formed to change the guidelines. We do a lot of good things but we are broken, and this is part of the reason we don't have people doing service with us. A survey completed is being compiled to see how we can fix things.
 - We do have an effective system, but the actual use of the effective system comes to question. Service position spending certain money for stuff we feel is unnecessary, when it's going to be over budget, and asking for really ridiculous amounts next year. How can we use these effective systems so we don't make the same mistakes next year? Spending \$500 for a printer without asking a committee. This is an inventory and this is why it is brought up.
 - We've been asking for receipts simply because there's been a lot of spending. I've been assured I'll see them, so there is an effective process.
 - I just returned from the fall assembly. I have notes of what I spent, I've every receipt. I asked my GSR, "Please look at it and please question me, this is your money. I'm a trusted servant, this is what I spent it on." I have an answer, I have the receipt. It's not threatening or insulting to be asked.

AGSD Closing remarks,

Many thanks Dale S for facilitating.