

Area 11, District 4 Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee Report



Expanded Report

**DISTRICT 4, AREA 11 (CT)
JUNE 17, 2021**

Executive Summary Presentation



What is a District?



“A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups – right in terms of the committee member’s ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being.”

– *Page S31 A.A. Service Manual*

What is Redistricting?



“If it were not for adding committee members to take care of new groups as A.A. grows, the General Service Conference might well become unwieldy. As the number of groups increases and it becomes too difficult for the D.C.M. to communicate with them all, several courses can be followed . . .

Good communication and cooperation among groups, districts, and areas is important when redistricting or other changes in district structure are undertaken. There are many variations, but the goal is the same: to take care of expansion at the district level.”

– *Page S34 A.A. Service Manual*

Charge to the Committee



At the August 20, 2020 District 4 Monthly business meeting, a motion was made and passed (26-3) “to create an ad hoc committee to research redistricting District 4 and report back to the district.” The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting is to gather information and provide a report of its findings. The Ad hoc Committee on Redistricting has the following charge:

Main Objective

Review and evaluate options, feasibility, and possible necessity of redistricting District 4.

Charge to the Committee (Cont.)



In support of this objective

- Form a committee with a maximum of 2 people from each sub-district
- Explore possible effective ways for District 4 to redistrict into as many districts as District 4 deems appropriate.
- Explore possible challenges which may arise from redistricting, as well as possible ways to overcome challenges
- Obtain input from redistricting committees that were created by other districts within our area
- Consult with trusted servants outside Area 11 who have experience with re-districting
- Visit district meetings outside of Area 11 as research on how other districts and areas operate

Charge to the Committee (Cont.)

