

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

2: What is the purpose of the NIA 20 Committee? Of the Assembly?

Response Count

110

answered question 110

skipped question 14

Response Text
a. to help with questions about the delegates to better communicate with the AA people to pass on the message
b. to communicate and to become as 1 for all and all as 1
a. to assist groups and districts in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic
b. to handle area business concerning our business
to help enable northern illinois groups to practice our primary purpose
Approve/disapprove action items relating to AA service recommendations arising from Area 20 committee members. The Area Assembly is the final deliberating body on any proposals.
The Assembly serves as the Delegate's platform for reporting and consensus outreach.
The Assembly encourages all service committee members to meet and discuss effective service methods.
Carry the message to the alcoholic.
b. Unity
a. to ensure the integrity of the conference as stated in the AA Service Manual. This ultimately assures growth and harmony in the fellowship as the committee seeks participation from groups and their members.
b. to connect area groups to the conference structure ultimately assuring that our primary purpose is carried out
To carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic through AA resources.
b. The assembly is the structure for the districts and meetings to gather as part of GSO.
To communicate with the delegate, area chairs to the fellowship and helping to carry the message.
b. Approve the financial means to get this done.
Review the items from service committees to present to the assembly for vote.
b. Weher the GSR and area officers vote on items brought from committee to add.
A. To be a forum for the business of the area where DCM's, GSR's and districts come together to share their activities. Information should flow up and down. Also committee meetings develop motions for change to PPM, service committee and actives for amendments to GSO.
B. Assembly purpose is for voting on what comes out of committees that directly impact our district, groups and meetings of AA as we carry the message in a fiscally responsible manner.
A. Communicate with districts
B. Support and inform the delegate regarding group conscience
A. To facilitate communication between groups/districts and the General Service Office/General Service Conference-also to assist groups/districts to carry the message through various standing committees.
B. To meet periodically and communicate with GSR's, DCM's, committee members, etc and approve business, get things done
a. Selections brought by DCMs and committees to be voted on at the assembly.
b. Gather GSRs and committee members to vote on issues brought from area committee that affect area.

<p>a. To organize and present the issues in a manner so that even the newest GSR can begin to understand the workings of AA and become involved in service work.</p>
<p>b. To have a place to find out the issues being discussed at the upper levels of AA. Hear the discussion and take the issues back to our groups to arrive at a group conscience.</p>
<p>a. bring to the AA membership voting items and coordinate that vote to be passed to our area service rep</p>
<p>b. provide meeting place to discuss and vote on area business</p>
<p>a. carry out the function of area ZO</p>
<p>b. bring questions and ideas to the table for new functions and to better serve committees to carry the message.</p>
<p>a. To provide structure for fulfilling AA's primary purpose.</p>
<p>b. To carry the business of AA up and down from the group up to district area and GSO. To communicate the GSO business break down.</p>
<p>a. To form a link between the groups and GSO.</p>
<p>b. To bring together the GSRs delegates to discuss the group's concerns, etc...</p>
<p>a. To facilitate the fellowship in Northern IL for the purpose of carrying the message.</p>
<p>b. To facilitate communication between groups and districts and the area service structure to eventually provide feedback to GSO</p>
<p>a. To educate members in the area on how it works. The process is rather intimidating to a new GSR.</p>
<p>b. Educate new GSR.</p>
<p>a. To collect the group interest of districts and present the group conscience to New York</p>
<p>b. To increase knowledge of area participation.</p>
<p>We need to try to make service work more appealing, Some people are very afraid to be committed.</p>
<p>a. To represent districts in NIA ZO</p>
<p>b. To get info from the districts and to be able to represent them.</p>
<p>a. To assist and organize district chairs.</p>
<p>b. To bring everyone in the service structure together to get direction and assistance on goals and topic/agendas.</p>
<p>a. to obtain general information and provide it @ committee meetings</p>
<p>b. to present that information to AA as a whole through districts</p>
<p>a. Facilitate coordination for carrying the message.</p>
<p>b. Report to attendees records of previous motions and consider new opportunities.</p>
<p>to ensure the area is correctly administered</p>
<p>to collect group conscience</p>
<p>a. Meet four times a year. Intermediary between groups and assembly. Receive group matters to set an assembly agenda.</p>
<p>b. Vote on area matters. Give direction to delegate. Authorize financial support to district holding conferences.</p>
<p>A. just to approve the budgetary items and supposedly to bring back information to the groups prior to discussion</p>
<p>B. To conduct the business of the area and the groups</p>
<p>a. Budget Approval, Events and Services Ideas.</p>
<p>b. To inform groups on financial status of area and other business.</p>

A. I am not 100% sure that I know what the committee is. Ah-clarification from Tom! Its the officers DCM's and area committee chairs (and maybe alternates). Purpose is to formulate issues for GSR's and the fellowship and to make routine decisions about how to keep area functioning.

B. To provide communications among all groups in AA

A. To facilitate communication between groups/districts and the General Service Office/General Service Conference- also to assist groups/districts to carry the message through the various standing committees.

B. To meet periodically and communicate with GSR's, DCM's, committee members, etc. and approve business, get things done

A. Communicate with districts.

B. Support and inform the delegate regarding group conscience.

To help facilitate the carrying of the message

~~A. To facilitate planning and communication and the conduct of business at the direction of the assembly of the Northern Illinois Area 20. Dealing with matters affecting AA and Area 20 groups. Provides structure for efficient planning of assemblies, conferences or workshops in or affecting the area groups. Helps with distribution fo tools used to carr the message.~~

B. Assembly is where the group conscience is expressed by area GSR's, DCM's and trusted servants to reach concience on matters of interest beyond the group level, impacting our carrying the message ro relations between groups, district, area, and GSO.

A. Understand the group conscience

B. Inform GSR's of the area business

A. To understand and carry the group conscience through contact of district committees also to guide through leadership

B. To hear conscience or concerns of districts

A. To be the liason between the GSO and the districts and groups of NIA 20

B. To bring together the districts and to help create new ideas about how to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers

A. The committee brings to the assembly concerns of the fellowship

B. The assembly provides a forum to discuss items of importance to the fellowship as educate and promote unity among districts

A. The committee is responsible for bringing items relating to the General Service Conference or fellowship to attention of the assembly

B. Meets quarterly to conduct area business

A. To keep people informed

B. To try to communicate with each other to work through everything

Help share ideas for the chairs of the districts

A. I believe the purpose of a committee is to discuss ways to carry the message in specialized areas ie. special needs and treatment

B. The purpose of the assembly is to hear updates or committees work address issues in the area and create a consensus to bring to ???

A. Sharing experience and opinion

B. Sharing and questioning

a. to bring together all of the groups within Area 20 for the purpose of exchanging information, supporting Districts, and determining a collective group conscious for our Delegate

b. same as above, with the caveat that it also provides an opportunity to enhance the service structure of the entire Area, rather than a single District or Group

to ensure the group conscience is heard and to assist districts to fulfill their primary purpose
A. To inform the area rep of the area group conscience, to bring the message to the GSO
B. To group conscience of the group and decide on business matters
A. To find out the groups purpose and then spend money
B. To hear groups conscience
For me the purpose is just to learn how this all works then bring it back to my group
A. To insure that the message it carries to the alcoholic who still suffers- by supporting individual groups with workshops and other reality/sharing opportunities so that they can function better and provide information about what is happening else where in AAsB. To formally provide structure
A. To guide and hold the assembly in order
B. To gather those who are interested in service to share and "vote" on subjects of concern that affects AA as a whole
A. To organize workshops and events dedicated to the specific committee (i.e. special needs, CPC, etc) and use the committee budget to expand AA's message throughout the area-CARRY THE MESSAGE via different vehicles appropriate for each committee
B. To be a "group conscience" for the broader area 20-like a bigger district meeting. Vote on possible changes, proposals, budgets, and prepare the delegate for New York
A. Learn how AA works
B. To learn about upcoming event and issues at hand
For the area to bring info for GSR's to bring back to our group
A. To aid and coordinate the districts efforts to carry the message, and help the membership of the area to send their group conscience to the GSO.
B. To give the membership a hand in administration of the area.
To bridge communication between groups and service.
A. To bring NY info to districts. Keep on top of changing world i.e. other countries, internet
B. Work on area committees to bring the message to the district
To gather information to bring back to home group as GSR as it relates to NY office
A. To collect background info generate reports to pass on to districts, groups
B. Provide reports of committee meetings district opportunity to vote on info previously brought to district
To inform our G.S.R.'s, committees, & members about issues on AA. Making sure our members know where to get the information & find solutions to better carry the message.
A. To facilitate carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic
B. To take group conscience of NIA
A. To foster communication as to how our message can and is being carried in the districts within our area also to aid districts asking for direction
B. To bring the groups voice as to how they feel on the various issues facing the fellowship
A. Is to organize Area 20 business and shorten/ and to be part of group conscience.
B. To vote and be the group conscience for our group
A. To bring new people to area work. This can be done as a GSR and/or DCM. New or newer people are to live blood.
B. A committee members are developed, they come more familiar with the area. My thought is break-out groups are important to meet officers or a similar group. Assembly then can put business in front of DCM's and GSR's

A. Regular and persistent passage of discussion and activities of the higher committees simply letting the area GSR's know what is happening so that the membership will be more aware- Awareness
B. The same to the above-can the committee communicate to the assembly
A. My observation is that the committee provides information regarding that activities of our area via written and oral reports. It informs us about concerns that will be presented at national conference. As far its impact on my particular group-that will be up to me.
B. I was impressed by thier demeanor and efficiency
A. To provide service on the ?? in our area
B. Treasurer. Delegate. Prim pun motions
A. Purpose of N/A 20 committee is to facilitate the business of the area, act to elect and empower GSC delegate and alt delegate and disseminate info from GSO to DCM's and GSR's
B. Purpose of assembly is to empower by way of group conscious, the area committee
A. To provide a way to carry the message from the delegate to the general membership of AA through distribution of information from delegate to committee to DCM to distribute to GSR and membership
B. Same as above
A. To be a forum for effective communication between the groups and the general service conference through its delegate.
B. Same thing
A. My understanding is to carry the message of AA to the districts and the folks in area 20
B. Inform GSR's of events and how and where the area's finances are being spent
facilitate communication, education and unity throughout the Area/region. Tally group conscience.
A. To support through resources and experience the activities of the districts cities, which support through resources and experience the GSR's who support their group/meetings in carrying the message of AA to the alcoholic at the group level
B. To drive/guide the area in pursuit of the above goal.
A. To streamline information collectively and then carry it to group level
B. To formerly get all service members together to receive area information
A. To keep is informed on how better to serve the alcoholic that still suffers.
B. How we can carry the message effectively, to help the delegate make a conscience decision t make things happen.
A. To set agenda for assembly
B. For the GSR's to gather and vote; workshop and meet other committee members
A. The are committee is a great place to introduce newer members into the workshops of the whole service structure and to strengthen their chance of future sobriety.
B. Sharing information
A. To allow service members to be provided opportunities to carry the message to the groups they service. To work as a group(committee) and not individually
B. To arrive at the informed group conscience, to better serve the fellowship, to continue to carry the message in whatever ways possible to reach as many as we can
A. Should be for info form experience so GSR's from the DCM can try to get their group more individual
B. For the GSR's to bring the conscience of the area to inform the delegate and area chairs.

A. Communications between groups and General Service, to inform us of the importance of service. To let all groups and districts better understand.

B. To be the voice of groups in all district areas, voice opinions and get informed better on all service work and chance to voice issues brought through other groups' members, address areas which apply.

- To be available to answer questions from any member, not necessarily just from DCM's

- To pass on concerns of individuals, groups, area members, to general service for the sake and purpose of world wide unity to pass it on

B. To direct in an orderly (and respectful way) the business needs of a diverse population

- To facilitate the organizations of actions of same

~~The Purpose of the NIA 20 Committee is to facilitate communication between the districts of Area 20 and the Area 20 Officers with a special eye towards getting communication about the upcoming assembly agendas out to Area 20 GSR's.~~

The Purpose of the NIA Area Assembly is to facilitate communication between the groups of Area 20 and the General Service Conference through the Area Delegate.

a. so that dcm's keep informed on whats going on in dif group

b. literature & reports

a. to approve the budget & distribute info to the dcms to take to their ditricts

b. to discuss & vote

a. take all districts opinions or ideas to area

b. all gsr's to get together to discuss issues that have come up as a group

a. to insure up-to-date & everyone aware of

b. is well defined

a. to carry the message and to assure that all aa groups have the right to participate and be informed on aa as a whole

b. to give reports and share information on how the message is being carried

a. help carry the message of service to district committee meeting. DCMI's to report of activities within their district

b. for GSRs to carry the message of service to their groups

~~A. To assist the district and groups to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Perhaps the area do let egos rule not common sense~~

B. To do the business of the area in a business like manor

<p>A. to assist districts and individual groups with support and communication to GSO in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic</p>
<p>B. to encourage individual groups through their GSR's and DCM's to vote their group conscience in matters pertaining to AA as a whole</p>
<p>A. To organize and keep people on track</p>
<p>B. To inform all of the service people of the new news and changes or not.. new changes in the upcoming year.</p>
<p>A. To distribute and share information to better help AA</p> <p>To work with the districts and the meetings</p>
<p>B. To share and report general and specific information from world services</p>
<p>a. seemingly - without purpose</p>
<p>b. approval of all motions, actions, etc.</p>
<p>a. carry the message to DCMs & aits. - Inform of area assemblies/workshops DCMs to report of activities in our districts</p>
<p>b. for GSRs to carry the message</p>
<p>a. carry the message of 12 step service to groups & individuals</p>
<p>b. communication of the group to GSO</p>
<p>a. to help the individual districts - to be a form to help ? gorups between GSO</p>
<p>b. to voice actions at district levels & share so asother districts can know</p>
<p>a. assist district meetings & individuals to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic</p>
<p>b. share information between districts</p>
<p>a. to crete the agenda for the assembly and to share district events + expenses w/other districts, hear the delegate</p>
<p>b. vote on agenda items, share expereince, ask questions, hear what's going on in area & NY</p>
<p>a. to conduct business in the area that serves to carry the AA message in the area (IE putting together events like the spring conference)</p>
<p>b. to carry the message of area business for GSRs to bring to their groups, voting on vital issues in the area</p>
<p>A. to help w questions about the delegates to better communicate with the aa people to pass on the message.</p>
<p>B. To communicate and to become as 1 for all and all is 1</p>
<p>a. middle max between GSO and Districts - group</p>
<p>b. communication, approval motions</p>
<p>a. to grow and be responsible for carrying the message of the GSC through NIA structure</p>
<p>b. communication & cooperation among groups & committess in NIA and AA as a whole</p>
<p>A. to aid in the organization of AA</p>
<p>B. to help disseminate information to the groups</p>

a. To provide us information on events and possibilities for service work in Area to help the suffering alcoholic.

b. TO vote & take back ino to my group

A. To communicate through the delegate our dist opinion & directive through the base of our individual groups . To promote effective primary purpose work through the dists and groups.

B. To goover new & old agenda items & preform the business of running AA.

A. organize, centralize, catalog, communicate all happenings of NIA 20 and also to function as a gateway / channel to GSO

B. Bring to light all present issues, while also paying respect to past work accomplishments. encourage, inform, motivate and cangraduate

a) To inform the district Chairpersons and GSR's about AAWS activities, area activities...

b) To gather information to bring back to districts. To vot on various motions that affect our area, districts and AA as a whole.

a. To inform districts of things going on in other parts of Area 20

b. Vote & discuss issues of AA as a whole

conduct changes for the area

To provide ways in promoting our Primary Purpose by offering workshops, conferences and other AA activities which include working with treatment centers, jails, prisons, the professional community and others. The committee's most important job is communication; to inform their districts and groups about the issues within the AA community and to take the "group conscience" of their groups to the General Service Board.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

3: How well do Area Standing Committees (i.e., Answering Service, Corrections, Treatment Facilities, etc.) assist Districts in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic? In what ways can this work be improved?

Response Count

109

answered question 109

skipped question 15

Response Text

a. hopefully to the best of their abilities they reach out to help the ones that really want it = 2 carry the message

b. more volunteers

a. some do a good job it really depends on the chair

b. encourage the use of alternates

more travelling to district meetings; video conferencing?;

having "bullet point summary" of current events, recent successes, real world impacts of committee work at assemblies...prepare a 30 second "elevator speech" (like a sales pitch w/ out promotion) of what they do and how they can help...

~~Outreach responsibility of the Standing Committee chairs and alternate chairs is vitally important, not just serving "who shows up" but fostering an effective communication with the District service committee members.~~

The Area Committee can encourage recommendations from the service committees and not simply collect reports.

Recommendations relating to specific committee activity and the consensus reporting on Area agendas can have an encouraging effect for full discussion on any issue.

To the best of their ability.

b. with more sacrifice.

a. only as well as the groups themselves if groups send liaisons to committees then and only then can area standing committees succeed

b. when the individual groups step up and be accountable

Area committees provide workshops and literature to districts to get the message outside the meetings and public.

b. More materials and methods of distribution-supplying stationary.

Some do well. More communication. We seem to be cutting communication not increasing it.

Grapevine did a presentation, CPC did a presentation. PI did a workshop with area participation.

b. Provide more efficient dissemination of information.

A. Assessment-not well. I would like to see committee reports electronically forwarded to DCM's for district committee chairs.

What is good and starting to happen are the visits that area chairs are starting to make to district meetings.

B. Communication- area chair to district chairs with cc to DCM

About as well as the districts allow

A. Very well- willing to come out and help- districts and groups just need to ask

B. Encourage participation by groups, districts, by visiting and spreading information, showing enthusiasm.

We have had visits from comm. chairs at our dist. mtg. They have also attended workshops in our district.

b. Service sponsorship. Better attendance of GSRs at assemblies and conference.

As a first time attendee I cannot grade the effectiveness fairly, but I would like maybe to splinter a bit more to have a closer relationship with these chairs. Although large gatherings do have more impact.
b. Use the internet even text alerts of events
a. given budget and financial constraints, doing well
b. workshops throughout the area instead of just one a year in one location (to cover more of the membership)
Ok as far as I can tell.
b. More communication and incentive for participation.
Didn't now there were standing committees. Thought they existed at district level.
Good
I think the NIA standing committees do a fine job of this by providing an opportunity for districts to ask for help. There needs to be interest at the district level for Area to be effective in this endeavor.
b. Regular communications from area standing committees directly to district committees via USPS mail as part of the duties
a. Our district has recently held a corrections conference. The area chair had a big hand in this process.
b. Make it less intimidating to new service representatives.
There is a lot of literature available and workshops to help carrying the message.
Field calls. Work in IDOC to spread the message to inmates, bridging the gap. The area seems to be very proactive.
a. Area chairs have experience that new chairs need to perform their positions. The district chairs are directing their committee out in the field where the newcomer is.
b. Communication. Emails between area and district. DCM and district.
a. their very helpful to newcomers explaining how we carry the message in all aspects
b. it seems fine as it is, their always willing to attend its up to districts to reach out
Good in providing information. So-so in helping the districts implementing some of the initiatives.
very well, in my experience someone is always available to help
a. Good
b. Visit individual districts. Visit groups by invitation.
A. if asked to participate then do what is asked
B. the way it is handled is ok. The chair should be invited by the district or group
a. Above Average (very good).
b. Visit and communicate to group.
A. Not sure. I have very little knowledge of what the committees do. The only time I really hear about them is when they make reports at assemblies. I do have a little extra knowledge about Grapevine. The current chair mostly reports to her committee what she has done since last assembly. I would like to receive guidance from chair about what I should be doing.
B. (See previous answer) To expand a little: the committees need to be drawing more people into service and to be explaining duties of district committees I don't see this happening.
A. Very well-willing to come out and help-Districts and groups just need to ask
B. Encourage participation by groups, districts by visiting and spreading information, showing enthusiasm
About as well as the districts allow
The committees are too dependent on the chairman. The chairman is not elected by the committee but rather by the Assembly. This has the programs being imposed from the top down rather than arising out of the committees themselves.

