

2018 Northern Illinois Area 20 Inventory Detailed Responses – All questions and answers

Summary and PowerPoint highlights to be posted soon. (2018-09-11)

NIA Survey

Responses Started 134

Responses Completed 84

Survey Completion % 62.69%

1) What is your current AA service position? (@Group, District, and/or Area) Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 144

Answer	Times Used
answering service chair district	1
Alt GSR @ Group	1
Alt. DCM	1
Alt. GSR	3
Alternate Answering 20	1
a	1
a-gsr	1
Alt DCM District 42	1
alt grapevine-area Service Chair District 20, GSR	1
Sunday Night Live	
Alternate GSR for the Flying Geese Women's group in Crystal Lake	1
Answering service	1
Area	4
Area 20 Alternate Secretary and GSR in District 22	1
Area and District committee co-chair	1
Area answering service chair	1
Area committee chair	1
Area webmaster	1
Co chair, pass out readings	1
Coins person and literature	1
Concept editor. D52 Secretary	1
D.C.M. District 52	11
DCM	1
dcm District 11	1
DCM District 23	1
District Ansswering Service Chair	1
District Corrections Chair	1
Dist. Literature Chair/ Group Treasurer	5
District	

District 10 area 20 grapevine chair	1
district 62 web admin.	1
District Literature Chair	1
district pi chair	1
District Secretary	4
District 10 area 20 grapevine chair	1
district 62 web admin.	1
District Literature Chair	1
district pi chair	1
District Secretary	4
GSR/District	11
Webmaster	1
GSR and LCM	1
GSR dist 11. Grapevine chair dist 11	1
Gsr for a meeting	1
GSR Wednesday Early Steppers Dist.64	1
GSR, Alt Dist Treas	1
GSR, Coffee Committee Chair 2018 SCA	1
GSR, DCM	1
GSR, District newsletter committee chair	1
GSR, Grapevine chair for dist. 73	1
GSR, LCM	1
gsr-ans.ser.chr.-alt grapevine	1
GSR-Group, Committee Alt Chair -District	1
Home group treasurer, CPC chair	1
LCM	1
meat and potatoes gsr	1
member	2
N/A	1
NIA Alt Chair, home group Grapevine Rep	1
NIA area 20 Treatment chair	1
None	6
Past Delegate	1
Secretary @group	1
Serenity house, district 10	1
Set up @ Home Group	1
Special events co chair	2
Treatment	2
Treatment committee chair	1
Website Chair	1
Yes	1

2) Is your group represented at Area business meetings/Assemblies?
If not, why?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 140

Answer	Times Used
A	1
At times. We have very small and sporadic attendance District - Yes Area - No , will try to go to more.	1
Home group has a GSR that doesn't attend area functions.	1
I am GSR of my group, but have not been able to attend Area meetings and Assemblies due to work schedule and other weekend scheduled events	1
It will be going forward	1
Maybe? I haven't talked to our GSR in months	1
My Group G.S.R. doesn't go to Area functions. To busy. Need to encourage all District 52 G.S.R.s to attend area meetings, if possible.	3
No	1
No, not at Area. They have no clue what Area is or does.	1
No , less than a year old	1
No - District Only. New meeting established on Nov. 10th, 2017.	1
GSR & Alt GSR will be attending the Spring Conference.	1
No - GSR does not attend	1
no getting new GSR	2
No not in recent years.	1
No, our GSR never makes the meetings	1
No, not enough participation	1
No, lack of support for traditions or competent involvement	1
No, too lazy.	1
No. GSR doesn't attend	3
NO. tIMING	1
No. No gsr	1
no.i took postion because no one else would my schedule doesn't give me flexibility.	1
Not presently due to no GSRs currently electing GSRs and new secretary/treasurers	

not sure	1
No, group is too small	1
not usually, had to get participation of members	1
No, no interest	1
No, but it needs to become a high priority	1
Not yet	1
Occasionally/mediocre understanding of purpose	1
Sometimes, very little, do district 1 to 2 times yearly	1
Some of our GSRs go, they don't think it's part of their job	1
Some yes, some no Why is a good question.	1
Sometimes	3
Sometimes, can't always make it	1
Sometimes, four times per year is a lot for anyone not retired	1
Sometimes, they don't come	1
sometimes, when the GSR can make it.	1
Sometimes. GSR has an infirm wife and he can't always get away	1
There are a few people from my district who attend.	1
They are	1
usually, sometimes transportation is an issue	1
Yes	86
yes at district. starting to get back into Area assembly and committee meetings.	1
Yes, but not by me so far. Another member of our group goes because of his District responsibilities.	1
Yes, by our GSR and Alternate GSR	1
Yes, most of the time. We've had some GSR turnover in my home group though a few of us are also involved at the District and Area so the group stays informed...	1
Yes, most of the time	1
Yes, our DCM attends the Area Meetings regularly.	1
Yes, when I can make them.	1
Yes---at monthly District meetings	1

3) What could Area 20 do to make business meetings/Assemblies more efficient and productive?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 123

Answer	Times Used
a	1
Adhere to time limits	1
At the beginning of the meeting take a few minutes to go through the agenda and discuss expectations of who will participate and how.	1
Attend district meetings in your area to observe and conduct studies on what's missing and post about the studies in the newsletters.	2
Better communication . Maybe a gentle reminder before Assembly to place principles before personalities to promote general unity rather than soap boxing and ego when sharing on a topic.	1
Continuing to promote approachability to new attendees and welcoming them individually in addition to in front of the group so not to intimidate.	
Break outs early in the morning	1
By starting and ending on time	1
CHANGE LOCATIONS	1
Continue to encourage the GSRs and other Committee members to actively participate up at the mic, but emphasize the need for NEW comments not the rehashing of the same issue over and over again.	1
Cut it shorter or over two short meetings	1
Do round table discussions & a lot less step up to the mic. Limit comments to 2 mins and 2 times per question. Rport was to be published and distributed in July. I am writing this on December 31st & still no report	1
don't know	2
Don't know at this time.	1
Don't know at this time. Area meetings appear to go efficiently.	1
Encourage more participation. Maybe offer a free lunch.	1
finish the meeting by 1PM district reports only as needed	1
Get dist chairs together to share ideas and accomplishments. Streamline the meeting to not go past 1pm	1
Get into Kendall county jail	1
Given the way AA works I don't know	1
Have conferences in one day, not three	1
Have a greater number of breakout or smaller group discussions.	1
Have them in Lake County	1
Hold more workshops?	1
I am new to this again area gsr work shops could help	1
I believe that business meetings are ran just fine	1
I believe we alcoholics in Area 20, districts should be doing more to reach the groups and their GSR'S out	

there that haven't been connected to their districts or Area. Maybe try to get a better feel of what we can do to help.	3
I don't know	1
I don't know yet. I have not attended one yet.	1
I don't know.	1
I don't see a need to change anything	1
i dont know	1
I find the business meetings and Assemblies very productive, and have no suggestions for improvement.	1
I find them quite productive. I think having a Service Sponsor has made my transition from Accessibility chair to DCM easier and I have a better understanding of the Area's role in our District.	1
I haven't been to any.	1
I think they are.	1
I think they are good	
I understand that as a whole we are all passionate about alcoholics anonymous but at the Assemblies meetings I believe the chair should end the endless chatter that some bring to the mike. How many times can we hear any number of people either for or against the same issue at the mike? put a limit on that..	1
I've never been to one so I wouldn't know!	
It's been several years since I've been actively involved in service at the Area level so I'm unable to provide a concrete answer.	1
I'm not sure. I haven't been in a long time. Our GSR does a great job of keeping us informed and bringing our group conscience back to the district and the area!	1
just as this site takes into account my(our)opinions so should a assembly agenda questionnaire to go for those that cant attend	

keep them on point, stay focused on the issues	1
Leave them as they are	1
Length of time - feels like things drag on too long	1
sometimes makes me not want to attend due to that	
Less paper, more projected graphics, shorter presentations.	1
lessen the arguing have agenda items that can be taken back to meetings for group conscious	1
Location	3
Make first half about new concerns, topics or things to be brought back to group and then after break break up into groups like bridging the gap, special needs,	1
archives, literature, etc. And discuss ideas and issues with fellow chair persons and alternates as to knowledge and solutions.	1
Make the meetings only 1/2 day	1
Make them closer to where I live.	1
Motivation	1
Move meeting closer to both major areas (have Area meetings divided between	
2 locations	1
Move the location around and do more to include the newcomer. It seems to be a past delegate get together.	1
Most members complain about the length of time they take	2
n/a	2
NA	1
Never attended one yet.	4
no comment	1
No suggestion to improve. The mtgs/Assemb are conducted with consideration of time and priority of issues.	
Weather, distance and family responsibilities are the pressing matters.	1
No suggestions	5
Not sure	1
Not enough experience for me to say yet	1
Not sure if you train the officers on Parliamentary Procedure. If you don't, I would train everyone so meetings run more efficiently.	2
Nothing	1
Nothing comes to mind right now.	1
Nothing, by their very nature, they are what they are	

Nothing. The meetings seem to go well.	1
Ours are very good meetings	1
Perhaps shortening the length of time so it is not a whole day commitment.	1
Practice a Genuine Humility	1
Resolve annual appointment of Districts hosting Spring Assembly	1
We are a small group, maybe 5-7 regulars average or so weekly. Have no one interested in meetings and district coincides	1
scrap lunch plans	1
Send out agenda well ahead of the business meetings/Assemblies.	1
Shorten the meetings and offer up secure group ballots for some initiatives and because we aren't omniscient, offer a check box that requires it to go to discussion irrespective of the vote if sufficient boxes are checked. Area committee meetings are also often filled with large volumes of less than useful chatter. Also consider only allowing voting GSRs or Alts to speak, no committee chairs or former delegates should be allowed to go to the mic.	1
Since the groups are unfamiliar at this point, we don't know	1
speed them up less arguing	1
Stay on topic, limit speaking time at microphone.	1
Don't schedule meetings the days conferences are held!!!!	1
More agendas printed as the newcomers don't have it on thier phones.	1
Stick to Agenda Always use timer Don't show favortism	1
stop allowing past delegates to vote. they nullify an entire home group's conscience. Stop past delegates from commenting at the open microphone. They all think they have to speak to every topic and we are sick of them. At least stop them from speaking until ALL REAL AA members have had a chance to be heard and then limit the past delegates to 30 seconds only.	1
Strict Time limits on all presentations, comments etc. Encourage maximum amount of visits to microphone.	1
They are as efficient as they can be. It's like any meeting that is held to hear arguments and make motions.	5
Time limits at the mic. Cut em off after that.	1
Treat the other members as you would wanted to be treated.	
Unknown	
Use a timer	