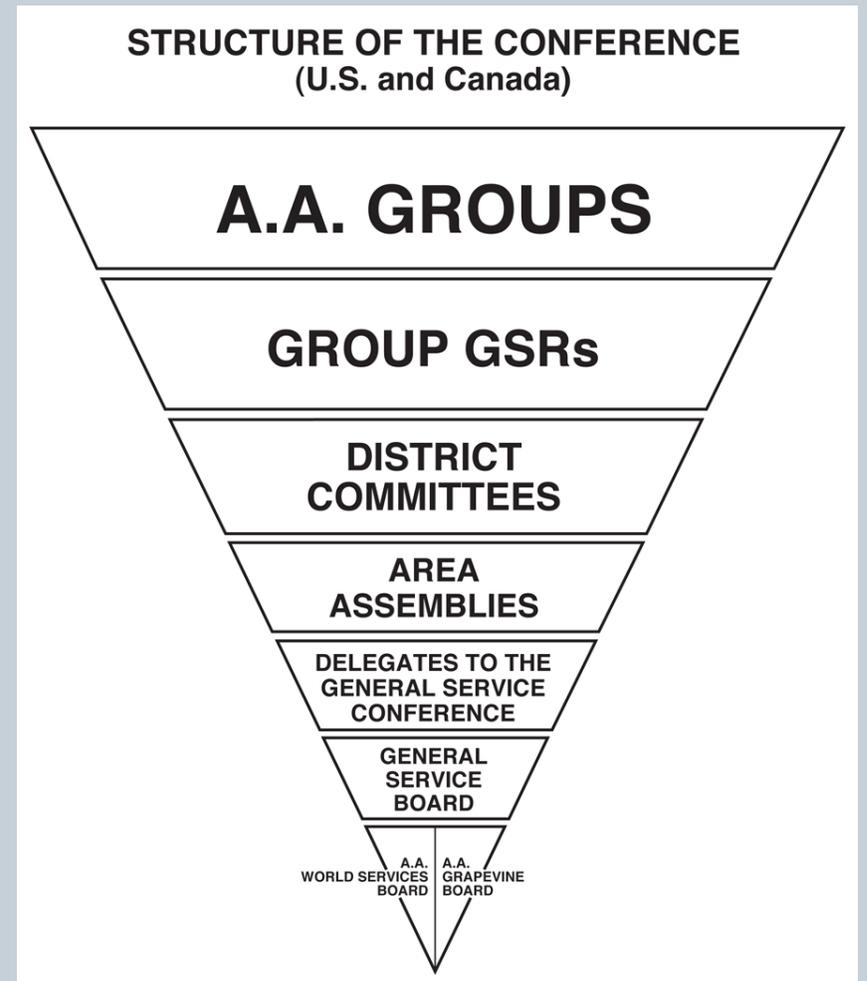


In support of this objective

- Visit district meetings outside of Area 11 as research on how other districts and areas operate
- Research and present data on other areas' ratio of DCMs to groups
- Consult the AA Service Manual as a resource, specifically with respect to the responsibilities of GSRs and DCMs, as well as redistricting on page S34 (2018-2020 Edition)
- Provide a report each month at the District 4 monthly business meeting
- Carry out duties by October 2021, if reasonable and possible
- Present its final report and findings to the District 4 Monthly Meeting in November 2021, if reasonable and possible

Purpose of the Service Structure

- Help more alcoholics
- Make the Two-Way Communication Effective
- Improve information flow up & down the triangle



District 4: How do we compare?



Washington D.C. (Area 13)

- 14 Districts;
502 Groups
- 36 Groups
per district

Rhode Island (Area 61)

- 8 Districts;
300 Groups
- 37 Groups
per district

Northern New Jersey (Area 44)

- 44 Districts;
1,335
Groups
- 30 Groups
per district

Connecticut (Area 11)

- 14 Districts;
1,417 Groups
- 142 Groups
per district

Area 11 District 4

- 1 District;
262 Groups
- 262 Groups
per district

Are We Fulfilling Our Primary Purpose?



- There are currently 262 known active groups in District 4
- Many districts in the USA have between 20 and 40 groups
- When districts get to 50 or more groups, they often redistrict into smaller districts.
- The primary purpose for redistricting is to increase the communication between DCMs and GSRs.

Advantages to Redistricting



- Better communication up and down the A.A. Service Structure
- Smaller, more intimate and informative District Meetings
- GSR's can discuss group issues and share local concerns, fostering stronger fellowship among groups
- Smaller districts will no longer need large meeting halls and can reduce expenses
- Less distance to travel to District Meetings
- Having more accurate information on groups and the districts
- Great, healthier engagement within each group
- This helps us to fulfill our primary purpose

Questions Arising from Redistricting



- What if the District meetings get too small?
 - *Experience has shown that may not be as bad as a District that is too large*
- How do we figure out everything that needs to get figured out? Splitting up treasury, meeting location, new District guidelines, etc.?
 - *It would not be an overnight matter. Those items would all require a group conscience. One thing at a time.*
- How do we fill all of the positions?
 - *Not all Area Standing Committees need representation from every district*
 - *Fewer positions are needed*
 - *GSRs take on more of an active role*
 - *Collaborative work enhanced with smaller groups*
 - *Districts can work together (e.g., combined alkathon, shared answering service)*

Survey of District 4 GSRs



- 34 members of District 4 responded
- What is a manageable number of groups for a DCM to represent?
 - The average response was: 35 groups.
- 44.1% of respondents don't feel engaged when at a district meeting
- 26.5% don't feel like a valued member of District 4
- 67.6% say their DCM has not communicated with them directly in the last 3 months
- 52.9% say they have left a district meeting with questions unanswered
- 52.9% say they don't feel as if the district provides GSRs with adequate training

[Remaining questions of the Survey are shown later in this report]

A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 7 Districts



	Towns		Groups
A	New Haven	47	
			47
B	Milford	40	
			40
C	West Haven	23	
	Orange	4	
	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
			36

	Towns		Groups
D	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
			40
E	Ansonia	23	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
			34

	Towns		Groups
F	Hamden	24	
	North Haven	5	
	Woodbridge	3	
	Bethany	2	
			34
G	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			31

A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 12 Districts



	Towns		Groups
H, J	New Haven	47	47
K, L	Milford	40	40
M	West Haven	23	23
N	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
	Bethany	2	
			22

	Towns		Groups
O	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
			23
P	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
			24
Q	Ansonia	23	23
R	Hamden	24	24

	Towns		Groups
S	North Haven	5	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Orange	4	
	Woodbridge	3	18
T	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			18

What's the Purpose?



