

PANEL 71 AREA 53 INVENTORY

THE PROCESS:

Ad hoc Area Committee was formed and drafted inventory questions

Results collected via google forms and printed forms through February 13, 2022

35 responses received

Responses categorized into themes

Area Reporting and Sharing Session held February 27 with Delegate from Alaska, Area 02 moderating. Breakout sessions were used to collect input and ideas for moving forward.

SESSION 1:

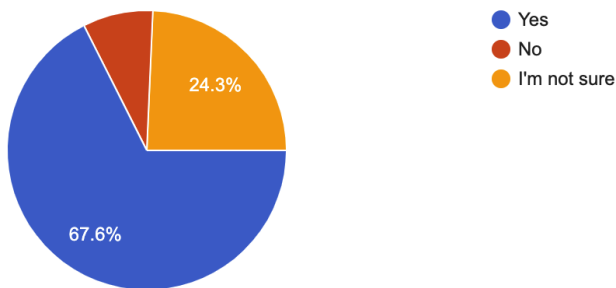
PURPOSE OF AREA 53

INVENTORY QUESTION: What is the purpose of Area 53, as you understand it?

1. To take the collective group conscious of the meetings within Area 53 down the triangle to the GSO.
2. 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. To elect, and support, a Delegate to the General Service Conference. To provide communication and encourage unity within Area 53. To assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience.
3. To link the groups GSR's to the greater service structure.
4. Communicate within the area to arrive at an informed group conscience and foster unity. Elect delegate and officers. Take care of the business in the area. Support the delegate. Coordinate service in the area.
5. Represent the AA upside pyramid
6. The purpose of our Area is to strengthen the links that bind the service conference to our membership and to support, through our various services, the groups which constitute central and southeastern Ohio.
7. To provide information to groups and districts about Area business, GSO activities, and to provide GSO with information about what is happening in the groups and districts.
8. Support General service conference, elect a delegate, encourage unity & attaining group conscience in Area 53.
9. Primarily provide information to the Area 53 Delegate to attend the GSO conference and also provide communication to the groups about what is going on at the GSO.
10. I don't know.
11. SERVICE
12. To service the needs of the area AA groups and take concerns to the General Service Conference.
13. 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. To elect, and support, a Delegate to the General Service Conference. To provide communication and encourage unity within Area 53. To assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience.
15. To provide a connection and a voice for the including districts/ meetings as a whole and to the New York conference.
16. They make it possible for other members of AA to carry the principles of the program to others in central and southeast Ohio. To collect a group conscience on matters relevant to the program of AA and share that with our elected delegate who shares it with other delegates of the general service conference. To help each other be better people.
17. Collect and report the GSO concerns and conscience of area groups.
18. The information in the Guidelines is my understanding of the purpose.

19. Facilitate getting the aa message to districts in the area and preparing the delegate with information and concerns from the district for the GSO conference.
20. To pass information up to eventually GSO from the home group.
21. Support General Service Conference and its members in their role as provider of AA world service and guardians of 12 Steps & 12 Traditions. To elect and support our Delegate to the General Service Conference. Communication of Unity within Area 53. To assist in the development and communication of an informal group conscience.
22. Keep groups connected and part of AA as a whole.
23. To communicate to the districts of Area 53 what AA as a whole is doing.
24. Area 53 is a service area of Alcoholics Anonymous serving Central and Southeastern Ohio
25. To keep its patrons informed.
26. To support general service.
27. To elect a delegate to represent the Area at the GSC. To assist members, groups and districts to carry AA's message by supporting our standing committees and sharing information.
28. To give a voice to our local membership at the national level and connect our local groups to each other.
29. To be our connection to GSO, promote unity and send someone to GSC.
30. Service and support for the role of the General Service, communicate on Area 53 activities.
31. Support the groups of the Area to help them carry the message of AA. Connect the groups to World Service.
32. Area 53 keeps us informed of area news. What's going on with the standing committees, districts, assemblies, GSO and other groups in the area.
33. Response same as Area 53 guidelines
34. Response same as Area 53 guidelines
35. To help others in recovery

INVENTORY QUESTION: Is the Area fulfilling its purpose, as you understand it?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Please explain your answer about the area's purpose.

