AREA 42 - INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the Inventory Recommendation Ad Hoc Committee is to suggest possible ways to implement the feedback given during our Fall 2023 Area 42 Inventory. Our hope is that the action-taking steps recommended will allow our Area to grow forward and bring about necessary changes that will begin to lead us in the direction of deeper inclusivity, attraction, outreach, understanding and ultimately, involvement.

Topic 1 – GSRs

Questions

- What can the area and the districts do to inspire GSRs to get in and keep them involved in general service?
  giving too many reports and if so, how could we replace time spent giving reports with other relevant
  information? – Addressed through the assembly inventory sub-committee.
- Should we assign DCM, GSRs & Alt GSRs to a standing committee (rather than let them pick) to better mirror the General Service Conference. Why or why not? – Not discussed during the inventory. No recommendations.
- What would be more ways to prepare the GSR's for their position in addition to using the GSR Survival Manual and orientation at the Assembly?

Area Discussion

- Prepare & encourage GSRs via
  - Visiting Home Groups & improve GSR selection process
  - Traditions meetings
  - District meetings – DCMs to explain things
  - NAGSC & SAGSC meetings
  - Assembly – have extra opportunities for GSRs to ask questions
  - ACC committees
  - Area Newsletter as source of information
  - Be enthusiastic about service when sharing – especially at a regular meeting
  - Serve food
  - Encourage GSRs to explore different aspects of service work
  - Encourage Alternate GSRs to get involved
- Educate
  - What are their duties and responsibilities?
  - Give them GSR & Home Group pamphlets
  - Educate on Service Manual

- Provide additional GSR workshops or roundtables
- Service sponsorship
- Virtual GSR orientation for remote areas
- Educate on what is a group conscious
- Explain financial assistance available

Recommendations

1. Create an Area 42 DCM orientation packet (with Conference approved literature):
   a. A checklist for DCMs
      i. Am I ready to be fully present when I am giving presentations? Reference leadership, enthusiasm and attitude?
      ii. Glossary (definitions) – NAGSC/SAGSC/ACC/NNIG/LVCO etc.
      iii. Resources: website, newsletter, service manual, GSR Kit, rosters
      iv. Suggestions for workshops – traditions, service manual, GSR orientation
      v. Outreach committee for inactive groups
      vi. Introduce ACC to GSR - google drive
      vii. Options for financial assistance
   b. A checklist for GSR self-selection "So you wanna be a GSR?"
2. Create Area hybrid, in-person, or virtual trainings:
   a. DCM/Alt DCM trainings
   b. GSR/Alt GSR trainings
   c. ACC trainings
   d. Workshop ideas: Traditions, Concepts, Service Sponsorship, Service Manual.

Topic 3 – Remote Communities & Dark Districts

Questions

- How can we better serve and engage our remote communities within the cities, like Native American, Spanish-speaking, Asian, Black, Muslim, etc.?
- How do we encourage AA members in the larger cities and towns to make the effort to travel to remote meetings?
- Who's missing from our rooms? Why? What is our part in their absence?
- How can we improve on reaching out to dark & dim districts?

Area Discussion

Communication is critical
- Conference calls
- Virtual connections
- Read Conference Remote Communities reports
- Find contact people if no GSR

- Be enthusiastic
- Visit remote communities
  - Strong districts sponsor less active/dark ones
  - Combine districts
  - DCM outreach
  - DCM Coordinator & GSR trainers could do outreach
  - Use YPAA people
  - Use committee systems (CPC & PI)
- Area to financially support traveling to remote communities
- Create an Area Remote Community Committee
  - Or create a remote communities liaison to work w/PI, CPC, Accessibilities, etc.
- Consider Urban remote communities
  - Start a BIPOC group
  - Who's missing?
  - People with neurodivergence (PTSD, on the spectrum, etc.).

