

# Redistricting Presentation

October 2015 Meriden CT

# Do we need to Redistrict?

- Do we have the appropriate number of DCM's to number of actual groups?
- Is the geographical spread too large?
- Are the GSR's and DCM's communicating effectively?
- Restructure vs Redistrict?
- Is there effective communication?
- What about our Spanish Population (land mass)?

# Recent Survey in US and Canada

- Area 33 (SE Michigan) has issues with in-active groups, began implementing steps to help.
- Area 83 (Eastern Ontario) Experience with this issue once and did not go smoothly.
- Area 63 (South Dakota) In process of discussing redistricting due to rural sections
- Area 93 (California) Consideration due to extremely large population and land mass

# Survey Continued...

- Area 68 (SW Texas) Discussion about redistricting, (reasons unknown)
- Area 24 (Iowa) Experience with redistricting by simply splitting, but notes population distribution as being important or else dark
- Area 4 (Arkansas) experience only with linguistic Spanish district
- Area 38 (East Missouri) currently adding a district and redistricting districts 51,52,53

# Survey Continued...

- Area 16 (Georgia) Guidelines, whenever a district reaches over 20 Groups, DCM's bring proposal. Recalls 3x since attending assemblies there has been a redistricting.
- Area 32 (Central Michigan) They added a LCM in the most populated district to help with personal contact with GSR's
- Area 79 (British Columbia) When districts are too big or too many groups to handle a motion is put forth and redistricting takes place/clear communication with groups prior.

# Survey Continued...

- Area 92 ( E Washington) We have never redistricted, however we have added districts and districts disbanded.
- Area 78 (Alberta/NW Territories) Guidelines to redistrict with questions to help secure why was emailed. Experience redistricting.
- Area 7 (CNI) One district went dark and neighboring districts contracted to serve each side

# Quote from a Trustee

“ When districts find themselves with too much to do with too little time to do it should consider re-districting.”

# Points of Information

S 31 AA Service Manual- “A district is a geographical unit containing the **RIGHT** number of groups-right in terms of the committee members (DCM) ability to keep frequent touch with them.”

# Points of Information

S 31 AA Service Manual- “The district committee member (DCM) is an essential link between the group GSR and the Area Delegate to the General Service Conference. As **Leader** of the district committee, made up of all GSR’s in the district, the DCM is exposed to the group conscience of that district.”

The D.C.M.'s job is primarily that of two-way communication. The D.C.M.:

- Regularly attends all district meetings and area assemblies.
- Receives reports from the groups through G.S.R.s and through frequent personal contacts with groups in the district.
- Holds regular meetings of all G.S.R.s in the district.
- Helps the Conference delegate cover the area, which would be impossible for the delegate to do on a group-by-group basis.
- Assists the delegate in obtaining group information in time to meet the deadline for A.A. directories.
- Keeps G.S.R.s informed about Conference activities; this includes setting up opportunities for the delegate's Conference report, occasionally making the Conference report if the delegate cannot be present, and inviting the delegate to regular district meetings.
- Makes sure that G.S.R.s are acquainted with *The A.A. Service Manual*, the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the G.S.O. bulletin *Box 4-5-9*, workbooks and guidelines from G.S.O., and any other service material.
- Helps G.S.R.s make interesting reports to groups, and encourages them to bring new A.A. members to service events.
- Keeps groups informed about Conference-approved books and pamphlets.
- Organizes workshops and/or sharing sessions on service activities.
- Regularly keeps in touch with the alternate D.C.M. and the delegate; sends district minutes to the delegate and alternate, and exchanges them with other districts.
- Brings Traditions problems to the attention of the delegate.
- Makes a regular practice of *talking to groups* (new and old) on the responsibilities of general service work.



# S 33 AA Service Manual

## **Redistricting**

“If it were not for adding committee members to take care of new groups as AA grows, the General Service Conference might well become unwieldy.”

# FUN FACTS

## Area 61 Rhode Island

- 8 Districts
- 300 Groups
- 5,944 Members

## Area 12 Delaware

- 13 Districts
- 253 Groups
- 3,824 Members

# FUN FACTS

## Area 13 Washington DC

- 14 Districts
- 502 Groups
- 14,790 Members

## Area 31 Western Mass

- 6 Districts
- 323 Groups
- 5,380 Members

# FUN FACTS

Area 11 Connecticut

- **10 Districts**
- **1,417 Groups**
- **32,623 Members**

We are autonomous but do you see a **pattern**?

# FUN FACTS

## Area 44 Northern NJ

- 44 Districts
- 1,335 Groups
- 31,905 Members

## Area 59 Eastern PA

- 48 Districts
- 1,642 Groups
- 32,661 Members

# FUN FACTS

- Area 59 ranges from 12-20 per district meeting
- Area 44 ranges from 8-25 per district meeting
- Area 11 ranges from 40-100, 9.6 (8-20) per district meeting



# What's Wrong

-Misinformation

-Connectivity

-Unity

-Apathy

# Fears

- How are we going to do this?
- Time and effort to make the change!!!
- What if it does not work?
- What if we fail? What if it's not broke now?

# 4<sup>th</sup> Step Fear Prayer

“God please remove my fear of change and direct my attention to what you would have us be.”

What would God have us be?

**Maybe open minded**

# One Possibility

- Create more districts
- One DCM with an Alternate, per district, who leads the meeting (district chairperson position eliminated)
- GSR's fill positions of officers, committee chairs and events chairs

**Opening:** Serenity Prayer 7:35pm

**Introductions & Eligible Vote Count:** Votes: 18 Quorum: 12

**Secretary's Report:** Jen makes a motion to accept the minutes with the grammatical changes discussed. Dennis 2nds. Motion passes.