The whole purpose for redistricting, as we understand it, is to better fulfill our ***Primary Purpose*** of carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

Formal Motion and Proposal Moving Forward



Motion for District 4:

The ad hoc committee motions that District 4 redistrict.

Service Manual Information



DCM Duties as outlined on page S32 of the A.A. Service Manual



“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.”

DCM Duties as outlined on page S32 of the A.A. Service Manual (Cont.)



- “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.”

Redistricting – From Page S34 of the A.A. Service Manual



“If it were not for adding committee members to take care of new groups as A.A. grows, the General Service Conference might well become unwieldy. As the number of groups increases and it becomes too difficult for the D.C.M. to communicate with them all, several courses can be followed [...]

Good communication and cooperation among groups, districts, and areas is important when redistricting or other changes in district structure are undertaken. There are many variations, but the goal is the same: to take care of expansion at the district level.” – Page S34 A.A. Service Manual

From page S23 of the A.A. Service Manual (2016-2018)



- One Area shares experience: “We created as many jobs as possible for the G.S.R.s and committee members.” – Pg. S23

A.A. Service Manual (2018-2020), page S17



“THE GROUP: The communication process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience — for or against change, approval or disapproval of a proposed action — be known to its elected general service representative (G.S.R.). The G.S.R. (see Chapter Two) makes sure the group’s wishes are heard and fully considered at the district and area levels, and that they are part of the delegate’s thinking at the Conference. After each annual Conference, the G.S.R. is responsible for making sure that group members are informed about what went on at the Conference and made aware of the full range of Advisory Actions (see Chapter Seven)”

District Survey Results



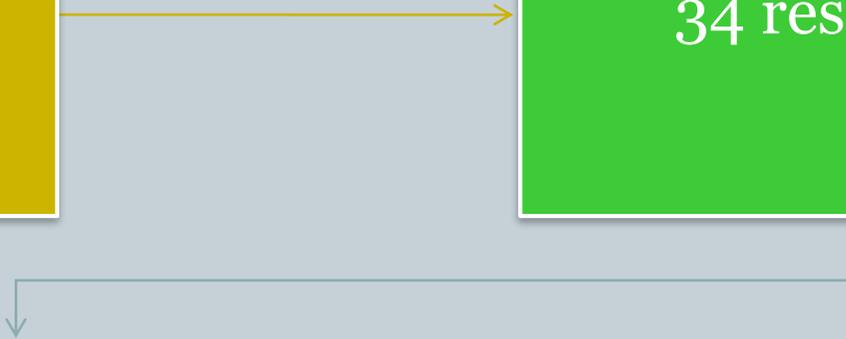
District 4 Survey Results



Survey distributed to
all attendees of
monthly District 4
meeting during
January 2021

34 responses

Responses are on the
following pages



District 4 Survey Results



Question: What is a manageable number of groups for a DCM to represent?

- Numerical responses ranged from 3 to 250 groups; the average was 34 groups.

Question: Do you feel engaged when you come to a district meeting?

- 55.9% of respondents answered “Yes”; 44.1% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Which suggestions do you have to make the district meetings more engaging?

- “More emphasis on pertinent information, less repeated information.”
- “More GSR concerns and reports.”
- “Less people, more GSR inclusion.”
- “Time limits to discussions.”
- “Shorter and more direct information relevant to my group.”
- “More interaction between GSR and DCM.”

District 4 Survey Results (Cont.)



Question: Have you communicated directly with your DCM in the last 3 months?

- 32.4% of respondents answered “Yes”; 67.6% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Do you know the name of your current delegate?

- 61.8% of respondents answered “Yes”; 38.2% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Which portion of the district meeting do you find the most valuable?

- “Committee reports.”
- “Things to bring back to your home group.”
- “Talking over group concerns.”
- “Break-out sessions.”
- “New GSR breakout and training.”

District 4 Survey Results (Cont.)



Question: Which portion of the district meeting do you find the least valuable?

