

## **Area Inventory Summary**

### **Fall Assembly**

**September 15, 2018**

#### **Question 1: What is your current AA service position? (@ Group, District and/or Area)**

144 total answers

55 - Group - 38%

17 - Group/District –12%

4 - Group/Area – 3%

38 - District– 26%

4 - District/Area – 3%

10 - Area – 7%

Non-categorized answers 16 – 11%

Of the 144 who answered this question:

50 were GSRs or GSRs with other positions 35%

15 were DCMs or DCMs with other positions 10%

#### **Question #2: Is your group represented at Area business meetings/Assemblies? If not why?**

140 total answers

102 – Yes – 73%

26 – No – 19%

6 – District Yes, Area No – 4%

6 – Maybe, not sure, other non-committal – 4%

Some comments were:

District –Yes, Area –No. will try to go to more.

Sometimes, four times a year is a lot for anyone not retired.

Usually. Sometimes, transportation is an issue.

Yes, our DCM attends Area meetings regularly.

Maybe? I haven't talked to my GSR in months

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

There were 117 responses

Of the 28 written responses, they could be sorted into a few themes:

- (10) Other / No comment / Don't know
- (8) No change / Leave as is
- (4) Length / Redundancy of comments / Time limits
- (3) Location related – Move the meeting around the Area
- (3) Various comments – Conference related (Explored later in survey)

Of the 89, non-blank, On-line responses, they could also be sorted into common themes

- (42) No change, not sure / Don't know / OK as is
- (19) Length / Redundancy of comments / Time limits / use timer
- (6) Agenda, communications related
- (4) More workshops / Breakout meeting
- (14) Other

Some comments were:

Length of time-feels like things drag on too long sometimes, makes me not want to attend due to that.

Make them closer to where I live.

Move location around and do more to include the newcomer. It seems to be a past delegate get together.

Stop allowing Past Delegates to vote.....

**Question 4: Do you feel the Service committee break-out sessions at Assemblies encourages or discourages participation and/or attendance.**

120 total answers

66 – Yes – 55%

13 – No – 11%

25 – Don't know – 21%

16 – Non-committal, non-answer – 13%

Some of the comments were:

Somewhat but there is really not much dialogue starts.... Or like the main area of focus to concentrate on my experience.... It was a free for all.

They should! This is about break out session chairs being prepared, communicating to the district chairs in advance and having an agenda that generated good discussion.

They would if they were better published and their work clearly articulated. We have a great deal of apathy because opportunities are limited and historical knowledge isn't communicated well. There is also limited understanding of what area does outside of corrections and pre assembly.

No, tend to be dominated by the old time wind bags.

**Question 5: What can the area do better to support the district service committees.**

Due to the open ended nature of the question there was not a lot of yes or no. Approximately 24 said didn't know or no comment. Approximately 15 answers speak directly to visiting to districts personally. The Area committee chairs shouldn't expect everyone to come to them. Variations of Area Committee chairs visiting Districts to explain what we do was mentioned many times, along with service workshops by Area Committees.

The vast the majority of the answers spoke to communication. Many were "I don't know" "I'm new to service", etc.

Some comments were:

Nothing. Leave it as they have it.

Visit to district meetings to explain support don't wait for invite.

Be more present at District meetings for those who hold Area Chair positions.

Hold more workshops and send service representatives to the groups to explain service positions.

I think the Area does a good job of offering to help District Service Committees.

Regular and consistent outreach by committee chairs, involving them in Area committees...asking for them to be involved.

Try picking up the phone and asking if we need/or want help.

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

N/A was the most frequent answer with 14. Other commitments was second with 7 while new to the area was third with 6. Relapse, No interest, Family, Currently Attending, Long drive, Lack of Organization, and home group needs service all had one response each. Approximately 8 spoke directly to location.

Some comments:

Same place all the time-long drive for many. Go back to rotating locations.

