

## CAPITAL AREA INVENTORY REPORT

The day opened with a moment of silence and the serenity prayer, and was followed by a reading of the Twelve Concepts and Traditions.

There were eight people present, which made up six homegroups, two subcommittees, and two members that had no homegroup.

We followed the format below:

Read 12<sup>th</sup> Concept (first 2 paragraphs)

Read A Guide to Local Services, pg. 58-59

Read It Works: How and Why, Tradition 4, pg. 155 (last paragraph)

Read It Works: How and Why, Tradition 5, pg. 162 (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

Read 12 Concepts for NA Service, Concept 6, pg. 14 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

Read The Group Booklet Revised, How Can Our Group Solve Its Problems, Pg 22-23

After we read and discussed the passages selected for the Inventory, each member in attendance had an opportunity to list potential issues, liabilities, or shortcomings for the group to discuss. We went around the room and as each individual volunteered either their or their group's contribution, the facilitators wrote the statement on the post-it note on the wall.

Afterward, everyone got five stickers to put by the issues of their choice. We started the second half of the day with a discussion of the most popular issues, according to how many stars were beside them. The following is a report of the discussion of the selected issues:

### 1. Groups exploiting Tradition 4, using autonomy to justify non-spiritual behavior

When this discussion began, the focus was on group formats – where they exclude, where they make good use of time, whether or not the group format is something that can be or should be discussed at area, a learning day, or anywhere outside of the group conscience meeting. The focus of the discussion then changed, because it did not take long for members to remember or be reminded that a group is defined by the Six Points of a Group as they are found in the Guide to Local Services and The Group Booklet. So long as a group follows those six points, they can call themselves a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. That whereas there may be a systematic misunderstanding of the Fourth Tradition in the Capital Area, much of the responsibility about how a group runs is left to the group. The area cannot dictate to the groups how they should run their meetings.

The change in focus left the members present discussing how a group can solve its problems. An individual at the inventory had been a part of a homegroup that had been going through some growing pains, and had expressed that the group had been seeking solutions, but was beginning to feel like they were running out of ideas. This lended a fruitful discussion that served as a reminder to those present that *this body – the ASC* is here to help solve those problems. We come together to discuss issues that we are facing as homegroups first and foremost! That is the primary responsibility of this service committee.

### 2. Apathy in Service/Lack of Rotation

This discussion focused more closely on cause of the problem, how it affects the area, and possible solutions:

Parts of the Problem:

- lack of rotation, lack of willing participants
- wall between area and homegroups
- poor sponsorship
- to release a subcommittee takes faith, and leaving one that may not have people to fill in is not easy
- as addicts, we begin strong and finish weak
- people speaking negative about area and the subcommittees
- lack of unity and communication between subcommittees
- lack of learning days

Potential solutions:

- Speak positive about your experience
- more learning days and workshops
- subcommittees working together on workshops and learning days
- be mindful when making announcements about area
- attraction rather than promotion
- better communication between area and groups
- “this doesn't end here”
- reminding the groups how they are being served or what types of services they receive from the ASC (in a sense, reminding people what they would *not* be receiving if they did not have an ASC).
- Having the service menus more available for the groups

### 3. Priorities of Service

This suggestion came from a home group that saw the difference in annual budget between the convention and the rest of the area subcommittees and wanted to talk about it. Again, the discussion focused on causes of the problem and potential solutions.

Problem(s):

- setting people up to fail in service – railroading people into positions
- “warm body syndrome”
- fund raising comes before delivering message
- convention committee solicits homegroups to raise money, diverting them from their primary responsibility
- priority on the party
- Convention has \$13,000 seed money, whereas H&I has \$2,400 per year, PI \$800 per year, Outreach is \$420 per year

Solution(s):

- an “experience pool” of numbers of people who are willing to help new position holders who have experience in those positions
- re-evaluate the focus of the area – is our focus on the convention or on the other services we provide
- re-evaluation of “operating costs”
- time management @ area
- re-evaluate money spent on the convention itself

#### 4. Communication: between Area Subcommittee + Groups:

It was brought up that the area has a problem with communication. Groups not communicating with each other and the Area not communicating with the groups.