- “Repetition of format.”
- “Spending so much time on filling positions.”
- “Tradition and concept work without any explanation.”
- “Too long.”
- “Committee reports.”
- “Break-out sessions.”

Question: Is the district meeting a reasonable distance away from where you live?

- 91.2% of respondents answered “Yes”; 8.8% of respondents answered “No”

District 4 Survey Results (Cont.)



Question: Would you appreciate it if the District meeting was able to accomplish more in a shorter amount of time?

- 85.3% of respondents answered “Yes”; 14.7% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Have you ever left a District 4 meeting with a question unanswered?

- 47.1% of respondents answered “Yes”; 52.9% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Have you ever not asked a question because you were intimidated by the size of the District meeting?

- 44.1% of respondents answered “Yes”; 55.9% of respondents answered “No”

District 4 Survey Results (Cont.)



Question: How often do you stay for the entire meeting?

- 70.6% of respondents answered “Always”
- 26.5% of respondents answered “Sometimes”
- 2.9% of respondents answered “Never”

Question: Do you feel as if the district provides adequate GSR training?

- 47.1% of respondents answered “Yes”; 52.9% of respondents answered “No”

Question: Do you feel like a valued member of district 4?

- 73.5% of respondents answered “Yes”; 26.5% of respondents answered “No”

Visiting Other Districts



NOTE: Several of these District Meeting Summaries were conducted by the former Area 11 District 9 in their redistricting evaluation.

Connecticut District Meeting Summary



- Area 11, District 12 (newly formed district from redistricting, planning meeting)
- Visited Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7:30pm
- Meeting length: 1 hour
- 20 people in attendance (including 6 GSRs, 1 DCM, 1 Delegate, 1 Alt Delegate, and 1 Past Delegate)
- Approximately 28 groups in district
- DCM chaired the meeting
- GSRs checked-in for their group and shared updates and concerns
- Group read 2 pages from the A.A. Service Manual
- Meeting closed with questions, comments, inspiration, and the responsibility pledge.

Arizona District Meeting Summary



- Arizona, Area 3, Sub-District 08-801
- 10 A.A. members present
- 12 Groups total within this sub-district
- Meeting facilitated by DCM
- Meeting Agenda: Concept Reading, Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, DCM Report (Area meeting & Delegate's Report), Old Business (Prudent Reserve), New Business (Google Drive for Sub-District; Post-Conference Assembly). NOTE: Very different structure in AZ due to geography
- Less than 1 hour meeting
- Nearly every GSR in attendance was an active participant
- GSR's present stated they felt they have regular contact with their DCM, feel connected to A.A. as a whole (A.A. Navajo Big Book discussion)
- "We're like a family."

Ohio Districts Meeting Summary



- NE Ohio, Area 54, Districts 23 & 29
- 18 A.A. members present
- 76 Groups total between both districts
- Meeting facilitated by DCM
- Format: Meeting was led by one of the two DCMs. DCM report was followed by GSR reports. Those were followed by committee reports. Then new business was introduced (topics submitted in advance). Finally, the meeting ended with anything on people's minds for the good of the district.
- Other Thoughts: This is a unique district situation. They divided the district into 2 years ago but now seem to function as 1 district. They do have 2 DCMs, one for each district. I'm not sure what the explanation is for low GSR attendance. Their district meeting is 9am on Sunday, so this may conflict with church for some people who would otherwise attend. Add to that the conditions incurred by covid. They have a small enough group that they can communicate well among themselves, but with so few GSRs they probably have trouble covering the needs of the districts' groups.

Connecticut District Meeting



- Area 11, District 11 (newly formed district from redistricting)
- Visited Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7pm
- 18 people in attendance (including 1 DCM, 1 Alt DCM, Treasurer, Recording Secretary)
- Approximately 17 groups in district
- DCM chaired the meeting
- Question and Answer session held; GSRs shared questions and concerns.
- In-depth conversations regarding traditions, concepts, service manual, and conference structure
- District members read "Why Do We Need a Conference?" p. S20 from Service Manual
- DCM asked district members what they hope to get from district meetings.

