

Table #1: Who is missing in our rooms? (Fred S.)

- Homeless person in meetings? Asking people to watch their language, use of profanity, cursing. Reading Safety Card and encouraging behaviors for a safe meeting place. Educating people and the newcomers.
  - Meeting etiquette
  - Parent with children – (care for young children)

1. Multiple races? Some diversity at the local levels.
  - A very small sampling as far as community
  - Dependent upon where in the community you live.
  - Meetings reflect demographics of the area
  - Some blacks may be looking for solutions outside of A>A. Maybe church or N.A., etc.
  - Individuals need to step up regardless of race.
2. B. Are people welcome?
  - We make all people welcome.
  - Socio-economic? Could be individual choices
  - How is outreach working
  - Who is missing?
  - Maybe some economic.
3. C. Are all people welcome at specialty meetings?
  - For the most part people are welcome
  - Group conscience is the key.
4. D. Are we tolerant of the homeless?
  - If people are disruptive or physical, they will be asked to leave.
  - Secretary takes care of disruptions. Group conscience and multiple member approach.
  - Back Secretary’s actions.
  - Not very disruptive.
  - Language is sometimes an issue.
  - Sometime self-righteous members may have to be accountable for their actions.
  - Safety cards to be read at meeting level.
  - Educating people.
  - Can we be supportive by allowing or supporting that person?
  - Addressing language issues we can
    - i. Try and educate.
5.
  - Greeters at the doors.
  - Maybe give up your seat.
  - Non-judgmental about motives.
  - Stay tolerant.
  - Maybe stay with basics.

Table 2: Unity – Practicing Our Principles.

## Roundtable #1 (9:30 a.m. Session)

Unity – Thing to Fit in Selfish and Self Control

Q1: What are Principles of A.A. – Steps – “three leg stool” (Unity, Service, and Recovery)

- Unity – Twelve Traditions
- The Sense of Belonging/Unity in A.A. – Principle – Timed out of town felt sisterhood in another A.A. gathering in another state. Felt unity there too – gave me grounding – I needed.
- Two persons – every time I moved. We are all here for the same reason: to stay 91) sober and (2) help another A.A.
- The opposite of my Character Defects are the Twelve Principles
  - (a) Group Safety card to keep conversation private and names
  - Introduce self-help other feel welcome.

Q2: Principles and Steps 0 Work just as well on the outside too in business.

Q3: Bleeding Deacons? Speak to them – not ignore – share

- Specific feelings to B.D., but not in a judgmental way. Sometimes they (B.D.) hit nails on the head – They can also have their place. There is a God Conscience in Every AA Meeting. How can you argue a Big Book?
- Q4: How does your home group AA promote Unity? Amongst members.
- Alcoholic – verbal Identification. Newcomers are welcome – state in meeting.
- Unconditional love of being Welcome
- My whole life is because of A.A. - learning unconditional love. Hug?
- Hesitant with hugs – Age differences/Backgrounds. Different expectations – physical comfort.
- Personal Contact - (Watch/Look and Listen First) – then make your choice
- We have a right to say if “A”s okay or not ok A.A.

## Roundtable #2 (10:45 am Session)

Dave – “Unity” I finally belong to something! The some feeling of unity can be found elsewhere too –

Sheila – Big Book – We practice these Twelve Principles in all of our Comings and Goings – all affairs to the best of my ability. For my personal best I must always remember to Practice... outside the rooms of A.A&gt;

Rubin – You are not different from anyone else. You don’t look at people differently as your whole worldview is changed/Changing I always need A.A.

The Group – you guys personal life / work and society.

RAISE HAND – Saying I am an alcoholic – Am I willing to do these principles? Others- Me: Do I / am I Applying the Principles? In and out of the rooms.

Q3: “Love and Tolerance is our Code” – Cheating and keeping this new environment.

What not to do –

Q4: Test before speaking to promote coming to hear a speaker –

Cheap Dining – Thanksgiving – Christmas -> to promote Unity every second Sunday – invite a few for Special Speakers – (Impromptu) (Meeting and Food) (none a month)

Roundtable #3 (12:30 p.m.)