I attend assemblies. People feel take is too much back and forth minutia in the motions, changing words, endless, people going to the microphone to keep making the same point.

LOCATION

Yes, scheduling it's all day.

Too many long winded ego trippers at the microphone lead by the endless parade of past delegates. The AA service Manual does not give past delegates the ability to VOTE. Why does NIA?

**Question #7: Does your group understand how the Area agenda is developed?**

117 total answers

38 – Yes – 32%

63 – No – 54%

16- Misc. non-committal answers, non-answers – 14%

Some of the comments:

I understand but do not participate, beyond attending monthly district meetings.

Probably not, due to lack of interest.

Yes, I do but most members get bored with the business part of AA and don't care to hear about it.

Some do, others aren't interested.

**Question #8: Does your group understand their role at Area 20? If not why?**

119 total answers

81 – Yes – 68%

23 – No – 19%

15 – Misc. non-committal answers – 13%

Some comments were:

Yes, if they actually attend monthly District meetings as well as Area Assemblies. The quality of their understanding of Area business is directly correlated to their participation in meetings and assemblies.

I am not sure, but when I was a GSR I did not.

We have not a GSR now.

I know I am supposed to do more, but HATE the political aspect of any large organization.

**Question 9: Do you feel GSRs are included in Area business, if not, why?**

113 Total answers

69 – yes – 61%

28 – No – 25%

16 – Don't know, non-committal answers – 14%

Some of comments:

We bring our group conscience to the Area. But I don't recall an Area representative ever introducing themselves at our group meeting.

Yes, but I don't have time.

Yes, if they show up.

Yes, but the DCM should be carrying the Area business info to the GSRs for Assembly.

No, not interested.

No, intimidated by people with longer service.

No, GSRs are put on the back burner due to Area business.

No, GSRs could really use a service mentor to understand things.

3 times the participation of past Delegates was brought up as a deterrent to participation. The theme of those answers was that GSRs express their opinions, but then a Past Delegate will get up and invalidate that.

**Question 10: Is your Group represented at District, Area Assembly, Pre-General Service Conference Workshop?**

116 total participated

113 – District – 97%

82 – Area Assembly – 71%

71 – Pre-General Service Conference workshop – 61%

**Question 11: Do you know who your Area and District trusted servants are?**

125 total answers

95 – Yes – 76%

9 – No – 7%

14 – District not Area – 11%

7 – Somewhat – 6%

Some comments:

Most in the Group do not know and don't really care.

District yes, Area no. Yes & no. If need to get that info I know where to get it online

**Question 12: Does your group understand the issues that the Area and Districts address?**

121 total answers

62 – Yes – 51%

28 – No – 23%

5 – Don't know – 4%

3 – District yes, Area no – 2%

20 – Partially – 17%

3 – Non-committal – 2%

Some comments:

No. My group is not interested in the business aspect of AA.

I think they do but it is not necessarily important to them.

Probably not, due to lack of interest.

Yes, they do. Some GSRs fully understand and appreciate their role. Others are less enthusiastic or committed.

**Question 13: do you understand area 20's finance system called Primary Purpose financing?**

124 total answers

52 – Yes – 42%

60 – No – 48%

12 – Don't know – 10%

Some comments:

No, perhaps a presentation of how the system works at an area assembly would help, Hand out the presentation, and post it online.

Yes. You ended the year 2017 with \$18,000 over and above prudent reserve. Shame on you. You will not be getting any money from any of the 6 groups per week I attend.

Yes, I think so in a general way

**Question 14: Is area 20 accumulating funds for no stated purpose? If yes, please explain.**

111 total answers

11 – Yes – 10%

59 – No – 53%

34 – Not sure, don't know, don't understand the question – 31%

7 – Various non-committal answers – 6%

Some comments were:

I highly doubt it

I've heard they give away money to other areas, so yes they have too much money, or are not spending it on service in our area, nor our district.

