

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN UNITY DAY

Please scroll down to the information about your specific service position.

By August 1, 2015 - Please read the below-listed details for the specific actions requested for your service position. If you wish to participate, please let me know no later than August 1, 2015 if and how you will participate. I have been asked about accepting financial contributions. If you wish to provide a financial contributions in the form of money, food, and/or materials, please see the list of what is needed and let me know how you would like to contribute.

Area Chair and Area Delegate: Roxane and Dean have agreed to co-facilitate a DCM/GSR Sharing Session. We will have one large room available for the session.

Area Officers: Please review the program and let me know how you would like to help. Use your Rights of Participation and Decision and be creative. If you see an opportunity to hold a roundtable discussion, please let me know. For example, this would be a good opportunity for our Area Registrar to hold a roundtable to connect with District Registrars. We would just want to let the DCMs know about the availability of the roundtable in order to extend an invite to District Registrars.

Standing Committee Chairs: We have an abundance of service boards and committees. This is an opportunity to show all A.A. members the wealth of service opportunities as information available to those being of service to their groups to help carry the message. As you attend your regular meetings, listen for the service positions that are currently at work serving the group. Is the Literature Person fully informed and, in turn, passing on information to those who attend the meeting? Do they know about all the available literature? Does the group simply pass the job onto the newcomer who remains left in the dark about our abundance of literature and how A.A. members can contribute to our living library. Is the meeting being of maximum service in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? If you see the opportunities and possibilities for your committee to be of service, please take action.

If your standing committee needs money to perform its work, please bring it to the attention of the Area Committee. This action can be taken at any time and it is important ESPECIALLY if there was a cut to the dollars that support the 12-Step work your committee sees a need to perform. The most important pieces of information we can deliver at Unity Day are:

The spiritual experience available through service is open to all A.A. members of our Fellowship of the Spirit based on our 12th Step, our Tradition of Unity, and the Concept of Right of Participation. Having had a spiritual awakening, we carry the

message to the alcoholic who still suffers and practice these principles in all our affairs. Sometimes the alcoholic who still suffers is sitting in our rooms. Being of service helps to keep each of us sober while extending the hand of A.A. to those who are in need of sobriety.

Service is open to all because we are a fellowship and the funding of our service boards and committees comes from all. Money put into the hat, contributed by the group belongs to all our membership and is used to serve all our entire membership.

The use of money collected and distributed in observance of the 7th Tradition and used in 12-Step work is what makes it spiritual. The work of OUR local service boards and committees offer a wide variety of service opportunities that make visible the spirituality of using the group's contributions to carry the message.

The 2015 Unity Day event asks for a lot of participation from you and your committee members. My hope is it will result in more connection to both our groups and districts. Please work with your committees to be prepared to cover two tables that will be working during the same one-hour period.

1. Service Fair Table - This table is for visit by any member who wants to learn about the specific 12-Step work performed by your committee. Please be sure to assign two people who have a good understanding of the 12-Step work performed by your committee. Have an information packet available by anticipating how to inform a group about how connection to the work of your committee can expand its ability to carry the message and carry out Unity, the objective of of our Traditions.

Do all you can to attract participation on your committee. For example, please be sure to have a list of jobs for upcoming events for which you need people to serve. Invite all to serve. Each person you engage in service to your committee can carry the message about its work to one or more A.A. meetings. Each group or meeting has the Right of Participation to be informed that your committee offers all A.A. members more information on achieving sobriety.

2. Service Position Roundtables - The other table is where A.A. members who are already serving or are interested in positions such as Grapevine/LaVina Rep or Literature Rep can sit down and talk with others who share an interest in the specific work. Think about all you have learned about the 12-Step work of your committee and what a great contribution that information can make to helping a group carry the message to those who suffer in and out of our meeting rooms. For example, think about who expanding the knowledge on A.A. literature can help a meeting's Literature Rep better serve the group. Improving the 2-way communication of a group's service positions ultimately serves to help develop an informed group conscience for our General Service Conference. This is important for submitting

GSC agenda items as well as for discussion ones that are presented for consideration.

The idea behind the roundtables is to get as many people as possible informed about the committee's work. Ideally, each table will hold three 20-minute sessions. This is not a "carved in stone" requirement. The objective is to have discussions devoted to expanding the experience in the work of a specific service position. Please carefully consider who you put into the table leader position. Find someone to lead the table conversations who is skilled at getting others to talk to contribute their experience, strength and hope. This is also a good opportunity to help those who want to learn how to be a roundtable facilitator to give it a try. Being a good roundtable facilitator is a good experience to allow one to know if s/he would like to move to other service positions such as being an Intergroup Rep, a GSR, DCM, Standing Committee Chair, or Area Officer.

Please know I will be happy to help you with a list of sample, anticipated questions. This will help you and your committee participants to be prepared to answer questions most likely to be presented by your visitors. However, there is a good chance, they will know nothing about the existence of your committee let alone its work. Of course, the most exciting part of this type of event is that you can exercise your Right of Decision and get creative. You will probably find that allowing your committee members to exercise this same Concept will result in a higher degree of participation.