1. It appears some of the elected trusted servants have their own agenda, lost track of tradition 5 and are being influenced by outside issues putting personalities over principles.
2. Very broad purpose-would like more communication on how area officers and committee reached out both groups and DCM as a resource.
3. I believe the message is being communicated back to the appropriate sources.
4. I think that where there is participation, it's focused on its purpose. There haven't been a lot of people participating over the past year. Don't know if it's because of covid or just a lack of willingness to serve. I think it's been hard to communicate and plan service activities with people who aren't comfortable or able to connect virtually. At times, "outside issues" (covid, safety, masks, etc.) have created a lot of disharmony/divisiveness.
5. Area 53 appears to be providing service structure within the AA World Service Structure.
6. Provide communication between GSO, the groups, Districts and AA members.
7. I feel that some of the purpose is being fulfilled, but not all.

8. The Area does not do a good job at encouraging unity within Area 53. AA members that cannot or choose not to attend the Area Assembly in person have been made to feel as if they are not in good standing with Area 53.
9. Area 53 purpose is service.
10. I know many people are not aware that there is an area to support them.
11. Answer from the guidelines of Area 53.
12. We do the best we can under the premise of love and tolerance as well as within our fiscal means.
13. To deliver the collected group(s) conscience.
14. I believe that folks involved think they are fulfilling the purpose and at times it is confusing to know what is currently happening. In my experience it is hard to pick the choices offered. I experience times where I see the "Area" doing some of the things mentioned and other times when personalities dominate the course of the assembly/planning meeting. I believe the Area does a good effort w/ the mini-conference, although I don't believe this has to be an entire weekend.
15. I see evidence of AA in action at different levels.
16. New to GSR, learning structure.
17. To communicate to the districts within Area 53 what AA is doing as a whole.
18. To keep us updated on meetings and events.
19. Conduct regular meetings to support general service conference.
20. Electing delegate is primary purpose per service manual. Sharing information and supporting standing committees are implicit in how we function and from area guidelines.
21. The same people participate, the same groups are represented as always. Sending GSRs to lecture other groups on why they need to participate is unhelpful. The Area needs to support its subcommittees so that they're making a visible difference to individual AAs and groups.
22. Area 53 connects our region with GSO, to relay information and to represent the area.
23. I agree but I would still like to see the Area be more focused on helping groups and less focused on self-perpetuation. The Assemblies are often focused on just keeping the Area going (elections, budget, requesting contributions for groups) rather than on informing and supporting the GSRs.
24. 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. To elect, and support, a Delegate to the General Service Conference. To provide communication and encourage unity within Area 53. To assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience
25. To inform myself, I used the Area Guidelines and the Service Manual before I could answer these questions.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE INVENTORY SHARING SESSION ON THE AREA'S PURPOSE:

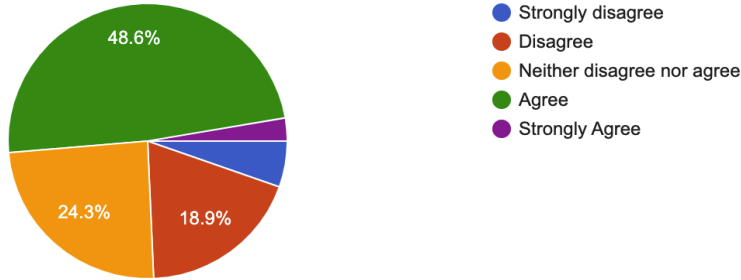
Have officers from the Area Committee visit groups or telephone to better explain our purpose
 Broaden our purpose statement to include mention of group communication

Lack of knowledge
 Boost education about concepts and principles
 Provide different ways of accessing and sharing information
 More training, workshops
 New GSRs and DCMs often feel lost
 Orientation Workshops
 Exit Surveys at Assemblies and Area Committee meetings
 Encourage all of us to come out of our shells to be of service

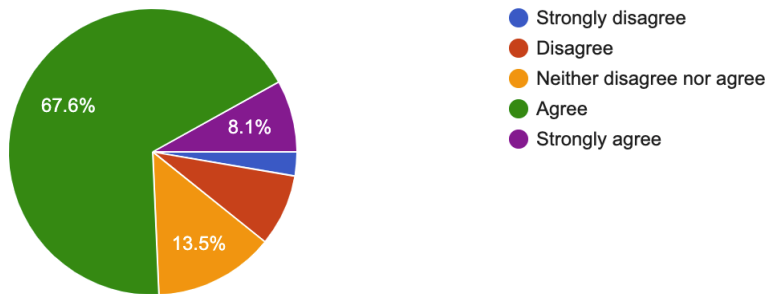
Improve communication so there is better understanding
 Emphasize what Area 53 is and is not, what is the Area responsibility, what is a group responsibility. Tendency to think that all issues are the responsibility of the Area to resolve. Thinking of the relationship as parent/child.

