

San Diego - Imperial Area Assembly Delegate's Report

DCMs and Committee Chairs: Please discuss the new design for Pre-Conference Workshop with your GSRs and committee members. If you are rotating out, please be sure to hand this off to the rotating in DCM or committee chair.

During the first couple weeks in November, we need to start scheduling the Pre-Conference Workshops. I will contact each DCM and standing committee chair regarding this work. The first part of your decisions are:

DCMs: Does your district want to host a Pre-Conference Workshop?

Standing Committee Chairs: Will your committee participate by moderating a roundtable discussion in

October 21, 2016

Participation is one of the workshop themes of the 2017 General Service Conference (GSC). In this report, I offer two examples of district events that work to increase participation in general service. One way is to host a Servathon; another is to hold a Pre-Conference Workshop. Each is separately described below; however, I will first explain how this change works to strengthen our Fellowship.

Every A.A. member needs to be invited to participate in all three legacies of our program of recovery. Our spiritual way of life is not fulfilled by only working the Steps of recovery. For example, our legacy of Unity becomes available to each of us as we engage in experiences to which we apply the principles of our Traditions such as Three, Five, and Seven. I was not fully available to understand how our Traditions insure Unity until I began engaging in the application of our spiritually-principled Concepts — the Rights of Decision, Participation, and Appeal. I wrestled with many questions as I worked to gain some personal experience of the Concepts. I notice that as I continue my work, service changes me to become a better member of Alcoholics Anonymous. In the interest of Unity, all of us who are currently serving must actively invite all A.A. members to move out of theory and into the action of participation to gain the full spiritual experience of our program.

The problem with our current chapter in A.A. history is that fewer and fewer groups financially contribute to the service committees in the Conference structure. The now 20-year old trend of decline in the number of financially contributing groups and flat-lined membership numbers may mean that most A.A. members have no idea about the Unity of the Fellowship that is created through the GSC. Therefore, they hold no knowledge of the vital role of a General Service Representative (GSR). A change to the **Pre-Conference Workshops** in our area is being made to include A.A. members at large in order to offer them the experience of participation.

We currently organize eight groupings of district-sponsored workshops. GSRs are asked to attend Pre-Conference Workshops in order to learn about the specific GSC agenda items the Delegate and Alternate Delegate are asking them to discuss with their groups. We do little to nothing to prepare the group members on how to participate in a discussion that informs all group members and its GSR in preparation for the Pre-Conference Assembly. It is the task of the districts and area to insure each group gains an experience of how an active GSR engages the group in the Unity of the Fellowship. While all A.A. members are encouraged to attend general service meetings, our current workshop design does not invite their participation and engage them in the GSC decision-making process. The new design provides an experience of a sharing session.

A sharing session format makes way for each group member to experience the consideration process of the GSC. (See below for definition of Consideration.) Consideration of an idea allows for all views to be inserted into a discussion for reflection by all participants. The objective of consideration is to arrive at the best answer

for all members that is based on all information available at that time. The process is like Step 11. We can confidently make our decisions with the knowledge that if and when new information becomes available to indicate there is a better option, we have the Right of Appeal (much like the simple practice of our Step 10), to consider our freedom to move to a better course of action (Carrying the message). Providing more group members with more opportunities to experience of their Rights of Decision and Participation in the GSC works to fulfill Concepts I and II. The Conference experience of working to the best solution available now for all A.A. members manifests Unity, which is the objective of all our Traditions.

The revised program for the three to four groupings of district-sponsored Pre-Conference Workshops asks our standing committee chairs to take responsibility to hold roundtable discussions on the GSC agenda items assigned to their corresponding Conference committee. Our area's standing committee chairs will be asked to review the full range of agenda items and consider which topics would be best to hold at each workshop as well as selecting a few offered for variety among the other sessions. For example, items concerning Safety would be an excellent topic consistent in each session. Variety between each workshop can be designed by selecting a customized roundtable topic such as Tradition 3 at one, Tradition 5 at another, etc. GSRs are asked to encourage their group members to attend to participate in the roundtable discussions.