Recommendations

1. DCMs collaborate with other districts within the area to reach remote communities no matter the geographic, language or cultural differences
   a. Using Face-to-Face, Virtual or Conference Calling
   b. DCM Coordinator and GSR Trainer assist in Outreach
   c. If the General Service Conference Remote Communities Report is available, post to the Area 42 website and make it available at the Area 42 Assembly as a resource to read.
   d. Reach out to the inactive groups and let them know a contact person is better than no person. Keep the contact person informed as we would any GSR.
2. USE YPAA!!!
3. Area 42 support any request to start (Special Interest) Groups - BIPOC, LGBTQA+, Languages, Etc…
4. Area 42 creates a Remote Communities liaison to work w/PI, CPC, Accessibilities, etc.
5. We recommend that the Area financially support travel to remote communities.

Topic 5 – Area Assembly

Questions

- Why do we do new business on Sunday mornings when people are leaving or have left?
- How can we improve the assembly agenda?
- Do we still need the blue room?
- Should anyone be able to attend the blue room as an observer?

Area Discussion

Communication is Critical
- Improve agenda
- Consider best use of reports from DCM's, officers, and liaisons
- Get communications out earlier
- Ask GSRs how we can help
- Trim out redundancies
- Encourage asking questions
- Educate on alphabet soup

Educate
- On assembly expenses: i.e. Passing the basket
- Funding GSRs, DCMs and officers
- Purpose of blue room (12 comments)
- On need to stay Sunday morning
- Past servants as service sponsors
- Assembly is an opportunity to learn

Recommendations

PREPARING FOR ASSEMBLY:
1. Define acronyms: (Alphabet soup) ie: GSR (General Service Representative), GSO (General Service Office), GSC (General Service Conference), etc.
   - Put a glossary in the DIGITAL packet
   - Make bookmarks and put them in the PHYSICAL packet
2. Make it clear the assembly is from Friday evening through Sunday noon.
3. The finance committee to draft a funding document. Who is funded and what sources are available? Included in the DIGITAL packet.
4. Consider calling the 1st year fall assembly in a panel the "education assembly". Examples could be:
   - How does an agenda item happen?
   - Have tables for all service committees where members can informally learn.
   - Workshops
   - Area Conference Committee training
5. Ask the chair to focus on the important of service sponsors

IMPROVEMENT TO THE AGENDA:
1. Consider developing a realistic timeline for delivering the digital package to the body
2. Consider time limit for each report and presentation

3. Consider best use of DCM, Officers, Chairs and Liaison Reports
  o Include the reports in the DIGITAL packet
  o Encourage presenters to share inspirational highlights, more details can be included in the written report
  o Include a map of districts in the PHYSICAL packet.
4. Ask GSR's how we can help
  o Change "What's on Your Mind" to "How Can We Help?
5. Get Communications out earlier
  o Translation, are we taking into account translation time?

THE FLOW OF THE ASSEMBLY:
 1. Make a clearer announcement about why we pass the basket multiple times.
 2. The chair lovingly reminds the speakers not to repeat what others have already said.

THE BLUE ROOM:
 1. Rename to the "Area Committee Meeting"
 2. Make announcements about what happens and that we don't make assembly decisions.
 3. Add two (2) to four (4) virtual Area Committee Meetings annually on a trial basis for a panel.

Topic 9 - Area Inventory

- What do you want to see be a result of this inventory?
- What are you willing to do to help to make that happen?

Area Discussion

- Ad hoc committees to make recommendations re: inventory findings
  - Wants to see more practical, action-oriented stuff for GSRs
  - Consider an ACC Coordinator position
- More plain language, more transparency, more communication for GSRs
- Fund officers and committee chairs more for travel
- More unity between N/S - more events
- Deepen cultural connections Spanish/English districts and members
- Increased communication between all service positions

Recommendations

1. An ACC (Area Conference Committee) Coordinator: Currently the Alt. Delegate informally has the responsibilities of overseeing the ACC.

a. We recommend that this either becomes an Alt. Delegate position or that we create an ACC Coordinator position. Both will be a proposal and a guideline change.
2. With the combining of the treasuries, the Area review current spending priorities, not being constrained by current guidelines.
   a. options for other travel
   b. providing funding for events which promote Area-wide unity
3. Create an Area standing Unity Committee.
   a. Including members from geographic locations, linguistic communities, service positions and past delegate(s)