**SESSION 2:
AREA COMMUNICATIONS**

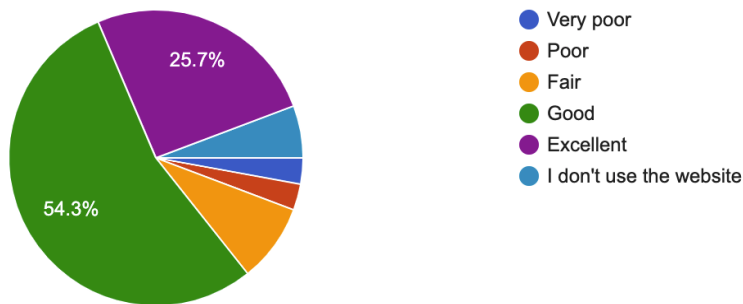
INVENTORY QUESTION: Area 53 is effective in its role as the conduit of information from our groups to the general service conference.



INVENTORY QUESTION: Area 53 informs the DCM and GSR members with usable and accurate information to share and inform their groups.”



INVENTORY QUESTION: How would you rate the Area 53 website with respect to providing information essential to understanding general service and the roles and services of the Area?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Please explain more about your answer regarding the Area 53 website.

1. Great Resource
2. COVID has slowed my use of site.
3. Never hear any reports from our DCM
4. The Area has a fabulous website.
5. Website is available 24/7
6. Very good information
7. It is hard to find things at times

8. The website has information about services in the area as well as how to get connected with officers, committees and districts. It includes a list of AA groups in all the districts in central and southeast Ohio.
9. I have recently viewed the website, but I feel very user friendly and informative.
10. The website is up to date and well organized. I can navigate to the information I need easily, do a few things for my group on my own and reach out to area officers/DCMs. I appreciate all the work and dedicated folks on the website team over the past months.
11. Easy to navigate, good information
12. The plain language Big Book was a surprise and a breakdown in communication and members are frustrated with money spent on these projects. The homegroup feels like they passed this without consent.
13. Very brief review and interaction on my part so no further comments.
14. Upcoming event to calendar is too slow
15. Don't use it a lot but know it's available
16. A wonderful resource but many members do not use websites to get information, so we need to use other means as well, i.e. sharing information at all service level meetings, flyers, etc.
17. Love it!
18. It does the job, particularly about identifying meetings
19. I would like to see the website easier to navigate, especially to find out the dates of events. For example, I had to click four times before I found out the dates of the mini-conference.
20. The Area 53 website has enlightened my understanding of the area as a whole. It is easily maneuverable and allows you to get information on the different committees that are involved within the area.
21. Information is easy to find.
22. Who sees it?

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE INVENTORY SHARING SESSION ON AREA COMMUNICATIONS:

Time and personal experience filter effects communication (like the game of Telephone)

Where are there chinks in the chain, need to be thinking outside of the box.

Technology can't solve everything

Is the Area effective in its role as a conduit to the delegate? Is the Mini-Conference effective?

Website is good

Consider website workshops at assemblies so people know where to go

GSRs need to know quicker and in more depth what the Delegate needs to know from their groups. Agenda items and background info needs to go out to the GSRs in time to share with groups.

Not enough groups have GSRs to be part of the chain of communication

Need for mentors for GSRs to help understand what they're doing and how to contribute to the flow of communication.

Lack of time between Assemblies and when groups meet to get their information out and back to their groups for feedback.

Delays in communication

Encourage reps at committee meetings

Encourage DCMS and Committees to post activities and meeting minutes to website

Lack of interest in groups to receive information

Calendar isn't always updated

Delegate go out to districts that are not in Central Ohio and provide info that is relevant to their district

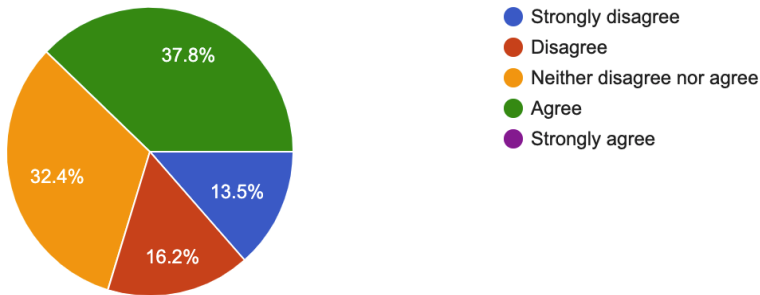
Need more direct communication with the groups

Area officers perhaps doing workshops, visiting groups and having direct communication with them.

