

My Service Sponsor mentioned part of my job as DCM of District 19 is to go to every meeting in my district that does not have a GSR. F-12 of our literature, the "Your D.C.M." pamphlet specifically defines this as a DCM duty. This got me a little excited, I must say, since I haven't been to all of the meetings in this District, even though many are right around my home. I got a District Roster from our Area Registrar and I noticed the last number at the bottom of the list indicates there are 85 groups.

I noticed that the more than 75% of Dark Groups in my district are not participating in the service structure of AA.

I didn't know it was MY job to do these visits.

So, in the last 10 months I have visited 40 groups that have no GSR. Some groups I have visited multiple times. When I screened my groups that legitimately were alive and in my District I found 70. Then we had some new ones start up and so we are up to 80 again.

I found the method for scheduling group visits that worked best for me. I put it in my calendar so I just go on that date and time. If I waited to see how I felt, I never would go because I am scared. I'm scared to go to a group and talk about something that they might not want to hear about or they might think I have an agenda or they might think doesn't relate to them personally. I have overcome this fear by being sure to tell the group, I am only there to share my own experience. I share about how much I am enjoying this job and how lucky I am to go to 80 Groups on a rotational basis for 2 years and get to know the groups. I am really enjoying the visits now. I have a big smile on my face, sometimes I am asked to lead or share, it's great AA fun.

You know, we all take our turn in AA. It just happens to be my turn to do this job, it will be someone else's in a little while. But while it is my turn, I am going to see what I can get out of it and what I can bring to it.

Below is some of the positive experience of my visits. I realize I don't need to coordinate with every GSR to do this job. Depending on the strength of representation in your district, you may decide differently.

The Men's meetings are visited by 2 male District officers and just the other day I asked a GSR if he was up at Midnight to visit the Dark Midnight Daily meeting in our District. He was happy to oblige.

I also noticed that the more than 75% of Dark Groups in my district are not participating in the service structure of AA. They have no awareness of activities or financial matters. I believe that my responsibility to go to the Dark Groups directly coincides with the Budget and it's shortfalls. The budget we pass each year is probably accurate considering the amount of Groups in our Area. We as DCMs have been falling short in visiting the Dark Groups and rounding up the enthusiasm just waiting to be had! Most Dark Groups I go to understand their General Service responsibilities and stand up to the plate! I went to a meeting on Saturday and met with a woman from that meeting today because she would like to consider doing the job but didn't know what was involved. I gladly met her for coffee, which was another hour of service, and found out she thought she would just keep the literature job and do the GSR job, too. What a wonderful opportunity I had to express how other people could benefit from her decision and gain access to a new service position in her group.

Last night I went to a Dark meeting that almost closed due to low attendance and there were 20 people! I was not only asked to lead but got to announce the events coming up in the Area AND talk about the active District I am a Chair of. Now here is the icing on the cake – a past GSR for that Group told such a glowing report about working in my District that after the meeting at the Business meeting the Secretary said, I am over due to give up this job and I want to be the GSR!

So, we never know what will happen when we show up to do the job we have been assigned in our service life. We close our eyes and move forward and thank God we have another day of sobriety.