Rhode Island District Meeting Summary



- Rhode Island, Area 61, District 6 (Warwick, RI)
- District meeting chaired by DCM (1 DCM for District)
- 10 A.A. members present at the meeting
- 1 hour and 15 minutes
- District meets separately for 30 minutes before the District meeting for a Traditions workshop
- Most members present were GSR's who filled roles (Treasurer, etc.)
- Agenda: Announcements/Introductions, Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, group concerns, DCM report, Committee Reports (most of which provided by DCM), Old Business and New Business (upcoming District workshop discussed as a District), Event Announcements.
- Area 61 utilizes intergroup and central office in their structure
- GSR's active participants in meeting; informal; collective discussions
- District 6 has redistricted in the past; Districts redistrict with some regularity

Southeastern New York District Meeting



- Southeastern New York, Area 49, Putnam County
- S.E.N.Y. utilizes Counties within their structure
- Even though it was the County meeting, which is (in theory) bigger than the District meetings, there were only 15 A.A. members present
- District meeting chaired by DCMC. (or Alternate in their absence)
- Most A.A. members present were GSR's; some of the GSR's filled the service positions
- S.E.N.Y. utilizes Intergroup. They also have "bookies" for booking speakers.
- Agenda: Opening Readings/Intros; Secretary's Report; Treasurer's Report; Committee Reports (such as Website and Corrections & Treatment); Announcements of Upcoming Events; Old & New Business (Website expenses, County-sponsored events, updating County bylaws); meeting concluded with every GSR giving a report
- All that... and the meeting did not exceed 45 minutes.
- Several empty service positions; small/intimate; informal; everyone present contributed to the discussion; everyone well-acquainted; all work together on.

Northern New Jersey District Meeting



- Northern New Jersey, Area 44, District 5 & 7
- Cluster District (used to be District 5 and District 7, combined together – now it's simply District 5 & 7)
- 1 DCM – they chaired the meeting (or Alternate DCM in their absence)
- 16 A.A. members present; approximately 1 hour
- Most A.A. members present were either GSR's or visitors looking into filling open positions
- Collectively discussed solutions and methods of completing committee work (example: an issue that was discussed with the Corrections committee)
- Many new people were present and the District meeting accommodated this and answered all of their questions throughout the District meeting
- Everyone felt very comfortable asking any service-related question; informal/friendly setting which allowed everyone to learn together

Northern New Jersey District Meeting



- Northern New Jersey, District 34
- Visited Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 9:30am
- Meeting length: 1.5 hours
- 20 people in attendance (including 12 GSRs, 2 Alt GSRs, Intergroup rep, 1 DCM, and 1 Alt DCM)
- Approximately 35-40 groups in district
- DCM chaired the meeting
- Each attendee introduced themselves with name, home group, and position
- Each GSR and committee rep gave a report
- Important Note: District 34 is a product of redistricting. District 34 stemmed from District 17 (of Area 44) when members of the districts felt as if D17 was too large at about 65 groups. This occurred about 20-25 years ago.

Southwest Texas District Meeting



- District 81 , in the Clear Lake section of Houston, Texas (near the Houston NASA Space Center) has 40 A.A. Groups in its District and is considered one of the largest Districts in that Area.
- The DCM runs the monthly District meeting with attendance of about 25 GSR's, they kept their monthly District meeting to about 1 hour and all the GSR's had a chance to share group issues and concerns as well as joys.
- All the District representatives of standing Area Committees are filled with GSR's or A.A. volunteers and each of these committees hold monthly meetings, where the work of the committees are done, and a quick summary of the District Committees work is given at the monthly District meetings.
- They combine CPC and PI into one committee as is common in that Area
- Districts often have their own websites to promote District Events, meetings and news (District 81 was in the process of creating their own website, based upon the experience of other Districts in their Area)