Via email or online	1
You already do a good job of reigning in the "talkers" and keeping us focused on the agenda.	1
Keep encouraging	1
Keep doing them	2
Keep motivating	1
Come to my district (70) and explain, offer help, etc	1
Not sure, people need to discuss and express opinions, and that takes time. It's not necessarily efficient, but is necessary	1
This is my first one. Will let you know if/when I think of something	1
Not sure yet, only been to a few. Although having agendas in advance is good	1
Not sure	1
Lessen people making the same points at the microphone. Area chair should not be bashful about limiting trips to the mic	1
Don't know	1
IDK	1

4) Do you feel the Service Committee Break-out Sessions at Assemblies encourage participation and/or attendance?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 120

Answer	Times Used
A	1
Do not know.	1
Don't attend	1
don't know	3
Don't know enough about this	1
Encourage	2
Encourage participation no	1
For people that are interested? Yes.	1
Hard to say, as the last Area Assembly I attended was in summer 2012 and I have nothing to compare it to.	1
I cant say	1
I don't know	1
I don't think breakout sessions encourage participation.	1
I have never been contacted by someone to invite me to participate. I hear the announcement at District	1
meetings, but don't feel a personal connection.	1
I have no idea.	
I myself love the breakouts because i can get a better outlook on what i can do in my little community to help those who don't know the doors of AA are open.	1
I think that encouragement could be stepped up, for attendance and participation. Noting importance to better service.	1
I would hope so	1
I've only been to one and it was very useful.	1
Idon't know	
Maybe	
My understanding is that this is an opportunity for the district committee members to share their experience and see how the area chair can help.	4
I do not see that happening.	1
n/a	
NA	
Never attended a Break-out session	

No	4
no comment	2
No opinion.	1
NO. Attendance at Area meetings has always sucked because there are too many long-winded ego trippers who have to talk about every topic. It is a boring waste of time to go to Area meetings	1
no; still no treatment chairs show up from the districts	1
Not really. Not enough knowledge about service structure among the general AA population.	1
No	5
Not sure	3
Our groups first attendance to the assembly will be this March 23-25th.	1
Same answer as #3	1
SHOULD BE	1
sometimes	1
somewhat if not overdone	1
Somewhat, but there is really not much dialogue startersor like a main area of focus to concentrate on in my experience...it was like a free for all.	1
They have for me.	1
They should! This is about break out session chairs being prepared, communicating to District chairs in advance, and having an agenda that generated good discussion.	1
they would be more effective if the service comm. chairs were reaching out to the District service chairs to try and get them to attend	1
They would if they were better published and their work clearly articulated. We have a great deal of apathy because opportunities are limited and historical knowledge isn't communicated well. There is also limited understanding of what area does outside of corrections and pre assembly.	

<p>This is a chicken-or-the-egg question. Right now it's the only game in town. Most of the Area service committees are comprised of the elected chair and alternate. Concerned, active chairs make an effort to recruit committee members and plan and produce service events. These committees, which I suspect also nurture their counterparts at the District level, probably have the best attendance at recent Assemblies.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Passive committee chairs probably have smaller participation in break-out sessions. I'm sure there is a correlation between a culture of service and "successful" committees. Service sponsors would be helpful. Being willing to let a committee position/committee be dormant in the long run could be more beneficial to the fellowship than filling positions with seat-warmers. An ad hoc committee on service structure 10 or more years ago urged that the Area Service committees hold quarterly meetings/workshops in geographically diverse segments of the Area, as is done in several other Areas. There was a similar suggestion to conduct Service Orientation Workshops on a similar schedule. There may have been one or two orientation workshops but to the best of my recollection, the service committee suggestion never was implemented. Strengthening the grassroots requires hard work and getting your hands dirty with fertilizer. Changing a culture or practice takes time.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Unknown</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>When I was a newcomer, I had no idea what they were for and nothing was said like "go to a breakout for a committee you might be interested in working on. Once I understood that, I started liking breakouts.</p>	<p>36</p>
<p>Yes</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>yes but they still feel "Clicky"</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Yes!</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Yes! Smaller groups let less outgoing voices and opinions be heard.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Yes, it gets the person into a room with people you normally would not talk to.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Yes, but I don't believe that members are aware that there are breakout sessions during the assembly.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Yes, if people showed up</p>	<p></p>

Yes, very much so. All assemblies should have breakouts.	1
Yes. I learn more from other participants.	1
Yes. The problem is that they overlap when you have multiple areas of responsibility. GSR & Committee work	1
Yes. They are an excellent opportunity for new Committee members and DCMs to become better informed about their roles and responsibilities.	1
Yes, they give the advice on how they see it	1
It encourages me	1
Don't know district collides with regular meetings	1
Sometimes	1
No, they should all meet in one area	1
Don't know	1
No, tend to be dominated by old timer windbags	1
If present, participate	1
I've only been to one other Assembly and attended a GSR breakout, Which was informative	1
Haven't attended one yet	1
They should	1
Not sure yet, but yes knowing there are breakout groups encourages me To come	1
Probably DCMS & GSRs need to attend to see value	1

5) What can the Area do to better support the District Service Committees?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 108

Answer	Times Used
a	1
Area service committees need to generate web pages that engage, educate and encourage direct contact.	1
Area Standing Service Committee Chairs Keep in contact with DCMs	1
And keep in contact with with District Service Committee Chairs, with the purpose of attending more District Meetings	1
Attend District meetings on a more regular basis and share verbally what is happening at the area; what is the Area trying to address. Pass out information that can be taken by GSRs to their meetings. In my experience when information is shared at meetings members look at it but don't take the time to attend Area assemblies.	1
be more informative on a regular basis	1
Be more present at District meetings for those who hold Area Chair positions	1
Be more pro-active in helping district-level GSRs and members understand how service committees help carry the message, Helping members know/learn that there is more to staying sober than not drinking, going to meetings and throwing a buck in the basket. Those activities won't change things overnight, however.	1
Better communication of assembly agendas and resources available. I'm not saying it's lacking I just don't know what is available for our chairs outside of corrections.	1
Attend District meetings on a more regular basis and share verbally what is happening at the area; what is the Area trying to address. Pass out information that can be taken by GSRs to their meetings. In my experience when information is shared at meetings members look at it but don't take the time to attend Area assemblies.	1
Continued timely information updates.	1
Do not know.	
Do what we do with newcomers, reach out to them directly and make them aware that we are here to assist in any way possible. Specifically the area chairs to the district chairs.	2
Don't know	1
	1
Don't know	1
elect people who want to be active	1

Get more outreach	
give out guidelines. most people won't read the manual	1
	1
Good question, you are already very available	1
Have area committee chairs visit the districts.	
Have the chairs reach out more to the districts, not just by sending an email but calling until they make a connection.	1
	1
Help people stay on task	
Hold more workshops and send service representatives to the groups to explain service positions.	1
I believe the area has always been supportive of district committees. The area reps have always come to GSR meetings when asked. I think the question should be, how do districts inspire committee membership?	1
	1
I don't know	1
I don't know.	
I feel they are doing a good job. Sometimes I feel the district needs to take more advantage of what the area has to offer.	1
I have found the Area Service Committees very supportive, and have no suggestions for improvement	1
	1
I should understand this question better, but do to my limited involment ?????	1
think the Area does a good job of offering to help District Service Committees.	1
	1
I think they are great	1
I think they do a great job	
Idk	1
Encourage conference calls emails to inspire action. On carrying the message	
Inform Districts to encourage their committees to communicate with Area committees. So they know what help is available to them.	1
It would be nice if the district i am in would have more Area stuff on the agenda to keep GSR's and their groups more connected. Maybe the Area can gain knowledge of where districts might have difficulties in spreading the message. Maybe have DCM breakout meeting talk about these issue and see how many districts are sharing what is going in Area 20 and AA as a whole.	

Lets do more with young peoples groups.	1
Listen Better, Area Committee Chairs need to offer their attendance more often	1
Local workshops	1
look in the 25 years past and try not to do the	1
maybe reach out to the committees and ask if they have any questions, needs or support.	1
n/a	1
NA	2
no comment	1
No suggestion	1
No suggestions	1
Not sure	7
Not sure cause they already give job descriptions.... I was just voted in and not really given much info on what my duties were I have had to have quite a learning curve	1
Not sure what the area can do.	1
Not sure yet	1
not sure, I am obviously fairly new to this	1
Nothing	2
Our groups first attendance to the assembly will be this March 23-25th.	1
Outreach can make a difference to the individual chairs on the district level however it really takes the motivation of the committee chair to show up. Maybe you can work some magic there!	1
Pass on personal experiences not just formal stuff.	1
What goes into making it happen.	1
Reach out to the Committee Chairs. I believe there is a hesitancy on the part of the District Committee Chairs to do this on their own. A quick email welcoming them to their new position/exisiting position and letting them know they are there to help might go a long way.	1

Regular and consistent outreach by committee chairs, involving them in Area committees...asking for them to be involved.	1
Same answer as 3	1
Send money	1
show up	1
show up to all district meetings and ask for there attendance	1
The service committees offer, the districts don't seem to respond	1
try picking up the phone and asking if we need / or want help	1
unknown	1
Unsure	1
User friendly literature about the service structure, e.g. the upside down triangle	1
.	1
visit Districts	1
Visit districts in person	1
Visit the district and ask the chairs to come. This last assembly our newcomers asked what does it mean to split up. Please explain what the break outs are for...and where they should go. Can the dcms encourage thier answering service people to join? The last two years we've had really terrible attendance at the break out sessions...with a max of 4 people. ????	1
We're currently working on assessing that work shops	1
Nothing, leave it as they have it	1
Inform districts that a team of Area 20 folk are available to do q& a. along with	
Training sessions for traditions & concepts	1
Listen	1
Make meeting more local, not so far away	1
Don't know	1
Nothing	1
Publish reports on time	1
Encourage attendance at area meeting	1
N/A	1
Unknown	1
Make yourself more accessible	1
Do not be in cliques	1
Encourage only	1
Give better information	