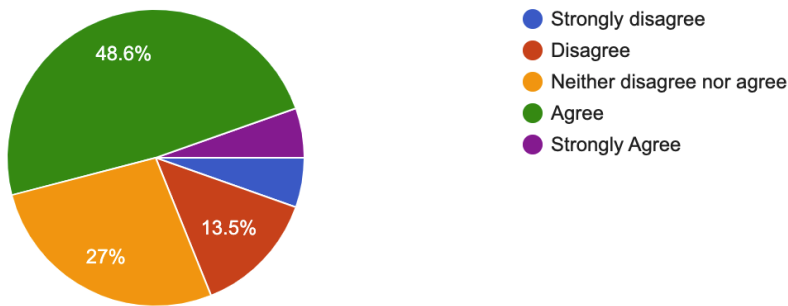
Coordinate with Intergroups and communicate what each entity's responsibilities are.

**SESSION 3:
PARTICIPATION**

INVENTORY QUESTION: Area 53 is effective at making general service inclusive to home group members.”



INVENTORY QUESTION:Area 53 reports to its DCM and GSR members with humility and with our shared opinion.”



SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE INVENTORY SHARING SESSION ON PARTICIPATION:

Participation starts with me

Consider GSR reports at the beginning of the Assembly, adjusting agenda

Are we mentoring people into new positions

Are our expectations too high for incoming trusted servants

Are we asking rather than telling

Need to communicate positively and enthusiastically about the benefits of service work directly to the groups to increase participation

Consider rotating the geographic location of the Assemblies and area events so it can touch more people

Participation is happening, but as a one way street. Service people are participating, getting the info off to groups.

People are not responding to the info, aren't interested.

More workshops, but combine with things that would interest groups

Pandemic has made attendance in AA overall lower, so not as many people who are able to participate.

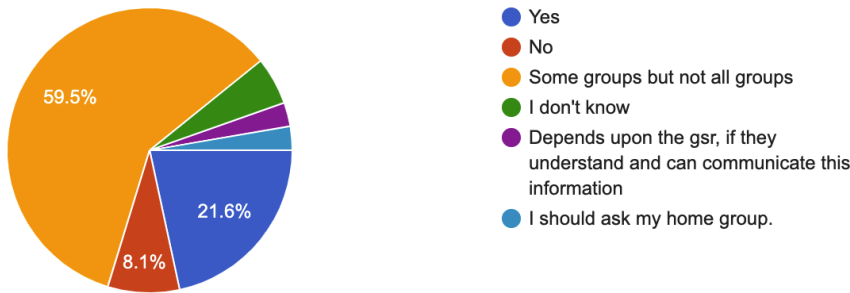
Solutions: reigniting and sharing our own passion for service as a way of helping those who are turned off by service