Q5: have compassion for addicts and other (isms), gamblers; at open A.A. meetings

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Table 3: Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant (Dave B.)

Ideas;??

A.A. today is relevant in 2018 800,000 hardcover books were sold, if we include the digital versions that were purchased, over one million new copies of Alcoholics Anonymous went into circulation. Be we should look at the future also, and thus I think the topic of “Keeping A.A. Relevant” is appropriate.

1) The 4<sup>th</sup> edition, does include some stories of minorities, some of women and a few of gay persons in recovery. Some ideas for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition is more stories that include dual diagnosed persons that besides alcohol includes drugs, both illegal and prescribed, as our population has changed to include a much higher percentage of mixed addiction. Also, it may be helpful to include LGTBQ persons stories of recovery.

2) Also, the general Service Conference can consider additional pamphlets that can also address these issues, so as to be more “inclusive” and not to become “exclusive”.

3) Should A.A., go more wi-fi available? Some groups i.e. Primetime have websites (example - <<http://primetimeisnow.com>>) where a person can download A.A> speakers onto phone or MP3 device and can play these in cars or just listen on their phones, the website has spread Primetime A.A. across the country and now is in Europe also especially in areas that are hard to get to meetings, like Greenland. Primetime was started in L.A. and Yucca valley. But look at it today.

R.

Spanish Meeting input

Maybe too many new people are using digital books and not reading literature.

Also is some disadvantages to digital – technology. I (a) guy just look at a phone is e every going to read the book? Is he going to go to meetings?

Mention of new Spanish 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

Are we welcoming to women?

G.; J.

Going to meetings, report and share the enthusiasm, helps to take District officers to support/report.

Public Service Events

A stand with pamphlets offered

Phone numbers offered

Churches

Schools  
Health Fairs

Ultimate conclusions

We the persons in recovery with time, need to reinforce the ‘old way’ we need more people sponsoring and working one on one.

It was not favored we add more drugs to the stories in 5<sup>th</sup> edition.  
All types of people’s stories are good LGTBQ, minority, male, female, gay or mixed genders that is fine but we are in danger of losing focus with drug stories.

Alcoholic Spanish women are still coming out of closet and need to be welcomed.  
“Hispanic Women in A.A.” a group or area website.

2<sup>nd</sup> rotation (C.; C.)

Hearing impaired are not really able to hear at crowded events like this one. Is there any closed caption devices available cheap to use in meetings?

Group Inventory Suggestion

Are we reaching and teaching the A.A. message? What can we do better?

One idea to help at district level may be to hold the monthly meeting in different locations. Bi-Annually.

Education, to show how the Traditions work, more about Concepts. We need to plant seeds.

A.A. jeopardy for fun.

H&I needs remember that recovery centers are not Twelve Step facilities.

Carey: Areas need to support the close by not all the way to ocean.

3<sup>rd</sup> Rotation

Steering committee level education to bring general Service exposure.

Or going to non-GSR represented meetings and make GSR announcement and suggest electing a rep.

Create Commitments to talk to newcomers can share the digital apps.  
Offer the newcomers apps.

## Synthesis of Ideas

Q1 & 2: General Service level.

GSRs going to non-GSR represented meetings make GSR announcement, and suggest they elect a GSR, if you can have a District officer also for report/support – Share the enthusiasm.

General Service Committee needs to do annual/biannual – group inventories.

(My men’s meeting)

Q3: We need to have persons committed to takin with the new person, offering the phone apps. In addition, have literature person use and offer a phone app.

Q4: Not really answered, but the 10-15 year person needs to go back to the ‘old way’ and work one-on-one.

Q5: Keeping old timers interested.

Making a new commitment to speak to newcomers, remind them to go back to basics, one-on-one. Focus on recovery, sponsorship, using books, not just phone.

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Table 5: Service sponsors versus Sobriety sponsors (Kim B.)

Mesa #5 Apadrinamiento

(padrino de servicio contra padrino de sobriedad.)