Visit the districts and give better information	1
Workshops	2
Keep visiting the groups	1
Give more information, more broad	1
Visit the districts	1
Offer training sessions	1
Not sure	1
Not sure of the point	1
Not sure still pretty new to this	1
Make visits to district meetings to explain support, don't wait to be invited	1
Not sure	1
Communicate more with chair	1
Conference calls to district chairs. Information to be shared on P.I. CPC what works in one dist. Will help another	1
Consider having related (or even random) committees from Districts meet to share best practices and suggest solutions to issues.	1
Have District Meetings add a summary of the Area Meeting to their agenda	1

6) If you attended Area Assemblies in the past and are no longer, would you please share why?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 94

Answer	Times Used
same mistakes	1
a	1
Am still attending.	1
As stated above, the weather, distance and family are factored into attendance at Assemblies. Others in the Group say the cost of fuel or being a caregiver prevents more involvement. Another felt that since he doesn't	1
go to District, he'd be uninformed at Area.	1
Attend all	1
Attend Assemblies	1
attending at this time	1
Chaotic at best. Too many people not placing principles before personalities.	1
Commitments outside of AA	1
didn't want to travel so far south sometimes	1
Have not attended at all	1
I am not a gsr and they often fall on this and last year's race schedule. I will not be running as many 100milers when DCM.	3
I attend	1
I attended one in the last 2 years. I found it very structured, breakouts were service committees. The presentations and discussions were too focused on the role of the committee and what they have been doing. It would have been more interesting if the discussion was on what is happening out there in the districts (what is working and what isn't) and how we can better carry the message to the suffering alcoholic.	1
i didnt attend	1
I go to assemblies and conferences to meet people I normally do not see and to hear things I would not hear.	1
I have attended one assembly and one area meeting/service workshop both were very long and had to travel 1 1/2 hours to get there.... I will try to attend more but this makes it difficult	1
I haven't	1
I no long hold an Area position	1
I still attend personally	1
I stopped going because I feel there are a certain group of people who run the show	1
I usually attend them.	

I was only a visitor to learn about AA Service	1
Ive never been to one	1
Just a matter of priorities and other commitments, as well as some family difficulties.	1
Just no time	1
Length of time and distance away - plus now I have 2 small children	1
LOCATION	1
Long drives... but that's just my opinion. I understand the location is centralized (as on the area map) but	1
would like to have the attendees 'mapped' to see if we can perhaps move the meetings closer to the area	1
that most people come from.	1
Long time commitment or distance. Needing a ride.	14
Moved from Chicago to Galena	1
N/A	1
never attended	2
never been to one	1
Never have	1
not applicable	
Not available most weekends	1
served in the long past and have just rejoined the ranks	1
service position does not require	1
sometimes they are too far away or do not fit in my schedule	2
Still Attend	2
Still attending	1
	1
Still present	1
This is my first time.	
time constraints with family	
too many long winded ego trippers at the microphone lead by the endless parade of past delegates. The AA Service Manual does not give past delegates the ability to VOTE.	1
Why does the NIA?	1
Very long (time), far away, and I didn't understand a whole lot of what was being discussed.	1
When I wasn't involved in general service may participation was not necessary.	1
In fact, I stepped away to make room for new blood.	
Yes, scheduling, it's all day	
I'm a current DCM, I'm involved	

Don't know	1
Other Commitments	1
I moved from a densely populated area in NY State to an area in IL, didn't	1
Think I need AA anymore, I was wrong!	
Never have	1
N/A	2
I don't feel they served a meaningful purpose	1
Illness in family	1
No interest	1
Currently attend	1
Same place all the time, long drive for many, go back to rotating locations	1
Lack of business organization	1
Work Issues	1
Others set backs	1
Work schedule	1
I have never gone	2
I could not go	1
Never went, I have never gone	1
I have been a GSR at several groups and have had a few positions at District.	1
Since my homegroup needs so much help at the group level I am concentrated on Service there	
This is my first Area Assembly	1
Interrupted participation when not involved with Area/District Service	1
Not Applicable	1
I have not attended before	1
I attend Assemblies. People feel there's too much "back and forth" about minutae in Motions, eg, changing words. Endless people going up to the mic to make the same point	1

7) Does your group understand how the Area 20 agenda is developed?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 117

Answer	Times Used
No	34
a	1
A few do	1
beginning to	1
don't know	1
doubtful	1
I am not sure what this question means, are you speaking about the agenda you hand out before the assembly or committee meetings? I am not sure how to answer.	1
I am still learning and think some in the group have an understanding	1
I believe some long time members are, but not so much the newer members.	1
I do.	1
I don't	2
I don't know how the agenda is developed personally, but maybe everyone else knows.	1
I don't; maybe my group does.	1
I have no idea	1
Likely no	1
I think so yes	1
I'm sure they don't have a clue and so far aren't concerned.	1
Kinda of. Just been through word of mouth from District Members.	1
maybe 1% most are new	1
Maybe 1% the rest just sobering up	1
Maybe a few of the members but not many. Maybe 7 out of 50 people.	1
Maybe? I sure don't!	1
My group? Prob not... but my district does	1
N/a	1
No they barely stick around for a business meeting let alone clean up. I need to educate myself on this	1
No, but our GSR does.	1
No, do you?	1
No, don't think so. Generally the Group's Business Mtg pertains to Group issues and the GSR report uses the time to influence fellows close to home about District involvement. It is a matter of available time to pick and choose what is passed on to the Group. Our monthly Business Meeting is at 9 pm on Friday and usually, it's been a long week for all.	1
No. I, as the GSR, am spreading the info with me home group here and there but we are a new group. I always ask fellow alcoholics from my home group and other groups to tag along. To me it is important to bring new and old sobriety to Area functions.	1

not a clue	1
Not really	2
Not sure	2
Not to any great depth.	1
Our GSR does but probably not the group.	1
Probably not	3
Some do, others aren't interested	1
Some do. I am considering writing about it in the district newsletter.	1
Somewhat	4
They have had it explained, how much they actually still understand or even want to know is debatable.	1
this group needs to mature w some sobriety before they tackle the inner workings of aa as a whole...imo	1
To be honest, most group members don't care but that's just the way it is.	1
Unsure	1
We do communicate the gsr hierarchy and AA organisation so yes.	1
Well, I sure don't	1
Yes	24
yes a lot of past NIA area chairs go to my meeting	1
Yes, I explained it to them	1
No, we need a training session	1
So/so	1
I believe so	1
We are an open meeting-newcomers getting sober or learning fundamentals comes first	1
Those that are interested	1
No, but I do	1
Most groups don't	1
I am not sure that my home group understands and I don't know	1
If we ever have someone interested in these meetings will appoint and send	1

8) Does your group GSR understand their role at Area 20? If not, why?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 119

Answer	Times Used
a	1
As a group, I think so, but individual understanding of what a GSR does, what District function is and so on, varies from person to person. I think mostly just based on desired involvement and availability of time to be involved.	1
as alternate I am fuzzy about my role	1
I am going to reread my GSR handbook	1
I am learning more, and trying to participate more.	1
I do.	1
I know I am supposed to do more, but HATE the political aspect of any large organization.	1
I think he is getting a better understanding and is doing a great job getting information to the group.	1
I think so	1
I think so yes, she does a good job	1
I think so, yes	1
I think they do but it's not necessarily important to them.	1
I understand it, but do not do it. I'm hoping in the near future one of our fledglings will grow enough to be able to tackle this head on. Until then I'll do my best...sorry	1
I understand, but do not participate, beyond attending monthly district meetings	1
I would have to ask her.	1
It is I, and I have likely dropped the ball, because the easier softer way was to let the other person (a District Officer) gather info. But I would like to understand better what my role really is. I probably have not read through the new GSR materials enough.	
I think that the former GSR should sit with the new one and do an in-depth explanation and handoff however.	1
My current GSR does but is not a retiree so can't attend often. I prefer program organization not be made up of retired people otherwise we will be very one-sided.	2
N/A	1
No	1
no for the ones not attending assembly	1
no GSR at present, but elections are this week	1
No, many groups don't even have a GSR	1
No, they don't care	
No, we have never asked	1
No. They've never been contacted by or seen anyone from the area. The area is Mars to them.	1
Nominally. There is not a culture of service. A model to follow,	
No, district level only	

Nope... prob not interested	1
Not sure	1
Not yet (new position)	1
not yet, but he is new, only 2 months into the service position	1
Probably not due to lack of interest	1
Probably not. Haven't stressed upon him, the importance of his presence and significance at Area level.	1
Probably, although I haven't seen him in 2-3 months.	1 1
Some do, some don't. There should be an orientation for new GSR's. There are many assumptions.	1 1
The meeting is ambivalent	
They know that the GSR and the District work with the Area to carry their concerns and needs for clarification to the Delegate and the Conference of fellow alcoholics.	1
This is improving in our district. It is my belief that meetings do not see the value in a GSR and we need to educate them. The meetings I attend with GSR's are clear on their role.	1 1
Unclear.	1
Unsure	
Who is "group GSR"? Do you mean a District level GSR or do you mean the GSRs at my regular AA meetings?	44 1
Yes	1
Yes - Voting Delegate. If more information outside of that then no. We're learning as months move on.	1 1
yes because we bring them to the area meeting. not every group is present.	1
Yes but not all the groups in the district do	1
Yes I do	1
Yes I do but most members get bored with the business part of AA and don't care to hear about it.	1 1
Yes I do.	
Yes mostly	1
yes, but not the importance	
Yes, they do. Some GSRs fully understand and appreciate their role. Others are less enthusiastic or committed.	1
yes, to vote according to the informed group conscience. and to bring back info to the group as to anything useful going on the area	
yes. (1) go to the assemblies for 6 hours and listen to people argue and pontificate. (2) come home and quit their position as GSR,	