If this is in fact so, we as groups should find a way to spread the recovery message with this surplus, or disperse it in a manner that would best serve AA as a whole.

Pink can donations are not spent

The surplus is there because the objective were met using less \$ than anticipated or the \$'s were allocated that weren't used.

Yes, hanging on to money that may never get spent.

Yes. Read your own Primary Purpose report. Yes. Look at the vague, meaningless descriptions of the budget items in the PP report. Where is the transparency? Who's hotels rooms did we pay for?

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

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

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

**Question 16 - What could Area 20 do to make Area Workshops more effective?**

Of the 25 written responses:

- (8) Don't Know / Haven't attended
- (5) Have more workshops
- (5) Content related (sponsorship, Spanish)
- (3) Better promotion / communication about them
- (4) Keep as is / nothing / various

Of the 74, non-blank, On-Line responses, they could also be lumped into buckets

- (28) Don't Know / Haven't attended
- (13) District involvement / get District input
- (11) Content related - better speakers, less lectures, more interaction
- (8) Have more workshops
- (6) Location related - more rural areas
- (6) Better promotion / communication about them
- (2) Various / random comments

12 - More workshops – 12%

1 - Less workshops – 1%

15 - Unknown, unsure, haven't been – 15%

9 - District determines subject, time, and/or place – 9%

7 - More interactive, better presentation, more interesting workshops– 7%

5 - Location – 5%

5 - Sponsorship – 5%

4 - Do nothing – 4%

4 - Marketing – 4%

3 - More information – 3%

3 - No suggestion – 3%

2 - Increase attendance – 2%

2 - Spanish interpreters – 2%

2 - Produce digital (mp3, CD) to be used for workshops – 2%

- 1 - More subjects – 1%
- 1 - Pay for GSR gas and food - 1%
- 1 - Have panels – 1%
- 1 - Cohost with other district – 1%
- 1 - Post agenda early – 1%
- 1 - Past delegates should help with workshops – 1%
- 1 - Send representative to groups – 1%

**Question 17 - What topics of Workshops would you like to see the Area sponsor?**

101 total answers

Service Committee Topics (Corrections, Treatment, CPC, etc.) – 18 – 19%

Don't know – 14 – 15%

Area / General Service Structure – 14 – 15%

Random comments – 10 – 10%

GSR related - role, education – 12 – 13%

Sponsorship – 8 – 8%

Anonymity – 3 – 3%

Traditions & Concepts - 1

Steps - 1

Show original message - 1

Steps / Big Book Basic AA - 1

Almost every answer was different. So the above numbers are the collator's best judgement on grouping. Please see the raw data if you are interested.

The first set dealt with the internal look at Area; that is workshops on the Area and General Service Structure, along with the role of the GSR, introduction to service, etc.

The second set was related to the Service Committees and specific topics related to Corrections, Treatment, BTG, PI/CPC, etc.

The third set of responses was focused more on the more traditional aspect of AA - sponsorship, working the steps, and the Big Book.

**Question 18: Do you feel there are barriers to full participation by any member of NIA 20**

104 total answers

35 – Yes – 34%

52 – No – 50%

11 – Don't know – 11%

6 – Non-committal, non-answers – 5%

Some comments:

\$10 for lunch is too much... Charge \$5 and let the operating budget absorb....

....I cannot give up as many Saturdays and weekends as would be required to participate fully.

Only the travel issue. I am new to the area level but find the meetings to be very welcoming.

Location of Area Assemblies is too far east for full participation from the west....

YES Past delegates, Big egos.

Voting by past delegates

These three comments above are examples of the common threads. Location or travel seems to be the number one barrier. Time is next and then there were a few comments on money. There were a few comments that fall under feeling intimidated.