Asistencia 10 compañeros

1. cual esyson las semejanzas ye las diferencias entre las padrinos de servicio y del la sobriedad?  
Res que los dos padrinos siempre testan animando que no te desanimes quellay mucho que Trabajar y leer la Litertatura de AA bien informado.
2. Cual es som carateisstricas de la Buena sobriedad contel padrinos de servicio?  
Re abort trabajado sus pasos para la Recuperacion y Tener mucha
3. Cual es la mejor manera de elegir a un buen padrino de servicio  
R mirar a companero con mucho entucuasmo de halter el servicio y que me quie con su ejemplo y persebaracia.
4. Si usted esta Trabajando las pasos como usted de sarrolla una Relacion con un padrino de servicio?  
R
5. Esta mejor Tenor auna persona o dos como dos padrinos de servicio y de sobriedad.  
R lo mejor seria tener dos personas que Ayuden o de pendienod La  
R esedad o sea necesario.

English:

Table # 5 Sponsorship

(Godfather of service against Godfather of sobriety.)

Assistance 10 partners

1. What are the similarities and differences between the sponsors of service and sobriety?

I know that the two godfathers always try to encourage you not to be discouraged. There is much to work and read the well-informed AA Literacy.

2. What are the characteristics of good sobriety with sponsors of service?

R abort worked his steps to Recovery and Having a lot.

3. What is the best way to choose a good service sponsor

R look at a partner with much enthusiasm to find the service and to love me with his example and persecution.

4. If you are working the steps as you develop a relationship with a service sponsor?

5. This best tenor a person or two as two godfathers of service and sobriety.

R it would be best to have two people who help or keep the Resedity or Sea Sesario.

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Table 6: Are we reaching remote communities? (Monty C.)

Roundtable #1

Ad hoc committee Area 08

Liaison that reports on Remote Communities

How to get people into the rooms? Philippine, Vietnamese; intern

Membership                      Attention

- Come to a meeting between needs and desires
- Needs       $\leftrightarrow$       Desires

Stigma reduction

We are trying to save our generation so there is someone in the rooms.

CPC – PI – Alanon

1. Outreach to Religious groups to provide CPC material in their role as counselor, social worker, confidant (pastor, priest, rabbi, elder)

2. An informal group like a twelve-step committee (CPC, PI, Remote) to coordinate with CPC for first contact, a beginning contact.

3. Remote communities for whom?

1. Define state of mind and/or geographics communication in general not just targeting one area or region.

Being apart of a closed group to have people to talk too!

5. We community means to get to the A.A. member

- Are we doing our part as General Service members to give priest, rabbi or preacher the resources they need.
- Information through our church and pastor of the program – A.A.org!

Information through our church and pastor of the program – A.A.org!

- Getting out of our own way, having compassion.
- Not talking or encourage newcomers when they come into the room.
- If you hear it, respond to the need!

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Table 7: Welcome to Area 09 - Service Structure (Ryan B.)

Roundtable #1:

- Reading the new GSR kit material helped me by bring interesting information to my group.
- Bringing the information in that interests your group what's the Area doing; workshop, outreach, special function that are going on.
- Attend the DCM/GSR schools learn what works, and what doesn't from the experience of those have applying/practicing in the commitment.
- Register with New York; read the service material\*
- Roundtables: Shared experience in an open space – ‘Good to get multiple views’
- Ask a question – “How did your group vote on the proposed changes to the 1th Tradition?” or the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book.
- Drag people straight to the Area – ‘Get in the car.’
- Discussed possibility of remote/secured participation to increase attendance/participation.
- Talk with the previous person servicing in the position. If you are the previous person, make yourself available.
- Express what service the Area performs. It's not “Just Politics”. ‘Do something for somebody else and don't tell anybody about it.’

Roundtable #2:

ASC Meetings – 2 meetings

- Questions on order of meetings – explained the activities at these meetings.
- Assemblies: three total
- Discussion on who and what is voted on
- Questions about CPC – Are we there to answer question? We are there to answer all questions and help where needed.
- Multiple Pre-Conferences Meetings – to help all understand what's going on.

How we got into General Service

- Confuses when we got here – took a while to understand what and how what was going on. Got here by sponsor directions.

Wanting to help own meetings to grow and thrive. We can't wait for other people to keep our groups involved – taking the lead by doing.