<p>A. When given well defined problems or issues, they usually provide tremendous help. If left to define their own directions, the "efficiency" of government by committee take over.</p>
<p>B. Have regular surveys of GSR's, district meetings and the assembly, asking about any perceived problems affecting our carrying the message. Have the area 20 committee refer each issue to appropriate service committees, have them review and report their opinions of action necessary, if any, by the standing committee.</p>
<p>As a trusted servant in my area I thought the committee I stood on could have been better represented at the assembly</p>
<p>A. As best as they can</p>
<p>B. Districts should contact chairs or invite chairs to attend district meetings</p>
<p>A. By letting these mostly "newcomers" know there is a way of life that is better than their present situation</p>
<p>B. More GSR and group involvement</p>
<p>Very well</p>
<p>A. I'm starting Bridging the Gap in district 90 the treatment chair person has been very helpful</p>
<p>B. I think its fine</p>
<p>A. OK</p>
<p>B. More contact</p>
<p>A. The reports from committees appear to indicate that various workshops and communication is being made between appropriate parties to carry the message</p>
<p>B. I'm really not sure if summaries of committee reports are online, which would be helpful. If they are online maybe GSR's should suggest groups to look at them</p>
<p>Quite well</p>
<p>While the majority of the Area Standing Committee chairs care about AA, they do not seem to either understand, or have the tools, to help create true committees. They seem to have their own ideas about what needs to be done, and want to get the various Districts to either do it their way, or not support them at all.</p>
<p>I have seen this improve - I have seen district committees become involved with area events, i.e., workshops. This can be improved to have additional committee members in the area instead of just chair and alternate so there are more people doing the work to go out and reach out to districts</p>
<p>the best they can</p>
<p>A. Very well</p>
<p>B. Keeping in contact with area chairs in each committee</p>
<p>A. My experience not to well</p>
<p>B. More personal working with people rather than workshop</p>
<p>A. Very</p>
<p>B. Reiterate the importance of being a voice of AA</p>
<p>A. Workshops, information booths at conferences, correspondence and service sponsorship for new or struggling district</p>
<p>B. Stress PRINCIPALS BEFORE PERSONALITIES to encourage district and group participation at the area assemblies and foster a more cohesive and cooperative environment</p>
<p>In order to get them involved</p>
<p>They do what they need to to carry the message</p>
<p>A. Very well IF the districts seek the resources available. One thing that needs to be done is to remind the district that the area's purpose is to serve the membership through the districts.</p>
<p>B. Continue to seek participation of the districts, GSR's GSM's)</p>
<p>Brings the message from NY to district to meetings to the suffering alcoholic</p>

A. "The Hand of AA to be there" reaches out to those who want/seek/ask for help in recovery

B. I haven't seen any fixin's as of right now

A. Only delegate at best, my experience should be more workshops of central annual or bi-annual area meeting on each separate committee.

B. See previous

Not skipping break out rooms during Assemblies.

A. It depends on the chair. Some chairs are more active or in contact with their district chairs. Some not so much.

B. I don't know

A. By sharing the experience of that particular committee in other districts, areas, and groups

B. By encouraging attendance and involvement by encouraging communication

Well they host workshops to update all groups on how and why they do what they need to do

A. Good work, they seem to be well prepared information is present workshops are available for material and information

B. Smaller break-out groups for newer people. That helped me

A. As well as the districts request these needs. Can the horse be lead to water? Will he drink when he gets there

B. The electronic format

A. I cannot answer this far lack of experience as an alternate GSR district (90) is busy with "Bridging the Gap" locally and corrections

B. No comment

A. Great

B. No improvement needed

A. Area committees help keep district accounting both fiscally as well as in terms of AA as a whole. Short answer is the standing committees do well

B. Improve communication

A. Probably as well as they can. I like the DCM's of the districts need to be the ones to encourage and invite the committee chair to district to get GSR's informed and encourage participation

B. Rotate attendance at districts to carry the message

A. It's all a process

B. Cooperation

A. I feel some do better than others. Corrections seems to be quite involved in carrying the message

B. Encourage all area committee folks to carry the message as time and money permit
 Much better than in the Cook County area.

Promoting service through flyers brought to the groups by district committee members. ie: group visits. Bringing particular brochures to the groups. 1) how an AA group functions, 2) your group GSR 3) what is the DCM Group contact forms.

Flyer talking about rotation would be useful.

<p>A. The area duties are only effective to the degree that the districts know their needs- to set the area duties agendas lacking that the standing cities shift purpose to educating the district chairs- Current grade B+</p>
<p>B. Not sure- think improvement may be found in how we have \$ back and forth</p>
<p>Excellent</p>
<p>They do well; we need a greater commitment at group level. Area needs to create environment which will generate more enthusiasm for the service work</p>
<p>A. They teach us through their own experience ideas to carry the message and what didn't work</p>
<p>B. When all are well informed through effective communication and NO EGO's!!</p>
<p>A. Assembly persons (area chairs) do a good job making info available. Districts are slow to receive.</p>
<p>B. DCM's must push involvement for their committee people.</p>
<p>A. very well, but the members serving at the district level needs to be aware that the help is there if asked for.</p>
<p>B. Constant communication</p>
<p>A. The committees have always been a tremendous load of information and help in serving the groups of the area</p>
<p>B. Have more sharing sessions or workshops to give people as much info as possible to be able to do the job in service position requires since everyone starting out in position doesn't have a clue what to do in the beginning of the term.</p>
<p>A. Through the sharing of experience shared in breakouts</p>
<p>B. Reaching out to groups in the outer edge of districts. To get more info to these groups</p>
<p>A. The best of their abilities, the reports are broken down to address all areas. Well done as far as I'm concerned.</p>
<p>B. Experience all learning as they go along is the best education one can receive, keep open-minded ask questions, take chances and do your best</p>
<p>A. The most visible way that I (CSR) bring info to individual group members is through area sponsored events. I'm probably wrong but I'm ??? to workshops particularly.</p>
<p>B. Flexibility and openness to try new things (ie.. assembly at conference I was opposed but its not so bad) The area committees chairs seem "on fire" and its stimulating and makes me open to possibilities for myself with service</p>
<p>The Area Standing Committees assist Districts in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic by holding workshops in various districts throughout the area and bringing items needing attention by the area to the attention of the area.</p>
<p>This work can be improved by holding more Standing Committee sponsored workshops throughout the area and getting the committees to function</p>
<p>a. by communicating with the district chairs to pass on to the groups</p>
<p>b. by communicating thru e-mail phone calls to their perspective districts</p>
<p>pretty well</p>
<p>a. do there job well</p>
<p>b. answering service - direct phone numbers to person answering call not to have someone call back</p>
<p>a. so far any support asked for was given, although some chairs/positions have not responded to e-mails sent</p>
<p>b. send response</p>

a. to my knowledge as best they can with the amount of resources they have and participation of the district chair
b. more participation from district chair
a. communicate with their district counterparts to help them carry the message throughout their district. hold workshops. we do a good job of that.
b. more involvement by the fellowship
-Very poorly. spent too much time in the red tape of the sticker
-Reduce the amount of time wasting procedures
they sponsor area wide workshop in carrying the message
A. By standing on the front trench (12 step calls). Extending your hand even in a digital age. The steps and traditions are not forgotten or changed.
B. Digital projector
A. Much better than last year. I like the communication between area and district chairs
B. Some chairs feel they have to do it on their own. We want to help
a. varies on chairperson, committee need to get DCMs to invite chairs to monthly district meetings
b. training & review of chair, DCM requirements to help focus!
a. the committees all have good information to share but we still need a location for detox to be known
b. let it be known that if a person needs detox let your local facility know that they are in danger of hurting themselves and others (they can not turn them away)
excellent
a. as good as any area
a. I believe they do a good job as possible with whatever districts participate at events
b. need more district participation - DCMs to announce all activities the area chairs are doing
a. I am too new to know
b. between communication - meeting with members of districts individually or as groups throughout the year
a. great as long as districts are receptive
b. phone calls to district dcms or e-mails to ask if they would like them to hold a workshop or speak at the district meeting
a. OK, but need to visit the various district meetings in the area more often to bring home the idea of what they are doing in the area to carry the message
b. stated previously
A. hopefully to the best of their abilities, they reach out to help the ones that really want it, to carry the message.
B. More volunteers!
ideal with treatment and she has been very helpful - returns call in a timely manner - Helped us in getting BTG start in our District
a. average to slightly below average. There seems to be a "cultural" disconnection between area and district activities. Members seem to be afraid to serve as GSRs & on committees, limiting involvement in Area opportunities.
b. Grass-roots training w/GSRs in area / groups functions. I believe a cultural shift needs to be explored over timeshifting needs to a more involved and connected leadership from NIA group
people in charge of these areas are working diligently but need help. I would love to see more people stand up and serve in AA
a. w/o these committees the still suffering alcoholic would not be reached - they are imperative in the process.
b. districts provide their own monies - but I feel area committees could contribute any extra monies to areas that need it

A. I am very pleased with what I hear. It motivates me to try & do more.

B. I think it is working well keep it up.

~~A. seemingly fine, no bad apples or agendas stand out. i would hope and believe that ill intentions or slothful individuals will not last at the area level and will not make it that far to begin with.~~

B. information table with all the papers is 'thrown' together - should be organized layout. consider labeling sections and spreading out on a longer table, more room for disbursement

a) Some are more informative and active than others.

b) I don't know.

a. Don't know

well, our GSR announces at every business meeting and in general meetings if need arises

For all who are interested in knowing about or participating in these activities the Area does a very good job. I don't see any way in which they can improve.

Kelly Lambert does an excellent job of providing information via emails for the treatment and bridging the gap areas.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

4: How can the Area better carry the message of our Legacies of Unity and Service (12 Traditions and 12 Concepts)?

Response Count

79

answered question 79

skipped question 45

Response Text

carry the message about how we all need to communicate with one another more to become 1 eventually
bring back the circle and triangle to encourage living the three sides of the triangle..

brief (15 to 30 minute?) breakout session for newcomers at the assembly that gives a quick overview of general service structure, importance of GSRs attending, who does what in Area 20 etc...

more travelling to districts...

reminding DCMs of the importance and rewards of attempting to "visit every group"

Including topic 3 above, encourage DCMs to bring GSRs to the Assemblies: help defray their costs to attend (mileage, lunch, etc.). GSRs have been sorely lacking in their participation for the last 15 years.

To understand and practice those principles in all of our affairs.

hold each other accountable for participation

Provide speakers for open AA meetings such as clubs, hospitals that discuss what service and unity actually mean.

Speak on it and set an example by working it.

Listen to what DCM's are saying about our district/groups. There is a perception that the area is top down and not bottom up.

Get more GSR involvement

Service Sponsorship

Sponsor must lead by example to show the importance of understanding these ideas, It is a very dry subject for a large group.

More communication as to what area is doing

Maybe an ad hoc or standing committee whose sole purpose is to attend district and group events with a table display and volunteers to be available to inform the curious about our legacies and Unity and Service.

Educational opportunities.

The traditions should be discussed more and explain how important they are.

Find way to get more info spread around. Material that can be taken quickly and read at home. The more available hopefully will attract the still suffering alcoholic.

We need concept workshops at all area conferences and large events. Why not have a short speech or lead given on concepts at small events at committee meetings/workshops.

have a meeting or workshop @ the conferences to help explain each one and their importance or at districts too

Area chairs are probably spread too thin. May want to consider adding additional alternatives.

greater communication before actual assembly

not sure

Word of mouth.

Get committees more active-see above answers

Get more GSR involvement

Face to face communication visiting group and district business meetings
By speaking at district meetings
More contact
Keep trudging
Encourage understanding of the Concepts by doing more than just read them at events. Host Workshops about the Three Legacies.
host workshops and day-events to focus on these items or encourage them in the districts
Voicetrus= i.e. "Beat the Drum"
Workshops-maybe meetings specifically devoted to those topics. I would LOVE a 12 concepts workshop/conference at the very least
Read them at assemblies, encourage workshops?
Have a Q & A break out meeting for the G.S.R.'s. To answer questions about the legacies, traditions, & concepts. So then the G. S.R.'s can adhere to them with their group. I know there is a handbook for this but I have questions & I'm sure other G.S.R.'s would too.
I don't know
By example attraction not promotion
Do breakouts from past delegates at assemblies
Material and ideas for meetings on 2nd and 3rd legacy. The suggestion that 2nd and 3rd legacy be used that the meeting level in '91 this is just not done
The message is current by participation. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Participation is hard to require.
I will be watching for events that fulfill this duty- challenge- Is our area thoroughly presented- I reside in western Illinois where groups and membership are numerous
Better to understand to the newcomers
Legacies workshops where AA's can be acquainted/educated
Attraction rather than promotion. The member involved at area level need to be enthusiastic
12 and 12 and 12
Workshops seems to be the obvious answer-as a 3 year sober person - I know my steps and am slightly less in tune with traditions and concepts "Build it and they will come" type of philosophy would work if there were traditions and concepts(and beyond) workshops I would attend
Again group visit with some brochures. Maybe some pens with NIA phone number and web site addy on it.
Seeing 2 visitors making a quick AA related announcement would get the attention of some members. Hang around after the meeting for any questions.
Hand out some pertinent brochures to the people, don't just hand to the chairman to bury in their box to no where.
Unity and Service- Current Grade A+
Workshops
Make it fun for all to want to know the 3 legacies more in depth
Put on website with note from area chair
Workshops, sharing sessions
I think the area is doing a great job
Concentrate on contacting the dark areas of NIA
Just as they do- carrying the message
. More workshops
Holding more workshops on these two topics.
honoring a tradition or step
newsletter once a month of updates and upcoming events
by finding the new comer with that gleam in there eye for service and nurturing that desire. not all comers have the desire and we shouldn't try to foces on all new commers to do service

doing ok now
Keep it simple.
by having more workshops, skits in digital. Meaning changing the way workshops are done.
1. make copies available at every meeting
2. Workshops
training, training, training - have a stronger focus (requirement for chairs to do training at spring & state conferences
purchase signs to post at your meeting location to enjoy while they are at the meeting (visible to all)
By encouraging group involvement this is an ongoing process & more of an old-timer working with a new comer issue
have presentations available at assemblies
I don't know
don't know how to answer that
Carry the message about how we all need to communicate with one another more to become 1 eventually.
Not just READ them. I believe they should be reinforced by example with sponsor conversations and meeting (group) by-in.
Too many times Traditions are ignored by groups and folks are clueless of concepts.
awaiting experience
hold special workshops
Fine.
Workshops - get GSR's involved
Not sure
Perhaps workshops focused on these issues at the Area level might be helpful.
maybe encourage more DCMs to participate in area functions.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

5: Did you attend the State Conference or Spring Conference in 2010?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	63.6%	75
No	36.4%	43
If yes, what parts were most beneficial to you?		64
	<i>answered question</i>	118
	<i>skipped question</i>	6

If yes, what parts were most beneficial to you?

concept panel
service stuff because i am new to general service
workshops and panels
archives
service workshop presentations
service oritnetation workshops
All was good.
Dancing/fellowship
State Conference-speaker, panels, Al-anon participation, district participation
Spring Conference- Al-anon Participation, location, speakers, not beneficial -spring assembly at the conference
Speakers
Presentation by GSO personnel
Opportunity to meet others interested in archives because we don't otherwise get together in one place and talk shop.
Explaining the process to the new service reps.
Popular speakers and seeing Judd and his laptop. (always busy doing registration work). Seeing area servants and discussing future and current work.
the variety of meetings
dont remember
Keynote speakers, panels. I especially remember one about brain physiology and addiciton.
Presentation by GSO personnel
Speakers
I go to hear the speakers and meet old friends.
Break outs
The post director is a hippocratic and a liar. He needs to place principals before personalities.
At the spring conference I thought the service fair was very informative, also I enjoyed the speakers at both
i was a part of the 'service' of the weekend. i enjoyed being able to get a bt of meetings and assembly done in one weekend

1. Workshops=knowledge
2. Alcathons=recovery
3. Speakers= how they did it (experience)
It was a year ago, I don't remember FELLOWSHIP
I went to both. I liked the assembly within the conference in the spring with the pre-GSC workshop, and I just love these conferences.
But many in the past and chaired conferences before
Workshops, always 1-2 or 3 especially pertinent to me. Sometimes everyone, also fellowship and area support
The flyers & Committee reports.
I usually get something out of the whole program
Speakers, assembly- and information from outside or community
1. Hospitality room
2. Great registrar effort
3. Wonderful speakers
4. Close to mother-in-law house, lower cost
Service work, learning the assembly procedures
Workshops
The speakers, the film room, the archives, the hospitalities, and other "sides" were all interesting; but the service is the secret
Speakers all 3 nights – banquet- I am not sure what alcathon meetings I went to, but I was glad they were provided
were closed no one on post. One discussion format was a no show on chairman.
The Alanon and AA speakers were great.
Book room was manned by a hyper work a holic. Seriously....
Thought it was a joke and then had to break free from the person.
Actively- just being around others involved in service is always the "take-away" for me.
Alcathons, speakers, skits, workshops, big book study
Service work
Helped me become more aware of the depth of what service in AA is all about.
Not much
Breakouts and speakers
First time 2010 and I loved all the info that I gathered also talking to old timers
I don't remember but I think that I didn't because I only come for assembly now(one day). Before I was a GSR I always attended state conferences but not now.

Speakers
Panels
workshops
panels and sharing at the alcohons
the workshops
The one on one help from the people with long term experience.
Alcathons are helpful. Main speakers are inspirational
The Corrections. More panels, more info, more jails or prison
people to inform committees and AAs to bring message. How to
get in VS long forms.
Big speaker meetings
State- meetings were confusing; location and time; topics
Spring- wow- good set up and lay out; undefined topics
personal involvement!
all
I just came for the Spring assmebly. The most neneficial part for
me was gaining a better idea of the AA Structure of Service
panels
Guest speakers were very good
banquets - because of the fellowship
out of town
Great discussion & service fair
speakers
Panels
alkathons & meditation room

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

6: How do Area-sponsored conferences (spring conference / state conference) fit with our stated purpose of service? Be specific.

Response Count

85

answered question 85

skipped question 39

Response Text

we are all reated in carrying the message to stay sober and how

the service conference - they help committees get the word out about service

may need an inventory specific to the stated purpose of conferences because some members do not want "service-like" conferences and would rather participate in the "fun stuff"....it may be more productive and effective to gear service education toward those members that already have an idea that (relative to a small amount of work) the (spiritual) pay is great!

The panels and workshops are basically reporting mechanisms.

Can the Spring Conference attract service committee members to meet and develop recommendations before the Assembly? It's the first one of the year, why not move the Assembly to a Sunday morning instead of Saturday?

very well

they do exactly what the NIA statement of purpose says

Spiritual growth, fellowship, unity of purpose, support groups of alanon and alateen inclusion. Family oriented, overnight, place for sponsees and sponsors, business and social meetings, make friends, support speakers and panels.

If they are shown in others what the next right thing is to do.

Carrying the message-location is essential to be able to reach as many members/new members as possible. Rotating location and sponsorship(district) of events is essential.

Helps to carry the message to new people make service positions more accessible communicate more freely.

I think the main benefit is generating enthusiasm among participants-they don't do much to help the alcoholic who still suffers-they are good for communication with GSO but I think that should be a longer part (always shuffled off to the end of the conference Sunday morning-would be better on Saturday night)

The counseling of the delegate needs to be emphasized.

bring people together to better pass the message based on the advice of our area reps

Help with communication for what activities are going on and upcoming.

See #5. Allows people to meet face to face regarding service in specific committees GSR's and fellowship members in general have the chance to meet area service committee chairs, etc..

They make it possible to share ideas about possible workshops. This was how our area made the corrections conference possible.

Keeping this simple is the best way for some of us that are new to service work.

To have a group conscience and a great forum for a lot of information then local groups and fellowship.

Love assembly at Spring Conference! What does area do at state conference?

i believe its very much needed to keep carrying the message and gather together as a fellowship on a larger basis

Not well, don't notice many attendees getting involved with service.

not sure, the 2011 spring conference is my first

Unknown. Never attend.

each conference is different

Foster fellowship. Increase energy. Give us more knowledge and more insight into our disease and our solution.