Standing Committees Invited to Participate

General Service Work Support in Informing the Groups

Agenda
Finance
Information Technology
Newsletter
Policy
Translation

Community 12-Step Work

Accessibilities
Archives
Cooperation with the Professional Community
Grapevine/LaVina
Literature
San Diego-Imperial Area Institutional Committee (San Diego H&I)
North County Area Institutional Committee (North County H&I)
(H&I includes Corrections Correspondence and Bridging the Gap)

District Committee Members: One of the responsibilities assigned to DCMs in F-12, “Your District Committee Member,” is “making a regular practice of talking to groups (new and old) on the responsibilities of general service work.” While each group is autonomous and is welcome to decide how it will operate, we ALWAYS need to consider informing the group about what it may not know. A group cannot make an informed decision about what it does not know. DCMs, a good service to the groups in your districts is to inform them about their Right of Participation in all the 12-Step work that is available as well as A.A. as a whole. To accomplish this, please involve the help of your GSRs, your districts’ Registrars, Area 08’s Registrar, and Area 08’s Standing Committees.

There will be discussions for topics that support the district. These Unity Day activities can help your district find groups that are great examples to other groups. Groups that have developed a solid 12-Step practice for their members by involving them in a wide variety of service positions can serve to help other groups grow in carrying the message. These active groups can demonstrate the usefulness of service to groups that may be floundering or are not providing its members with the spiritual experience available through taking action in all three of our legacies. These actions help each of keep A.A. available by practicing all our Traditions starting with Unity in Tradition One.

Connecting those who are currently active in a meeting service position to a service board or committee outside of the meeting can act as a way to keep the group connected to A.A. as a whole. These are the same service boards and committees to which the groups provide financial support. We are actually improving our services to our groups by connecting them to these service boards and committee that support a group’s service positions. The committee performs its work using the groups’ contributions and, in turn, the service board or committee informs the group of information it needs to be a better participant of A.A. as a whole.

We often hear a group has decided it does not want to be represented by a GSR. Please be mindful of one of our most important Concepts — The Right of Appeal. This basically means no decision is ever final and serves as a constant reminder we have the spiritual security for change. We can change when we are wrong or at the time a past decision no longer serves to provide the best answer for the present circumstances. We are welcome and encouraged to examine and change our course.

We need to continuously invite a group’s participation in the two-way communication of the service structure. One direction of the communication is reminding the group to use

its voice or Right of Participation to tell the whole of A.A. about the recovery problems encountered by the alcoholic it serves as well as issues affecting its group life. The other direction is for the group to hear a return of the same on the experience of all participating A.A. groups. Through information sent and information received, the group can learn how to expand or preserve its 12-Step work.

Special notes for DCMs

Public Information - Districts 15 and 18, you are the only general service districts directly serving in a PI role. Please consider participating with the Intergroups to sharing the PI experience of the Spanish-speaking members to the English speaking members. We offer few opportunities for sharing this vital information.

CEC is an example of an organically grown committee. If your district has a newly developing committee, for example District 14's Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC), please consider holding an information table, a roundtable, **and** attending the DCM/GSR sharing session to share the information. Making all GSRs and DCMs aware of this service to what is currently a sizable part of the U.S. population may help them become more aware of the need.

DCMs, Please ask your GSRs to go to their groups and invite all members to attend Unity Day. Ask them to convey the message this is an opportunity to learn about the wide variety of 12-Step work available for their participation. Please emphasize all service committees are open to be attended by all A.A. members. The work of these committees is solely supported by their group's contributions. Ask them to think about the groups they represent. If a GSR's group already has members serving in the positions listed below, please have them ask those individuals if they are willing to facilitate a roundtable discussion on what they do in service to the group. Please keep in mind the roundtables will, hopefully, be attended by others who already serve in the service position or may be interested in serving in it.

Without seeing and experiencing the work of these service boards and committees, it is difficult to understand how each participating group member serves to connect the group to A.A. as a whole. Hopefully, the GSR's group members will become interested in serving on one the of service boards or committees to stay informed about the latest information regarding the position.

The other important part of the day will be how to conduct an informed group conscience meeting. This process is described in Area 08's GSR Manual

Members Holding Group Service Positions Needed for Roundtable Discussions
Secretary

Treasurer
Literature Rep
Grapevine/LaVina Rep
H&I Rep
Intergroup Rep

Area Liaisons - Unity Day is about being inclusive, never exclusive. Collectively, all service boards and committees serve all our groups and exist only through their financial contributions and active, voluntary participation of their members. Each service board or committee differs in its 12-Step work. Please make available the message about the specific work your service entity performs. The sobriety of all our members is enhanced by 12-Step work.

Please consider how you would like your 12-Step work represented and let me know specifically how your service board or committee would like to participate. I am specifically requesting the Intergroups and Oficina Centrals lead roundtables for Intergroup Reps, Secretaries, and Treasurers. I also welcome you to hold an information table to be visited by workshop participants.

After all, if we don't inform the groups about the 12-Step work performed by the collective range of what the groups support in our local area, can we truly say we are living all three of our legacies?

Invited to Participate are:

East County Intergroup
North County Intergroup
San Diego Intergroup & Public Information
Oficina Central San Diego
Oficina Central Chula Vista
Oficina Central Condado Norte
North San Diego Young People in AA
Greater San Diego Young People in AA