

Inventory taken at the Area 9 ASC on 9/11/05

The AA Group (p. 35 The Group Inventory)

1. What is the basic purpose of the area?

MSCA 9 Guidelines states:

PURPOSE: The Assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure and is the representative voice of the movement expressing itself. It is the gathering of the GSRs & the ASC, which deliberates and enacts resolutions concerning service matters brought before it. Its responsibilities include:

1. Electing & supporting the Area Officers, including a Delegate to the General Service Conference.
2. Being an interim repository, through its GSRs, of the collective group conscience of the Area.
3. Seeking substantial unanimity in all important decisions.
4. Strengthening AA as a whole & carrying the AA message the best way possible in our own particular Area.
2. What more can the area do to carry the message?
3. Is the area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross section of our community? (Spanish, remote, elder, special needs. (Translation & ASL))
4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we do as a group do? (Attendance @ PRAASA)
5. Do we emphasize the importance of Service Sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do better? (GSR School)
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members & other AA's outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave the confidences they share at meetings behind? (Principles before personalities.)
7. Do we take time to explain to all members the value to the area of keeping up with the housekeeping chores and other essential services that are part and parcel of our 12th-Step efforts?
8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings & to participate in other group activities?
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?
10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive meeting place? (Time & location, Lunch?)
11. Does the group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA – as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?
12. What has the area done lately to bring the AA 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? (How well do we support the Foro de MSCA, Servathon?)
13. How is the group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition? (Lunch, collection cans...)

Traditions

1. Does our area put the interests of any individual above the welfare of the group or of AA as a whole?
2. Does our area do anything that misrepresents the conscience of the majority of the group?
3. Does our area exclude anyone with a drinking problem from participating?
4. Does our area do anything that does not conform to AA principles and affect other areas?
5. Does our group do anything that conflicts with our carrying the AA message to alcoholics?
6. Does anything we do affiliate, endorse or bind the area, actual or implied, to any related facility or outside enterprise?
7. Are donations received from anyone other than an AA member?
8. Are there any fees or rewards being sought for area service work?
9. Is there a governing individual or exclusive group authority that dictates organization?

10. Does our area do anything that publicly states an opinion or takes sides on any issues or controversy outside of AA?
11. At the general public level of press, radio, film, television, and the Internet, does the group publicize any individual AA member's name or picture as a representative of AA?
12. Does our group give personal distinction to any AA member either among fellow alcoholics or the general public that puts their opinions above the conscience of the area or AA?

Concepts Checklist

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.
 - How do AA's who are not active members of a group get their point-of-view into the collective conscience?
 - What is meant by the *collective conscience* of Alcoholics Anonymous? Is it a work in our area?
- II. The General Service Conference of AA has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
 - Does our delegate report back to the area on the highlights of the Conference?
 -
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional *Right of Decision*.
 - Does the area grant the *right of decision* at all levels of service?
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional *Right of Participation* allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
 - Does the area allow participation at all responsible levels of General Service?
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional *Right of Appeal* ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
 - Does the area always allow the minority opinion to be heard?
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference active as the General Service Board.
 - Do we understand the responsibility of the General Service Board?
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.
 - Do we understand the *balance of power*?
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
 - Do we support the Grapevine and Box 459?

- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary World Service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
 - Do we try to fill a service position at any cost, even if it means doubling up or electing someone who really doesn't want the job?
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
 - Why is delegation of authority so important in the overall effectiveness of AA?
- XI. The trustees should always have the best committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
 - Does the area consider these as matters of serious concern?
- XII. The conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussions, vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.
 - Does the area keep an ample prudent reserve?
 - Do members of the area think of the Conference as *those people* and the trustees as *top brass*? Do we think of the delegate as *in charge* of the area?
 - How much authority should area officers have?
 - What role should past delegates play?