It needs to be a higher priority	1
Not really	1
I am not sure, but when I was a GSR, I did not	1
My group's GSR does, most district GSRs do not	1
No, no interest	1
No, they are lazy and do not care about GSR importance	1
New/Learning	1
No, no one has ever told me	1
We do not have one	2
Yes, still learning	1
I am learning	1
Yes? Maybe	1

9) Do you feel the GSRs are included in Area business? If not, why?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 113

Answer	Times Used
not sure	1
?	2
Do not know	1
Don't know enough about this, not the GSR at this time	1
Don't know. Just as anyone, I'd like to see more GSR's participate. Only then maybe hold workshops for	1
those GSR's to see if they truly understand the importance of the their positions.	1
From out here in this little community where we have a few groups and multiple meetings there seems to be	1
a stigma about district and Area 20. Its been rough out here trying to spread the message of service work.	1
Hardcore Area service people need to remember that GSRs may need more friendly help in understanding	1
the whole process and reach out the hand of AA to find new GSRs to say hello to and help if they look puzzled or bored at Assemblies	1
I am answering this as a DCM. The chatter in our meetings is the GSR can get lost in the shuffle of chair	1
reports and such. We now focus on them specifically for a portion of every meeting and encourage their participation in all Area activities.	1
I believe they are included. They are invited and always welcome	1
I do not know, since I have not been able to attend Area meetings or Assemblies and I do not know what	1
involvement GSRs have. I think based on general interaction of GSRs at our district meetings, like most of AA "administration" there is a wide range of knowledge and experience of those involved from basically noexperience to several years. Those who are new generally learn more as they stay involved, but there has been varied dedication of GSR attendance at our district meetings.	1

I don't know	1
i hope so	1
I think they are probably given an opportunity to give their feedback at AREA Meetings.	1
It is always kind of a "mention" that volunteers/members are encouraged to go to Area business events, but not impressed upon them really.	1
N/A	1
NA	1
No Long lasting egos just don't go away	1
No	5
No clue.	1
No opinion	1
No, it's difficult to effectively communicate that it takes time to be comfortable with how the meetings work. I think it would be beneficial to link new GSR's with a "service mentor" of sorts. Don't all them to find one. Give them one. We are limited by what we don't know.	1
No. The discussion tends to be dominated by a few individuals, and GSRs are largely left to fend for themselves.	1
No. They have no input in the agenda	1
Not all the time, because louder more experienced voices are heard	1
not as much as they could be. they seem to only attend the GSR break-out and are not becoming active in the overall committees	1
not enough	1
Not enough, the GSRs votes and representation are diluted by the past delegate votes. If past delegates can vote why not those with 25 years of sobriety and other service years? Do other areas give their past delegates voting rights?	1
Not much. They can only sit and listen; are not actively engaged.	1
Not really, did not see many GSR's at last assembly	1
Very much involved	1
No, not interested	1

Not sure	1
of course	1
on occasion	1
Ones who show up, yes.	1

Other than during the group conscious I do not believe so. I do not believe that a majority of GSR's know that they can attend the area committee meetings, and I do not believe area committees reach out to GSR's much to help with subcommittees.	1 1
Other than voting they don't have much to do. If they have questions they may not feel comfortable to ask as there are those who know what is going on and they may not. Somewhat. Too much of a past delegate ego stroke. The arcane nature of a great deal of the agenda turns-off GSRs who are unfamiliar with the process. Because they get turned-off there is a greater turn-over and consequently more members who are unfamiliar with the process. Additionally, active participation of past-delegates in discussion and debate has a tendency to dissuade "green" GSRs from participating or conversely encouraging them to sit on the sidelines and defer to their more-knowledgeable "elders."	1 1 1
they are talked to, and run over by the "professional area service people" who do not rotate out of area service but instead just change hats every two years. Since the past delegates are allowed to vote many GSRs feel that there is no point in going because their home group's vote will be nullified by a past delegate who should not be voting in the first place. They are, but only to the extent they choose to participate. They better be included to an extent that could be broadened	1 1 1

To some extent. unknown Via their DCMs, they should be	1 1 1
We bring our group conscience to the Area. But I don't recall an Area representative ever	1

introducing themselves at our group meeting.	43
Yes	1
Yes because they get to vote	1
Yes but LCM's are not. Is our district the only one that has LCM's?	1
Yes but more notice should be given as to when meetings are held	1
yes but most dont show up	1
Yes, but I do not believe my GSR attends do to time and distance. Another member from my group attends and is active in the area. My home group requires our GSR to attend District meetings but not Area	1
Yes, if they actually attend monthly District Meetings as well as Area Assemblies. The quality of their understanding of Area business is directly correlated to their participation in meetings and assemblies.	1
Yes, they are encouraged to attend yet few (in my opinion) do	1
Yes. Whether THEY participate is up to them. Our GSR know how critical they are to Area business. But you would not know it by the attendance at Area events.	1
Yes, as appropriate	1
Very much included	1
Don't know	1
Sometimes	1
Yes, as long as they show up and vote	1
Yes, if they exist and bother	1
Yes, if they show up, we do have a very good area	1
An email to GSRs would be useful	
No, not interested	1
Yes, but I don't have time	1
No, intimidated by oldtimers, lack of understanding	1
No, when I was a GSR I was invited to participate, but did not because I didn't think it was necessary	
I don't know I have never attended	
I think they are	
No, not sure why not	

10) Is your group represented at; (116 answered, some with more than one response)
District 97% (113)
Area Assembly 71% (82)

Pre-General Service Conference Workshop 61% (71)

This question did not allow for comments

11) Do you know who your Area and District trusted servants are?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 125

Answer	Times Used
At District, yes. A little at Area.	1
Distict, not area	1
District - Yes & Area - No	1
District only	3
District only at this point	1
District yes	2
District yes; only some at the Area	1
District- Yes, Area-No	2
District--yes. Area--hit and miss (I have the contact info, but haven't met them all.)	1
for the most part	1
For the most part.	1
I do not know area, only district	1
I have met a few, but not all in person.	1
Meeting more of them recently	1
Most in the Group do not know and don't really care.	1
The GSR advises the District, Area and GSO happenings as best as time allows. The District Minutes, Treas Report, Area flyers, Concepts, Box 459 are always in print-form and passed at every meeting.	
no	7
Not Area, but I do know how to find out.	1
Some	4
Some of them	1
Some, not all, since I'm a new Alternate GSR	1
Yes	77
Yes I do	1
Yes I do.	1
Yes, all of the district ones, some of the Area ones.	1
Yes, mostly	1
yes. the same as they have been for years since they never leave.	1
I know district better than area, but I'm new	1
Sort of	1
Yes & no, if I need to get the info, I can get it online	1
Don't know	1
Some of them I probably do know	1
Some	2
Nope, plan to attend more meetings to learn most	1
	2

12) Does your group understand the issues that the Areas and Districts address?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 121

Answer	Times Used
As DCM, yes	1
District Level - Yes Area Level - No	1
District: Yes Area: No	2
Groups with GSR's seem to have a good understanding of the issues.	1
I don't know if my group does, I personally don't.	1
I think so yes	1
I think they do. But this question as not been asked of them either.	1
id o bring back info,but again early sobriety doesn't want to hear the aa as a whole issues ya know?	1
Maybe, I don't though!	1
mine does	1
Mostly	1
N/a	1
new to the role, so still learning	1
No	12
No, but some of them I learn about from the Newsletter.	1
No. My group is not interested in the business aspect of AA.	1
Not always. The more individuals we have involved in the district and area, the better the understanding is	1
available	2
not really	1
Only the small amount that the GSR reports	1
Other than myself, probably not	1
partially.	1
people who have been around and participated understand, I make an effort to help newer folks get it if	
they're interested. Not everyone is interested.	1
Prob not	3
Probably not	1
Slowly but surely they are!	2
some	1
Some do, others not interested	

Some issues are understood, but I find that many of the issues I do not know about until briefly mentioned at our district meeting. I believe that lack of knowledge is mostly due to my own lack of attendance at area events where those issues are discussed in detail.	1
some of the issues not all	1
Some of them.	1
Sometimes.	3
Somewhat	1
Soso	1
The district yest. The Area somewhat	1
The ladies who attend our monthly business meetings understand the issues.	1
Think of the dozens of agenda items that we are supposed to discuss with our groups. No way that we can cover them all, and some members don't care.	1
Unsure	1
we better understand the "issues" they are NOT addressing.	1
what issues, no one knows	44
Yes	1
yes and no	1
yes and no. some want to hear it, most don't care.	
mostly the old timers of this community for some reason.	1
Yes because I attended all of the areas meetings	1
Yes given my points raised above.	1
Yes, for the most part I think they do	1
Yes, for the most part.	1
Yes, some issues more than others.	3
Somewhat	1
Yes, mostly	1
So/so, not really	1
Nope	1
I really don't know	1
Don't know	1
Most times	1
They will!	1
Moderately, at best	1
The GSR does a good job and tries hard	1
Some, it's hard to keep up	

13) Do you understand Area 20's finance system called Primary Purpose Financing?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 124

Answer	Times Used
0	1
A little bit	1
At this time, no.	1
basically yes	1
For the most part, No.	1
General knowledge	1
I do.	1
I have a basic understanding.	1
I have a general idea, but not so much.	1
I haven't taken a good look at the Area Finance report to answer that.	1
learning	1
No	38
No but could guess off name	1
No, Perhaps a presentation of how the system works at at an area assembly meeting would help, Hand out the presentation, and post it on line.	1
no, sorry.	2
nope	1
not 100 percent	1
Not one bit! I trust you are accountable and responsible. If I hear otherwise, I will get very involved!	4
Not really	1
Not really.	1
not without futher study	1
Partially	3
Somewhat	1
Sort of but I don't always agree with it or its application.	1
Sort of, but I haven't read the dissertation on it that Judd wrote yet	37
Yes	1
YES and it takes away the voice of the GSR and the Groups in regards to financial decisions	1
yes because i have sat next to XXXX	1
Yes, But it takes regular financial decisions out of the hands of the GSRs,And our Committee Chairs need	1
to be more accountable of money they spend	2
no, not really	1
so/so	1
Don't know	1
Yes, but our folks do not	1
Not exactly	
No, I didn't know there was one	

Yes, I think so in a general way.	1
Yes, it took a long time though	1
Yes, primarily because I was involved when the system was created.	1
yes, well some of us do	1
yes. you ended the year 2017 with \$18,000 over and above Prudent Reserves. Shame on you. You will	1
not be getting my money from any of the 6 groups per week I attend.	1
Know about it, yes, understand it, no	1
Poorly	1
Yes, Pretty much	1
unsure	

14)Is Area 20 accumulating funds for no stated AA purpose? If yes, please explain.