I think the main benefit is generating enthusiasm among participants- they don't do much to help the alcoholic who still suffers-they are good for communication with GSO but I think that should be a larger part (always shuffled off to end of the conference Sunday morning-would be better on Saturday night)

Help carry the message to new people make service positions more accessible communicate more freely

I feel they have become more of a ritual we go through then anything aimed at achieving a specific purpose

<p>Panels oriented specifically at problems encountered at carrying the message at the community or institutional level. i.e. answering service, corrections, treatment, bridging the gap</p>
<p>It helps bring all AA members of the area or state together to share ideas and fellowship.</p>
<p>All the workshops learning from it</p>
<p>The conferences facilitate opportunities to carry the message and let people know about different opportunities available.</p>
<p>Break outs and workshops + fellowship</p>
<p>It seems to me that the spring and state conference do not support the purpose of service. They are mostly just focused on having fun and talking about sobriety. They are a waste of the dollars put in the basket by paying for the Area Service members to stay in the hotels and eat. At least we don't pay for them to drink.....</p>
<p>they should suit better in terms of being service oriented and district focused</p>
<p>Opportunity to learn from others</p>
<p>To show AA's how to be of service</p>
<p>Information provided on committees and what they do- encouragement for all interested to participate</p>
<p>The question of whether these events are meant to be service conferences or fellowship conferences. Personally I feel that they do need to be attraction for the membership, and then to educate people about the larger world AA. car</p>
<p>Brought 2 sponsees here for more service information</p>
<p>To gather "us" for the gathering information and set ideas from all going to fit all interested parties.</p>
<p>Committee members attend & are available for questions for our members.</p>
<p>The spring conference teaches people about service. It is a great forum for sharing, also some people will have a spiritual experience by serving all these people sober together.</p>
<p>They allow more to get out of my "comfort zone" and to hear what is being done elsewhere and vice versa they promote unity within the fellowship.</p>
<p>It does, it brings us up to date on what is available to us as a group and gives us a purpose of events and new information to us and the groups</p>
<p>1. Close to center of population. Good</p>
<p>2. I like to see functions further west on occasions I feel it helps involve western area legions</p>
<p>Communication is a key(obvious)</p>
<p>The group conscience is a primary purpose to the group. How can this info be conveyed without disrupting the conscience</p>
<p>Carrying the message and building fellowship and maintaining our organization</p>
<p>Great</p>
<p>Establish and facilitate exchange of info</p>
<p>Keeps the business of the membership rolling- necessary to carry the message</p>
<p>This is where we really get into the planning and/or the nitty-gritty</p>
<p>They seem to do quite well with carrying the message</p>
<p>Reaching out and accepting volunteers.</p>
<p>By attending to and acknowledging the "fellowship"- recovery ours via one-on-one encounters- "I alcoholic working with another"-the area facilitate fellowship</p>
<p>Expose individuals to the largeness of AA as a whole</p>
<p>Allow all service members to get info and hyped up then carry message to group</p>
<p>I have no comment</p>
<p>No answer</p>
<p>Without organized chaos, the AA message would not endure and be effective.</p>
<p>By providing recovery experiences that are not available through regular meetings (speakers, interaction with AA's from other parts of the area, etc.).</p>
<p>giving workshops on specific items that are important to service volunteer positions opportunities</p>
<p>so far -so good</p>
<p>have people available to answer inquiries & volunteer to help at district level</p>
<p>in getting all areas together to share information</p>
<p>we do the best as we understand</p>

Helps newcomers to learn procedures of doing the business.
they carry the message to a wider audience
To inform AA members more so they can carry the message better.
It carries the message, develops service and fellowship, and encourages ????
poorly - refer back to #5
a wide variety of services are very helpful to bring back and fill needed positions
be encouraging unity and providing a conduit for communications through out the fellowship
very well
they are open to & a sense of fellowship
allowing the districts to gather to ask questions & share experience
they serve to carry the message in various ways, to the alcoholic that still suffering through attraction to the fellowship
showing the newcomer that "we are not a glum lot"
We are all related in carry the message to stay sober and how.
first one - no sure
I believe they fit, perhaps because the rules have been written to fit the cause. Again, a cultural shift is organizational needs
may drive a better way to reach the still suffering alcoholic.
they work like the inverted triangle
by holding workshops & seminars to assist all alcoholics
Mix business & fun is a good idea. Didn't think so last year & actually business is getting funner
I gather info to bring back to my group. Fellowship is also important.
In a year when a state conference is sponsored by NIA we should NOT have a Spring Conference to many conference to
little money for members
They carry the message to suffering people and provide a structured agenda for a weekend of fun

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

7: What can the Area do to encourage growth of AA within Northern Illinois?

Response Count

87

answered question 87

skipped question 37

Response Text
more volunteers - word of mouth
get those who have been involved awhile to tell about their growth as a result of service
stick to primary purpose while we continue cooperation without affiliation,
Twelfth Step workshops, service committee outreach workshops
The individual person has to have the desire to participate.
encourage group members to hold each other accountable
Increase AA work(action).
DCM's/GSR's need to carry the message of service in all levels in AA. From group service to district service.
Encourage greater participation at the group and individual level
Push sponsors to strongly suggest sponsees attend and participate in more than just basic meetings.
more workshops, more literature, more PI LOWER literature costs
Encourage 12 step work with activities like bridging the gap with more workshops and encouraging awareness.
Encourage GSRs to be cheerleaders. Educate them as to the importance of what they do and how that can trickle up and down.
Stress service work.
Be more visible at district and group events.
Make participation of new service rep less frustrating and intimidating.
More information on GSR to individual groups.
It should grow at it own pace anyway. Not forced.
Get info and maybe a speaking service for schools, institutions, businesses and corporations, manufacturing and city municipalities.
Find the answer to #8 and do it.
More info online.
educate to GSRs and DCMs about the health of a group
Communication is key to carrying the message and growth.
Help DCM's understand how to bring in new GSR's and how to make sure GSR's understand their responsibilities. Help district committee chairs understand how to bring in committee members and how to make sure committee members understand their responsibilities.
Encourage greater participation at the group and individual level.
I think we have to focus more on how we carry the message and sponsoring people not only into recovery but into service.
Find out what tools are working at the local level to achieve members involvement with the group activities that carry the message and publicize at assembly or in concepts. Identify issues causing fragmentation into special interest, home meetings or quasi AA groups i.e. Bhuddists for Bill
More GSR involvement. More sponsorship. Involved "sponsees"
Promote sponsorship and service
Encourage more Bridging the Gap in northern Illinois
More transparency or opportunities to provide service and better understanding in how all levels i.e. area, districts, work together

Attractiveness (friendliness)
Suggest the ways and means for people to create service opportunities beyond making coffee and sitting in a meeting. Help Districts to create committees where local AA members are encouraged and supported in doing work under the umbrella of CPC and PI.
help districts get to meetings to talk about it
Lead by example
At assemblies specifically be encouraging rather than shaming. You might get a person to one assembly, but if elected servants put that "ass" in "assembly" you may not get that person to come back. GRATITUDE.
We've certainly got plenty of meetings, but participation in service structure and focus on primary purpose beyond the scope of individual members own sobriety.
Have more mini-conferences-(workshops funded by area)
Getting back to the basic of old time AA
PI report/info in schools- PI and CPC is intrigued
The Area Committee members attend District Meetings more frequently. Have the delegate attend more of the groups business meetings.
Keep trudging the road of happy destiny
Have area go to different meetings and district meetings
Website consideration
Out step the bounds of tradition. Advertise. Take out ads
I have learned about our public information committee- Though we don't produce- we must inform- especially with our youth
Alone districts to attend
Educate in terms of concepts
Remind GSR's to attend, provide info about what is actually accomplished, be enthusiastic about what goes on at the area level
Talk it up individually, first do it, then encourage others to do likewise
Offer helpers for a period of time to come out and help set up new meetings.
Can't- a problem of attraction, not prohibition- once we're listed ???? for access- we cant provide
Sponsors need to drag there sponsees to events
Get more committed LCM's
Correct people that say the assemblies are boring and STOP FIGHTING ABOUT MONEY!!
Increase public info, bill boards, etc
Have members travel to districts to share their experience of service work
Encouraged everyone to reach out to groups without GSR
Workshops
Current trusted servants sharing on the personal benefits of service work.
go to group level, recruit thru district communications, a workshop in every district
more visits to districts
more 12 step work and more unity and conference on growth & how to expand already doing
help district with workshops, conferences, etc.
maybe have ??? sharing success stories
bridging the gap, getting people to there first meeting after treatment or incarceration. I see very few of these new commers at my meetings and wonder what happens to them after treatment, etc.
keep talking
Include new people in the business of the area.
By getting the youth of AA involved. More to do, events, etc.

More communication!

-Area chair with DCM's

-Communication chairs w district family chairs

-Email all GSR's?

"mini assemblies in lieu of training/workshops in 4 quadrants in area 20 - take it to the groups/members - I believe travel is the big problem why GSRs don't come

give out cards with our (POC) who will give the information for each individual's special needs
AA growth is influenced by many outside distractions. the confusion that an individual or group can do sobriety alone will always be ongoing. Many groups have an "open door" policy to pay the rent

have more workshops & presentations

more workshops & help GSRs to "inform" their groups of upcoming service workshops & open positions of service work (committees, etc.)

share experience - talk to other alcoholics - encourage involvement just like anyone else in AA
not enough experience to answer that

more volunteers - word of mouth.

go to more districts in the area for things

Get more involved in group information - people-to-people contacts & involvement

develop more group meetings

Fine

accurate directories with contact numbers and locations. increases support needed for corrections, bridging the gap, treatment, answering service (12 step old school style)

I don't know - attraction rather than promotion. Websites are probably helpful tool.

continue to carry the message

not sure

Workshops? Offering more assistance to each district to "encourage" special workshops.

I think the growth is happening all on its own.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section A (Primary Purpose)

8: What more can/should the Area do with 'Dark Districts'? (dark districts lack support and financial resources to provide services to local AA groups).

Response Count

93

answered question 93

skipped question 31

Response Text
send people from the stronger groups 2 help out (serice) to improve the unity and over all productivity
let other districts know what districts are dark look at what unofficial service may be being done
more visits by Area 20 committees, visits by neighboring districts, offer to reimburse assembly travel costs once
visiting the "dark" Districts is the responsibility of the Area Committee Chair and Area Delegate. How about setting up "raids" for the "dark" Districts and bring other DCNs and Area service committee members along?
D70, 72, 80 come to mind.
hold service orientation workshops (regularly scheduled)
Plant seeds.
AA is autonomous and I am not sure anything can be done unless groups in those areas get together to form.
Visit groups in the district and stir up interest in reigniting district activity adjacent districts would be part of visit
Visit the districts, make contacts, encourage participation, let them know what help is available-personal contact most important.
Try a field trip idea. Ask to home groups to go on the road to carry the message.
bring workshops and fellowship there - show examples of 'How it Works'
visit some groups within these districts to show what methods are available to organize them.
Have volunteers teach those districts how to recruit more support.
Get more involved in the districts.
Absorb them into neighboring districts so services are available tothe fellowship in the stricken dark districts.
Have area reps speak to dark groups about what the benefits of being more involved are
Don't know.
I have never been to one.
Try to spread more info and see if it would help to do a home based wanderers group to cover areas wtih few members and least expense. Just gas and coffee.
Seek out passionate motivated people in those districts and show them what we have found in service. Reach out to speakers, intergroups, clubs, ISCYPAA, sponsers, treatment center of those Dark Districts.
Include it in the budget.
help support / provide more meetings for greater accessibility for the suffering alcoholic
Identify them. Contact or visit them.
not an area issue - is a district issue
DCM to start a channel of communication to the "Dark Districts."
The essentials don't have to cost anything. The essentials are having district meetings and disseminating info to GSR's. I would guess that recruitment of a volunteer or two in such a district would be the most important step.
Visit the districts, make contact, encourage participation, let them know what help is available-personal contact most important

Visit groups in the district and stir up interest in re-igniting district activity adjacent district could be part of visit
dark districts may be doing just fine. They obviously do not see any benefit in being involved in the larger AA community. The bigger question is, have we given them a reason and how do we communicate with them.
Attraction. Use PSA's other video's oriented at corrections, youth, etc. To create awareness AA exists and can still help people. Area service committees must be ready to respond quickly to contact-by being made aware these "dark" areas may be reaching out.
Contact! Find out reach out (thats what we do! Right?)
They should make all the areas aware of members only meetings that blemish our cause. The AA group handbook mentions no recruiting of group members. No private meetings. -Ask the founder 815-547-7870
Encourage "healthy" districts to adopt districts who are struggling
Visit and help invite
I don't know what actions the area assembly undertakes to support or the needs of the dark districts
Nothing but encourage and pray
Make contact with the various Groups in these Districts and see if they want to rebuild their service strucutre
encourage meighboring districts /past DCMs to get involved and generate activity among multiple districts
Offer to help with what is needed
LCM's from neighboring districts can visit those meetings and groups in dark districts. Host workshops in neighboring districts about what a district does and why its important to stay active.
Get a greater
I have a hand at being involved
Maybe some "traveling road show" to meetings in these districts. I've heard about success with that type of endeavor in other parts of the country.
Visit- bring speakers- fund and bring mini conference to the area. Get adjacent districts to "adopt" other dark districts - spread the word thorough people
I always keep "principal before personalities"
Combine or condense nearby districts or groups in that "dark district"
Have dark districts join with other districts near them.
Answering service so the still suffering has some point of contact even if it is not initially local.
Go to the meetings and spark interest
Combination of districts 91 a big problem or area contact to person at will work at lighting up the district
Provide needed resources! Contact meetings directionally to ask for representation
I have no comment
Pass the message
No answer- no participation if a choice
Don't know
A "treweling show" of 2's and 3's willing to go around together to different meetings in different places.
Go out into the groups. "Visits" and find (identify) new leaders. Rotation.
Continue to make contact with known alcoholics/meetings within that district sand encourage organization- with ??? they are anonymous
Have someone shame them into contributing
Create committee to make plans to get more members involved
Don't know maybe expand the districts.
Allow temporary "take over" of district operations; pride may bring about change
Same -have members travel to districts to share their experience of service work
Pray for them-in God's hands

Delegate, DCM, other GSR's go out there at dark groups
Possibly visit those individual groups consistently and offer workshops in "dark" districts so they're accessible to that locally
Keep making supportive contact with dark districts until they come back to life
promote those area by having workshops. communication thru treatment cetners or thru commonof surrounding areas
reach out with more service work
attend district GSR meetings & also group meetings
find people or start a committee to send people to meetings in these districts and try to spark there own growth
visit them
Have a committee to work with the groups of the dark district so they know more of the job.
encourage them to merge with neighboring districts
Take up seperate donations, like the pink can.
-Good neighbor program (there was a diagram showing the dark district in the middle and surrounding districts)
neighbor would help (travel district to help)
use the chairs to visit(s) & talk to various groups (by invitations) or any functions! & provide seed money! - make a plan
try to fill each and every position with the chair & assitant who can fill in as needed & educate any new comers
I am not informed (no fault of Area) on this matter
I feel the area should provide financial support for literature to start with. encourage near by district to help.
provide manpower & financial assistance
reach out to clubs/meetings w/in districts. I didn't even know we had dark districts in our area. maybe someone in the area that knows districts are dark needs to tell standing committees to hold workshops on service in these districts
have servants from the area and other districts show up at the local meetings/groups to educate them and the benefits of communication with each other at the district level and aren't level
send people from the stronger groups 2 help out to improve the unity and over all productivity.
visit those district - so they can see what is going on
Encourage & supposrt w/overwelming resources (do whatever it takes to reach)
have a roving ambassador to travel as a representative
get the word out that the dark districts needs support & dedicate a small group for that purpose
I am not qualified to answer
more structure presented to GSR contact position. a schedule of places to visit and report back.
financial support in the fomr of gas cards
Have active districts go to their GSR meetings and show enthusiasm and excitement.
Pray
incorporate them into other districts?
Send representative to business meetings to encourage participation.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section B (Service Structure)

10: What can be done to improve Area Assemblies(i.e., frequency and length of meetings, agenda, and locations)?

Response Count

104

answered question 104

skipped question 20

Response Text
more volunteers
seem to work well, possibly a trial to 3+3 per year with modification for elections and pre-gsc workshop
four works fine
We are doing the best we can and until the alcoholic feels the desire for unity we will have only a few doing service.
forget the anniversary thing - i have never felt it belongs in an assembly. Ask if GROUPS are celebrating an anniversary
well run already
It works for me.
I like area assemblies as a stand alone event not affiliated with a conference. I am not sure attendance would improve anymore. Keep assemblies centrally located for all(La Fox) to attend. Agenda/length-business has to be done.
Combining with conference runs too limiting committee meetings are important
More assemblies dose to western part of the area not sure we need 4 per year- business meetings less important than helping alcoholics directly
use air horn instead of bell to limit time
Times presentations are imperative. Good Job!
allow more time to discuss / vote on PPR items, allow area committee members more time to pass along items within their area
Lenght shorter with location closer to metropolitan area.
Consider splitting Area 20 into 2 territories (East and West) or 2 district areas; areas 20 and 21.
One central location.
I like it as it is. Continue spring assembly integrated with Spring Conference.
I believe the length of 3 hours is good. The location has been good the last 2 years.
never been
Location may be separate day with work shops in relation to assembly needs.
combine with conferences. Spring conference and is great.
Frequency seems to work. Length should be within attention span and agenda should be simple not to be complicated. Locations work well and dispursed to all areas.
get out to all meetings especially the club meetings where a lot of alcoholics attend meetings and leave flyers for those that are interested and have secretary announce these flyers are there
Reduce numberof assemblies to 2 or 3 max. Schedule for 1/2 day.
figure out a way to make it more fun and not so boring
Written reports, not read. Limit length of meeting by putting time limits on comments, discussion etc.
ist time for me with compressed format (1/2 day at conference) and i do like it
I am happy with how it is run now. There is plenty of activities and meetings that are beneficial.
too much repetiiton of information. all reports send in and not read
I think the current setup is pretty good. I especially like combining spring assembly with spring conference and having dedication event for GSC workshop
More assemblies doser to western part of the area not sure we need 4 per year-business meetings less important than helping alcoholics directly
Combining with conference seems too limiting committee meetings are important

I think we have too many Assemblies and Committee Meetings. Two of each a year would be enough.
1. Frequency is adequate. I do not like what I perceive as a shorter assembly being foisted into the time of the spring conference.
2. It always is to damn noisy the last 15 minutes of whatever breakout is held in the many meeting halls as people from other break-outs come back for coffee and to socialize.
Not have at spring conference. Have as separate time for more breakout, etc.
Please have assembly when workshop for conference is not going on- Make assembly in central location
Frequency, length, agenda, location are all appropriate given material that needs to be covered
I appreciate the efforts of the area to attract more representation at the assemblies but I personally do not like the idea
Get more GSR's involved get more "newcomers" involved
Limit discussion on topics- more importantly keep people on topic restrict redundant comments
Locations
Stop having at the spring conference!!! Stop fighting about money!!
Keep timing i.e. at the mic
Eliminate the majority of verbal reports. Most of these are people who like to hear themselves talk. Their reports consist of what they talk about doing, or think about doing, but not what they have actually done. These reports are just people who like to listen to their own voice.
fewer assemblies, all hosted at a conference, perhaps only a day conference
Remind everyone why/purpose of it
Food free
This is great having the assembly at the conference
This is my first area assembly and I believe it is being run well in terms of the length of the meeting and this agenda
Listen for the "chatter" and the "Bang that Gavel". I find it distracting to the point of being overwhelmed
I think the purpose of assemblies is to hear updates on committees work, acquire group conscience on items. It seems to meet this through the meetings and frequency, agenda and locations
I agree that it saves time but I don't think that it should be included in the conference
Limit microphone debate time to 2 minutes per person
Not have the assemblies at the same time as the conferences it takes away from going to the conference
It's all good for me.
Yes-moving it around allows more people more access
Workshops-Big Book Conference
More centralized locations to allow or attract more GSR's and other members to attend.
Keep it local within 50-75 mile range
More info on location of meeting and events within the hotel
Keep break rooms during Assemblies. I always learn the most in them.
SENY has monthly assemblies, thus their assemblies would not be all day affairs. 15 motions on 8 topics is just too much. 3 assemblies would make this worse, not better.
I feel that the frequency is needed. We need whatever time is needed to do our business. Ideally a location with an equal drive time in the center of the area would be best.
Show AA videos- invite more professionals with area service professions
3 times per year. Combination of assemblies/conferences this length of 9-12 is great
All of the above- Quarterly, well publicize the agenda, ask for pre-feedback. Frequent change of meeting location
No comment as this time
Perhaps more frequent, but shorter assemblies- are business alternates with breakouts
Ok as is
This is my second year at these some meetings seem more comfortable than others, but I'm acclimating to it

As someone 3 years sober I have been attending area functions for 2+ years. It's a shame (to me) that focus on apparent minutes seems to war many folks down
Not sure- they work pretty well now- great move consolidating conferences/assemblies
Shorter meetings
Keep them out of conference, we are not providing an interesting day for non service members. Boring to average member
Maybe try to add more meetings at the 5-6pm time . Not have an assembly at a conference
Keep it moving, explain more for the newcomer. ½ day is good. 4pm ending time disrupts plans for Saturday night if traveling far.
Combining with conferences
I think the assemblies should stay all day, better then at conference so that there is more time given to discussion, etc
Frequency seams ok the length is ok but I think people don't like the back and forth on issues are a sticking point but needed. Maybe hold some assemblies in a more central or bounce it around to the west side of state.
I'm new at this the frequency I think is necessary the length can vary. I like the all day, more time to learn, listen. Rushing can be confusing. Locations- have a happy medium can't keep all happy, have traveling opportunities to meet more AA's
This change that brought assembly to conference has worked out okay for me. I miss attending the state conferences now so I look for more workshops in the area. Gasoline is so expensive; I have not been effective in getting my home group members to share the day. People are on fixed incomes (including me).
More focus on issues that matter to groups and GSR's
locations be more versatile
I think things are ok as long as time limits are observed
seperating agenda
less frequent handle more detail at each one, e-mal with details of agenda prior to so everyone better understand topics to be discussed
stop the bickering over nickles & dimes and get the GSRs more involved in starting service committees in there own distists
the process is as fair as can be now
Only have two per year meeting lengths ok if we do the business only- don't invent things to talk about.
more concise, more voting section - table votes, instead separate votes.
Locations and agendas are fine. people could be more trusting in their trusted servants decisions.
I like four times, I like four separate. I like the break out sessions. I like all the stuff to take back to group would like more of the worksheets info like green a regional forums.
eliminate committee meetings - continue to provide "breakout" for all chairs!
I don;t think it can be improved upon
My involvement in Area 20 is in it's Freshman year. Any answer would be based on other areas so I will refrain
context
the length of assemblies should be shorted 9-noon
shorter - or at least a specified time 9-2 at latest
Circulate reports and ideas more by confidential elctronics means with ????recommendation and suggest so read ???? what the efficiancy of the report
need experience
Business has to be done ie. info passed, motions voted etc. I think your doing fine.
we should have a map at the door or registration as people walk in / sign in the map gets marked. then at some point the map gets displayed and briefly discussed. geographical representation immediatly displayed pointing out dark districts
3 area assemblies per year
Let assembly know what issues will be brought up to vote on at previous assembly. To give members enough time to discuss issues with group
more publications or announcements at meetings

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section B (Service Structure)

11: What can be done to improve Area Committee Meetings (i.e., frequency and length of meetings, agenda, and locations)?