- Sponsorship directions can be helpful to get involved. Keeping engaged in your own sobriety.
- Wanting to spread the news of service work being remote area, a need to let the few stay informed.
- A common theme on some positions are done by the same people. Rotation is always available.
- Trying to keep the messages at our meetings consistent for the newcomers. Keeping the message the same.
- Try to keep your feeting (feet) moving.

Roundtable #3:

#### ASC and Area Service Assembly

- Why does it take so long? The incredible thing is that Alcoholics will take part to care for Alcoholics Anonymous. Two ASCs to fully discuss an item. We need to provide the information to the groups our base in tasks.
- There is a spot for everyone in general Service. Whether is the committees, Public Information, Treatment, Cooperation for the Professional Community.
- Share about personal experience with Alcoholics Anonymous, how service has helped us personally stay sober. Being.
- DCM school helps to overcome individual problems fellowship. Get a service sponsor.
- Committee Participation. Reporting back to our groups and letting them know what the Area is doing for them and the Alcoholic who still suffers.
  - Lead by examples
  - “Get your ass in the Truck.” The fellowship element bring the body and the mind will follow.
  - Share that committees have enriched their sobriety lending a new perspective on service.

Table 7: Welcome to Area 09 - Service Structure (Ryan B.)

- Tools to introduce someone new to General Service.
  - Share your personal experience, what service at the Area has done to improve and enrich your sobriety.
  - Read the literature: “What’s It All About”, Area guidelines, GSR Kit, A.A. Service manual.
  - Attend Roundtables: These allow for people for various levels of experience with Area service to share and ask questions it’s a way to get different views.
  - As an outgoing member in a service position make yourself available to the new person coming in to ask questions.
  - Service sponsors are an invaluable resource to someone new to Area service work.

- Get them involved bring the body and the mind will follow. Possibly making coffee, setting up chairs and tables, serving food, greeting people at the door.
- What can we do to get more people “attending” the Area meeting.
  - Get in the car/truck.
  - Ask questions ‘How did your group vote on the proposed change to the 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition / 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book?’ Stir the pot.
  - Share personal experience with low attendance at Area meetings lent a new perspective on service / twelve step work.
  - Talk about what the committees Treatment, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Accessibilities, Public Information, etc. are doing and how the work that is being done helps directly/indirectly to the alcoholic who still suffers. “there is a wrench for every nut.” The opportunities for service eat the Area are broad and varied. If I start participating there is a greater likelihood that I’ll come back. Committees are where the work in General Service gets done.
  - Possible future motion, use of remote software for attendance/discussion was brief but allow for information to be available to those who do not/can not attend.
- Why does it take so long?
  - Member shared that what is being voted on may out the last the panel, and that can affect future panels to show patience is a virtue. Prudence is to be the watchword, let us not fall into stagnation or move into mostly or ill-informed action.
  - Two ASCs then an Assembly to allow for general Service Representatives to bring the information back to their groups and get an informed groups consciences.

Table 8: How can we improve Area 09 function? (Rozanne P.)

How to improve Area 09 notes (9:37 a.m.)

Roundtable #1 - Session 1

#### Pre-Conference Delegate Shareback

1. Shareback w/Joe C. – (Share your experience was encouraged. Almost more on experience than agenda topics was encouraged.)
  - Jesus has done the same. Should be different at Diot’s – primed all about Delegate’s shareback not enough info back at Area and District.. District 8 of questions answered – Delegate’s experience should be condensed and more on agenda items responses.
  - FORO-unattended – Servathon should be more centralized have Area host it and have it centralized.
  - Have the Area meeting at rotation (out here) and Servathon more central.

- Should Servathon have a voting piece to it making it business?
- 2. Ideas from other Areas and regions, brainstorming get us fired up – on roundtables/topics – learning how others do service – finding solutions input from GSO – forum –
- 3. Yes – 3; no – 0
- 4. Free literature no longer in order catalog. Now they have a literature desk (free)
  - MSCA- Could have a direct link to GSO – (link)
  - Strength link from Area to District to Groups to visit and use Area and A.A. websites (promote)
  - In January – all have guidelines (new elects?)
- 5. Copy PRAASA Business rules – for the Area learn how to make a motion.