The district groupings for these workshops need to be discussed now in order to allow time for each district to work with its Registrars to assign GSRs to call on meetings that are not currently participating in the general service structure. To begin to mainstream participation, your district may consider designing its monthly meeting to hold a sample sharing session on one of the topics listed below under **Servathons**. You may even want to use an announcement of the topic(s) of the month as invitations to the district meeting when calling on non-participating groups. The district meeting discussion will provide those who attend with the experience of *why* their group needs a GSR.

HOST A SERVATHON

Servathons are workshops focused around general service topics. Below, is an Area 09 district Servathon that covers several anticipated 2017 GSC agenda items. There is no limit to the number of Servathons and workshops that can be held by districts. Ideally, holding a number of short (1.5- to 2-hour maximum) sessions will serve to provide a high number of members with the sharing session experience.

Any Area 08 district(s) can simply copy the format and create a flyer for its own Servathon. These events would be great to have anytime between now and the beginning of the Pre-Conference Workshop schedule, which are held during the last two weeks of February 2017. Please see the listing of roundtable discussions topics that appear after the flyer info. Your district's Servathon would not have to take on all of them. Servathons can be designed for a few hours or all day. Ask your GSRs to be creative. DCMs, do not hesitate to enlarge the work assignment of your GSRs. These roundtable discussions are excellent opportunities for each to experience being a moderator and actively listening to discussion participants.

Mid Southern California Area 9

Servathon

Hosted By District 11

November 13th. 2016

Knights of Columbus Hall

1729 E. Base Line St.

San Bernardino, Ca. 92410

Roundtable Discussion Topics to Include 2017 Conference Discussion Items

Gratitude in Action: "Supporting Our Future"

- Safety – An Important Consideration
- Fellowship vs. Membership
- Apathy and Power of the Purse
- Communication – Today and Tomorrow
-

Servathon Roundtable Discussion Topics:

- 1) Spanish women, an underserved population
- 2) Diversity
- 3) Self Support (Feasibility study)
- 4) Anonymity - Facebook and other social media
- 5) Retire the pamphlet, "Too Young"
- 6) Safety - This topic ranges from tripping on cracked sidewalk
- 7) LaVina - Reconsider the spiritual parity of the magazine.
- 8) Tradition 3 - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking
- 9) Tradition 5 - Each group has but one primary purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers
- 10) Grapevine
- 11) Strategic Planning Report
- 12) Concept 9 - Leadership

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP GROUPINGS

We immediately need to start planning our Pre-Conference Workshops. If you are rotating out as DCM, please be sure this is one of the top items addressed by your district's new DCM. The listed groupings are provided to start the conversations amongst DCMs. The configuration can be changed to accommodate factors that become known during the planning process. Please do not feel the limit is these four meetings. More workshops can be added if any district(s) feel more sessions are needed in order to encourage all A.A. members at large to attend.

The dates for Pre-Conference Workshops can be set as soon as we confirm the date of the Pre-Conference Assembly. I understand we expect to do that at our October Area Committee Meeting.

I ask that at least one district from each grouping volunteer as a host. There is no problem with districts partnering to host one or more workshops. The proposed district groupings are just starting points. DCMs are encouraged to look at the area's map showing the districts and change the district groupings and workshop site selections.

North: Districts 1, 2, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23

Consider a workshop location in Carlsbad, Vista, or San Marcos

East: Districts 3, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 21, 22

Consider a workshop location somewhere near the south border of District 21 and the northern part of District 11.

South: Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19

Consider a workshop location near Mission Valley.

District 9: At this time, a separate workshop will be planned for District 9 due to its proximity to other outlying meetings. We will also work to pay a visit to the Beyond the Bars Group that meets in Centinela Prison in order to inform them of the agenda items to include their participation in our collective conscience.

Consideration:

noun

1. the act of considering; careful thought; meditation; deliberation:

I will give your project full consideration.

2. something that is or is to be kept in mind in making a decision, evaluating facts, etc.:

Age was an important consideration in the decision.

3. thoughtful or sympathetic regard or respect; thoughtfulness for others:

They showed no consideration for his feelings.

4. a thought or reflection; an opinion based upon reflection.

5. a recompense or payment, as for work done; compensation.

6. importance or consequence.

7. estimation; esteem:

He is held in great consideration by the community.

(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/consideration?s=t>)