Response Count

86

answered question 86

skipped question 38

Response Text
pass it on word of mouth tell people in the aa program - flyers
bullet point summary and "elevator speech" take-away to help communicating the developments to groups
four works fine
same as above
diversity, not so much sitting in one location, larger space(muchy too crowded).
N/A
Committee meeting are fine. I do appreciate the break outs and the DCM reports-to learn from other DCM's from other districts
I like location. Others may prefer moving it around the area.
Brief and timely is good. Sames as above-maybe consolidate meetings and let committees do work
I am used to chaos. I just can't spell it. I like to visit the far away districts.
rotate locations to get more memebership
good as is
none
Dp we really need to meet 4 times per year? Maybe, I don't know. Some service committees (maybe most) only meet at the area committee meetings in which case we should continue four times per year. I like current location.
never been
Have not been able to attend yet.
More flyers. Have DCMs push importance.
No improvement needed.
their fine
Many of the assembly business could be done on line to minimize length of meeting.
figure out a way to make it more fun and not so boring
etc.
There is always rom for improvement. Different ideas and was to carry out the meetings.
committee meeting could only be half days and include only business items
No opinion
Brief and timely is good
Same as above- maybe consolidate meetings and let committees do work
I like location. Others may prefer moving it around the area.
See above. The Area Committee could also provide opportunities for Service committees to meet and allow Assemblies to be just devoted to business.
Everything except having a break-out in the main meeting hall has usually worked fine. Current area chair does fine job trying to keep alcoholics on task and on schedule.
Never been to one
All topics were covered in timely manner
See #10
See above
Same as above
Nothing I have no beef
Nothing

Arrange the agenda so the business is at the beginning of the day. Eliminate hours of verbal reports where very little is actually said that is worthwhile. Encourage meetings for full committees to take place, rather than just DCMs and Area people.
Remind people why they are there. Keep reports short and to the point
Same as above
Kind of long but I appreciate learning more about each committee meeting
Never attended a committee meeting so cannot respond
Never been
Never been to one
I'm really not familiar with area committee meetings
Sponsor or adopt a district to host- need to get the word out to individual meetings
Allow additional 30 minutes for discussing and voting. Some committee information and votes take more time to convey the message and come to a group conscience.
No experience
Like how they are done.
Although I understand the importance of celebrating anniversaries and new attendees it is burdensome when there are so many agenda items.
Same as above
Nothing they're great- maybe shorten it a little from 9-1 or 2pm
I feel that a short time is needed. The main reason is I had to drive home afterwards
Participation, participation, participation. We AA's are actively. How do I encourage participation
My concern is those who commit to service positions and have been elected-take their role seriously and are reliable-from what I see here, your team is doing excellent
Never attended one
Don't know- haven't served on a committee
I've only been to two of these. They're ok but the scheduling is often conflicting even within the meeting, assembly, conference
Although I see the importance for most of it (I am an accountant) it does get dry/boring/frustrating/infuriating after a while
As above- they run pretty well now
Shorter meetings
See above keep them separate
Same
Ok
Perhaps have less committee meetings, but then when we have the meetings really focus time on items that help us carry the message.
No answer
Improvement not necessary. Done just the way it was meant to be. Experience brings better understanding and learning for all involved.
No experience
Continued emphasis on communication between the Area, Districts, GSR's and Groups.
I think things are ok as long as time limits are observed
same as #10
they're fine the way they are. what better way to share what is going on in the other districts
Stop verbal reports from the DCM so that they can build their egos.
Be prepared, the DMC to prepared and well organized.
breakouts. they are so helpful
cancel - DISCONTINUE!
The rotation seems to work. I think they are held often enough
they are ok
I have not attended one
shorter
no opinion
don't know

Haven't been to.

make sure that we announce that anyone can attend so anyone interested in a committee can check it out before accepting a position

never been

I have only been to one. It was interesting but long.

less arguing, more openmindedness

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section B (Service Structure)

12: How well does the Area inform and collect the group conscience about General Service business? About Area business?

Response Count

95

answered question 95

skipped question 29

Response Text
a. not as much as they should due to not that much time
b. same
our district was weak about informing the groups about this inventory and could improve...
our district could have done better about communicating the pre-gsc information to all the groups (would have been nice if GSRs attended....we are working on that culture)
it takes a few bigmouths, visiting many groups, with bullet point summaries
moderately well
a. as well as the groups are willing to receive the information
b. the area does well as long as we are willing to listen
does well
Our delegate is doing a great job with this.
A. There is nothing I can see that is uniform about the collection of data. DCM's seem to be in the dark about this. Our district conducted Pre-GSC workshop of 2010 and 2011 to handle agenda item. All members of the fellowship will welcome to attend.
B. Apathy seems to be a problem at the individual and sometimes group level. This is a hard obstacle. Groups that have a service structure(stake holders) seem to be most involved. You can lead a horse to water-but you cant make him do much.
Do a good job within the constraints imposed by the GSO. Would be nice to have more time between release of background material and the conference
A. Is there a central reporting on web and access info- if so, not well publicized.
B. We would love to sign up for email alerts that there is new info on the website or news on area business or open service positions, elections, etc
We have a delegate that insists on attending our district mtg. with all the latest news.
b. I think that we have and have had a great bunch of dedicated and trusted servants in this area. They are knowledgeable and enthusiastic.
Not well but I don't know where to place the blame which is why I'm here today.
a. personally i do not hear a lot about what happens in NYC
b. i am very informaed about area business by both DCM and area reps
could make district meetings more aware of what business is being conducted.
don't know
don't know
a. good
b. good
About as well as can be expected from a fellowship like ours.
b. The DCMs are the vital lik for this venture, and GSRs too. I think the area does a fine job of this again, so much depends on interest and involvement at the district group level.
a. Our area delegat makes himself very available to our district. He attends meeting and speaks to our area.
b. Area business is passed along very well to the group and GSR.
a. don't know
b. don't know
a. Works great. GSRs must express the importance of looking at agend items and speaking up. Our vote is priceless.
b. Not great.

<p>a. Need GSRs to bring back information for group conscience and then take it back for vote or to voice opinions.</p> <p>b. Fine, district gets the word out.</p>
<p>very well</p>
<p>a. Area does well, GSRs seem lax in bringing the info to district.</p> <p>b. Well to those who want to be included.</p>
<p>a. Abbreviate background materials. Simplify issues.</p> <p>b. Same as above.</p>
<p>very well</p>
<p>very well</p>
<p>a. Very Well.</p> <p>b. The area business is represented well.</p>
<p>A. delegate does a good job of explaining</p>
<p>A. We need a level of info between GSC agenda and GSC background. A few sentences explaining each agenda item. We need some kind of method posting background on the internet, in a way that does not break anyone's anonymity.</p> <p>B. Newsletter is good. (but I confess that I rarely read it) I am a district Grapevine chair. I have little idea what area business, if any Grapevine has.</p>
<p>A. Is there a central reporting on web and access info- if so not well publicized</p> <p>B. We would love to sign up for email alerts that there is new info on the website or news on area business or open service positions, elections, etc</p>
<p>Do a good job within the constraints imposed within the GSO would be nice to have more time between release of background material and the conference.</p>
<p>I believe our structure is so complicated that understanding the system overwhelms the new GSR and thus makes them reluctant to participate,</p>
<p>A. I think as well as possible</p> <p>B. As well as possible</p>
<p>A. Yes provides info on agenda items for GSRs to communicate and take back to delegate to take to New York</p> <p>B. ?</p>
<p>Still new to this</p>
<p>A. Very well</p> <p>B. Very well</p>
<p>It does very well</p>
<p>A. It could be more effective with more involvement. Too many of the same AA;s stayed involved. We need new blood</p> <p>B. See above</p>
<p>This up to DCM's and GSR's</p>
<p>A. Very well. We hold workshops and we will talk for hours until we have a collective group conscience after we all are informed</p> <p>B. Same as above</p>
<p>A. Quite well</p> <p>B. Same</p>
<p>a. N/A does a very poor job of this. The effort seems to extend simply to sending out the agenda and background material from New York via e-mail, and then a meeting at the end to tell the Delegate what the people who attend think. It would be more beneficial to distribute the agenda and background information in an Area meeting format where DCMs could at least ask some questions about the items. This would allow them to better prepare the GSRs in their Districts.</p> <p>b. District meetings seem to be more about the business of the District than about discussion of Area topics which will be voted on at the next Assembly.</p>
<p>A. The process in place should work. However it depends upon the DCM getting the information to the GSR</p> <p>B. Same as above except sometimes area trusted servants will attend a district meeting to pass the information on</p>
<p>A. John Ryan has done awesome for corrections in our districts</p> <p>B. He's the only one that I know</p>

This year will be my first one
A. Seems to be doing a good job with group conscience B. Seems to do well again
Very Well
Very good
A. 10 minutes from the delegate? doesn't seem informative enough maybe use internet to send quarterly update on issues. etc. B. All seems to be covered at assembly meeting
A. As well as it can given the participation by the GSR's and district chairs B. Quite well for those who pay attention
A. Depends on district participation B. Same- need people with sobriety to give back to area by using their other attributes to help the area and district
A. Very well, based on my limited experience. B. Same as above
Pretty thorough
Very well- great reports
Very good.
A. I believe the delegate and chairs do a good job of being available. But many don't take advantage of this. GSR's also don't understand their importance or responsibility. B. Same as above
A. Very well, groups and individuals apathy seem to be the problem B. Same as above
A. Well but people still are lazy and wont show up B. Great just need to keep it up
A. Probably depends on how well DCMs get the information to districts B. Same as above. I feel GSR need to be changed to get information up to group level
Not as well as far as I know. New service person!
No comment
A. Are does well however no such thing as too much communication B. Does ok
A. Enough B. Fliers are handy
A. Fine B. Good
Some meetings do this well. Some not at all.
A. They do so in an outstanding manner! B. Same
Ok/ok speak with DCM's, delegate, etc.
B. About as well as they can under time allotted GSR's and DCM's will need to educate themselves by talking to other members and getting educated so they can carry the message
Area collects if districts don't provide it.
A. Up to participation of districts and groups B. Same- up to participation of districts and groups
A. No answer B. No answer
A. Area does the best they can do, no wrong can come out of any of this, we learn as we go and grow as we learn B. Same "There's no wrong way as far as I'm concerned, we do the best we can and just for today."
A. The agenda items for the delegate seem pertinent so it must be effective. B. I don't know

General Service business - Fairly good but there is always room for improvement
Area business -Same answer
needs to simplify the info. most long motions and presentations fall on deaf ears noth at district & group levels
a. good -> through e-mail
b. good -> through e-mail
a. fair - seems to depend on each individual's willingness to extend themselves
not seem to "push" for responses from districts
same as 12 a.
a. well enough
b. well enough
a. this is up to the DCMs to get the message to the GSRs then to the groups
b. we communicate well with the districts
Very good
Very good
A. Digital notes. in the anonymous hat or box, get rid of personalities.
B. MORE COMMITTEES, MORE INFORMED VOTES.
I feel the area does a fine job in this area
-so much better 2010! I lve separate GSC Meeting! Very helpful
-Everything hard copy and email DCM's (not all)
Distribute info to GSR's
a. need to simplify for easy to "pass along"
b. ditto!
a. good
b. good
a. well
b. good
I don't know
good - pre general service conf workshop was very informative
a. I beleive this is where the "cultural" divide is. This part of the process is very "clickish" to the newcomer & perhaps is off-putting to them
b. ditto
dont know
A. As well as can be expected. Up to gsrs to attend to bring info back to groups & back to area
B. Fine.
a. more info on web to GSRs
b. same
new to this, not sure
a) I don't know. Our delegate writes long reports. Do people read these?
b) same as above
a. We need to inform AA group members of voting issues going on at assembly the assembly before to give AA group members more time to discuss issues with groups.
not sure
Not sure I can offer much of an opinion on this: It's really up to each District to make sure you provide this information in a timely and accurate manner.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section B (Service Structure)

13: How well do we educate about the value and purpose of a GSR?

Response Count

95

answered question 95

skipped question 29

Response Text
as well as the people are willing to do
could definitely improve: try a mailer with a summary of expectations (and potential consequences) of GSRs before the group elections...ask each group to announce before each meeting
poorly
if we continue to carry out the regular scheduled service orientation workshops we will do well but the groups need to participate in that education by having a GSR and making sure he or she is prepared to serve
not very well; majority of meetings lack GSR in one area and in many.
Not very good. Seems to be controlled.
I have not seen this from the area. A workshop might be helpful with this.
Can do better. Perception is that AA is top down and not bottom up. Attraction not promotion. An attempt is made to in our district to let GSR's know district meetings are theirs not mine or NIA/GSO's
Pretty well but we are preaching to the choir. We need to get to the groups that are currently not participating.
GSR workshops good
I think that is a district duty and a group responsibility. Service sponsorship.
Again maybe mass email. I was totally unaware of this my first two years of sobriety.
within our district we have workshops and new GSR packets, as well as a GSR committee which goes to many district meetings and recruits GSRs for district representation
could be promoted more
In area service manual it says it takes courage to be a GSR. I don't think this is stressed enough. The duties of a GSR are not published well enough.
Don't think most people realize how important the GSR is.
As mentioned before, Get out to group events and beat the drum. We do well, we could do better by making an LCM committee within the area level of service structure.
Not very well. Many people enter this position with little or no information as to how to do this job. The new GSR break out session is not always offered at assemblies and conferences.
not very well
Still by the majority, don't seem to know much about it and I think because of this it makes it more intimidating.
AA.
I only receive of a GSR handbook not very informed to actions and duties. Need for GSR meetings at district level once a month.
very well
I didn't become aware of the significance of a GSR until I became one.
very well
Ok, but need more information to hand out at groups so they know they are supposed to tell GSR what it wants and not vice versa.
ok - i attended the GSR breakout once
Not that well. GSRs should have a 1st step meeting about responsibilities of being a GSR and what is expected of them.
very little. the 1st of the year was great then it ended. should be on-going. This should be handled by the groups first and foremost

Not well. This should probably be a focus for DCM's, though our DCM generally seems to assume GSR's know what they're doing (which is not always true). Area could be a back stop there, although ignorant GSR probably won't hear about area events.
GSR workshops good
Pretty well but we are preaching to the choir. We need to get to the groups that are currently not participating
Poorly. I know that many do not understand that they have the right of decision and than not everything they vote on has to be discussed with their group.
Getting better all the time
Providing booklet helpful and infor that when I was GSR 1st time in 1990's we didn't have
Is important aspect of the home group
Could do better, especially at a bcal level, many meetings don't recognize/appreciate value or purpose of GSR
I think districts could do a better job but I like the way area assemblies go about it
Poorly- the current service workshop drives people away
We do very well. Whenever we talk about service at a meeting or by word of mouth from another GSR. People love to be apart of
According to our Area Guidelines, there are suppose to be up to 6 service orinetations per year. But there has been none offerred in over a year. This does not give the Districts anywhere to encourage their GSRs to attend and learn more about what a GSRs is suppose to do.
this is always something we can improve - i think we need ot have DCM workshops about how they can encourage and educate GSRs in their districts
If you attend the assembly of have one of your area trusted servant attend your district meeting
Pretty good, I only know basics and have been GSR for 3 years
I think the DCM's do a thorough job
It's lost when it gets to the group
Area holds a GSR workshop that appears helpful
improvement is needed in this area- I am a new GSR and at my district meeting I was welcomed with open arms but no direction-separate meeting after would have helped to introduce to our new position-did get that first assembly meeting but if I didn't attend assembly meeting would have been lost.
It can be a hard sell. Maybe some workshops for district GSR contact chairs?
Not well enough. Communication is always a need.
Need to provide more "training" to new GSR's not just with literature, but actual experiences and direction from more experienced members.
I am new and lost as a GSR
Not well enough, newer members need to be informed more. Conferences-Specific position subjects
Very good.
This could always be improved. But it should be called GSR workshop and not "service orientation"
I don't believe it can be ever be over-emphasized
Great we do
Good work, I feel a break-down at GSR to group is a problem at 91 why GSR don't come to these. I feel I am leaning to mention this, but have problems getting GSR there
I did not attend total conference, so I don't know if this was addressed. I will be watching for conferences that address this subject- that are accessible
Not nearly well enough- some fault lies with current GSR
Personally think this needs to start at the district level and we are attempting to have educational sessions when GSR's are new to educated them about their responsibilities
Good, but definitely could be better
That's a good question- we encourage newer folks to get involved and be GSR's but no one that I know of has read the yellow manual cover to cover
Not well.
Wonderfully- clearly the center piece of the concern for NIA

Not well but groups typically don't care about GSR activities. How do we get the group interest in GSR's?
Very well
I think the area strives very hard to do whatever it can to show the appreciated value of the GSR and how important is this district service position
We need more workshops and more people reaching out to meetings without GSR's
I've been blessed the information cam with hands on experience learned from all of areas, conferences, assemblies, meetings etc. Service is the #1 importance for me.
Probably could use some stimulation since I'm a GSR and I don't have methods for drumming up interest (to replace me as a GSR when term expires). I don't even have an alternate GSR but they do stay for the business meeting monthly-God bless them!
Fairly well, but again there is always room for improvement.
gsrs are elected or stand for groups the area's responsibility could have a workshop at beg of year
could be improved. maybe have a gsr conference
not well enough -> need workshops about GSR
swell
we need to have the DCMs inform them that its their responsibilities to go to assemblies and conferences
quite well
Not very well
Spend a lot more time, on workbook, surveys.
We should put more emphasis on the importance of the GSR to the group
Pretty good but GSO has "free" stuff that can be given out at every meeting!
need to create a simple form like Ray's - 1 page what a concept!
great job!
we are consistently educating on the value of GSR
I think the education & value are done well. But I don't see or hear many GSRs in meetings talk about what is going on at District levels
dist 10 does a good job
not well at all
Very well.
not good enough. we could have a GSR school quarterly in dif. locations in the area
going well
Service booklets are great.
if my GSR from my home group didn't tell me or announce at meetings I would have no idea what a GSR is or what the purpose of having one is.
What have you offered? My knowledge about this function comes from AA pamphlets, service manuals and fellow AA's.
As an assistant GSR I still do not know my purpose.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section B (Service Structure)

14: How well are we educating people about the Service Structure?