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 111

Answer Times	Times Used
?	2
???	1
Before I understood how much Area 20 was obligated to contribute to the General Services Conference each year, I would have said yes. And I was a GSR for a couple of years before that was pointed out to me. Now I understand the finances better.	1 2
do not know	3
don't know	1
Don't know enough about this	1
Don't know.	2
I do not know	1
I do not understand the question.	1
I don't believe so	1
I don't believe so. I hope not	1
I don't believe so. I think we have done a better over the years.	2
I don't know	1
I don't know what this is.	2
I don't know.	1
I don't think so?!	1
I hear that the Area is flush, so our group is sending more money to the GSO and District.	1
I highly doubt it	1
i've heard they give away money to other areas, so yes they have too much money, or are not spending it on service in our area, nor our district.	1
if this is in fact so,we as groups should find a way to spread the recovery message w this surplus,or disperse it in a manner that would best serve aa as a whole	1
Is area 20 accumulating funds? Now I'm suspicious	1
n/a	2
NA	31
No	1
no comment	1
No I believe area while a little flush now may find itself needing the funds in the near future. I can think of some ideas like regional workshops for the area chairs to promote beyond district border work and service opportunities. These would probably cost a couple hundred each in room, snack and flyer expenses	1

No i dont believe so.

No idea	1
no opinion	1
No that I am aware of.	1
No.	8
not really, they pass it on when there is no need	1
Not sure	4
Not sure.	1
Not that I know of	2
Not that I'm aware of	2
Not to my knowledge	1
PINK CAN DONATIONS ARE NOT SPENT	1
The surplus of funds is there because the objectives were met using less \$ than anticipated or \$'s were allocated that weren't used	1
Uncertain. The likelihood that could occur is reduced to the extent that the Area actively conducts Areawide service projects.	1
Unsure	4
yes	6
Yes sending to GSO 20k annually could be better spent with districts. Helping the district's members afford to attend these area functions.	1
Yes, Hanging on to money that may never get spent	1
yes. read your own Primary Purpose report. Yes. look at the vague, meaningless descriptions of the budget items in the PP report.	1
Where is the transparency? Who's hotel rooms did we pay for?	
No, I assume	1
I don't know	1
N/A	1
I doubt it	1
Not that I know of, but I know they're not supposed to	1
Not sure	1
??	2

Question 15: With 1 being the most important, please rate the following sources in finding information about your service position:

source	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	net
Service manual	29	31	11	8	6	5	3	4	1	702
Past and present servants	29	17	10	13	9	8	7	3	1	650
Area Website	14	10	17	19	15	14	6	1	0	590
Area Handbook	15	15	21	11	8	8	9	4	2	577
AA.org	12	11	11	15	12	9	18	3	1	520
District workshops	7	11	8	10	10	16	21	7	2	460
Area workshops	1	1	8	3	14	18	13	22	5	321
Other internet sources	1	1	3	10	14	12	8	37	4	318
other	1	0	7	2	3	1	5	8	67	187

After compiling both the written and on-line results, I charted the results above. To try and get a summarized weighting on all the numbers I gave a value to each response. So, if someone marked the Source as a 1, this was worth 9 points. If they marked it a 9, this was worth one point. After adding up all the weighted values of the responses, they would be ranked as shown.

16) What can Area 20 do to make Area Workshops more effective?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 101

Answer	Times Used
?	1
???	1
1	1
Allow the districts to say what they want to say, stop the same old area people from always trying to control it and put themselves up front	1
Ask the district directly to host workshops	1
Ask the Districts and the Groups what they want to hear, Instead of telling the Districts and Groups what they are going to hear	1
Ask the districts what they would like to see is a workshop and make them more attractive.	1
Ask the Districts what topics they want to hear about instead of telling them what they are going to hear	1
better info in a more timely manner	1
closer to our district	1
Co-host with district in the area and get members	

from that district and groups to participate. I have not seen many area workshops other than the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.	1
Come to the districts.. come to the groups	1
Connect it to monthly district meeting - don't have time to attend another meeting	4
Don't know	1
Don't know enough about this	1
Figure out how to inspire district committee members to show up	1
find something that works and make a short presentation to be put on the website as MP3 to send out ideas to the dist.	1
Get more participation. Make the Districts aware and let districts know how important it is to pass the word to the groups.	1
Have a clear purpose, with something to DO while in the session, and do more outreach in advance	1
Have less of them. If it was one big event once a year, I think you'd get better attendance.	1
have more of them, have more active area service chairs	1
have more workshops	1
Have more, get the word out more effectively	1
Have more.	
Have panels.	

Have the Committee members visit the districts ahead of time to talk about what they are doing at the area and encourage attendance. I know it's attraction, not promotion, but hearing about an event from someone who is passionate about service can sometimes do more than a flyer.	1
Have them in Lake County	1
Haven't been	1
Help districts sponsor workshops. There is a lot of travel for area events.	1
Hold them more often and in more places.	1
i don't know	2
I have no suggestions for improvement.	1
I haven't attended any, because I missed some that I wanted to attend, and didn't want to attend others.	1
I think they are currently very good.	1
i would like to see more for the newbie as in big book breakdown, explanation of these principles on which they are suppose to live daily and how they work with the steps, some big book thumpers with eloquence	1
I've not attended an Area Workshop.	1
Increase attendance	
keep in mind that some of the attendees do not	

have the knowledge or experience that most Trusted Servants at the area level have. So sometime dummying it Down would be a good idea.	1
Keep it short and on points	1
Keep the money in the area	1
Keep them going!	1
Make them tailored to the local district. What the issues and challenges are there and not just a packaged presentation	1
More often and make them local	1
More outreach and education.	

more than 1 subject	1
N/A	3
never been to one	1
no comment	1
No idea, have not attended any	1
No suggestion. Time, distance, weather, and other obligations are the problem. Any Area workshop I've ever gone to (only a few) were not disappointing. Area servants have always seemed very helpful.	1
No suggestions	4
Not sure	1
Nothing	
nothing the area is not the problem its preaching to the choir	1
Pay the gsrs to attend with gas fare & free lunch.	1
Post agenda well ahead of time, with some idea of what the Workshops are trying to accomplish	1
Publicize them better and earlier	1
put past delegates in charge of helping out at the workshops by shaking hands at the door.	1
reach out to our small communities on the outskirts of our Area. I for one would love to see a few more workshops way over here	1
Sell CDs of speakers Create worksheets to go along with workshops to fill in keywords	1
Send representatives to groups explaining service, positions and the importance of service work!	1
Some people that present are not natural born presenters. The information suffers if you have a person present with poor skills in this arena. Reading off a power point is not an effective way to share information. Be more creative. The Winter Service Workshop but 3 of my 6 people attending to "sleep". Try the presentation in front of an audience, find what works and do that every year.	1
Stop talking at me. 1/4 of the way into this service	

orientation, approximately 60% of people are on their phones. More engagement would be my opinion.	1
The area does a good job from my experience in Chicago, but the outreach to the rural areas seem to be lacking, somewhat	1
They are called workshops, but the ones I've been to so far are strictly lectures/talks. More interaction would be nice, or break up into discussion groups to break the monotony.	1
Unknown	1
Nothing	1
Promote them as "whoppee parties"	1
Sponsorship/workshops	2
Spanish workshops with interpreter	1
Not sure	1
More Workshops	1
Make them more often	1
Sponsorship in service	1
Haven't attended either	1
Keep them as they are	1
Give more information	1
Better sponsorship	1
Sponsorship	1
Suit up and show up	1
Speed the presentation	1
Marketing	1
Have them	1
I don't know	2
Bring more information	1
Unknown, haven't attended one recently	
Not sure	1
XX is a good presenter, others should try to emulate her	
I don't know	

17) What types of workshops would you like to see the Area sponsor?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 101

Answer	Times Used
Why a GSR/member should attend workshops and area biz meetings. Yes...that would be the topic of the workshop...like the job fair at district level was.	1
"How to find a sponsor (Characteristics to look for) and How to be a sponsor""Writing a Step 4 Inventory".	1

"How to run an effective business meeting"--great for District meetings.	1
(1) Financial responsibility at the Area level, Truth or Fiction? (2) Who's hotel room did your group pay for and how that helps the Home Group carry the message the alky who still suffers.	1
1. Singleness of purpose 2. Home group commitment. 3. The damage of rampant volunteerism.	1
?	1
A call for volunteering	1
A term in the life of a GSR Responsibilities of a GSR Full term GSR Baby! Assembly vs. District	
A workshop on parliamentary rule would be fabulous! Many folks don't fully understand what this is and why we have adopted it.	1
	1
A workshop regarding any service committee, 12 Traditions or 12 Concepts/Service Manual.	
After attending the East Central Forum, I would like to see a workshop on how the group, district, area and GSO interact and all the awesome things GSO does for individuals and groups.	1
all of the same PI CPC Corrections etc.. there are new members in the chairs in the districts	1
all types/ why participation is so important!	1
Anonymity Anonymity on the Internet	1
Anonymity on social media	1
Anonymity, Humility Less service orientation, More Committee Chairs	1
Answering service, public relations, sponsorship, service work	1
Any Step or Service	1
back to basics steps	
Basic information on service structure, the history, Ann's why it's important. Also better explanation about autonomy and how it applies to the service structure. And what the district, area, and CSO does for and in support of AA groups and individuals.	1
	1
Beginners	1
Big book	1
Big book study, sponsorship, step study	1
Big Book/Step and 12x12 workshops	1
Bridge the Gap penetration into treatment centers	1
bringing back old school AA	1
Committee work	1
Committees workshops	1
Doesn't matter (to me)	
don't know	1
First and second step workshops	1
Focus on service activities for newcomers.	1
Getting into service, what happens at assemblies	1

