

# Area 53 Assembly of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

## Continuous Inventory – A Path to Growth In Understanding & Effectiveness

“Taking inventory, in the best sense of the word, is a fundamental aspect of A.A.'s program of recovery. As cofounder Bill W. reflected in *A.A. Comes of Age* (page 231), 'Just as each A.A. must continue to take his moral inventory and act upon it, so must our whole society if we are to survive and if we are to serve usefully and well.'” *A.A. General Service Conference Inventory*, 2015 (page 3).

To ensure a continuous inventory – *an examination with no cessation* – it is proposed that we imbed inventory actions into all our regularly scheduled gatherings. It is suggested that our ongoing inventory take place at each Area 53 Assembly meeting, and that the resulting findings be acted on at the following Area 53 Committee meeting. Results of the Area 53 Committee actions will then be reported back to the next Area 53 Assembly. These actions repeat.

Building on past Area 53 inventory efforts, including work of the Area 53 2015 Mini-Conference Inventory Committee, the following inventory schedule is suggested:

**March Assembly:** Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Article VII), is the Area 53 Committee achieving it's “primary purpose?” In a general way, is it possible for it to improve?

From the Area 53 Guidelines:

- 1) Composition
  - a) Delegate, b) Alternate Delegate, c) All current Officers & Alternate Officers, d) District Committee Members, or their Alternates, e) Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, or their Alternates, and f) DCM Chairperson.
- 2) Purpose
  - a) The Area Committee will serve as the steering committee of the Area 53 Assembly
  - b) The Area Committee will assist the Area Chairperson in setting the agenda for the Area 53 Assembly
  - c) The Area Committee will assist the Area Officers in conducting the day-to-day business of the Area 53 Assembly
- 3) Meetings
  - a) Meetings shall be held on the second Sunday in January, April, July, and October
  - b) The agenda set by the Area Committee will be communicated to all Area Assembly members at least one month prior to the Area Assembly Meeting

Reflecting on Concept Ten, how can the assembly members ensure that the authority we delegate to elected officers is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

**June Assembly:** Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Article IX) is the Area 53 Mini-Conference Committee achieving its “primary purpose?”

From the Area 53 Guidelines:

- 9) Mini Conference Committee
  - a) Shall report regularly to the area assembly meeting.
  - b) Shall plan and organize the area mini conference.
  - c) Shall be chaired by the area 53 alternate delegate.
  - d) Area 53 alternate treasurer shall serve as mini conference treasurer.

What improvements could be considered to make sure agenda items and conference activities have a broader appeal (attract more members to attend)? Improvements must be practical.

How well does the mini-conference committee communicate to the Area membership about why we have this conference and how it works? How can they better communicate that the mini-conference is more than one weekend in March?

How can we improve the time allotted at the mini-conference weekend for committees, reports, presentations, and “free time” to ensure thorough deliberations that effectively inform our Delegate?

**September Assembly:** Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Article II), is the “Area 53 Assembly of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous” achieving its “primary purpose?” Is it necessary for it to improve?

From the Area 53 Guidelines:

- 1) To support the General Service Conference and its members in their roles as provider of A.A. World Services and as guardian of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- 2) To elect, and support, a Delegate to the General Service Conference.
- 3) To provide communication and encourage unity within Area 53.
- 4) To assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience.

How well does the assembly facilitate the hearing and resolution of minority appeals/reports? How could it be improved?

How might the guidelines be revised in essence or wording to more effectively and relevantly guide our trusted servant?

**December Assembly:** Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Articles II & XII), is our Area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds to available service opportunities? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs? Do our practices honor our heritage of inclusion and achieve diversity within our A.A. community?

From the Area 53 Guidelines: Article II - above

From the Area 53 Guidelines: Article XII

- 1) At the September Area 53 Assembly Meeting of each even-numbered year, the Area Assembly will hold elections of the Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Registrar, Alternate Registrar, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate Treasurer.
- 2) The term of service for these individuals will be for two years and will begin January 1 of the following year.
- 3) At the beginning of this even-numbered election year, the Chairperson will ask the immediate Past Delegate to chair an ad hoc nomination committee to identify, secure, and submit names of qualified nominees.

Do our trusted servants stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as an Area do to retain our trusted servants?

How is our Area fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

Area Inventory and Area Inventory Review become standing items on the Agenda's of the Area 53 Committee, and the Area 53 Assembly. Inventory questions to be considered at each Assembly can be distributed at the preceeding Area Committee meeting, and posted online at the “Upcoming Area Assembly” report page, ensuring communication to all attending DCM's, GSR's, and as many interested Area members as we can reach.