**Question 19: What is area 20's greatest strength?**

There is a long list of mostly singular positive thoughts as to Area 20's greatest strengths. Nearly entirely dedicated to our members. Past Delegates were mentioned in a positive sense a number of times. Servants were mentioned a few times. Dedicated servants. Groups. Districts. Good Service People. Dedication. Unity. Participation. Leadership. Communication. Our finances and Group generosity and Primary Purpose were mentioned. Calendar and Website

## **Question 20: What is area 20's greatest opportunity for improvement?**

### **94 total answers**

Increased participation, involvement and communication in many different variations are by far the largest responses.

Outreach to groups and individual members, perhaps the development of a short, simple pamphlet (is there one from the Central Office)

3 answered - ?

AA

Always growing newcomers, new ideas, and openness to new ideas, principles before personalities

Be effective and efficient but in a more concise fashion. Brevity

Be more dynamic. I know the committee structure is important but it seems to me that it does not let us think outside the box. We need new ideas moving forward in this technology world.

Better explaining the processes as they go along. Newcomers can't follow

Better rotation of servants and district volunteers

2 answered- Communication

Communicating between Area and Districts and encouraging District to District communication/participation

Communication between the area and districts

Communication between the area and districts

Connecting people across districts

Continuation

Do not know

Don't know enough about this

2 answered- Don't know yet

Eliminating the voice of past delegates from the group conscious

Exactly what you are doing with the survey and such

Explore how to use people's skills in the Area

Find something that will make members pick up their smart phones and read it.

Focus more on newcomers and younger members of our fellowship

Foster development of current members

Get more involved with Hispanics

Get more involved with Spanish community

Getting back to service basics. Focusing funds in areas that need support.

Getting groups involved

Getting more GSR's involved

Getting communication to the districts and groups. Doing even more visitations to district meetings. Letting the district know how important they are to the structure of the program.

Group participation

Have a more centralized location

Hold workshops more often

Humility. Shut up and listen to the GSR's

I think as with all of AA, attracting/encouraging involvement. But I do not know what can be done without undesired "promotion"

If we try to harden we will all have to go to Alanon

Include the newcomer

Increased attendance and involvement

I'm not sure

I'm too new to the role to comment

Lake count treatment and correctional support

Less frequent meetings, closer to people's homes and not 1.5 hours' drive away. Too many meetings. Can this meeting be skyped so all can attend?

Listening

2 people answered- Make an Area 20 in Spanish

Make the financial report more understandable at the grass roots level

More communication from Area to the District level

More GSR participation

More personal involvement

More ways to get people involved. Get the word out about service.

N/A

Newsletter and Workshops.

No comment

No idea

No opinion at this time

Not sure

Not using short time people to be part of change

Not unsure- maybe alternate locations for Assemblies and Conferences.

2 people answered- no opinion

3 people answered- not sure

More people stepping up

More flexibility. Go the churches and see they get their members involved. Their track record is much better than ours.

Motivation. Encourage

Not sure, except to what I wrote in #19. Separately, and area meeting directory would be nice, and seems doable, even if it only online.

Participation from younger members

Reaching out to districts to share the good news that General Service can be that next level of personal recover and WHY it's important

Ready the newly appointed chairs before January. Work together for a month or two. The breakdown in changing of individuals is picked up by the districts you serve.

Reduce the number of conference and work harder on inviting people from other areas to come to assemblies to share their experience, maybe give them some mic time.

Services

Staying the course with traditions and concepts

Supporting activities and servants

The above #19 & 17

The Group suggested outreach to people of different ethnicity and the disabled. Have open meetings at PADS and homeless shelters. Always encourage more participation.

There can be more than 1 answer to a problem

To let those coming into service participate, to have people NOT go the the mike just to hear themselves talk.

Too many past delegates voting and opinions.

Too much money in the NIA not being used to carry the message. \$18k over prudent reserve. You should all be impeached immediately. SHAME ON YOU. The delegate needs to get the General Service Conference materials out to the groups in January so we can study and make "informed decision". As I stated: past delegates are not allowed to vote according to the Service Manual.