and committee meetings, corrections,grapevine, GSR From there, other workshops can evolve.	1
Gsr workshop	1
GSR, group structure, service 1	1
GSR, Service Manual, Traditions and Concepts - how they connect to service	1
Handbook or Service manual workshop.	1
How to conduct a first step meeting	1
I don't know	
Importance of service positions.	
Long-timers, especially women. GSR enrichment DCM enrichment	
Maybe more relevant topics. The legal issues that GSO was involved in would have been a great experience for us to get together and talk about the topic while injecting concepts and traditions.	1
Find a hot topic, create interest. Example: AA wants to let Folgers coffee begin financing a portion of the big book.	1
more for the newbie aspect,get them involved early and forever getting a charge out of the aa program launching them and us as elders to unify the message,its not the time its the quality,and we all need to see this clearly	1
More on Service Positions	1
More on the development of the general service conference agenda. Most people don't understand where those items come from	1
More workshops focused on the GSR and their role, Service Sponsorship, "de-mystifying" the Area Assembly and what takes place, Area Service 101.	1
N/A	1
no comment	1
not sure	
Not sure I would be attending at this point anyways	1
Nothing specific	1
PI, CPC, Corrections, grapevine literature Public Information, Primary Purpose Financing, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Bridging the Gap	1
Regional workshops for multiple service areas	1
Role of GSR. How and why our area is organized as it is.	
see above Perhaps developing "traveling workshops" where the same event could be duplicated in different far-flung districts.	1
Service with a Smile from the Heart. We do alot of these but it is so difficult to get a good turnout.	1
The Importance of a Sponsor.	1
Service work and poritions	
service workshops	
Some in the The Group provided the following topics: sponsorship, unity through service work,	1
	1

(somewhat ironic!)	1
Specific to the service committees, all of them.	1
How to network as well, how can I do service work at every level.	1
sponsorship 4th & 5th step spirituality	1
Sponsorship Helping newcomers	1
Sponsorship	1
Sponsorship - how to sponsor	1
Step Traditions	
The area has covered most types unkbown	1
Unsure	1
what does a gsr do and not do	1
Where is AA at and what are the challenges moving forward	1
why the Area is an important part of aa. Why is the GSR so important	1
Working with treatment centers	3
Would attend any one that would be offered	1
No reply	1
Service	2
Various	1
Service sponsorship	1
Sponsorship	1
Step and Service Workshops	1
Any, all are good	1
How the Area works	1
GSR school, the basics, the fun of being on in district	1
None	
GSRs, 4 th /5 th steps, sponsorship workshops	1
GSR	1
Corrections, Service Roles, how to tell your story	1
Archives	
Traditions and Concepts	1
How to make workshops something people want to go to?	1
I don't know	
Basic General Service, PI, CPC	
"Is the triangle balanced?" The importance of newcomers and their purpose	
How the Area works	
Change voting protocol	

18) Do you feel there are barriers to full participation by any member of NIA 20? If so, please explain.

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 104

Answer	Times Used
\$10 for lunch is a bit discouraging. I understand 7th tradition. I also understand groups and districts donate to area. If GSR's are doing the work, maybe group donations can be used to should then with some grub. Limit the cover charge to \$5 and let the operating budget absorb the remainder with a standing budget cap for each assembly/committee meeting.	1
?	1
ABSOLUTELY. In case you missed my earlier hints, the fact that the NIA violates the AA Service Manual and allows past delegates to vote, thereby nullifying an entire home group's conscience is a travesty. Past delegate are supposed to be selling Grapevine subscriptions and speaking at workshops, not hogging the open microphone at assemblies and area committee meetings. No other trusted servant gets to vote once they are OUT OF OFFICE.	1
Assuming they know what's going on	1
Do not know	2
Don't know	1
Don't know enough about this	1
Emphasizing past officials so much intimidates the newcomer. I was taught that it is all about the newcomer. Has this group forgotten that tradition?	1
Everyone has a role. There is a hierarchy geographical. area 20 covers a lot of ground I am a long-time member, and short-time district servant. Some people live A.A. service and go to everything. Some never participate. Some, like me, try to balance service with our other commitments and passions. I cannot give up as many Saturdays and full weekends as would be required to participate fully in every NIA 20 activity/meeting that GSRs are required to make.	1
I believe that people believe what they hear instead of what they know/experience. So please as a trusted servant never talk negatively about any area service function. The same should apply to district level trusted servants as well	1
I think we are all limited in some capacity. That is to be expected.	1
I went to 2 Area meetings (assemblies, groups). The barrier is my lack of knowledge of topics, fear of going up to the microphone, and not knowing what to say or feeling judged.	1
I would like to see the Area create a Young Persons Committee to coordinate functions for younger members of our fellowship.	1
Just lack of interest and understanding of Area.	1

Lack of info, lack of understanding.	1
Lack of understanding by new members	1
N/A	1
Na	
New members often feel overwhelmed at Area meetings	19
No	1
no not even the defective ones	1
No one in the Group thought there was any barrier.	1
No opinion	1
No, anyone who wants to be involved may do so.	
No, only the member them selves.	
No, rather than I believe the groups should financially support their GSRs to the extent it is not a burden for any trusted servant to attend an Area event.	2
No.	1
none that I can see	1
None that I know of	1
none that I've ever seen	
Not aware of any	1
not really	1
Not sure Higher level of commitment? Time and travel, reports	1
Not sure.	1
Not that I am aware of	
Not that I am aware of.	1
Not understanding the question	1
Only contempt prior to investigation and the arrogance of some people from some districts.	
Only the barriers I place on myself!!	
Only the barriers that we (me, for example) put on ourselves individually. Mostly because of our own insecurity, or sense that it is kind of click-ish or a secret society. Thus, no progress or openness gets created by that person or group. So maybe, again, some kind of multi-pronged approach to encouragement of participation. For example, some people are just not "readers", so the gsr manual isn't useful, or an area manual...same thing.	1
Only the travel issue. I am new to the area level but find the meetings to be very welcoming.	1
People don't know what they don't know.	1
The location of area assemblies is too far east for full participation from the west. Unless the western districts make the commitments it is as it should be.	1
There is not enough African American participation.	
There would be barriers to anyone needing accessibility to a facility if that is not considered when moving it from La Fox.	1
Time is the greatest barrier in my opinion for all	1

involved. 2nd would be financial ability - mainly traveling to and from meetings and/or staying on location for weekend/multi-day events.	1
to many of the workshops in Districts 10, 11, 12 voting by past delegates	1
We have many broke people in our district	2
We try to break them down though there may be - we've made great stride in serving our linguistic districts though could do more	1
YES Past Delegates, Big egos	11
YES People use manipulation and other tactics to get their way and some people find this distasteful	5
Yes	1
yes, when "participation" is more important than our primary purpose, AA doesn't work at any level.	1
No comment	1
No	1
Language	1
Distance to be travelled	3
Lack of programs information trickling down I wouldn't know	
Logistics, Area 20 is 203 hour drive to a business meetings	
Only so many hours in a week	
Yes, activities too focused on Eastern portion of Area	
Yes, not well advertised if you don't go to District	
Not Sure	
I don't know	

19) What is Area 20's greatest strength?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 93

Answer	Times Used
?	1
AA	1
Active districts lots of participation	1
Attendance/participation #'s	1
bringing something new to the game.	1
budget- not being afraid to spend money on	1

useful ways to carry the message	
Committed participants	1
Committed Service Individuals. Teamwork.	1
communicating meeting updates from our district to GSO and relaying local district "conscience" with GSO	1
communicating the strengths and purpose of AA	1
Consistent in the way things are done at the Area level.	1
dedicated servants	1
District 64	1
Do not know	1
Don't know	1
Encouragement of newer member to attend.	1
Financial Stability	1
finding problems and spreading the word of AA	1
Friendly Helpful	1
Good, caring leadership	1
Group generosity	1
group participation	1
I do not know yet.	1
I don't know enough about the Area to answer.	1
I don't know.	1
It seems like nearby areas rely on us to host conferences for a reason.	1
It's huge!	1
It's people	1
It's service people.	1
It's Trusted Servants, past and present.	1
It's people	1
I'm too new in role to comment	1
LEADERS WILLING TO INVEST TIME & ENERGY	1
Liaison to New York	1
Lots of meetings	1
lots of money in the NIA that could be used to carry the message	1
Love for the program and dedication to the purpose of following the responsibility statement. Also recognizing the gifts of its members and taking advantage of those gifts to make the district strong.	1
Many past delegates attend the area meetings are present at area events. This creates some confidence in the over all environment.	1
no comment	3
Not sure	1
Number of conferences and Area functions it has during the year. It Is Active!	1
Organizing assemblies	2
Our Calendar	1
Participation	1
Participation from veteran members who understand how history relates to current needs.	1
And the Website	1
Participation of past delegates.	1

Perserverance	1
Primary purpose	1
Strength in numbers	1
Strong Foundation of Sobriety	
Strong knowledge and service participation that it mirrors the general service conference fairly closely	1
The amount of service work and sobriety and love behind it and available for it's use for good things to happen.	1
The committment of the fellowship and that the number of past delegates that remain active to teach others.	1 1
The dedicated service members	
The Group replied that serving the Groups from the top down holds us on course; reaching out and speaking at events makes Area visible to those who don't/cannot travel; diversity from different locales; keeping Groups informed.	1
The many people who are enthusiastic and committed to keeping it going and putting in the work to be of service so the inverted pyramid keeps working. We seem to understand that we are representing some of AAs one million members plus in the U.S. and Canada, and must do it well.	1 1 1 1
The members that serve.	
The participation of past delegates	
the true feeling that recovery comes first	2
Those that have stayed strong in keeping AREA alive and well for us new people coming in and enjoying the wisdom of those that come before me.	1 1
Unity	
unless they can help bring new people to our group, or help our members find service opportunities, they are of no use to us.	1 1
We are consistent with the location of our committee meetings and assemblies.	5 1
Unknown	
For me, the LaFox venue	2
Unity	1
The servants	1
All the members & the love and understanding of each other	1 1
Conferences	1
Plenty of people with experience to ask for help	1
People	1
They do a good job	1
Participants devoted	1
Their devotion to this program	1
Well run, experienced participation	1
I don't know	1
Not sure, haven't been to enough	1
It seems to be well informed	1P