Western Massachusetts District Meeting



- Western Mass, Area 31, District 3
- 1 DCM for the District - facilitated the meeting; broken up into sub-Districts; each sub-District has an L.C.M. (Local Committee Member); with a clear distinction between DCM/LCM duties
- 17 A.A. Members present (this was one of the “larger” District meetings in Area 31); approximately 1 hour
- Agenda: Announcements/Opening Readings; Secretary’s Report; Welcoming of new GSR’s/Visitors; Tradition & Concept of the Month; GSR reports (every GSR gave one); Area Officer Report; Intergroup Liaison Report; DCM Report; Old Business (discussed Fall workshop); New Business (open positions); remainder of meeting was spent answering questions GSR’s had
- A majority of committee work (PI, CPC, etc.) carried out by groups

Eastern Massachusetts District Meeting



- Eastern Massachusetts, Area 30, District 20
- District has 1 DCM and 1 Alternate DCM
- All other members present were GSR's who fulfilled the various roles (Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)
- 13 A.A. members present
- Approximately 1.5 hours long
- Agenda: Opening announcements/introductions; DCM report; Secretary Report; Treasurer's Report; "Functions" Chairperson Report; Young People's Committee Report; Website Report; the remaining time was spent answering questions from GSR's
- Some Districts work together on events; Area 30 also uses Intergroup
- Informal; everyone present contributed; GSR's play an active role; District collectively discussed/decided on events and various agenda items; familiarity

Northern New Jersey District Meeting



- North Jersey, Area 44, District 9 (multiple visits, in-person)
- 20 A.A. members present; Meeting in a rectangle around the room
- 1 DCM for the District; DCM chairs the meeting; Alternate if absent
- Most present were GSR's; all gave a report on their Group
- Committee Reports took place; but District works together (example: they all discussed collectively bringing literature to libraries and police stations as a District; GSR's agree to take on tasks for the District and then get their own group involved)
- District 9 works with other Districts on certain events, like Alkathons
- Meeting did not close until all questions answered; less than 1 hour

Northern New Jersey District Meeting



- Northern Jersey, Area 44, District 9
- Visited Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00pm; Fellowship at 7pm, Meeting at 7:30pm
- Meeting length: 1 hour, 15 minutes. A motion has to be made, seconded, and passed if more meeting time is needed.
- 16 people in attendance (including 9 GSRs, 1 DCM, 1 Alt DCM, Corrections rep, Treasurer, Social Media Secretary, and Literature Rep)
- Approximately 18 groups in district
- DCM chaired the meeting
- Each attendee introduced themselves with name, home group, and position
- All GSRs reported out including information regarding group attendance, concerns, anniversaries, and finances
- 12 Step ideas shared (e.g. place Big Books in 'Little Libraries')
- Suggested qualifications for service include having or getting a service sponsor
- GSRs have email address (from the Area, Area well organized)

North Florida District Meeting



- Visited District 15, Area 14 on 12/1/20. Twelve people total there, 18 total groups in District 15. The meeting lasted about 1 hour, and all business was conducted in that time frame.
- All GSRs there also served as another role at the District. Everyone remembered who was at the last meeting and knew each other.
- Each group gave a group report and they all participated in the service events that happened in the district, all members inspired by their connection to the local area
- They spoke about local restrictions per COVID guidelines, hybrid meetings, mask only meetings etc and had enough time to dedicate to important topics.

Advantages and Disadvantages



Advantages to Redistricting



- Better communication up and down the A.A. Service Structure
- Smaller more intimate and informative District Meetings
- GSR's can discuss group issues and share local concerns, fostering stronger fellowship between groups
- Smaller districts will no longer need large meeting halls and reduce expenses
- Less distance to travel to District Meetings
- Having more accurate information on groups and the districts
- Healthier and more engagement within groups
- This helps us to fulfill our primary purpose

Reasons for District 4 to Redistrict



- District 4's size and structure is inconsistent with the suggestions outlined in the A.A. Service Manual
- The 90/10 rule (10% of the people do 90% of the work . . . let's grow from that!)
- GSR's do not have as much of an opportunity to be an active participant of the District as they could
- GSR's leave the District meeting with unanswered questions.
- It is impossible for the DCM to fulfill all of their duties, as outlined in the A.A. service manual, with the current structure
- As Bill W. used to say: "Good is the enemy of the best."
- Increased communication between GSR's and DCM's
- More information about the happenings in A.A. as a whole: more informed GSRs, groups and members
- **WORST CASE SCENARIO:** It doesn't work and we go back to the original way.