Have GSR and DCM schools every quarter

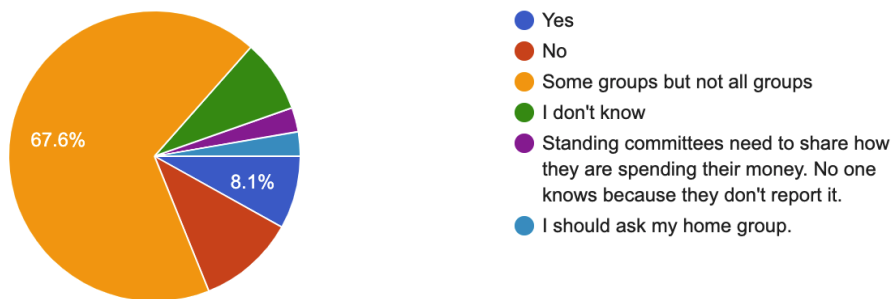
Bring back Area Rap Sessions

**SESSION 4:
7TH TRADITION AND USE OF FUNDS**

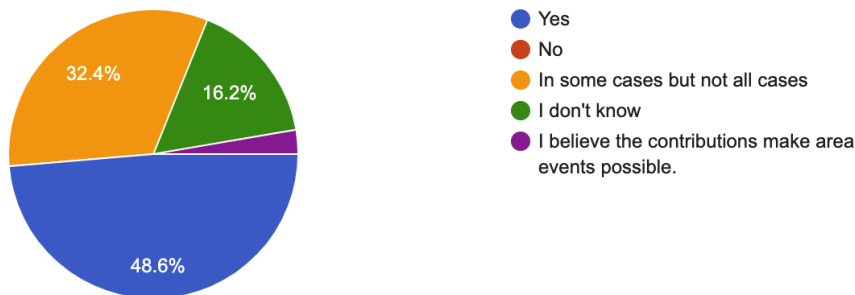
INVENTORY QUESTION: Do our groups understand how Area 53 uses the groups' 7th Tradition contributions?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Do our groups understand spending priorities of Area 53 and the Area standing committees?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Do contributions to Area 53 provide good services to the groups and districts?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Is the budget process and the work of the Area Finance Committee helping Area 53 to adequately inform our members?



SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE INVENTORY SHARING SESSION ON 7TH TRADITION AND USE OF FUNDS:

Need to do a better job communicating what services groups get for their contributions
Workshops that might include people outside of our area
Use the literature we have to communicate how our 7th tradition contributions are used

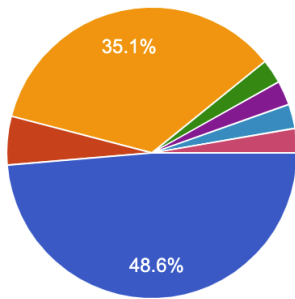
Standing Committees could share in their reports how they use their funds, more transparency publicly
Standing committees need to share how they are spending their money. No one knows because they don't report it.

Once a year before requesting allocations for the next year
More clarification on how committees get their funds
Their spending priorities
Clarify why jugs are being used at meetings
Ways for groups that don't have GSRs to get the budget to them

Make budget information available in different formats, spreadsheet can be sort of mind-numbing to people who aren't numbers people. Maybe pie charts and narratives
Make finance committee meetings open
Have a budget only assembly

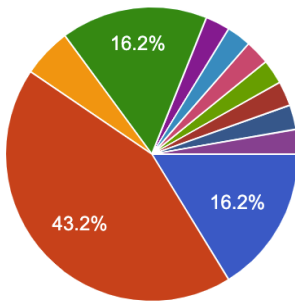
**SESSION 5:
AREA PROCESSES**

INVENTORY QUESTION: Has Area 53 utilized the Twelve Traditions in its service structure and in the way it conducts business at committee meetings and assemblies?



- Yes
- No
- Sometimes but not all the time
- Have not attended for awhile
- Dont know
- I have only attended 2 area meetings.
- Sounds like a good sharing topic for an Assembly.

INVENTORY QUESTION: How well are Area Standing Committees fulfilling their purpose?



- Very Well
- Good enough
- Not very well
- I don't know
- unfair to answer without knowing each...
- Some are more active than others. So...
- Some are more active than others.
- I am very new to area service work.

▲ 1/2 ▼

- Hard for me to know what is going on w/ every committee; we all faced a variety of changes & challenges in past-months.
- Depends on chairman and participation
- While active members ae engaged in important work within these committees, too few AA member participate for me to think that we are doing anything like good enough. People's lives are at sta...

Unfair to answer without knowing each committee goals

I am very new to area service work; Hard for me to know what is going on with every committee; we all faced a variety of changes and challenges in past months.

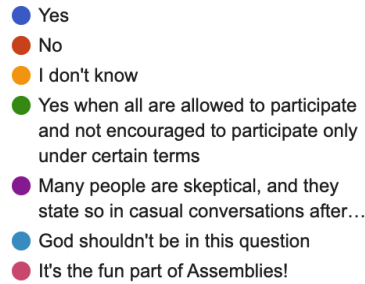
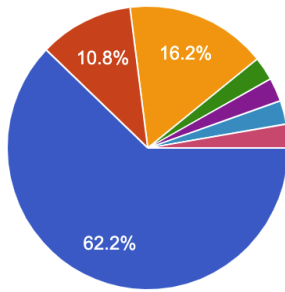
Some are more active than others. Some are hindered by the pandemic.