A vast amount of experience and active past delegates Badass trusted servants ? ?? Language	
---	--

20) What is Area 20's greatest opportunity for improvement?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 94

Answer	Times Used
outreach to groups and individual members, perhaps the development of a short, simple pamphlet (is there one from the Central Office?)	1
?	2
AA	1
Always growing Newcomers New ideas and openness to new ideas Principles before personalities	1
Be effective and efficient but in a more concise fashion. Brevity	1
Be more dynamic. I know the committee structure is important but it seems to me that it does not let us think outside of the box. We need new ideas moving forward in this technology world.	1
Better explaining the processes as they go along. New comers can't follow.	1
Better rotation of servants and district volunteers	1
communication	1
Communicating between Area and Districts and encouraging District to District	1
Communication/participation.	1
Communication	1
Communication between the area and districts.	1
Connecting people across districts.	1
District 12 needs help with funding. They have the jail and Atp, but no money and barely any volunteers	1
Do not know	1
Don't know enough about this	1
Don't know yet.	1
Eliminating the voice of past delegates from the group conscious.	1
Exactly what your are doing with the survey and such	1
Explore how to use peoples skills in the Area find something that will make members pick up there smart phone and read it. just ask XXXXXX he is on all the time.	1

Focus more on newcomers and younger members of our fellowship.	1
Foster development of current members.	1
Getting back to service basics. Focussing funds on areas that need support.	1
getting groups involved	1
Getting more GSRs involved	
Getting the communication out to the districts and groups. Doing even more visitations to district meetings. Letting the districts know how important they are to the structure of the program.	1
group participation	1
Have a more centralized location.	1
Hold workshops more often.	1
Humility Shut up and listen to GSRs	
I do not know yet.	
I think as with all of AA, attracting/encouraging involvement. But I do not know what can be done without undesired "promotion"	1
Include the newcomer	1
Increased attendance and involvement	1
I'm not sure	1
I'm too new in role to comment	
Lake Country treatment and correctional support	1
Less frequent meetings; closer to people's homes and not a 1.5 hour drive away. Too many meetings. Can this meeting be Skyped so all can attend?	1
make the financial report more understanding at a Grass Roots level	1
More communication from Area at the District Level	1
More GSR participation	1
More Personnel Involvement	2
More ways to get people involved. Get the word out for service	2
Newsletters and Workshops	1
no comment	
No idea	1
no opinion	1
Not sure	1
Not sure, except what I wrote in #19. Separately, an area meeting directory would be nice, and seems doable, even if it is only online.	1
Not Sure?	
Participation from younger members	
Reaching out to districts to share the good news that General Service can be that next level in personal recovery and WHY it's important.	1
ready you newly appointed chairs before January, work together for a month or two. The breakdown in the changing of the individuals is picked up by the districts you serve.	1

Reduce the number of conferences and work harder on inviting people from other areas to come to assemblies to share their experience, maybe give them some mic time.	1
staying the course of traditions and concepts	1
supporting activities and servants	1
The Group suggested outreach to people of different ethnicity and the disabled; have open meetings at PADS and homeless shelters; always encourage more participation.	1
there can be more than 1 answer to a problem	1
To let those coming up in service participate, to have people NOT be going to the mike just to hear themselves talk.	1
to many past deligates voting and opioins	
too much money in the NIA not being used to carry the message. \$18K over prudent reserve.	
You should all be impeached immediately. SHAME ON YOU. The delegate needs to get the General Service Conference materials out to the groups in January so we can study and make "informed decisions". as I stated: past delegates are not allowed to vote according to the Service Manual	1
Too new in general service so cannot answer other than to say that I feel connected to area because of the relationships being formed. Many humble leaders in our area!!!	1
trying to get the next in line to truly step up,sharing new perspectives fresh outlooks,a zest for uncharted ideas	1
turn the clock back 50 years and return to singleness of purpose.	1
Using those people	1
Utilize facilities that are closer to district 10 and 12.	1
Workshops on specific issues, could be done as part of area assemblies.	1
Listening	1
Continuity	1
If we try too hard we will all have to go to Al-Anon	1
Motivation & Encourage	1
Not sure, maybe alternate the locations for Assembly and Conference	2
Get more involved with Spanish communities	1
No opinion at this time	1
Services	1
Make one Area 20 in Spanish	
Not using short time people to be part of unreadable	1
Uknown	1
Same as questions 17 and 19	1
Why not consider a 5 minute anonymous video to be shown at AA meetings?	1
Go to churches and see how they get their members to get involved. Their track record is	1

better than ours	1
N/A	1
Get involved with Hispanics	
Not sure, haven't been around long enough	
Not sure	
More people stepping up	
Unite with Hispanic Groups	
??	
?	

21) Does the current schedule of Area events encourage or discourage participation?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 106

Answer	Times Used
depends on where you live	1
Discourage	12
do not know	1
don't know	3
Don't know enough about this	1
Encourage	46
encourage, balanced amount of meetings	1
Encourage, however GSRs had a better explanation of the expectations, there would be a different level of participation.	1
encourage me	1
for myself it hinders, but that's myself	1
guess it is ok for most	1
have only known it the current way	1
i believe the schedule is good. discouragement comes from ignorance of our area as a whole.	1
I have no opinion, except that it's a lot of traveling for folks in far-flung districts in a short period of time.	1
I suppose it is fine	1
I think it is fine the way it is. It is up to the individual to participate.	1
I will only attend the Assembly	1
It doesn't sound like much, but since these all occur on weekends, I cannot make them all. Especially given how far I must drive to them.	1
It's fine I don't know how to improve it other than secure group pre votes	1
It's quite cumbersome at the beginning of the	1

year.	4
its fine just the way it is	1
neither	
neither, except we don't need to have conferences as often	1
Neither, the ability to attend is affected by other life responsibilities of each GSR/participant besides the desire of each to be or get more involved.	1
neutral	1
no	1
No opinion	1
Not sure	1
not sure...haven't been	
Our Schedule is to busy	1
principles should come way before participation.	1
why all the angst about participation?	
Too new in role to comment	2
Yes, it's a lot of meetings and weekend time to give up.	1
Unknown	
It's ok	
Again, I don't know that it's the schedule, but distance. Although the Area is quite large, I'd still like to see events in alternate locations	1
Well I seem to be slow catching on	1
This is my first year, we'll see	1
Yes they have worked hard	1
Probably discourage	1
Not sure, haven't seen current list	
Most people are indifferent or ignorant	
I don't think it really expresses how important those events are	

22) Does the current schedule of conferences and assemblies interfere with attendance at the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 101

Answer	Times Used
?	1
Both are well attended, so no.	1
do not know	1
don't know	3
Don't know enough about this	1
Don't know.	1
Huh?	1
I do not know	1
I don't have an opinion.	1
I don't know.	1

Interfere	1
it can if the hosting spring conference committee doesn't care about service	1
It would help to spread it out somehow.	1
maybe for some people	1
Most Definitely	1
n/a	1
No	43
No comment	2
no opinion	1
no. the pre-conf. delegts workshop interferes with normal NIA functions.	1
not a clue	1
Not by themselves. The PGSC can be lost in the blur that is GSR service. In other words, we know we have this list of meetings to attend, but it's not clear which ones are less important to make.	1
not next year	1
not sure	4
Not sure.	1
not sure...haven' been	1
Not that I know if!	1
probably	2
There have been some conflicts with other local AA related events (speaker meetings, anniversaries, etc, but I do not think conferences or assemblies conflict with conference workshop	1
Too new in role to comment	1
Yes	15
Yes, particularly the spring conference	1
No opinion	1
Think no, but unsure	1
I don't think so	1
Not sure, haven't been to many	1
I don't believe so	1
Yes-within Spring Break	1

23) The Spring Conference and Spring Assembly were combined in 2010 to increase participation in the Assembly. Do you think this has been effective?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 106

Answer	Times Used
?	3
A bit.	1
Being fairly new, I would have to say yes.	1
Combining both makes allot of common sense.	
do not know	1
don't know	2

Don't know yet.	1
For attendance yes. Just wish assembly lasted longer! I would rather have some of the conference service panels incorporated into assembly done by current officers and committee chairs and delegate.	1
I am not sure. I am having an impossible time trying to find a schedule for events so I can help my districts GSR's decide what to attend.	1
I believe so. It would appear that the Spring Assembly has a larger attendance than it used to prior to the merge.	1
I did attend one in 2015, (Conference and Assembly) and it was OK. I didn't stay for the whole Assembly meeting as it was kinda boring.	1
I do not know but it sounds like a good idea.	3
I don't know	1
i don't think it has. but i've only been around since 2010. i think the assembly in the conference discourages some GSR's	1
I have not been going long enough to know but I liked that it was combined so I could participate in both the conference and assembly	1
I haven't attended them, so I cannot say. I cannot give up an entire weekend for AA activities.	1
I think I possibly increases participation but and I my be wrong here, it seems like our trusted servants will need to be at the assembly and miss part of the conference which doesn't make any sense.	1
I think it has room to grow into something far better which it seems to be on the way.	1
it seem to get the attendace to the locale but from what i hear,its attended for one or the other so...and again its what i take from listening to attendees	1
it was this past conference	12
maybe originally it was, but now it seems like it isn't. Removing it all together and generating more interest in the Big Book conference might make more sense.	1
No	1
No because the Spring Conference has become just another fun conference and not AA business driven.	1
No comment	1
No idea	1
No idea---what is the difference?	1
No opinion, too new to the Area and Area service work	1
No. it makes it impossible to attend portions of the Spring Conf. Additionally is raises expenses fr the groups, the GSRs and the Area.	1
NO...I feel it was brought about to be somewhat self-serving. Nothing in the world of AA should	2

occur just to make life easier for its servants	1
no.because most of the people needed for the conference are at the assembly.	1
Not sure I think it makes sense	1
Not sure	
Not very much - reduced assembly time but possibly got a few more GSRs to attend.	
Only way I know	
Personally, I do not know. But others who have attended or expressed intent to attend assembly	1
may consider going to the conference, too since they will already be there. I think many people still do not understand difference between conferences and assemblies.	1
somewhat	1
Sure	1
This is a terrible schedule. Takes away from conference.	1
Too new in role to comment	1
unknown, you tell me	36
Unsure	1
Unsure.	
Works fine for me	1
Yes	1
Yes, I see way more people in attendance during the Spring Assembly Conference.	1
Yes.	1
No Comment	1
I don't know, but maybe not since there were no bids for 2019	1
N/A	1
No, it should all be done	1
No opinion	1
Probably	
Unknown, not active at this time	
Not sure, it's my first Assembly	
Not sure haven't been to many	