## Roundtable #2 – Session 2

- 1. Current schedule effective?
  - More participation would make the current schedule effective
    - Districts need more participation
      - Use online meeting tools (Zoom meetings)
      - REMOTE COMMUNITIES (option)
    - Current structure effective participation helps
      - FORO \* Servathon participation disappointing
        - FORO needs more translation re. English
    - IDK – DA I can get people to participate → ONE SUBJECT MORE FOCUS ON TOPICS
    - Can always be improved Servathon not effective TODAY
      - Attendance is one measure of success, as he have holes
        - For Barstow, two out of ten meetings represented here
    - District W/S/ helpful engages Districts gets them interested enough to attend preconference w/s
      - We can reconsider location
      - Committees could do more work outside of ASC
      - Agenda structure can change
    - ACCOMMODATE District with most non-participation
      - FIND out why they don't participate?
      - COMPLAINT IS DRIVETIME/TRAFFIC \*
      - 1980s and 1990s Boards would use visitation schedule to physically interact with Districts regularly.
  - 2. PROCESS OF DOING BUSINESS @ AREA 09?
    - HOW → getting top of triangle to Area / District meetings
      - Provide Area function info to Districts
        - Learn how to take group conscience
        - How to interpret Service Manual
      - Steady location & Area board visit district meetings regularly.
        - Area/District business is bad image in fellowship reps bring things they are interesting to them.

- DISTRICTS SEND IN MEETING MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - Presentations/talks on themes of interest to engage Districts, educate
  - Trivia and using Service Manual
- DCMC REPORTS / STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - Last bit of ASC
  - W/S coordinate with other Districts
    - Hosted by Area representation
    - Sister District work

How can we improve Area 09 function?

Current; Zoom meeting

1. How to increase participation?
2. FORO Participation
  - Translation of Spanish topics and talks. Translators for FORO tables.
  - English PI. We can find a way to get past the language barrier with dedication and attention.
3. Are we too spread out and not focused enough? Is it too simple?
4. Do you measure effectiveness by attendance?
  - Doing business at Area meetings.
  - Improve process – top part of triangle to meetings
  - More information about making motion and business process.
5. How to take a group conscience? How to interpret Service Manual? What do we don't know about General Service?
  - D.7: Rebuilding on District Structure
    - People like ACS meetings, new literature, new video.
    - Knowing your group and bringing what they went to hear.
    - Groups may not want to hear.
    - Create a video on how to make a motion at the Area and Parliamentarian Procedure.

Roundtable #3 – Session 3

1. Confusion as to purpose of each event
  - Education/communication is key
  - FORO puts gap in potential business
  - ASCs turned into Assemblies – bad practice
    - Voids opinion of voting members
    - Forces uneducated voting
2. Breathing fresh ideas into the Area
  - Gives a more global view into A.A. service experience
  - Education and communication
3. Yes, we get mass quantities of information
  - We archive a great collection of useful material

- I believe the information delivered in the largest volume; however, is not always totally accurate in its collective.

4. Good system dependent on Delegate style

- Delegate report back is key
- Not effective because of the inability to serve such a large area with different needs
- Can’t be effective with a one hour committee meeting per month, need two day Assemblies such as most other Areas (like PRAASA)

5. Roving Workshop

- Combined District events
- Having Area meetings in the same location.

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Table 9: Area 09 Inventory Done, now what? (Evan T.)

- Personal responsibility. What am I doing to help newer people understand what is happening and how business is being conducted?
- Every other year (once per panel). Would be a good idea moving forward, We could substitute the FORO or Servathon every other year for an Area inventory event.
- Would be useful to have an inventory done mid-panel to allow time to implement any action items.
- How can we involve more people? Having this be at an Area event could get more people involved than passing along to DCM/DCMCs.
- After inventory, results could be given to the GAP Committee to generate action items or recommendations.
- Could a “post hoc” committee be formed to look at all the results and generate recommendations.
- District level participation was a helpful idea, but more time would have been ideal to allow for more discussion and participation.
- Could be a responsibility of Area Offices to attend a neighboring Area inventory as an observer.
- Form a committee to create a plan for future inventories.
- Facilitator outside of Area 09 is a good idea, this would allow all Area 09 members to participate.