Response Count

86

answered question 86

skipped question 38

Response Text
flyers are available at the assembly and conferences
group to spend 30 seconds during business announcements at each meeting to define some of "the language" definitions from Area 20 service manual
moderately
we have not continued with the service orientation workshops as introduced by the groups through PPB5. not well at all. if the groups tell us to do something we need to do it
no, very well, Group functions as exclusive to some extent, need people to get out to individual meetings.
My service sponsor helped out.
Our district in particular does a good job with this question.
I do highlight the importance. My LCM's also educate the groups of the importance more can always be done.
Same as above.
service areas- points on contact for people who don't know what they're doing routing email questions or actual phone numbers.
The info is available, the people need to make time, use it.
means to become involved. Service on a larger scale need to be discussed at the grass roots level.
literature to meetings help tremendously in informing
not very well communicated.
Not very well. GSRs need to be better educated. Maybe a workshop would help.
Good as can be done.
We can improve. LCM type positives and the area level would help. The area does as well as it can give the structure as it is now.
At the last pre general service conference there was a great explanation of how the service structure works. A man told the popcorn story about how AA works. It was great.
not well
Needs work on group/club level.
Not very well. Only people that have been in the program for years, seem to be the active participants.
very well

Not well.
very well
"upside down" pyramid structure. This structure is not usual in "normal" life and not understood.
ok
People should be told all the positive aspects of Service Structure and how it effects the whole of AA.
only okthe inverted triangle should always be on display
Unsure, I think it took me about 2 years of participation, in are assemblies before I understood it. that seems like a long time.
service areas- points of contact for people who don't know what they're doing reouting email questions or actual phone numbers
Same as above
It would take an all day workshop to explain our current service manual. and who would want to come.
The information is there. The audience is not always listening
As a GSR, I find several members of my meeting are not interest in AA's service structure, just in staying sober
If our sponsors are into service, then we are well informed
No service orientations, no education. Area 20 basically leaves people to figure things out for themselves.
need more to be done in the districts - we ar emissing the groups, most in my immediate area do not know about it at all
Very poor
Can we have a workshop?
Still working on learning the service structure
I believe it could be better. I see "members" not saying anything about it at meetings "Beat the Drum"
I'm not sure how we educated people to begin with?
If i was not GSR I would know nothing of service structure-more workshops at conferences necessary and seperate workshops on their own separate from conferences
The area can encourage districts to hold "service fairs", as well as more efforts to do GSR contact/service structure education.
Depends on individual interest. Need more service sponsors.
Still very new to it myself can't give away what I don't have.
A simple outline of my responsibility
See above

Okay. We need more time spent on service structure.
Knowing the service structure takes experience. So just telling someone doesn't necessarily educate. A person needs a position to learn and be motivated to learn
Again groups and individuals apathy. We can be "preaching to the choir" at times
Could do better but need the people that want to know
Problem 1. getting people in 2. getting info out from those that do attend
Same as #13- my group provided me with service manual upon my election and former GSR's have advised me as needed
Again- not nearly enough
Again, think this needs to start at district level. I think we are only as good as our DCM. Perhaps could use education when new to area.
We talk, but who listens?
I feel we could do a better job
Not well.
Really well- we talk about it all the time-
Needs improvement-send info when elected to a committee position.
Not well. Maybe have 2 levels of info #1 Summary #2 Detailed
Very well but need districts to do the same
We need more literature available and more workshop classes to the sw/w/nw of area plenty of meetings not being involved.
Again I feel there's no wrong way to do this, hands on is giving us all the education.
. I try at my home group to explain some of service structure but I'm new at it to.
the Service Structure on them when they don't want to hear about it. We must remember that the groups are at the top of our Service Structure.
well
could be improved. maybe have a gsr conference
not lacking very much and more service work needs to be pushed
well
good
quite well
We could do better at a group level if we worked to educate GSR they don't need the GSR manual.

Not very well.

People don't understand how effective service can be keeping us all sober.

We need beginner workshops! Not necessary the ??? ADD hoc for workshops

Too much... this does not apply to me:

any question I've asked have been answered & the people have always been helpful

not to bad - can still use improvement

it was very overwhelming at first, but I "kept coming back" to learn more and now it makes more sense

so-so

not well at all

Ned more.

same as above

I haven't seen anything talking about this structure

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

16: Are Area Officers and Standing Committee chairs elected or chosen with care and consideration on the basis that serving is a great responsibility?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.4%	74
No	19.6%	18
Please provide comments about your answer:		78

answered question 92

skipped question 32

Please provide comments about your answer:
they are the ones that literally carry the message
we generally get those who want to run. sometimes we get only one run for an office / chair so we get what we get
we were kind of dark few years ago, now we are grateful to be brighter (do not seem to have numerous candidates to pick-n-choose from)
AAs who stand for any particular service position are preared and interested to serve!
we will pretty much take anyone willing to serve. we need to trust ourselves to fall onour face
Yes in most cases although permalities paly a role, many officers do well.
Lot of politics in our area
Whoever volunteers
There is a willingness to serve. Only a few have been selected because no one else wanted the job.
There are tomany who perceive these positions as being self important rather than to serve
We too often just fill spots with bodies once they get hooked on service they go like the everready bunnies.
in most cases, yes but every now and again ego steps into play
Peopl seem to have a desire to serve and be involved.
All chairs I know are fully dedicated to service work.
Our trusted servants are responsible and take care to nominate people who are serious about service
Area elections are done with care. Unknowlegable, my vote tends to go with majority.
Yes, the amount of time sober and what kind of service they have been involved in.
Elections
Love Cheryl's passion and commitment in her speech. Can the other Area chairs express the love we know they have.
People volunteer per needs in district, they have a will to work the 12th step.
At area level, participants are committed.
i assume so
Willingnes but also "popularity" contest comes into play.
More info is needed for position. More volunteers and people that are willing to serve with passion.
just filling a slot
Not sure. As far as I can tell, the process is often one of scrambling to find someone who will fill a hole. Officers are doing a good job and seemt o be well qualified. Committee chairs not so much.
There are too many who perceive these positives as being real important rather than to serve

But almost never is there time for private discussions about candidates among the assembly, or public(at the mic) comparative endorsement or criticism. Too often no choice at all

All I need to know is available if I want the info

Observation

When there is only one person standing for a position, there is nothing to consider. It would be different if there were actual committees that were suggesting that someone who has served within them to stand as chair. But it seems that we basically just rotate many of the same people around the various roles.

yes, in some cases though overall, I'd say no.

There is no real waiting process

Not sure what care and consideration may be described as we utilize protocol to elect/choose offices and chairs that appear to indicate care and consideration

They give a complete service of their qualifications

There still politics involvement

I know the people that are on committee chairs and they are responsible to serve

People are nominated-they don't say no because we don't say no in AA- there for their hearts aren't into what they're nominated for.

Many serve on other committees throughout service terms before stepping up.

Rotation

From what I've seen in the last 6 years we've done very well in this area

More info and more time to consider and bring back to district and groups

We often have one or more people standing for position, although it does happen that we don't

Provided that there are a number of candidates willing to serve

I don't like the hat pull out a name for delegate. I like after 3rd vote who ever has most votes

Established person who have a track record. It is easy to see who wants to be of service and those that don't

Do not know- wish this is so. Pray this is so

More often elections are organized popularity contests

Don't know- but from my experience whoever will stand for chairs is selected due to not having enough others interested

There is still too much politics, in the sense of popularity content; but hopefully in this case popularity in terms of service/assignment has at least something to do with character

Choosing on the basis of referrals from present committee members. Present DCM is very pro active to all committee progress. Responsibility is demonstrated.

The process seems to be quite thorough. I feel comfortable in the process that NIA 20

Clearly NIA 20(& District 10) has been blessed and committed trusted servants!

The process is solid

Yes/no- We sometimes just need to fill the position with a body and hope for the best

In the past it seems that the info on individuals is shared at election

Typically there is only one choice

God's in charge no matter what

If people would share more of their experiences in service it might help.

Amen

I've been at assemblies in the past and admire the great care to allow discussions and voting even if it means a lot of discussion in speaking to minority

Not always. Many times people are elected to fill positions rather than being chosen or elected with care, consideration and an understanding that serving is a great responsibility.
mostly willingness & availability
sometimes - sometimes appears to accept a "body" just to fill a position
they are asked to give there past service history and that is considered as well as how many friends from these districts pick them
I believe this is being done to the best of their ability.
Yes they want it but may not qualify
But I will say more "training" for people stepping in time with precious chairs would be helpful
not always - too often it takes 1 year to learn what to do & popular vote?
too new to Ares to opine. Give me a rotation or two
yes & no - sometimes they are elected because no one else stands. Yes because they do state their qualifications 1st
they take their responsibility seriously
as well as can be expected. announcements are made at dist mtgs to attend asy's to elect positions, qualifications are disclosed
Training & "culturalization" could be used more
we are well informed of their passed service experience and how well they can be accountable
you have to become part of a serving group to really know those people & that is a significant commitment.
I would hope that anyone interested in one of these positions would know it is a GREAT responsibility - as we are all drunks that lazy ONES would not be willing!
many times i have noticed that competition is thin thus any nominee is voted in. this can present a qualification issue; however, it seems that people make it to a position get the help they need to do the job
Sometimes people are chosen because no one else is interested in the position though, support at this level is "dreary." General consensus seems to be that someone gets "roped" into service and doesn't get out.
Don't know for the Area. At the District level it is most often filled by the person who raises his hand; qualifications and service commitment are often not a qualifier.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

17: Are GSRs fully informed on the members standing for Area office?

the members

Answer Options

Response Percent

Response Count

Yes	45.7%	42
No	54.3%	50
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		71

answered question 92

skipped question 32

Please provide additional comments about your answer:

they should be if there not they need 2 ask so they can be truly equipped with all the material possible
a quick telling of a member's service work may or may not tell me if the person is qualified
our GSRs do not attend assemblies-we are working on changing that culture
Member should provide service resumes rather than a brief verbal autobiography
some are. the strong groups have liaisons to district committees who are members of area committees
GSRs often do not attend area functions even district meeting. There is a serious gap here.
If they attend assemblies
Qualification-not many GSR's show up for assemblies(voting). If GSR's aren't present they cannot be informed or vote.
They usually don't understand the office and vote with the table they are sitting at.
in my district we have frequent area business discussion
Don't hear much about that at district meetings.
No, as far as I know, people stand and qualify themselves at the meeting. There is no advance info.
Yes if they attend the assemblies; no if they don't
I'm sure that the information is available but again I have no idea many times who these people are.
Some of us need a GSR sponsor to help with these questions and how to answer them.
To best of their abilities
I don't know what GSRs know. I'm in my second year of service and still know little about people's service history.
They need at a district level to be informed of area needs or discussions. They have to participate at district level once a month information meeting.
the majority of them are clueless and scared they wont attend workshops (orientations) the district needs to 2 or 3 times a year after opening reports to tailor their meeting to educating the GSR bring in someone else to lead this meeting like a former DCM
i have not received any info on such
No info provided in writing. No presentation made prior to election day.
People that are nominated do not share a lot of there personal info to the district.
not enough involvement of group
Well, GSR' s who attend assemblies know who is standing. But that's less than 10% of the groups
At the assembly people stand or are nominated and voted on 10 minutes later? What chance for getting information?
For inc to know- I have to attend this conference or district meetings- but I'm now on your mailing list
Only is all offer info (friends-sponsors and area people)

All they get is a list of what the person has done before, and that is within minutes of when they are suppose to vote
we dont know until election assembly - why couldnt we have a slate that is filled in advance of assembly and elect at the assembly
Had to find mine
GSR's appear to be provided with lists of the notes for area
I think this is part GSR fault as to lack of consistent involvement
Depends on their awareness
We don't spend enough time explaining duties & responsibilities of each committee members.
I've always felt that I'm pretty well informed.
As much as they can be in the few minutes given.
The lack of attendance at assemblies makes the members standing sometimes a face-less name
We elect standing committee members with no experience so they are not as effective.
Thank goodness for the internet. Wonderful tool. Still today some don't have emails that should be considered as a requirement for service
Too new to this service to know
No such thing as too much information
Not sure they would even understand requirements for service
A new GSR probably relies on his "rabbi's" opinion of who's who and what's happening
Have not seen it at meetings.
To the degree that the GSR's that show up to area, meetings we all know attendance could and should be better
Area and district processes insure all those standing for office qualify themselves
Depends on how involved they are and who they talk to. Need to keep in touch
Because not all of the GSR's come and participate in the voting process- perhaps there could (should) be group conscience
More info needs to get to groups. GSR's reach out to other groups
You get out of it what you put in, if I listen and want to learn I'll get the info I need and the answers on how to use it is always available only have to ask.
words that the nominee offers at the time of nomination at assembly. Maybe there's more available but I'm not aware of it. It seems to work well as is now though.
don't know
never stood for area office
is a district issue to spread the work may require area assistance (ideas of physical help)
because so few come to assemblies on a regular bases or some just came to the elections meeting
yes & well
most only give a brief service history. I think most people do not who they are voting for.
We could do a better job at the district level.
NOT ENOUGH INFO
I like the "resume" given at elections
the intro given by each candidate is good - but a written outline w/requirements given to each candidate would help
Too bad there seems to be a lack of interest
I feel not all DCMs even attend committee meetings
there is an area of "glass ceiling" & disculness we should address
you learn as you go

Because the GSR's that have sponsors in service are well informed. However there are more GSR's that don't have sponsors in service work. or they know because they follow their boyfriend or girlfriend to committee meetings and assemblies
Those who want to know can find info
this is covered at our district meetings
cant remember my GSR informing our group. however, this doesnt mean that it did not happen. although from the many meetings i attend the area is discussed very little
We nominate & vote at same Assembly giving no time to inform GSRs that are not at that Assembly
I don't know
Not unless they know how to access the Area home page or are willing to attend Area functions.
i don't think so, but that's up to the DCM

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

18: How well do we participate in the spirit of rotation?

Response Count

89

answered question 89

skipped question 35

Response Text
good i hope share and share alike
seems that some people rotate to various positions within the committee
we'll see in september...
moderately
as well as can be expected but then again we have to trust ourselves to fail
ok
Seems to do well. Some do better in various positions.
Not all the time
Very well. We rotate into other responsibilities but that is for experience of the district/area
Very well
As an area we do.
excellent
good I hope
Probably pretty well.
Good as far as I know.
Very well.
Very well.
don't know
We follow the rotation. I need to let myhome group know it is a 2 year commitment.
Well
Is this very important when we need more participation.
Not well, people have a tendency to not want to commit so needs often get pushed onto people.
very well
The area tries due to lack of interest many positions remain vacant or the current holder continues
Ok, but sometimes overlooked when no one else stands for the position.
i was suprised when my group asked me to be a GSR for a second year i then found out that 2 years is normal
needs work
too many are afraid to let a spot remian open. they stay becasue they cant let go of control
Well it seems to be rotation in the sense that area committee chairs switch places with each other a lot. It would be good to see more new faces.
Very well
Better than many people think. Rotation has helped prepare people to serve.
No comment
The spirit of rotation is only as good as the amount of members willing to be involved
I'm not sure but I would assume that is allowing a procedure of time is abed-ed by

Well
There seem to be some people who just move around to the various committees. It wouldn't be so bad if they actually did something. But mostly they just seem to want to stand up and report about what they are thinking of doing, without actually doing anything
pretty well - I'd like to see people move down through the ranks or simply participate on committees instead of moving from committee chair to committee chair position - also, how can we get more district committee chairs come up to the area?
I believe you try but are limited by the number of new people willing to serve
Rotation is good but we need more fresh blood
Well I do well but others do NOT! The newbies are very intimidated even though we encourage them
Not sure
Very well
Yes- there are many positions to be part of.
Good.
As well as we can I suppose.
Adequately
With the exception of Concepts, rotation is well followed and applied. Phil Goodwin has been in the position of Concepts editor too long and it shows in the publication
As well as can be expected.
Great to great in some positions we should allow 4 year term after connections are made with professionals.
Good work there does seem to be newer people coming up
Don't those of service stay in service? Rotate from one position to another. Stay in.
This seems to be done well, as long as someone is willing to step up to fill position
Great from what I've seen
Pretty good but there is some natural constraints-such as timing and number of positions available
Not well. Old timers do not consider their rotation at many meetings. Let go and let it happen is a problem. We are not indispensable although some think so.
From my limited experience 2+ years- it seems to be done quite well and fairly!
Neatly well- we all get up and rotate one chair to the left!
Very well
Ok. There are some committees that are hard to fill and sometimes seat goes empty or is filled half-heartedly
Not enough participants
18. From what I have seen, very well
Great
I see rotation doing well, participation could be better with sharing of info from past area chairs on line or paper
Have to ask on this one. First I've heard of the rotation thing.
It appears that rotation is respected in this area. This is my first encounter with service at district level as GSR. Rotation is important as it helps/encourages those who may be shy to get involved.
Well. Most Area 20 positions are rotated every two years.
don't know
depends on personalities
that depends - it's hard to find people to participate

very well
as best as we can. same people only because others are not stepping up to the plate
Very well
Get more people involved, make it more fun instead of a job.
I feel the same people often serve in the consecutive positions, thereby maybe preventing new area chairs from possible serving.
very well
seems to work well
The spirit of rotation working great. Its good to have new people take a position....
well
too new to tell
good
excellent - let me do my time & get out of here
need to get the message out that all should serve
We are informed from the beginning of the length of the position.
Very well
from my experience the spirit of rotation is followed thoroughly so everyone gets their chance at service work
fine, thank you for your service
As well as can be expected with limited people wanting to serve
Not well, see above comment for #16
Very well...

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

19: Are incoming trusted servants fully informed of their responsibilities and provided with the information necessary to serve effectively?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	63.9%	53
No	36.1%	30
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		73

*answered question 83
skipped question 41*

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
if they attend all committees and conferences
the handbook tells me what the position does but the past chair doesn't seem to help the incoming chair
given a brief window (the past 9 months), every servant I have interacted with seemed well informed and willing to participate
lack of continuity from past chairs to chairs-elect
all of the info anyone needs is readily available
packets and workbooks are distributed.
I don't know
They learn as they go
GSR's-not fully informed but in our district this is improving. From my experience-My DCM nearly worked with me as an alternate DCM to ramp up quickly. Recommend service sponsorship.
Sometimes! GSR's and DCM's are often very intimidated and ignorant. Info is available but not actually discovered or used.
We have the info and most times people choose a committee that they have knowledge or interest in.
some places I have seen people thrust into service positions with no prior knowledge or info - but in most cases people get the info needed going by what they tell me
Probably yes if they read the material on the job. This assumes the material exists.
GSO-provided guidelines and the NIA service handbook are specific
No idea. What to do, how to do it and it is very intimidating with those whom are newer.
Previous members educate incoming people.
I feel this once again at district level people should help the service or GSA with help. What is our purpose?
There is a lot of info scattered about. There is a handbook but it's the old timers and DCMs that need to show them how this works.
I volunteered for alternate PI to fill a void. I depend on my sponsor to guide me. He's the PI
Most positions are filled at the last minute.
I was
Need more direct advice.
very little sharing of info from one position to another
No opinion- I know nothing about this
Sometimes. GSR's and DCM's are often very intimidated and ignorant. Info is available but not actually delivered or used.
I think I have seen a great deal of communication and mentoring.
Via service manual and experience

Yes and guidelines by committees
Packages are available if people want to be informed they can be informed
All they have is the service guidelines. There really isn't any structure
involved at the Area which supports ongoing work. And while there are plenty of people who only rotate around the committee, they don't seem to start any actual service work that can be handed off to the next chairperson to get them started, much less talk to them about what they learned that was good or bad
at this level, I've seen better 'turnover' of info to incoming chairs / officers
I don't know
Don't know
Informational pamphlets are given workshops are available.
I got my Big Book
Sometimes brought in by sponsors
A lot of times, people are nominated & have no clue what they are supposed to do.
The purpose, scope, and guidelines are well defined
Sometimes. Depends on past chairs and the motivations of incoming chairs. I felt well informed because I was able to attend area events because of area financial support.
We have defined area guidelines. It doesn't seem that people get to area service by accident
Not always some get thrown into it and don't have experience
Yes, considering one must come and be given time to learn the process
As a relatively new trusted servant - "just don't" was the suggestion taken. As with sobriety and my life. Work in progress
Incoming trusted servants not always aware of what they're getting into.
Info is available
DCM provides good direction about what the requirements are for participation
Everybody wants to tell the newcomer how simple it all is
Up to date committee handbook. Team support.
I truly do not know I can only assume so
Through GSO programs, area info and district mentorship new chair, etc are well informed.
Yes/No- Depends on individual who passes information to new service member. Needs to continue to utilize former member.
Usually there are prepared because it's something they want to do
No one really knows what to do in the beginning and it seems to take along time to fully grasp what is expected
This is where past experience on paper or some other way would come in handy so we could hand to a person new in service
No experience at area level. At district level, outgoing committee members are very, very helpful and encouraging.
don't know
certainly not to begin with - maybe pass out packets to interested people before they volunteer - this is probably a district/group education issue
I believe that most that run for positions have done their homework and know what they are getting into
We could do better at the area level
The digital age (internet) helps but it takes commitment.
Previous trusted servants should be obligated to provide as much help as possible to their successors.