How will new Districts Operate



- A DCM and Alternate DCM would run monthly District Meetings
- Each new District would need a District Treasurer and possibly an additional District Officer such as a District Secretary
- New District Guidelines would need to be written
- GSR's and A.A. volunteers would fill the roles in District Standing Committees that report to the Area11 Standing Committees
- Not all the Area's Standing Committees would need representation, for example if there are no prisons in the new District there may not be a need for a corrections representative for that District, other District Committees may be filled or left unoccupied as that District sees fit, or they can find volunteers
- Districts are autonomous and can choose to run the District and District Meetings according to local issues and concerns as long as they do not affect other Districts or A.A. as a whole

Area 11 Standing Committees



- Accessibilities
- Alkaline
- Answering Service
- Archives
- Convention
- CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Communities)
- Corrections
- Grapevine
- Public Information
- Rompiendo Fronteras
- Round Up
- Schedules
- Sober Fest
- Treatment
- Website

Shared Services by New Districts



- Some services currently filled by District 4 work well under the current system and some new Districts may choose to continue those shared services such as the current District 4 Answering Service
- We probably do not need a new District Answering Service Chair for each new District if the current system is doing a good job of handling all the calls that come into the District 4 A.A. Hot line that are sent to it from the Area11A.A. Answering Service.
- The costs of such shared services could be split by the new Districts and any other such shared services could be handled in a similar fashion.
- Creation of an Intergroup between the New Districts for shared services in the current geography of the existing District 4 is possible if there was such a need.

The Truth About Redistricting



- **The Good:** Having an appropriately sized and appropriately structured District can allow for more informed GSR's, more informed A.A. groups, more informed A.A. members, and the message can better be carried to help more alcoholics. Worst case scenario: switch back to the old way.
- **The Challenge:** It **WILL** require a lot of work, creativity, and strenuous effort on the part of the members of the District. People will need to step up and take responsibility to make it happen.
- **Good News:** Once the growing pains subside, we become much more effective for the still-suffering alcoholic.

Items that Would Require Further Discussion/Group Conscience



- Splitting up the District Treasury
- The creation of separate District Guidelines (as the current District guidelines would essentially cease to exist if redistricting took place)
- The exact number and boundaries and timing of creating the multiple new Districts.
- The Districts may want to continue to work together on certain services that require a lot of work (example: host joint alkathons, Keeping the current Answering Service); other logistics were shared services make sense
- Some current functions that work for the existing District 4 such as the A.A. Hot Line / Answering Service could be kept as a joint function , we probably don't need 7 or more new AA Hot Line District Chairs if that stays a shared service
- Some standing Area Committees many not need representation in the new Districts, for example if there are no prisons then no need for a corrections chair, if no detoxes or rehabs in the new District you may not need a treatment District chair

Obstacles to overcome in Redistricting



- Inertia, “we have always done things this way, why change?”
- Concerns about finding enough people to fill all the new positions in new Districts
- Splitting up the money and responsibilities that are now handled in our current District 4 organization
- Will each new District need to fill a District Chair for all of Area 11’s Standing Committees?

Interview with A.A. Member with Redistricting Experience



- 7/30/18 via phone – Former Southeastern New York Redistricting Ad-Hoc Committee (25 years ago)
- Ad-hoc started because there were too many groups for the DCM's to visit and there was very little participation... the idea about redistricting being: It's better to have too many DCM's than too few.
- People became more interested when redistricting was brought up
- Redistricting made the Districts more manageable for DCM's
- It did not increase the numbers by much, but it did increase the involvement
- There was more of a “community” feeling after redistricting
- Some Districts split off without a DCM; these Districts suffered greatly; some of them went completely “dark”
- The ad-hoc committee made the mistake of not simultaneously restructuring and making sure there were enough DCM's already in place
- A final thought: having 2 or 3 **STRONG** groups in a District can make a huge difference