Too new in General Service so cannot answer other than to say that I feel connected the Area because of relationships formed. Many humble leaders in our Area!!!

Trying to the next in line to truly step up, sharing new perspectives, fresh outlooks, a zest for uncharted ideas

Turn the clock back 50 years and return to singleness of purpose

Unite with Hispanics Groups

unk

Use those people

Utilize facilities that are closer to District 10 and 12

Why not consider five minutes (anonymous, of course) video to shown at the AA meetings.

Workshops on specific issues, could be done as part of Area Assemblies.

**Question 21: Does the current schedule of Area events encourage or discourage participation?**

106 total answers

51 – Encourage – 48%

21 – Discourage – 20%

21 – It's fine, neither, neutral – 20%

13 – Don't know – 12%

There were a few comments on location being a problem.

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

101 total answers

24 – Yes – 24%

48 – No – 48%

29 – Other – 28%

Comments:

No, the pre-GSC interferes with normal NIA functions

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

106 total answers

50 – Yes – 47%

21 – No – 20%

29 – Don't know – 27%

6 – Non-committal answers – 6%

Of the people that have an opinion, the Spring Assembly combined with the Spring Conference is effective by a margin of more than two to one.

Some comments were that people would like to see the Service Committees doing panels at this service conference, the Assembly seems to have more people in Spring since it's combined, it's a good idea because you're at one so you can easily be at the other, I can't give up an entire weekend for AA activities, and the original idea seemed self-serving by NIA.

**Question 24: Should area 20 consider moving what is currently called the spring conference to a different time of year?**

The predominate answer is NO. With the ratio being slightly more than 2 to 1 on each the mail in and on-line surveys.

101 total answers

22 – Yes – 22%

54 – No – 53%

11 – Don't know – 11%

14 – Non-committal, non-answer – 14%

Some comments:

Why have Conference at all

Combine with Pre-Delegate

Maybe a bit later

Eliminate Spring and Fall Assemblies

Keep Conference – move Assembly

Why does there have to be a Conference at all

Cancel on year of State Conference

**Question 25: What do you currently attend?**

84 participated

Spring Conference 62 – 74%

Spring Assembly 66 – 79%

Pre-General Service Conference Workshop 51 – 61%

Summer Assembly 51 – 61%

Fall Assembly 52 – 62%

Winter Assembly 57 – 68%

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

95 participated

No Spring Conference – 8 – 9%

Spring Conference without Assembly – 13 – 16%

Spring Conference with Assembly – 40 – 47%

Spring Conference that includes

Pre-General Service Conference Workshop – 15 – 18%

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

Other:

Spring Conference without Assembly and put the pre-GSC at the Assembly and not at the conference – 1 – 1%

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

### **Question 27: Is there any comment you would like to add?**

62 total answers

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

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

Have our business meetings – all of them – at different location around the Area. Have them hosted by the districts. In my view AA as a fellowship has gotten very insular. We are supposed to become citizens and productive members of society. Consequently, the business side of AA has become bloated. May of the things that happen at the Area have no meaning or real purpose and don't connect to the new guy or woman. Let's just find a way to simplify it all, move the area functions around to the various districts, and get involved in being members in service in our communities, churches, and families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Spanish

Limit the voice of the Past Delegate.

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

14 people answered: no

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

No thank you

Not at this time

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

Past Delegates talk too much

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

Review recommendations of service structure committee 12 years ago.

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

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

Thank you, good luck

Thank you for asking for input

Thanks for the questionnaire

Thanks for the opportunity

3 people answered - That the concepts be published in Spanish

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

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

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

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

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

Too many to list

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

To put in Spanish

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

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

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

The AA Service Manual suggests that Past Delegates confine their activities to promoting subscriptions to the Grapevine as well holding service oriented workshops

where they can share their service experience with others. It does not speak to allowing them to have a vote at the Assembly.

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

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

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

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

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

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