I have had tremendous trouble with my committee! Was not sure what I am doing
my experience was not good - I am part to blame - however was not aware enough of job details, finances, requirements of must attend
I found many incoming trusted servants start with nothing - OK they are informed but don't get the necessary help or just don't ask
Provided with, yes, not necessarily informed
The GSO was very good about getting info to me
don't mean that they will. that's why concepts teaches us to trust our trusted servants
I have seen significant cooperation between passing dignitaries.
meeting after district meeting would be helpful to introduce incoming trusted servants to their responsibilities - waiting for a handbook from GSO takes months and you are lost without guidance from others who were/are trusted servants
not sure but I hope so
Don't know
Not sure
Do not know at the Area level. Not well in this District.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

20: Are we making the best possible use of past experience (past delegates and trusted servants)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	69.4%	59
No	30.6%	26
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		70

answered question 85

skipped question 39

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
tapes and recordings are available for this. if not someone can be sure to fill them in
having past delegates on an adhoc committee helps. we tend not to make use of past committee chairs once they rotate out
pay their travel to visit more districts, larger speaker meetings, etc to allow them to share what immense (spiritual) pay they received through service
Encourage more than past Delegates to participate
we embrace our post delegates when they are willing to participate
all are embraced.
Could use more assigning of duties.
In the area-Yes
District- committee level-think not
The best use would be the servant learning a position staying around to educate the new person. Seldom happens.
We have no choice but to listen to the past delegate. LOL
We can't make them go away even if we treat them badly.
would like to see these people at more district level functions to share what they have learned in the area and at NYC
they seem to stay involved
I guess that depends on the trusted servant. Some continue to serve, others disappear.
Past delegates are encouraged to attend and participate and area functions by the budget
I don't know.
We are getting there. Area officers came to district meetings to explain/keep simple responsibilities and experiences.
NIA 20 from my experience has always provided their experience which has always helped me
May want to consider a mentor type or program.
Ther prior servant should explain the responsibility of said position.
many times seem unapproachable - we should ask them to speak more
No opinion
We have no choice but to listen to the past delegates. LOL
Rarely. The best use would be the servant leaving a position staying around to educate the new person. Seldom happens.
Many are seen, most are accessible

I presume your draw on it from your veterans and that their experience is sought
Included in all functions of area to share personal experiences and service related structure, issues, etc
If there is a close call on a notion you could use past delegates to speak for 1 pro and 1 con
I think we could do better. There is no access to past reports, or activities that were successful (or not). So each rotation has to reinvent the wheel.
we need them to advise on committees as well - service committees to generate ideas and engage districts
I hear past representatives staying around to offer the experience
I think so
Not really sure that it's needed if communication is good
We/I see past "servants" not passing on their experience- Bring them back to chair workshops.
I believe that this has been the case from what I've seen
Past delegates should serve on more committees. All past delegates should be budgeted for the past delegates conference and then leftover sent to GSO
I can only speak for myself but the phrase- "experience has shown" carries some weight with me.
I have been helped a lot by our past delegates and service positions from the past
Wonderful experiences. I feel delegates as archives is wonderful
They appear to sustain service or as advisory to current service. I am relying on those I've seen doing service before
We have a problem with burn-out
Don't Know
Just because people may seem to be "recycled" or rotated, doesn't mean they're necessarily done or useless
Most committees are left at Zero.
I feel that we are blessed with the involvement of past delegate-their wisdom/experience and humor motivate me
Absolutely-again- we're obsessed that we have these folks in our are/district and they continue to participate
Yes/No Same as above
Don't know
I lean heavily on a past delegate to help me as I serve as a DCM
Its awesome that so many past delegates continue to come around and share their experience strength and hope with us.
Some people don't like to ask questions but will read a paper of past experiences
I have no experience regarding area but all the delegates I've seen in the past 3-4 years (John, Rich and Ray) have been exceptional in their commitment and sharing the GSC info.
good but not best
as individual
area level - yes
seems like some people "burn out" & drop out or just quit; thus passing of knowledge can be lost. this could indicate value of alternate positions being filled

I believe that everyone in the area with past experience have always taken the time to answer any questions or assist in any workshop when asked for help

Most of the time this is done well

A pasted trusted servant is going to know the ins and outs but usually not used.

Their experience is invaluable to us in making our decisions.

A meeting for "in coming" positions to sit with current holders to help transfer

there is always room for improvement need to bring the experience to each district - quarterly - go to them

yes & no

their experience is wonderful

Perhaps they could serve as ex-officio members

the GSR has been very helpful and others also

we are always well informed of what works and what doesn't

the fact that I have no idea what any past delegate/trusted servants do should say something. I would hope they are asked to speak at special events / conferences to share their experience - strength & hope

not sure but i hope so

Based only by my brief experience.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

21: Rotation is a valuable principle that ensures healthy growth of our area and the transition isn't always smooth. What could we do better to make rotation work for us?

Response Count

80

answered question 80

skipped question 44

Response Text
limited times and structured turns
make sure the alternate is willing to continue
seems to be mostly well done, ask me again in January 2012?
no suggestions here
less groups - stronger groups
have transitional meetings for that purpose from the entire area.
Make a graph with timelines
Usually 3 months before new position is taken. New trusted servant should shadow outgoing member and learn as much as possible again-service sponsorship is recommended.
See 20
Elections should be held in advance of actual transition of service to allow for learning and observation.
Have outgoing tutor incoming until 1st assembly.
request people rotating out to work more with those rotating in to avoid long learning curves
organize guidelines for duties in that position.
Kick people out and have another job for them to step into.
none
Make as part of each service position. List of duties and responsibilities the duty of finding and training a suitable replacement.
Keep standing chair people in until alternatives are ready to take over.
I need to discuss this with my group. We need to follow this better also and also get an alternate.
I like the passing of the torch with past position holders so it is not dropped on anyone's lap.
Rotation is important in AA service I'm told. I do not like it too much. If no one wants to step up and we need support, re-elect experience for another term.
Sponsors should instill the commitment to the program for their own benefit to recovery.
i think we all do our best to be there for them
Require that part of the responsibility of a Committee Chair is to say as an advisor to the new person for 1 year.
provide term length and dates
Better info. Direct contact to incoming persons
Start looking for people a few months prior to the end of the previous servants term.
encourage sponsor / sponsee participation
Dean Glosson once said something important to me: "Having a strong district committee comes from having strong commitment at the group level." People at all levels of area service need to see their primary job as one of enabling groups to develop strong service commitments. Rotation would be a lot easier if the bench were deeper.
Elections should be held in advance of actual transition of service to allow for learning and observation.

See 20
I am not sure that we understand that the position of alternate is extremely important in that it should be a training position for the next person to take a position. This would make transition much easier.
Perhaps some biographical references of past service paths so GSR's and members can see how it worked.
Thought each group has list of new, active, and learning parties who possess potential and who seek the opportunity
Instead of alternate and chair committee members coming in at same time, have 1 year difference in voting for alternate so there is always someone showing the newly elected what's going on and getting them involved more smoothly in process
Continue to be available; electronically as well
Transition is
Make all past reports available to everyone. Create anonymity protected versions of past minutes and make them available. Create a list of past motions, both passed and failed, so that new members could see what has been discussed or tried before.
setting a limit to the number of chair positions someone can hold consecutively?
Part of the commitment taking a new position should be a willingness to attend transition meetings
Chair positions should be filled by alternate chair
Make newbies feel more confident in volunteering
Maybe more information about positions and information on where to gain support for those positions
Ask the outgoing to be more involved in the incoming
Try to get alternate positions more involved
Start a process of chairing smaller committees before becoming alternate DCM then DCM there on to area. Sometimes we go for the one with the energy-fine, but is that enough?
(strongly) Encouraging outgoing officer, chairs, etc. to help those in coming with the transition
Depends on past chair and the motivation of the incoming. Record keeping is invaluable. A running journal of activities as they go on maybe helpful.
Principles before personalities. In a perfect world the alternate would step up to chair passing down past practice.
Make newly voted in service position sit with old service position for dinner going over position
Further the job description. Detailed explanation of the responsibility, commitment and deliveries
Not re-invent the wheel every transition
Make sure alternates can commit to becoming the person in charge when their service is done
Accept it, go with the flow
Education about what it means and where it comes from. Mail to GSR as well as contact person. Visits with flyers or brochures.
Another good question I don't have the answer to- my hunch is keep making it a positive and rewarding experience
Independent must spend time driving the prospective- area/district should facilitate/encourage that turnover
Why always growth? Effective operation more important than growth.
It is something that will probably always take a little time to work. We all have to learn.
Sharing
No experience with area
Increased emphasis of trusted servants mentoring their alternates into the position they currently hold.
have sponsors encourage sponsees to participate

more workshops on each specific chair & committee
spread the spirit & message of service work -> more people make less work as is spread out more
offer assistance and make sure any information they need is available
Better job of informing elected of what is expected.
Voting process, faster process.
It seems like just as soon as you learn your position you're asked to leave.
Three month after election ADD hoc by chair to ease transition
need more hands of "old" mentoring the "new" - pass on all past chair reports to the new chair
have past reports available for incoming positions. to know what that committee did in the last two years
I'm not sure
have past positions holders contact current position holders to go over transition. this can happen in last 3 mos. maybe it already does.
Promote/ groups
add this thought of service to a community as service work.
Trust that who you elect will service for the better of AA and don't listen to gossip about the person that is getting rotated in the position this is a biggie and must be stopped
I see it working fine.
as far as the transition - person who holds position could hold meeting with potential replacements to promote
easily accessed and presented position responsibilities and possibly including past examples of position accomplishments and future expectations. ultimately dear information that is easily found and presented about positions
more education in general meetings from the area

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

22: Are new GSRs given enough information and support to be effective?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.3%	45
No	43.8%	35
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		74

answered question 80

skipped question 44

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
if they do the footwork meetings, conferences, committees
it depends on the group / district
first inform the fellowship of importance to hear their group voice by explaining they are responsible to nurture and protect the general service structure..
next explain the failure of service structure when GSRs do not attend assemblies and potential long term consequences to AA as a whole in the long run
then request support...
as for education and information to GSRs, its all in print, when you begin to get interested in service then you can easily find whatever resources you need (its almost ALL online
but the GSR handbook is a good Primer; give away AA Service Manuals!!!
only the groups that hold themselves accountable
New GSRs need alot of information specific to ther groups needs.
I have found that some meetings downgrade the GSR and position and don't give time for the GSR to carry the message. So I say support from the group is lacking.
No place to say this so now would be a good place. we don't emphasize the responsibility statement enough.
GSR workshop
Do they do anything with information is another issue.
Sometimes area does pretty good job at assemblies but many GSR's never get to assemblies
Video tutorial: we suggest a video tutorial taped GSR workshop that can be online to access by new (and old) GSR
Area GSR workbook is great tool. If they get to assembly they get support.
in my district we have GSR handbooks and specific GSR workshops in which all GSRs are encouraged to attend
info is available to them
No. There needs to be a mentoring program; older GSRs mentoring new ones.
If they come to district meetings and ask questions.
NIA handbook. GSO sends info both are effective given the size of our fellowship
Individual meetings don't educate new members. They are roped into being GSR.
I need a GSR sponsor.
Lots of literature.
See #19 and 20
we try but we need to set aside our business meeting once in awhile to have a meeting
Pnce they became aware of the position. I think most are eager. Most groups don't understand the importance of having a GSR.

i have been
More direct contact.
An explanation of responsibilities should be given to incoming GSRs.
too much information
I wrote a lot about this in my answers for part 2 . There is plenty of written material. But people tend not to read that (and may not even receive it). I am currently watching a new GSR struggle with trying to understand her job. She isn't making much progress. Our DCM generally seems to assume all GSR's already know their responsibilities.
Video tutorial: We suggest a video taped GSR workshop that can be online to access by new (and old) GSR's
Sometimes Area does pretty good job at assemblies but many GSR's never get to assemblies.
This is a place where you could use past delegates much more effectively. They should be pointed out as people who any GSR can go to and ask questions about anything going on at any time.
They just need to open their eyes and ears. Go to district and area
This is my responsibility- All I ask is that related training conferences are produced at least annually
We have to keep trying
They have nothing unless they get it from their Districts
develop a service sponsor / mentor program
Sometimes depends on how the previous GSR left and how conference the incoming GSR has been with the meeting they are representing
I am brand new and would love almost a "sponsor" type connection. I am not shy and sit next to the people I believe know whats going on but not everyone has the initiative to do so
In some districts yes others no
It seems GSRs have enough information (i.e. list of responsibilities, pamphlet, past GSR to contact)
A little information goes along way
DCM should be more involved
But again, depends if they have a service sponsor
Yes, if they are willing to do the work.
Sometimes. The 1 degree support for the GSR comes from the group position.
If they want it
Info and assistance has been more than adequate
Started new GSR orientation to hopefully give newcomers an idea of their responsibilities early on
They are somewhat overwhelmed at first but if they jump in with both feet it will work out. If they don't do this it will get worse.
Have seen very few at the district meetings
Yes and No-As a past GSR-yes I was given a wealth of info but seemed to be too much and could be more concise
Must focus on this- A+
Baton not passed smoothly most times usually people agree to be GSR not always want and seek position people who seek generally have good ideas already
Almost too much
This starts at meeting level and continues here
As a new GSR I believe I have, its my responsibility to seek all the effective information and support. I learn as I go along, and I ask when I don't understand.
enough information ??? support?? need more districts/area support and training on becoming effective
if they have been participants in assemblie etc they will be very informed

yes & no - if the DCM
Need workbooks
If they attend district meetings and assemblies they should be adequately informed.
Depends on DCM! if DCM not showing up then no one gets info
not our district - but I know that other district do things a bit different. have better tutoring of DCMs to DCMs - NOT A lecture session
they have hand books - I don't believe they are informed of all their duties / responsibilities
people have always reached out when I asked for help
Think about the sponsor - sponsee relationship - exchange of information
maybe a list of bullet points that may be delivered to the chair from the district of events
because they are not given the duties and responsibilities before they even are elected. Most of the time they are elected to fill a position instead of wanting to be in service
BUT the info is provided too late. Meeting after first attended district meeting would be beneficial and I feel NECESSARY to know responsibilities - waiting for handbook from GSO takes months
it seems to be a matter of motivation not information access. new GSRs should get a service sponsor, someone who shares their phone # for help with learning GSR stuff
Need to inform 3 mnths in advance of voting
not sure
Many GSR's don't know what their job really is. (see question #13)

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

23: Do new GSRs stick with us?

**Do new GSRs
stick with us?**

**Answer
Options**

Response Percent

**Response
Count**

Yes

55.6%

35

No

44.4%

28

If not, why?

67

answered question 63

skipped question 61

If not, why?
they should if they have the willingness to pass it on
they get bored or busy with other areas of life
its work,
maybe they do not get the (spiritual) paycheck because they only "punched in" and did nothing more than attend district meetings and their home group business meeting
ask them
we all know for the most part they dont because we as groups dont hold each other accountable as stated in our Legacies
Lack of support, need a new area or district position to go to each GSR meeting place for introduction.
In my district
Seem to
If they don't they were not ready
my district has excellent GSR representation and at least 80-90% keep coming back
them.
Don't really understand the job. Go back to the mentoring comment.
If they stay active.
I'm still here despite the lack of help information on explanation.
They get lost in all the information they need to bring back to the group.
I've seen them come and go.
drop.
Frustrating. Need support from everyone, AAs are difficult to work with.
some do but the ones that dont which are many need more attention again at district level
They came to realize that it is more of commitment than they were initially led to believe.
they try but hate business meeting
Probably because they don't know what they're supposed to be doing.
Seems to
They are overwhelmed by the complexity of the organization and I don't believe they feel that they are effectively accomplishing anything.
At a slightly greater percentage than membership overall
No idea
Usually

Not many seem to. Most of them seem to stay away from Area events, otherwise we should have a lot more of them attending.
groups do not understand / support the role of the GSR. Most GSRs don't either so when they come to area, they get bombarded with all they have to do and how important they are not equipped to follow through with their groups support
Depends typically we rotate them with 2 year cycles
Don't know
Not sure
Hopefully
I think sponsors need to be involved as well as district personally to encourage continued participation
Lack of service sponsorship
Too much time commitment
For the most part yes. There are always some for whom the reality is more difficult or intimidating than the idea.
People get infected with service. But life often happens and situations change people are not always able to continue in service.
It really depends on the individual.
Sometimes, sometimes not
Yes at district level, No at area level for GSR. I am the only one at area from district 91
Don't have enough experience in this area
Don't know- we have trouble getting anyone at district level to attend and participate at area level
Sometimes of they don't work out the first time and come back later
If not, it's because the area meetings seem to be too dry. The business side of area dealings is quite dry. I know that is a tough problem to solve
From my observation- yes, though other districts may have a different experience
Service is the secret
Their groups don't care
Lack of commitment
Seems like too much travel for some, too much work for some
Don't know what you mean, or do I? People are in and out of AA and I guess GSR's can go too. Anyone willing to go to any lengths, for me, is a good place to start.
it appears that although some send pamphlets other do not (on GSR responsibilities) are afraid of old timers & just give up from frustration
the ones that have the desire do, service isn't for everyone
Don't know. maybe not committed to service
Don't know
they lose interest, too much fuss over nothing - we allow double dipping - should only speak ONCE per issue
I believe most do not like to attend assemblies
I don't know many other GSRs
some if taken under good sponsorship & if they remain interested. Some people just don't like dist/area service. They prefer group service or sponsorship
I believe they're too intimidated by the process & back down or quit

dont know
they don't realize the accountability factor in any service position; again due to being well informed of duties
yes and no; some people are cut out for service in the manner of information dissemination and others are not. some may try it out and soon leave and others stay for years among positions and tey new commitments
This question pertains to districts as this is where new GSRs start out
Ours has, I cannot say for other groups
Stick with us how? In service, in sobriety?
They do not know their responsibilities

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section C (Trusted Servants)

24: Is the Area attracting a diverse cross-section of members willing to become trusted servants within Northern Illinois?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	70.4%	50
No	29.6%	21
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		50

answered question 71

skipped question 53

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
no race creed or sex may come between us
we tend to get only those who sponsor us in service
service structure must be "top-down", beginning with individual members,,,
if a sponsor is not service oriented, then that sponsor's member might stumble into general service by accident, as i did, at precisely the moment when it was needed to enlarge my spiritual life (and find a new home group)
having past delegates on the road talking for a few minutes of the spiritual growth they received from service may help too
education of fellowship in some other AREAS is a PI function
id like to say yes but cant. its not because we havent tried
I see many capable AAs that don't have a clue about service.
Do not take this too serious. Let us guide each other.
Service heavy districts dominate area service
Could do better
just looking around the room i see old and young, black and white, men and women. i feel AA as a whole is the great equalizer and it is represented in this room
Hopefully we are not discriminating in encouraging people for service work.
My observations
Diverse yes!
The area has a very diverse population.
This is something we do well.
We need the youth servants and Spanish speaking servants. Make these people feel welcom.
Not enough knowledge to comment.
Need to stress importance of service as part of triangle of sobriety.
I don't see a lot of members standing in line to become servants.