Solutions to Challenges Likely to Arise from Redistricting



- Challenge: What if the District meetings get too small?
 - *Experience has shown that may not be as bad as a District that is too large*
- Challenge: How do we figure out everything that needs to get figured out? Splitting up treasury, meeting location, new District guidelines, etc.?
 - *Solution: Take a breath. It would not be an overnight matter. Those items would all require a group conscience. It would happen in steps.*
- Challenge: How do we fill all of the positions?
 - *Solution: LESS positions*
 - *Not all Area Standing Committees need representation from every district*
 - *Solution: GSR's take on more of an active role*
 - *Solution: Collaborative work (scratch the 90/10 rule)*
 - *Districts can work together (i.e. combined alkathon, etc.)*

Non-Represented A.A. Groups within District 4



- Non-Represented (commonly referred to as Dark) A.A. Groups are A.A. groups that do not have a GSR, or groups that do not have an official A.A. Group number from GSO and are not listed in our schedules.
- Due to our tradition of group autonomy, an A.A. Group can remain Non-Represented if that is the consensus of the Group conscious.
- One of the Responsibilities of a DCM is to become aware of all of the A.A. groups in their District and to visit their A.A. Meetings.
- If a DCM finds a Non-Represented A.A. Group, they will often attend the meeting of the Non-Represented group to let them know the advantages of getting an official A.A. Group number, have their meeting listed in the Area Schedules book and on the A.A. Website and having a GSR represent the group at A.A. District Meetings.
- The current pandemic has resulted in the creation of a lot of new A.A. meetings / groups that meet in parks, beaches, parking lots and people's homes and backyards (often around a fire pit).
- Not all these new groups will survive, once we go back to in-person meetings but some probably will continue
- When a DCM has a large geography to cover and a 100 or even 70 A.A. groups in their District it is hard to find and visit all the Non-Represented A.A. Groups

Redistricting Options



Redistricting Options



- Option 1: Redistrict into multiple separate Districts
- Option 1: ratio of 30 to 40 A.A. Groups per district
- See the example of Redistricting Existing District 4 into 7 New Districts by grouping them into contiguous towns
- Option 2: District 4 to Redistrict into about 12 separate Districts
- Option 2 : ratio of about 20 Groups per district (This option requires for at least 2 Towns (New Haven and Milford) splitting a single town into more than 1 district or deciding that a District not be less than a single city or town
- Option 3: Keep the current situation or pick another number of Districts that A.A. members of current District 4 think is an appropriate number of new Districts

A.A. Groups per Town in District 4 according to the latest Registrar's Report



• Ansonia	23	• New Haven	47
• Beacon Falls	2	• North Branford	4
• Bethany	2	• North Haven	5
• Branford	19	• North Guilford	4
• Clinton	6	• North Madison	2
• Derby	2	• Northford	2
• East Haven	4	• Orange	4
• Guilford	7	• Seymour	6
• Hamden	24	• Shelton	7
• Killingworth	3	• Westbrook	9
• Madison	11	• West Haven	23
• Milford	40	• Woodbridge	3

A.A. Groups per Sub-District in District 4 per the latest Registrar's Report



- Subdistrict 4-1 92 Groups
- Subdistrict 4-2 70 Groups
- Subdistrict 4-3 100 Groups
- Total Active Groups 262 Groups

Map of Groups by Town



A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 7 Districts



	Towns		Groups
A	New Haven	47	
			47
B	Milford	40	
			40
C	West Haven	23	
	Orange	4	
	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
			36

	Towns		Groups
D	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
			40
E	Ansonia	23	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
			34

	Towns		Groups
F	Hamden	24	
	North Haven	5	
	Woodbridge	3	
	Bethany	2	
			34
G	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			31

A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 12 Districts



	Towns		Groups
H, J	New Haven	47	47
K, L	Milford	40	40
M	West Haven	23	23
N	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
	Bethany	2	
			22

	Towns		Groups
O	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
			23
P	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
			24
Q	Ansonia	23	23
R	Hamden	24	24

	Towns		Groups
S	North Haven	5	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Orange	4	
	Woodbridge	3	18
T	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			18