Some are more active than others

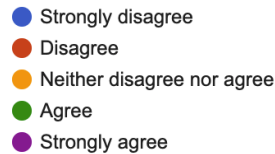
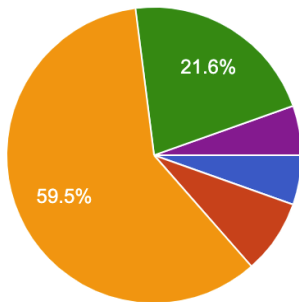
Depends on chairman and participation

While active members are engaged in important work within these committees, too few AA members participate for me to think that we are doing anything like good enough. People's lives are at stake.

INVENTORY QUESTION: Does the voting process at Area Assemblies help us to trust both God and our group conscience?



INVENTORY QUESTION: Area 53 was effective in using the inventory from September 2019 to improve the effectiveness of the Area, Assemblies and Standing Committees.



INVENTORY QUESTION: Please provide additional suggestions or feedback that you think will help drive improvements in Area 53, assemblies, and standing committees.

1. It saddens me to see the egos that have run rampant within the area. It has discouraged so many that were trying to serve, caused resignations, and discouraged future members willing to serve. God is much bigger than any of this, I am confident this too shall pass, and we will emerge stronger and United user tradition 1.
2. Seems like the last inventory was out of sight out of mind once it was over. Don't recall any changes being addressed.
3. Make sure all members are included and encouraged to get involved in the Assemblies. Sometimes only the most vocal members are heard. People need to be given two to three minutes to speak at the "mike."
4. More focus on unity, spirit of rotation, and supporting new members and GSRs in their roles and activities. Having the same people rotating in and out of Area committee roles is not healthy for a true group conscience.
5. I was really disappointed with the way the Sept. 2021 Area Assembly was handled. It felt like the people attending the in-person meeting were aggressive and divisive. It didn't seem like they were following AA principles.
6. Each assembly ought to include members of the clergy or corrections to show non-alcoholics what we do as AA's.
7. I recommend a parliamentarian position for assemblies. We get confused and I don't think the past delegates who might attend are reliable. They appear to make it up. Plus, the assembly is similar but not exactly the same as the general service conference.
8. Is it fair to say GSR are the group's voice to the Area?
9. 1) Continue to update the website w/ information & modern utility; 2) Consider restructure of the standing committees; and 3) Develop the use of hybrid/virtual options to ensure quality for more ease of use/access for all!

10. Plain language Big Book is ridiculous and a waste of money and resources and will confuse the newcomer. This is a violation of Tradition 10. Dumbing down the Big Book and political correctness is an outside issue. Making changes is a danger to AA and the program.
11. Cannot answer until I personally understand it all.
12. RE sharing information with DCMs and GSRs, we could be much more helpful to newer Assembly participants. I believe it would be helpful for the Chairperson to give a brief introduction to the Reports portion of Assembly Agenda to help DCMs and GSRs understand the relevance of these reports and how, particularly standing committee reports represent opportunities to inform their groups about opportunities for service.
13. Why are all area meetings inaccessible to those of us who can't meet in person right now, and people with disabilities or other circumstances that have always prevented them from participating face-to-face? It's incredibly frustrating that this is still an issue after 2 years of the pandemic.
14. Assemblies should be business focused, not for socializing.
15. Focus more on how to help strengthen groups. Focus more on clear communication from delegate and other officers to groups about what groups REALLY need to know. Focus less on just keeping the Area going. Have more Zoom assemblies to make things accessible for all members, including those who are not able to travel or who are afraid of COVID.
16. I believe each standing committee should make sure that AA groups in our area are aware of what they do, and those committees that are in need of support.
17. Keep business to a minimum and use most of the time for sharing sessions or workshops" (new Service Manual p.19) to hear the experience, strength and hope of AA members in service work.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE INVENTORY SHARING SESSION ON AREA PROCESSES:

Being open minded

Listening

Principles first

Whenever we educate we do it in different ways so we communicate the same info in multiple ways

Always remember our unity at the forefront

Keeping our technology updated and letting people know where to access it.

Remember to "pause when agitated"

Make the assembly more engaging

Cut out some of the boring stuff

Too many reports, too long Q&A

More voting, it's the fun part

Parliamentarian would be helpful

More sharing sessions on the traditions

More frequent and consistent area meetings with better communication to the groups

Increase one on one fellowship, especially since we lost that due to the pandemic

We are only as good at communicating information as groups are at giving good contact information.

Better job with communicating directly with our GSRs informing them what area is about and hearing from them what can the area do for the groups and the GSRs

Communicate that the assemblies are our area business meetings, so there should be some expectation that we are going to be handling some business there.