Well, each group has to choose its own GSR's so the area has no control there. Being an area officer or committee member is something that most people probably don't really want to do, so the pool cannot be representative of the average AA member.
Service heavy districts dominate area service
Not sure.
As diverse as the rest of the membership in NIA 20
No comment
We are starting to see the Spanish community attending, but there are very few blacks attending our functions. It seems we have a large number of middle class members. We seem to expect members to have computer access and skills to participate.
I would like to see more younger people involved
Seems to be
Sure
The ratio of members vs chairs/committees at area is significant
Need more lit ??? and generate participation
So so
Need more old timers to be service sponsors
Maybe not that much. That's a good question and gives me something to think about.
We don't have many African Americans
Looking around this room (2011 Spring Assembly) it is decidedly Caucasian. There is however gender diversity.
I have always been asked to keep coming back at the area level and mentored
Service opportunities abound
This is true, but we just have to keep on doing what we're doing. If anything we have to keep doing it better. That's what this inventory is all about!
It seems to be- service work should be fun most of the time-our meetings and experiences should reflect that
From varies lengths of sobriety and experience- we have 'em all.
The same people volunteer all the time
Sponsors should encourage participation
More work could be done in area of having workshops for newer in service in our district and new in service
all that want to run are welcome
Not a diverseness of members
I believe so, there have recently been some new and younger trusted servants elected.
it seems most active & populated districts have been representation all trusted servants listings (ie chairs, delegate, alters) need to list their district
seems some districts monopolize
This is loaded - the crux of the issue - promoting f/ w/in is the ??? group time needed here
willing people are hard to find. those that are capable and willing even harder. so why are we worried about the cross section?

I answered yes but feel it depends on the (groups) meetings in the area to make sure they are represented by a GSR or other trusted servants

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

26: Is Area 20 prudent in its financial affairs and with its use of group contributions?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	93.1%	81
No	6.9%	6
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		56

answered question 87

skipped question 37

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
we try to be self supporting and support trusted servants
need to re-examine the negotiations for conferences to reduce the potential penalties
need to solicit more money to prudent.
The reports are complete and the spending is made based off of group conscious. As a whole the money is spent in sending the message.
Th
in most cases the area does what its memeberhsp requests
From what I have seen the money is spent prudently
PPR is a good idea and decisions are thoroughly discussed before made
Seems like it have not heard, any complaints in district meetings.
We discuss every expense. All who wish to be heard from have the opportunity to weigh in
don't know
there seems to be a lot of waste - orientation workshop should be done by districts this thing of committees making sure they spend every penny in their budget
Honestly don't know
seems to
Primary purpose, budgetary change improved this.
I believe the money is being used correctly.
I pay little attention to this because it doesn't interest me very much. I'm glad someone is willing to pay attention.
Good job considering, identifying and addressing needs.
Complaints are addressed promptly.
We're paying thousands of dollars each year to put people up in the hotels of the Spring and State Conference. These are people who seem to not have any service reason to be there, other than they were elected to the position. Also, we spend a lot of money printing and mailing minutes and newsletter. While not everyone has a computer, those that have one could receive these via e-mail or on the web.
Your report indicates a genuine interest in remaining financially solid.
Based on the budget, it seems so
Appears so

Except for a few "misadventures" I think we've done very well.
We talk about enough and are constantly tweaking the fiscal guidelines
There is a feeling to me at least that we are looking for the most "bang for our buck"
Very open with all fiances
Seems to be a close run affair on contacted wtih host hotel on rooms and banquet numbers
As far as I know
Some issues with conferences "Westin"?
I think so – disagreements are usually about money so it seems everyone always has something to say
You've got regular treasurer's reports and line item statements that speak for themselves.
I am the treasurer of our district (and an accountant) I trust we do the right things with our funds I feel we have many responsible folks over seeing how funds are spent
Absolutely –Pdf is smart
There is only so much to go around and needs to be used well as long as it helps suffering.
I guess
Yes- God is in charge
We can only do what our members are willing to take actions on and or think to further.
As far as I know I've listened and attended several of these and the reports were accurate and well know to those involved.
It seems to be fully accounted for
are there contingency plans written into contracts so cost implications are thouroughly understood by all
The use the term self supporting in the wrong context often. aa is to help aa and if a area need assistance it should be offerd help.
they often forget the last part of the tradition declining outside contributions
all expense are reported
As best I am informed
It is hard times, more is sometimes
I believe the area is very thorough in reporting its financial business
We just need to not create the wheel with committees
it appears PPR is doing it's job
The money seems to be budgeted fairly
coming from another Area, I am impressed with the Primary Purpose register
more goes to GSO - instead of giving to committees or districts
outstanding - has to be
don't know. seems there are enough watchdogs
I like primary purpose register
Treasure's reports reflects this
conferences

For the most part...I thought the most recent request for FOUR special needs workshops was a little extreme. Why not two with a provision for more if reception seems good?

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

27: Is Area 20 incurring unnecessary expenses (i.e. travel, printing, copying, etc.)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	19.5%	15
No	80.5%	62
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		56

answered question 77

skipped question 47

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
you pay for what ou get
the area officers rarley make to free copies of their reports. there always is extra after the event i think large color fliers are a waste
multimedia and email might reduce some photocopy costs or might only shift the cost to district, groups, or individual
thats a judgement call thats quite subjective in nature. perhaps cut down considerably on copies
not doing enough. Need to get more printed send more to conference
as gas goes up this much we need to have an appropriat increase.
All expenses are not broken down to show how much money is spent in travel.
print / copy expenses are a LOT. in the modern day of electronic media there shoudl be a way to limit the number of trees we kill and thus the amount of money spent on those pages
not that I can see
not as far as I can tell
My observation: the area is very prudent.
I guess not.
Trusted servants do only necessary work and incur only necessary expenses.
don't know
when times are getting tougher, the area needs to step back and reorganiz like every other successful organization
With technology much of the information can be shared digitally.
too many copies - we are killing trees
Need more use of internet to save costs.
probably but dont know
I believe the folks who can truly afford to travel on their own dime should. I know there are lots of folks who truly can't.
I know little about this. I am sure that somebody gripes about every expense that might be considered "wasteful"
Printing & copying of mnutes & newsletters. Hotel rooms for Area Service Committee Chairs. Buying Big Books and other iterature to give to AA members. (This should be the responsiblity of the Groups, not the Area)
printed copies of things get wasted regularly - taking an accurate poll of who woudl prefer to receive it all electronically mayallow us to cut down a bit
Your 2012 bid- were their alternate sites considered or was that location and dated
Unsure
Given the discussions we have about finances, no.
Although need more support to conference

I would have to wonder (and I don't have an answer) as to how much printing is necessary it would seem to be a double-edged sword i.e. we are not a secret society
When we supply them with the opportunity because of all the work they do they should have their expenses covered area 20 elected persons give more than they get by far.
Great information for me to take to groups. I have been using material as a good need to visit groups in meeting district
Don't see this happening
One word- paperless
Don't know
Seems reasonable to me
I truly don't know – I assume we only spend as necessary
Don't think so- every disbursement seems to be appropriately serviced
Trusted servants need help \$
Banquet Costs
All is necessary to do this work
. No experience
don't know
unknown - PPR seems like it controls costs
to some extent we need to cover the costs of the servants to participate
Don't really know for sure.
Digital age - use it
I believe these expenses are essential in keeping us fully informed.
We need hard copies
buying too much literature (Big Books, etc.) for District Chairs - are we self supporting? need to help dark & struggling!
unless we consider the overages on our conferecnes
dont know
I am not sure. I do not have enough time to follow the large amount of information that comes from each committee, and I'm fairly new
Not qualified to aniswer
better use of the internet could save thousands of dollars
see above
I am not sure
Don't know

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

28: Is Area 20 adequately supporting our committees and other activities and at the proper financial level?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.3%	78
No	3.7%	3
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		42

answered question 81

skipped question 43

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
encourage people to submit the reimbursement form
education of fellowship broadly falls under PI in some areas and this could be supported at area level committee (recruit past delegates?)
if we as groups stepped up to participate in the process, that answer could be yes
What it does is good; however not enough money is contributed.
We are as a district pretty self-supporting in regards of workshops. Area in giving us money for fall assembly.
If not PPM/PPB motions are acted upon favorably to fill this gap
I cannot recall any recent problems.
based on PPR items and costs to date it appears we are financially sound. personally, the PPR is a way better budgeting process
need to find out more
THE PPB IS WONDERFUL!
When correctins chair is openly requesting pink can funds I would say no.
don't know
From what I see. We are supporting Conference/Assembly/Workshops/Committee Meetings. This is vital and working.
I don't feel that committees should have to rely on special or secondary collections to be funded adequately.
Respond when requested.
Don't really know. I don't see a lot of committee activity, but I don't know whether financial support is what prevents more activity.
All we need to do is ask and justify
Our Primary Purpose Finance model allows plenty of opportunity for our committees to develop activities and then fund those activites.
If they are satisfied- so be it!
It seems yes based on committee/chair speakers
Diff is quick and accurate
I have yet to see worthwhile work go unfunded
Just don't know. Appearance is that we are always short
Money is there when justified
Don't know
I think so
It seems that way if committees needed more funds I would assume they would ask
When we ask they do
Again we are only as aware as our members
I really don't know. I'd like to see more workshops-not in bad weather.
as far as I know

unknown
whne needed within reason
no one is turned down financially
I do not know
I think the area does a pretty good job in this area.
the service chairs need to be DOING - #1. workshops, workshops, workshops #2 train - all district chairs & committeess #3 go to district business meetings
seems like adequate financing is available thru the new gSR system - very accountable
dont know
Most financial requests were approved. The motion process is refined.
I see it working
as long as committee chair asks for what they need

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

29: Does the average member understand what the financial responsibility of being self supporting is as it relates to Area services?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	27.8%	22
No	72.2%	57
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		59

answered question 79

skipped question 45

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
they havent read the 7th tradiiton in the 12x12
most people look for a free lunch
they (most~80-=%+? do not understand the services of Area but they do not actively attempt to dissuade financial support
Concept Seven's "power of the purse" should be attracting the financial support.
most memebtrs dont even care what thr financial responsibility is of their own group let alone area services
Manu groups give no money to distribute to GSO.
I see that people with 1 and 1/2 to 2 yers or more have an idea of how self-supporting works.
Don' t know
most people seem not to care about the business of AA
I think the discussion is limited to individual groups and where they hold their meetings. I know I did not have any idea of the scope of AA financial until recently.
can conflict with why they are there and are not ready to focus on sobriety and add the service structure
They understand they need the money to continue the meeting at the club or church that they go to beyone that don't think many really care.
As the average American is undereducated into own rights and responsibilites for government. Also, members of the AA fellowsip are likewise undereducated in their own responsibilites to provide funding for Area service.
Many members I feel don't really care about how it works
Members in NIA that live near CASO think about supporting AA is making donations to CASO.
Groups near border register in both areas, confusing, they contribute to CASO not knowing they are in NIA. We should address this at all levels.
Depends on how involved the group lets to GSR participate.
Not politely stressed enough.
A lot of people are not concerned about it. There needs to be a spark of interest
The average member does not care. If anybody wants info its available.
Don't know
I am not sure they are aware of what services are available. The questionis are the DCM's communicating this to their districts.
All they need is to ask someone who is active at district or area levels
It seems that most people don't undertstand what is financed beyond the Gorup, and maybe the District. They certainly have trouble understanding the money that GSO spends
No comment

The average member probably doesn't understand the connection
They do not know what money is used for and how. They do not know except at the group level at best.
We could have a 15 minute talks at the assembly meeting to explain the responsibility to the GSR's and ask them to bring that info to the groups.
Unfortunately there is still some staggering ignorance among the membership.
People understand more thoroughly district services and GSO services, but I don't think they understand the area because of overlap between all.
New people have no idea it takes time to learn
Material meeting not be out on cost of hotel and banquet to group level
Don't know the average AA is concerned with how or what the area does. I need to do my job as GSR more effectively to disseminate this need.
More education
N/A
Probably not
My hunch is no I was lucky that as a new comer my sponsor was very involved at district and area levels and got clear explanations I sense other people may not be a fortunate
Mostly- we talk about it at the area level
I think explaining why AA is self supporting is very important to talk about
Only experienced members
Depends on how involved the groups are in sponsorship and service work.
Meetings I go to people still think a \$1.00 will do
I think so because as GSR the group is informed of happenings announced at the district level.
I think many group contributions stop at the 4 walls of their meeting need area, DCM, LCM participation to get more groups to have GSRs an understanding that workshops, conferences, etc. not ?????
GSRs are not participating in service
We could do better to inform them.
Some people get it and some people don't care.
Probably not because the average member does not understand service outside of its own group.
Workshops are needed!
yes & now
how can I know average? (understanding) question - should be sent to groups
lack of participation to area business/service
no fault of ARea. More of the seperation taking place in AA
I don't think the average member even thinks about this
I don't believe the average member cares becасue we don't bridge the cultrual divide bet/ groups & area
dedicate a month to understanding this topic
The average person just wants the meetings to continue on in a timely fashion
all of AA is self-supporting - known concept
Not enough education to the groups from Area
If I'm average the answer is yes. Can't speak for the other averages.
most generally they do

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

30: Does Area 20 provide Districts and other service entities the opportunity to be fully self-supporting?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.9%	65
No	7.1%	5
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		34

answered question 70

skipped question 54

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
it is a District matter, but the Area can and has always tried to assist.
As a member of district 22 I believe our district is self-supporting.
But where and how the money is dispersed should be much more clearly delineated.
never heard of the area forcing their will on an entity
The opportunity is there regardless of area involvement. The area is by design less directly involved with individual AA members and groups. I don't see this as an Area responsibility.
Our district is self supporting.
they tend to buy things on our behalf
See question #28
But steps in to provide support when sometimes should not.
but at times the area over reached and should let districts handle their own responsibilities
I don't understand this question.
It seems we are moving in a direction where we are willing to buy books and pamphlets to give to Districts.
To be determined
Not sure how much area can tribute to other parties
But they provide the support necessary as needed for example and hosting workshops attending workshops and districts doing their share.
In every way you do. You let groups continue and come to any events asked to go to.
Again, am questioning my responsibility and ability to carry the message
N/A
I think they do
I honestly have no idea
Questions are asked about the event such that we're not just having \$ out- seed \$ vs non return turnout
No Answer
Not sure what this means. My home group is small and poor. I moved to D73 from the Naperville district, which had swollen meetings and affluent members. My home group has participated in district projects, but personally I'd like more area workshops.
yes with caveat - see #29
but unfortunately some areas so not have the numbers of participants to do so
I don't know what means. area does not provide financial assistance to districts. they must be self-supporting
I don't know
except too much literature bought & distributed to corrections, spl-needs, & etc.

not sure

id think an expense report help in identifying this

I don't know

that's why we only vote when a neccessary need is brought up for support from the ARea - othewise districts are self-supporting

It seems so, but I cannot say for all groups

I don't know.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

31: Should the Area provide further financial support to District Committee Members in service to the area?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	58.7%	37
No	41.3%	26
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		52

answered question 63

skipped question 61

Please provide additional comments about your answer:	
at thispoint i believe the area provides all thats asked for	
if a district is a distance form the committee meeting the area could provide support to get people there	
depends on the needs of each district, if specific DCM expenses serve area committee the area can pay if district has tight budgets	
they are part of the NIA committee	
Many districts lack resources for planning, printing and mailing.	
Because there are districts that weed support because they do not have financial contributions to cover cost.	
Yes-attendance/scholarships to attend forums.	
If they show need	
breaks the 'fully self-supporting' rule	
If committees are to be successful they must be funded/supported to expand and reach more people on a more intimate level. GAs and time are precious and long distance out reach prohibitive.	
assistance to districts if practical would be product	
In select cases, probably.	
PRB is set up to meet needs appropriately	
District should be self supporting	
Some groups are reluctant to support additional donations or collections.	
That is district responsibiity/	
The area should provide all the financial suport that it can to districts, this must start with the groups	
I don't know ask the DCM's	
I think something has to be worked out to help support our outlying districts who have to bear a disproportionate amount of travel time and expenses to attend area events.	
If DCM's need their district has tried to meet but had inadequate financial resources, they should bring it to an area committee, then the assembly.	
District Committee Members should get financial support from their Districts. If their District is so "poor" that they can not fund their DCM in service, then the Area should find ways to help these DCMs create awareness of why financial supprt is needed beyond rent and coffee for meetings. However, in financial hard times as we ar ein now, there may be times when thoughtful consideration should be given to find ways to help areas where high unemployment are having a severe impact on Districts.	
Only as necessary	
If necessary	
No comment	
Not sure how much the area contributes to DCMs	
Not a generic question as this. Specifics be brought up and put on agenda	
There shouldn't be any constraint the service they can perform due to financial limits.	

Districts should support their own DCM's	
Their districts should support	
Vested interest-District should reimburse at travel level. But at area no opinion.	
Seems to me the participation issue could get some motivation for DCM to be sponsored to attend meetings outside or unfamiliar or dark areas to ask for representation	
Maybe but I'm not looking for a handout just interested in cooperation	
Only is asked/needed/proved	
Case by case- don't think so- should be the district supporting their DCM	
But they should not abuse the position if they can afford it themselves	
For some of us that must travel longer distances, it is financially difficult to attend all functions that involve higher room rates and other expenses	
Through items needed, not finances	
If the DCM needs gasoline and hotel, then definitely the area should help out. The DCM is the group's lifeline.	
DCM's performing Area level responsibilities such as administrative committee meeting participation should be reimbursed by the Area.	
if area service should have area support	
if they don't have the finances to have enough participation from there area (look at the dark districts)	
already provide financial support to all area events	
Too much could be a problem, no outside contributions.	
Flyers/ pamphlets/workshops with worksheets	
Anyone can do a panel...give us something to do! work on!	
The districts should carry the financial responsibilities for DCMs providing service	
not sure	
If justified by PPB/PPM	
Would like to see them working together more.	
when an absolute need is necessary	
Not sure	
probably so in some areas that don't have well attended district meetings, or if their aa population is sparsely populated	

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

32: Do you understand Primary Purpose Financing?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	74.4%	61
No	25.6%	21
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		39

answered question 82

skipped question 42

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
to some extent, i believe area 20 asa whole is still trying to make best use of it and also come to understand it
it is a great concept but it seems we dont kow how to effectively use it. the traditional system worked when the groups participate in the process
responsibility of committee with PPMs. All accountable for purpose of the money.
Best thing we ever did.
I believe so, but I only know what I know. So I could be wrong.
It's a great idea.
best thing since sliced bread. project-based budgets where you develop and idea and cost, ask for money and perform task until completion
I think it is concise and the motions allow for expansion and accountability on how funds are spent.
specific finance decisions for specific activities and going through finance committee
Essentially
PPF is designed to provide transparent spending for activities designed to carry the message.
But reaching out to the newcomer is EVERYTHING,
Don't agree with it. Feel that it's to complicated and cumbersome. Too many steps and non responsive.
Was DCM when installed.
i had to ask a ton of questions
Implementing this was an excellent idea.
It's a great idea.
It seems to be explained at every assembly for the benefit of new people.
I think it's about effectively utilizing finances to carry the message.
I was there when it was proposed and voted on makes since
Money generated at area spent by area
I think so, whatever is necessary for the message if recovery to be given to those who seek it.
A better Explanation is in order
I think I do
As a financial guy PPR vs old school budgets is a concept that is still foreign to me
I get it
. Probably not
I like it, there is a downside - some groups din't like multiple donations (pink & green cans) - it;s easier to donate & not think about where contributions go
I am alt. treasurer!
DVD did well when explaining this.
yes sponsor and delegate explained....before that "no"

certainly being responsible
for financial accuracy & accountability fairness of resources in organization
you have travel, food, room stays
partially
covers all expenses
it seems to work well and present the information in a concise manner
A littl ebit
never heard of it

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section D (Finance)

33: What more can Area 20 do to educate its members about Primary Purpose Financing?