**Treasurer's Report:** November/December Opening balance: 3246.83, closing balance: 3193.44. Sue makes a motion to accept the report. Jen 2<sup>nd</sup>s. Motion passes.

#### **GSR Reports:**

**HoHoKus:** Billy reports everything is fine. As of January 1 there will be three meetings at both 12:00 and 6:00; 5 days a week. Positions for January have been filled. There is a group conscience tomorrow. And they will be contacting intergroup to notify them of changes of meetings.

**On A Different Footing:** Jennifer reports that there is good turnout and everything is going ok. There are some new faces. They are coming up on planning for their workshop soon. Things are getting tighter financially with the change in rent.

**Sunday Morning Reflections Mahwah:** Michael reports that the meeting is going good. They had a group conscience last Sunday and filled all of their commitments. They now have an Intergroup rep for the first time in 2 years! The new alt GSR is Joe . They are trying to talk to the beginners meeting held at the same location to get a GSR to rep them at our district meetings.

**Valley Sunday Morning:** Susan reported "all things wonderful" Asked what she could use to explain donations in A.A. She will pass on the pamphlets suggested to Dayton St.

**Allendale Archer:** Kristi reports that the group agreed to make announcement on the birthday plan. They are having problems getting there but all commitments are filled. The group is asking district:Q. what is the proper way to close an AA meeting? A. Its up to you! No proper way. Autonomy of the group.

**Valley Tuesday Night:** Scott reports that they have filled commitments after rotation. And asked how many people can we take to the Detox commitment?

**Ridgewood Wednesday Night Promises:** Bob reports that the group is diminishing in numbers but holding their own. They have filled commitments. He is ready to rotate out but there is no new person to take his place.

**Ramsey:** Chris reports that in the meeting list the street name is wrong and has given corrections to Jay. Attendance is fantastic.

**Wyckoff Positive Thinkers:** Peter reports that attendance is well. They have made a change in the rotation of commitments and have made donations. They will be going back to taking a commitment with Night watch as well.

---

**Allendale Monday Night:** Scott reports that all is going as to be expected. They held elections and commitments are filled. It is a troublesome time but they will keep at it.

**Upper Ridgewood Women's:** Yvonne reports that they are continuing to see new women coming in. They are realizing they don't do much service and are talking about different ways they can get involved.

**Glen Rock Sunday Night Step Workshop:** Dennis reports that they are getting bigger and are starting to build up money in their account again and hope to make contributions soon.

**Waldwick Fellowship Group:** Mike reports that everything is going well. They have rotated commitments. He will be rotating out in February. The financial difficulties seem to have been resolved.

**Godwin Group:** Paul has nothing new to report. They are waiting for the new meeting book to come out. As they have changed their name and location.

**Saddle River Tamers:** Selene reports that she is a new GSR and they are here to join us in this district. WELCOME!

#### **DCM Report:**

- o Next event is the Area Assembly on January 20 in Hamburg
- o A thank you from Jay to the District for allowing him to serve.
- o Midwinter luncheon – Feb. 11. Tickets available
- o NERAA SA Feb. 23-25 in Maryland Lin our incoming DCM will attend.
- o Kristi will be the GSR from our district who will present a topic at the Area Assembly.
- o The Adhoc committee agreed on a format to present at the next Area Committee meeting.
- o The work weekend was excellent. Attendance was good, not great. Reports from committees were excellent. The budget was approved. It was very effective.
- o We are not going to have new national directories from GSO printed this year due to a problem with the software license renewal. GSO is developing a new database and expects to print the directories next year.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Treasurers Pamphlet:**

Jay constructed a letter from the district concerning the changes to "Memo to an AA Group Treasurer" (F-96) Tom made a motion to support the letter and send it from the district. Jen 2nds. Discussion. Motion passes.

**Treasurers Pamphlet:**

Jay constructed a letter from the district concerning the changes to "Memo to an AA Group Treasurer" (F-96) Tom made a motion to support the letter and send it from the district. Jen 2nds. Discussion. Motion passes.

**Night watch Coordinator:**

Jonelle talked to Alan he will be here next month to give a presentation.

**Day of Sharing Report Back:**

Will be given next month.

Concept 12 report was given by Kevin. Concept 1 report will be given by Jen in January

**Committee Reports:**

**There are open chair positions for CPC, Treatment, and History & Archives.**

**CPC:** Tommy reports that he is stepping down and the position is now available. Tues Feb 6 he Jay and Tommy are going to the HHK school of nursing to help show professionals in the community what AA is and what AA isn't.

**Grapevine:** Sarah reports that they created an inventory and a list of accomplishments and disappointments from the last year.

**PI:** Kevin reports that there are no new commitments coming up. They have a new area chair.

**Literature:** Peter reports that there is nothing new. He has forms for any one who needs a summary of what the Lit. has available.

**There was a motion to close. Closed meeting.**

# Worth Noting

The previous District whose minutes we reviewed gets 300-400 people each year at its District Day of Sharing and has a full committee with chairs and alternate chairs.

# Are we Properly informing the Area on this Topic?

- Would a GSR appreciate more to do, more face time and more information?
- Would a DCM like less land and less groups to cover?
- Would a District embrace more communication and more participation?

# Area 11 “Article II By-Laws”

The purpose of the organization is to serve the needs of the A.A. Groups within its geographical area and to function as a constituent part of the AA General Service Conference of the United States and Canada

# Q & A

All questions lead to an **informed** group conscience!!!