24) Should Area 20 consider moving what is currently called the Spring Conference to a different time of year?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 101

Answer	Times Used
?	1
do not know	1
don't care	2
don't know	2
Don't know enough about this1	1
eliminate the spring and fall assemblies. h	1
i don't know	1
I don't think so	1

It would be worth exploring and making into a larger event.	1
Maybe a bit later	1
n/a	1
No	43
no biut when we host the state confrence it should be cancelled.	1
No idea	1
No matter when you hold it, some people will be dissatisfied. So I wouldn't bother.	1
No!	1
no, if it want' in spring it wouldn't be spring	1
No.	2
Not necessary, but this is a tough time of year for me with my work which tends to be busier non-summer and tax time	1
Not sure.	2
Not unless it is combined with the pre delegate 1	1
spring is a time of new beginnings,isnt this the concept?	1
Summer	1
That doesn't matter to me, but, planning may be complicated	1
Unsure	1
When? We'd get killed in the Fall because of McHenry Sober Fest, Winter travel is a bummer, and summer is the state conference.	1
Why does there have to be a conference at all?	1
What benefits does the area derive?	1
Yes	19
Yes to the summer.	1
Maybe	1
I did like the idea of moving it to Summer, less busy then	1
No opinion at this time	1
No opinion	1
Keep Conference, move Assembly	1
No preference	1
Don't know	1
Probably	1
Not sure	1

25) What do you currently attend?

84 Participated

Spring Conference

74% (62)

Spring Assembly

79% (66)

Pre-General Service Conference Workshop

61% (51)

Summer Assembly

61% (51)

Fall Assembly

62% (52)

Winter Assembly

68% (57)

26) Ideally, what schedule of events would you like to see in the Spring?

85 Participated

9% (8)---No Spring Conference

16% (13)---Spring Conference without Assembly

47% (40)---Spring Conference with Assembly

18% (15)---Spring Conference program that includes the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop

20% (17)---Spring Conference with the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on Saturday and Assembly on Sunday

OTHER:

1% (1)---Spring Conference without Assembly and put the pre-GSC at the Assembly and not at the conference.

1% (1)---Spring Conference every other year. Pre-GSC separate from Spring Conference on a weekend Saturday and Sunday with an Assembly

27) Is there any comment you would like to add, not addressed in this inventory?

Total Responses: (non-blank answers) 62

Appreciate everyone's service. Thankful to have so many workshops, conferences, and events to choose from.

Coming to Group Conscience at any level of service is beautiful thing to watch even when it is a somewhat painfully slow process

Hold Area business meetings-all of them-at different locations around the Area. Have them hosted by different Districts. My buddy and I, an AA guy with 10plus years, were going over this. In my view, AA as a

Fellowship has gotten very insular. We are supposed to become citizens & productive members of society. Consequently, the business side of AA has become bloated. Many of the things that happen at the Area have no meaning or real purpose, and don't connect to the new guy or woman. Let's just find a way to simplify it all, have the Area functions around to the various Districts, and get involved in being members in service in our communities, churches and families

I am interested in representing my group on the district level. However, I have NO interest in the political aspect of AA. I simply see no need for all the extra functions, workshops, etc., etc. in my life.

I am new to this level of service, so I do not yet have experience to be able to answer these questions.

I have been a GSR for a year, and really don't have a full grasp of my responsibilities as well as the function of the Area. I imagine it is slightly more encompassing version of the District. It just seems there could be something like I suggested in #19. I now know this is in large part due to my lack of inquiring, but maybe it could help the next person.

I have heard many time around my area that Area doesn't care about us here in the sticks. Maybe Area needs to concentrate a little towards our darker areas way over here, more contact, more reaching out to the fellow sufferer

I like that we are doing the inventory. We should do this every year!

I love AA and I do my small contribution in my District work. I have a career and a busy life. I 'm not open to giving my own free time to the Area meetings. I know this work is all inconvenient at times, but I'm just not willing to do more than I do today. Thank you for providing this inventory and for all your service work.

I said no spring conference because it's hard to get Districts to sponsor it. On the other hand, people are excited about going this year. But it's always been like this with volunteer organization I've been in. Everyone want to have fun; no one wants to do the work.

I think the combined assembly/conference gives an opportunity to see the assembly at work to people who may only have a passing interest, without having to go to another event.

I think we need a separate inventory for service members and a separate one for no service members

I will pray and ask for help from God. It works if you have faith

I would like there to be scholarships available and clearly made known for the newcomer or anyone who has any financial hardships or burden with money

I'd like to see the NIA body actively search for and find additional venues for area meetings. Also I think it's time to get new electronic equipment.

In answer to the schedule of events above: Spring Conference like it used to be, showcasing our Area and District service committees, Pre-General Service Conference as a stand-alone event. No spring Assembly-we have no conducted any real business in the spring for a while.

In Spanish

Limit the voice of the Past Delegate.

Limit participation of Past Delegates in Assemblies/committee meetings. They restrict the participation of others and intimidate the new GSRs who are already overwhelmed. Examine the issue of passing the basket at Assemblies and Committee meetings – Do they do it at the GSC? These are business meetings, not AA meetings.

N/A

14 people answered: no

No, I live in Area 20- Have been attending for over 35 years

None

No thank you

Not at this time

Only that is inventory is beautifully crafted survey for someone like me who is not especially savvy with computers.

Past Delegates talk too much

Remember that when you add the monthly district meetings, any district committee meetings or events, and regular AA group meetings, we are asked to give a lot of evening and weekends to the business of AA.

Review recommendations of service structure committee 12 years ago.

Thank you for doing this. I think the Spring conference takes away from participants at the Pre-General Service Conference attendance. Not to mention we have the DuPage Open in February. It's a lot of "togetherness" when we should be focusing on what New York needs.

Thank you for reaching out and making this online survey available to all members.

Thank you, good luck

Thank you for asking for input

Thanks for the questionnaire

Thanks for the opportunity

3 people answered - That the concepts be published in Spanish

The breakouts with past and present trusted servants has been very significant for me. I get much more information in that setting than I do listening to panelists. Thank you Ad Hoc for your efforts.

The questions that appear on the top of each screen do not have a question, just the field to respond

There needs to be more people in AA involved in service. More GSR's need to attend Area and District meetings, Assemblies, conferences, etc.

This survey is great, but no matter what is done it ultimately comes down to participation by all of us. So I'll pass on what I've submitted and hop for the best on both our ends. Thanks

Too many Area events, workshops in the northeast part of the Area

Too many to list

Too much bureaucracy at the NIA level. Too many events, meetings, conference, etc. Let's get back to when AA used to FUN

To put in Spanish

We are a small group meeting Friday 7:30. Same time as monthly meeting. Between Jerry, Kathy and Kenny we do hear most news. Do not have anyone at this time who would be more meeting active GSR. If we do we will appoint some. Thank you for what you do.

We will never change the small percentage who care to understand how AA really works.

Dear NIA, To provide a frame of reference for my comments, in my total of 29 years of continuous sobriety I have been involved in AA service for over 18 years at both the District and Area level. The two issues that I wish the NIA would address in its Inventory are as follows: 1)The way that Past Delegates are treated at the Area Committee and Assemblies. In particular the inexcusable practice at NIA is the nullification of the Home Group's voice. Also known as the practice of letting past delegates vote at Assemblies. As of this writing the NIA will soon have 8 past Delegates, all of whom have the potential to nullify the vote of an entire home group. In terms of the 8 largest home groups in my District that means 8 people could potentially negate the voice of over 500 AA members.

The AA Service Manual suggests that Past Delegates confine their activities to promoting subscriptions to the Grapevine as well holding service oriented workshops where they can share their service experience with others. It does not speak to allowing them to have a vote at the Assembly.

On page S-37 pf the AA Service Manual it does state that the composition of the Area Assembly is made up of: **"GSR's, DCMs, and area officers"**.

The Service Manual specifically excludes mentioning *Past* GSRs, *Past* DCMs, or *Past* Area Officers, *Past* Committee Chairs as being part of the composition of the Assembly. If these "*Past*" trusted servants are not part of the Assembly, they obviously cannot be voting members of such an Assembly, and neither should

Past Delegates. The Service Manual is clear in its exclusion of Past Delegates from the composition of the Assembly.

Area Committee members and Area officers each get to vote even though they may have a home group with a voting GSR, they are still allowed to vote (p.S37, Eligibility to vote). Since a **Past Delegate is no longer considered as an Area officer by the AA Service Manual** they should not be eligible to vote at Assemblies.

2) The other issue that NIA should look at is the lack of true “spirit of rotation” the constant parade of the same people going from position to position through the Area Committee, treading hats at every election, as they march their way toward the time when it will be their turn to be Delegate shows a total lack of respect for the “*spirit of rotation*”, and a lack of humility. In current and past NIA practice all of same people are making the decisions and influencing policy, year after year, culminating when they become Past Delegate and get the ability to continue to VOTE in perpetuity as if the right to vote at the Assembly were a pension.

When we AA’s try to ask question of those to be elected to office we are told “**That’s Electioneering and it has no place here**”. Only in AA, where we bestow such lavish freedom upon our members (please re-read Tradition One in the 12 & 12 p.129 paragraph 3), does the NIA actively seek to stifle that freedom by not allowing the voting AA members to question the qualifications, thoughts, and beliefs of those to be elected. How can any vote taken in that manner be considered as “**informed**”?

In memory of Traditions 1,2,4,9,11, and 12, I dedicate this letter.