Answer
Options

Response Count

62

answered question 62

skipped question 62

Response Text
make sure the GSRs understand so they can take it back with knowledge to the group
encourage more motions from districts or groups
send finance chair, alt, and committee on the road or do a simple dvd to explain it
conduct the assembly mandated service orientation workshops
Have a workshop.
It's a budget-pretty self explanatory
We've been well educated.
workshops or just talking at district mtgs.
workshops and send those who know about it to all district meetings That will come naturally with growth in attendance at larger AA functions. Generally speaking, people are interested in the money trail. The woman who just stopped by our table with a more detailed explanation to specific questions was very helpful and again information being available on the website w/ either a contact number or a help icon would help.
send more representatives to district.
Most GSRs have no concept of it. Jeff Lee came to Dist 10 meeting to explain- the first I ever heard of it. Probably need to do that more. Concise written explanation might help too.
Continue the same level of education that was begun when PPR was first proposed. Are chair or other committee members go to the district meetings with info.
Have workshops about how it works presentation style.
don't know
Explain to me briefly and simply.
Explain at district meetings.
Workshops.
That depends on what they are trying to accomplish.
workshops at district level
Don't know
We've been well educated.
Answer questions
Service Orientations... oh wait, we don't seem to be having those any more
district visits
I think so enough
Not sure
Reporting the ongoing results will probably serve to educate better than any diagram, etc.
Workshops at area and district level
By helping them feel a part of the area and that it is really their money
Hold workshops on PPR. I get more calls about my budget and people do not understand I don't have one only use PPR.
GSR's to be more effective- I need to do my job more effectively
See above

Workshop?!? Coordinated with other service workshops
Workshops
Seems like you're doing really well with this
Send out an explanation
Workshops
No answer
We do all we can and Area 20 is doing things just the way they should.
I don't know. My home group contributes annually only and its not a large amount.
Continued presentations and panels on Primary Purpose Financing at Area events.
there should be more education about the duties of a district treasurer ie budget, use of pink can, etc.
workshops
workshops
visit GSR meetings
visit group meetings
they do enough
talk, talk, talk
I don't know
Internet digital website
break out for "new" in Jan- year of elections to explore PPF/handbook!
DCMs should be responsible to GSR and in turn GSRs need to carry this back to their home groups
not sure
have more break out sessions or workshops
explain it
x-codelt would be like the IRS educating us about the tac
send a representative out from area
emails in easy to read language for people like me who dont understand large budgets
workshops
send report through internet & break down finances to simple termsfor those interested
Get members out to groups on a more regular basis, and more education
Provide information at District meetings
maybe instruct the DCMs and have them present it at district meetings

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

35: Do all districts feel a part of our Area and receive equal attention and service?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	69.4%	50
No	30.6%	22
What more can the area do?		62

answered question 72

skipped question 52

What more can the area do?
encourage every district to have someone on the area committee visits, request visits from neighboring districts, send PI with past delegates to explain general service,
I cannot answer for all districts
This is open to all, very inviting, helpful when info needed.
We do have good input in area.
Can only speak of my district experience.
A few are much more active than the others
But that is their choice. If they need it they get it.
events seem to be all in eastern IL with not a lot of representation from western IL and southern areas
To new to comment
don't know
I think District 10 does. Can't speak for others.
As far as I know
Encourage neighboring districts of dark districts to re-draw their own boundaries to include these dark districts within one or more functioning districts. Maybe they take the lead in getting the process begun.
I think our district has tons of opportunities to have service.
They do a great job.
Visit us.
earlier communication of actions needed to be voted on
More persons that attend functions get more attention for their groups. Need to concentrate on the non-participating groups.
If things are needed they are usually provided for.
i dont know
Greater area presence at district meetings would probably help. Maybe officers and committee chairs could divvy up and attend more district meetings.
A few are much more active than the others.
I can only speak for my experience in 73
The districts need to open up
I think the collar Districts feel left out because of the distance they have to drive for many of the functions.
Find a way to get them here
It's what you put in it
We are as much a part as we want to be, I feel if we reach out the area's will reach back
This may be based on district attendance and correspondence.
Smaller ones may not have participation by GSR

Galesburg can't possibly feel connected because of geography.
Living at the far southern edge of area 20, I do feel as if we are a part of the whole
If they want it
Probably of responsibilities of GSR and DCM to do there jobs
Would bet not. All inclusive in a principle. Don't know- is this not a responsibility of the area information. Is a representation not being asked for in neglected areas
Better communication- is a two-way street
Can only relate to my own
Well I'm not sure the newsletter and the minutes get a wide enough distribution. Oh is that my job?
Good Question but I have no clue
All districts are involved in the area communication process-wishes they participate or not
My district is very involved.
Need participation by the districts
Area could do more in reaching out to the outer edges and meetings where we never hear anything from
. I don't know but I'd like to see more NIA workshops
many meetings in "collar areas" still think they are part of GSO
need more district work & announcement at area level
we are akk welcome to participate and be heard at the mike
I think so
Communication can be spotting sometimes
If they don't they should voice their complaints in the proper forums such as community meetings and assemblies.
But no, if the DCM does not ask they will not have
district 52 - DOES - but we have elected better servatns
we get what we give
too new to opine
Break through the cultrual divide & dark-meetings
dont know
I don't know - I doubt it. The more active the district probably the more support it receives.
contact dcms in rual locations & ask if they need help w workshops from other dist & groups outside of the dist. Dist close to each other can have a workshop together.
concerned about district 72 "dark district" they must not fell they get equal attnetion? separate committee to help them maybe?
can't say
More education, group inventory type questions and make changes as needed?
Have an Area representative in attendance at 50% of the District meetings.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

36: What more can the Area do to foster cooperation and communication amongst the Districts in our Area?

Response Count

65

answered question 65

skipped question 59

Response Text
encourage cohosting events schedule more workshops on borders of districts...
strongly suggest "co-sponsoring" conferences and assemblies
give small \$ gascards to districts that carpool with dark districts
see previous reply about "dark" Districts
trust the process (conference) and sponsor eachother into service. engage eachother in out own circles of influence
The area is doing it's job. The districts have to be willing.
worried about black districts, send people to them.
Have committee chairs call/text/email committee members and include them in the process
it is really up to the DCM to be the liason/manager of communication.
Transparency is important and I forward everything to GSR/committee members on the other side-it is the responsibility of committee members(district) and GSR's to come to area events.
scatter events throughout area and forma 'sub-areas' and representation to regularly attend their events
Too new to comment
have area reps go to district meetings
Maybe more joint district activity. Districts 10 and 12 breakfast.
The area can only do what they hear from the districts
N/A
I feel communication is good.
don't know
I don't know.
Smaller sub area meetings, for example, districts grouped together like by county, etc...
Strong connected DCMs
encourage them to communciate more often with their neighboring district
At committee workshops designate and allot times for district chairs.
Promote dual district hosting of events so everyone gets involved.
Open lines of communication...always.
if the dcms are motivated the rest will follow
No opinion
If we reduced the # of committee meeting and assemblies, we might try regional meetings especially in the service areas
No idea
instead of having meetings where Chair people "preach" to the District people, it should be more of a collaborative effort. DCMs should be encouraged to work as a committee rather than as a reporting structure or talked "to" by the Area representatives
Keep DCM informed
Increase district correspondence and attendance.

Have Delegate, Treasurer, & Committee members attend District meetings.
I don't know
Only by encouraging attendance
It is a two way street
Keep GSR and DCM informed to five word to district.
As before- participation, participation-make it a matter of ??? to communicate disseminate actively and ideas to all those in the area.
Still- a choice at district and GSR level- opportunities are there!
Committee attendance at district meetings to the carry the message
This puzzles me. Yet I do see that I have to do more, share more
Ensure that DCM's distribute area info to GSR's and the fellowship
Ask the DCM's to cooperate...
Through the DCM's and LCM's
Attraction rather than promotion but sometimes we need to promote out attraction
I think we are doing all we can- again, its all in God's hands and whatever is supposed to happen will happen.
More districts encouraged to make a website
Keep doing what's working
Maybe not ??? anyone with unnecessary emails
more visits
more e-mails
seems ok
send people to the dark districts and try to plant the seed
the message is already out there
I don't believe there is a problem in this area
Get people involved by informing them, maybe a fun workshop.
I don't know what more the area could do.
Maybe a meeting at a conference that puts people at table with district numbers! then you move around the room?
go to the groups & district
visit individual meetings & speak about service
consider the closenss and communication in the sponsee-sponsor relationship
dont know
Sharing sessions mtgs when ever possible. Stand alone or at conf or assy mtgs for dcms & comm chair with anyone welcome.
ties into question 35 - need for separate special committee to save "dark districts"??
web development of blogging forums
visit all groups
Make sure all DCM's and Alt. DCM's have all the information needed for their district meetings whether they are in attendance of Area meetings or not. And see #35 above.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

37: Does our Area structure foster communications within AA (i.e., between Groups, Districts, the Area and GSO)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	84.9%	62
No	15.1%	11
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		46

answered question 73

skipped question 51

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
the structure is in place we need to use it use of multimedia for pre conference GSC agenda (dvds or google dox in email) and
mailers to groups without GSRs in attendance at assemblies
mailers to groups and dark districts about upcoming elections
not very well, but "NIA Concepts" newsletter is the place to better foster that communciation.
identification as home group members is essential to sustainability of AA we need to commit to a home group and serve the still suffering alcoholic through it. then and only then will aa fulfill its purpose
need more info to groups about area and GSO
There are clicks that stand out so maybe you could look at that.
Again the internet w/ contact info so if I don't know the answer I can find it or direct someone to the site.
it seems like we have a structure to communicate at all levels.
I don't think it hinders; not sure about foster.
By telling GSRs to take info back to their groups and assemblies.
I would say that the area is not the way that commucations is fostered, it is on a one on one basis.
don't know
Our DCM is doing a good job.
What is area doing to bridge the gap with ISCYPAA?
I think that it's starting to improve.
as a GSR i take info back to my group and gather their info and bring it back
The structure makes a lot of sense. We alcoholics have a tendency to isolate ourselves, and I see this tendency play out throughout the service structure. So it's more a question of implementation than one of structure.
Lines of communication are easy to find for any problem.
There does not seem to be a committee structure within our Area. We seem to be made up of divided entities just doing our own thing and not sharing our expereince, strength and hope in terms of Service
Maintenance and website and documents
It provides a forum.
They make themselves available in every way possible
When used by the GSR's and DCM
Don't know too new
N/A
I will do more starting now
The Lunch Bunch Lombard, Ill. communicates our needs and area information.
Have not seen the same of other groups. Perhaps the clubs can help.

I sense that is the case but to what degree I can't be sure
Absolutely- much time is district into all area events(committee meetings) to share
Through district monthly meetings and DCM/LCM
Poor communication
I don't really know. It seems to do so (assemblies)
don't know; no area/district seems to "reach out"
for the most part
I don't know
Districts are very separate, fliers are not inter woven.
I think it provides sufficient opportunities to do so.
it is just if people use it
not enough!
district - yes
groups - no
but is it effective? efficacious?
meetings, email
If your interested the information is available
assembly mtgs cover this
small surveys in mass would be nice to dispurse to get a better idea of how more people feel about area happenings and service effort
Could do better; personal contact is the best way.

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

38: Is there adequate cooperation and communication between the Districts and the Area?

Answer Options	Response Percent	
Yes	75.0%	60
No	25.0%	20
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		50

answered question 80

skipped question 44

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
as we moved to email/computer we leave those behind that dont use computers
always can improve
as much as the groups are willing to participate
The assemblies and committees provide information.
Yes, for us, because Ray is from District 22 and Jody is very outgoing and gets the data.
The effort is there on the areas part
email provides great communication website needs constant updating and a webmaster full time
It appeared so at the one district mtg I have attended.
not enough organized communication as to what area is doing.
I assume there is at least between area 20 and district 10
I think so from what I hear in the district meetings.
This depends so much on more than just the structure of the area and the level of commitment from area servants. The area does a fine job.
Ray comes to our district meeting
don't know
There is with district 21.
seems to be
All persons in service respect it.
I see a lot of "committees of one". I am guilty of this myself. Somehow we need to battle our tendency to work this way.
In my experience.
But only adequate. Nothing really super special
Depends on the DCM
Communication is as good as we want it to be
I don't know what issues pace districts and area and how they facilitated resolution.
Most
If there are area officers, active DCMs, and active GSRs in the district
Email is quick and inexpensive
Email provided again. Area does that work the DCM and GSR's responsible to get info to districts.
Do not know
No such thing as too much communication
Email is a great way to stay informed
I think there is
Most meetings don't know what district or area they belong to .
I sense that is the case but I truly don't know
District 22 very involved

Up to participation by districts
As far as I can tell
I don't know but I think so.
by certain chair but not all
didn't have DCM in district so appeared received no area info should area visit gsr meetngs to stimulate communication
at the committee meetings
I don't know who communicates with who
Districts do not meet very often.
how many don't show or have reports?
with our district 52 can't speak about others
don't feel e-mails are being distributed to GSR's. and still lask of DCMs at Committee meetings & assemblies
not sure
I'm not sure about adequate so long as some folks feel confused or excluded
there seems to be a chain of info dissemination
The more active the DCM the more communication
assemblies cover this

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

39: Are the Area Service Committees doing the actual work intended for the Groups and Districts or are they trying to coordinate and communicate that work? Please cite examples.

Response Count

53

answered question 53

skipped question 71

Response Text
i see them trying to coordinate
i would hope not. however m,any group and districts would raheer let others so the work
for the most oart they seem to be doing the work when coordination and communciaiton
of the work is the real responsibility we need to practice it first in our own home groups
they are trying to coordinate through workshops
More information is needed. Where are you look at projects. Workshops, ordering or
decision making in regards to who will do what.
From my experience-neither
To communicate someone must be listening. I see a lot of talk but listen, not so much
my group (treatment) seems to be well represented in carrying the message
Don't know
using info the district gives them with agenda items
don't know
don't know
there may be examples of both depending on the specific service committee and/or
personalities involved.
Yes, corrections workshop in Aurora.
No answer.
yes, they over reach. we need to stop enabling
The only committee I know is Grapevine. At the moment this seems to be an example of a
"committee of one"/ Jeannie sends out email to district chairs which is good, but I have
not yet received any requests or guidance from her.
This is impossible to answer because the various committees are not consistent in what
they attempt to do.
1. No
2. By publishing names and phones/emails and schedules, the area chairs/alternates are
available and serving as channels to/from GSO and Area.
Yes
There seems to be a movement where various Area Service Committees are taking over
the work of the Districts. They should be fostering cooperation between the Districts. And
they should be creating opportunities for the District Committees to become active by
encouraging sharing sessions and generating ideas of what can be done by Groups within
the various Districts.
Yes, at assembly and conference
I don't know how groups/districts undertake carrying the message as suggest/supported
by committees. Maybe workshops put on facilitate coordination and communication.
Participation by district chairs at assemblies
I hope so
It sees workshops are intended to educate and encourage committee formation at the
district level
Oh yea just look at the flyers
I don't know
Not my experience that area over steps
Don't know

Not "or" but "and" service committees are actually doing work and are trying to coordinate and communicate
Some committees reach out to the groups and others do not.
Corrections yes- PI I believe so. Others? I don't know
I think it's dynamic- I think we have the right baseline
Yes and no level of commitment varies upon the individual
Latter
DCM's, GSR's do more to attract more Area people to do workshops
I don't know but since I come from a small group in a rather poor area, maybe the area could be more visual to the district.
sometimes seems coordination ???
have area workshops, etc. seems communication stops there
no since a lot of the districts have a lot of meeting but not a lot of groups
we try to coordinate efforts within the districts
No
I don't know
I believe they are trying to coordinate and communicate that work.
yes - buyinh literature for people (groups members, or districts - is not apart of the job. feed a man a fish andyou feed him for the day - teach a man to fish & you feed him for a life times.
yes - visiting district meetings
workshops help a lot
not sure. Work is being done, but to the extent it's getting to the still suffering alcoholic, I'm not sure
see 38
workshops
could hold separate meeting with GSRs to better inform GSRs of their workshops to get better support from individual groups - that's what GSRs are for right ?
yes
not sure

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

40: Should there be an option to receive the Area Newsletter (Concepts) in an electronic format only?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	73.8%	62
No	26.2%	22
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		60

answered question 84

skipped question 40

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
an e format i may get but not read
electronic and hardcopy
Save on paper/mailing
Would save on printing costs but would also create a data base problem.
Would be nice to be able to sign up for electronic updates from the area.
need to cut costs and electronic media is 'free'
I don't know about only, but paperless must be available in today's world.
it might be preferred.
Probably. Personally, I like print
For me no. I don't have a computer.
Some people like this option. I would not choose it myself, but the option should be made available.
It would make it difficult to share with groups.
To keep cost down.
the main reason 'cost' most people dont read the concepts - its a garbage collector
I get enough printed material.
saves money
I don't use the computer.
Save printing and mailing costs
Would be nice to be able to sign up for electronic updates form the area.
Would save on printing costs but would also create a date base problem
No opinion
People whould be able to "subscribed" to get this in an electronic format rather than haivng them mailed. But people who do not have access to a computer should still be able to get them by snail mail.
Money saving is this electronic age
Saves money
Perhaps more efficient
It would seem any/time start up cost would be re-couped overtime
Yes, yes, yes we can get them on out phones and put dates in our calendars or our phones.
Save money
Any communication
Too much paper!
Maybe more people would need it – we need to do a better job of letting districts know this is available
Option, yes also option for "snail mail"/hard copy
Both should be provided
I would prefer a pdf format

Not yet
If it saves money
Same on costs
Anything we can do to cut down on paper- though I'm guilty of printing anyway- I like to read, touch and feel the paper.
Both
I like the paper copy aside from its artistic effect (seriously), my home group will not be exposed to concepts if its only electronic.
electronically & by paper
an option yes; I see many people that are still "afraid" of computers
tree huggers
People are not caught up to electronic, there needs to be more involvement
I personally prefer the printed copy.
yes offer both make some copies
keep in print
save our trees & budget!
yes & no - always an option
electronic option yes, but not as the only option
cost savings
save paper. I give some reports from my PDA
some do not have on line, but we could have a form on the newsletter to send in to keep or take off the mailing.
would save thousands of dollars
if individuals get the choice and mailing doesnt dissappear then yes should be an option
This would be taking away from persons who are unable to use a computer, do not know how to use a computer, or who can not afford internet access.
Yes but, I haven't been able to find out a way to access it however. Password protection.
No. The only requirement is not have access to a computer.
IT would provide savings on paper, copying and postage.
it could be an option since there are a FEW of the members that still don't have emails.
Not all members have computers

2011 NIA 20 Inventory - Section E (Communication)

41: Should there be an option to receive the Area Minutes in an electronic format only?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	77.5%	55
No	22.5%	16
Please provide additional comments about your answer:		48

answered question 71

skipped question 53

Please provide additional comments about your answer:
format would be nice like the area committee minutes are, i may end up just down loading it and not reading them through
have a brief summary (bullet point/ take-away/ elevator speech) to high items for business announcements
very important
This is good for organizing data.
Same reason-save on paper and mailing
Would be nice to be able to sign up for electronic(email alerts) updates from the area-minutes, concepts, open service positions, upcoming events, links to registrations, updates to websites, etc, registrations opening or closing ect.
same as before - need to cut expenses
Same as above.
save paper.
I like print.
Again-youngsters like this option.
Save paper and ensure delivery.
To keep cost down
Have copy by request only.
saves money
See #40.
Save printing and mailing costs
Would be nice to be able to sign up for electronic (email alerts) updates from the area- minutes, concepts, open service positions, upcoming events, links to registrations, updates to websites, etc. registrations opening or closing.
Many of us older or conservative or private types do not do electronics by choice.
People would be able to "subscribed" to get this in an electronic format rather than haivng them mailed. But people who do not have access to a computer should still be able to get them by snail mail.
Money saving is electronic age
Saves money
Cheaper more efficient
There already is. Tammy emails them
Same as question #40
Too much paper!
Don't know
Same as above also an option for some sort of "hard copy" or "snail mail" type thing
Saving paper/printing costs would provide many benefits
Not yet
Only interest party will need/use them

Save cost- but I still print
If the provision of area minutes being only electronic would permit more area workshops, then yes
mail or e-mail
an option yes; I see many people that are still "afraid" of computers
People are not prepared for that.
I'm reluctant to let go of printed copies. I'm not computer savvy enough yet
offer both some people don't get forwards from DCM's
usually don't read them
save our trees & budget!
electronic option yes, but only option no
cost savings & accessible to the membership
see 40
would save thousands of dollars
This would be taking away from persons who are unable to use a computer, do not know how to use a computer, or who can not afford internet access.
See # 40
Same savings
lease see above