##### Problems:

- GSR orientation needs to improve, GSR's not communicating well with home groups
- holding events in facilities where meetings are being held at the same time

##### Solutions:

- must invest more in GSR's
- provide literature to appropriate servants
- orientation "packages" for GSR's
- workshops
- we have a responsibility to listen
- GSR is the LIASON for the groups
- combine learning day with Activity event
- area newsletter
  
- re evaluate convention activities
- Planning of learning days and workshops every three months

After discussing the problems, their causes, and possible solutions, we finished the day with a list of assets – things at which the members thought this area was doing an effective job. The following is that list:

##### Assets

- doing more with less
- individuals in service positions are efficient
- individuals are respectful to order of business
- area responds to needs of groups
- responsible and accountable
- sense of unity
- deal well with outside community
- delivery of minutes has improved
- improvement of treasury
- P.I improvement over years
- H+I strong
- Area time management improved
- members attend area
- quality of long timers
- lots of meetings
- individuals ability to ask for help
- individuals ability to practice humility
- consensus based decision making
- area receptive to new ideas

- consistent growth/willingness to grow
- diversity
- convention
- dependable ASC meeting
- policy reevaluation/improvements
- receptiveness of individuals in area

One of the things that was stressed to the facilitators to bring back to Area is the notion that “the work does not stop here.” There were many potential solutions discussed for the problems we got to, but on top of that, there were several problems we did not even get to touch on.

This list has many solutions for the individual to take upon him or herself, such as sharing positively about area and what it has done for your recovery, but there are other suggestions that could possibly become motions that would effect change in the way this area takes care of its business. It is not this Ad-Hoc's responsibility to suggest or write any motions. That gets done by the home groups. This information is for you to take back to your groups to reach a conscience on. If your group would like us to come and review this report with them, we would be happy to come.

Included for reference is a summary of the Questionnaire Results from those groups that took the time to fill it out. This Questionnaire is not an afterthought – please take the time to read it along with the answers of the seven groups that took the time to discuss this at their group business meeting. Thank you for being a part of this inventory process.

## Questionnaire Results

### AREA INVENTORY

An area may want to send this inventory or a similar set of questions to the groups. Members or groups can answer each question with a number from one to five, using a scale such as:

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all	Needs Improvement	Adequate	Outstanding	Excellent

When the numbers are totaled for each question, the area can see what most needs improvement (1) and what is going quite well already (5).

How well has the area served local groups this year?

***Below is a list of ratings based on each questionnaire we received (separated by commas)***

- How well does the area communicate with local groups? \_3,3,3,3,2,3,\_\_\_
- How well does the area respond to the needs of local groups? \_2,4,3,3,4,4,4,\_\_\_
- How well is the area managing its donations and area treasury? \_\_3,5,3,2,2,4,4\_\_
- How effectively does the area demonstrate responsibility and accountability? \_4,3,3,3,3,3,4\_\_\_\_\_
- How fully does the area train and support members who serve on the area service committee? \_4,3,3,2,3,2,2,2\_\_\_\_\_
- How well does the area service committee foster an atmosphere of courtesy and mutual respect? \_2,2,1,2,2,4,2,\_\_\_\_\_
- How completely does the area provide opportunities for communication about committee concerns to the local members and groups? \_2,4,3,2,4,2,3\_\_\_\_\_
- How well is a sense of unity fostered within the area service body? \_2,3,2,2,2,2,3\_\_\_\_\_
- How positively is a sense of unity shown within local groups? \_\_4,4,3,3,4,2.5,3\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the area's experience with trusted servants? \_\_\_\_\_3,4,2,2,4,x,3\_\_\_\_\_
- How well has the area fostered the willingness of the local fellowship to volunteer for service positions? \_\_2,2,4,1,2,3, 2.5, 2\_\_\_\_\_
- How well does the area practice continuity and rotation? \_\_2,2,4,1,2,3,3\_\_\_\_\_

- How well does the area function in maintaining a full complement of trusted servants, with no open commitments? 3,2,2,1,3,2,1
- How fully does the area create an environment where the conscience of the body guides the decisions and direction of the area? 2,2,3,2,2,3,3

**How well has the area done this year in making NA's message more widely known in the larger community?**

- How well is the area communicating with those in the community who interact with addicts? 3,4,4,2,4,4,3
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- How completely does the area respond to the needs of the larger community? 3,4,3,2,3,3
- How well is the area using human and financial resources to carry NA's message of recovery in an efficient and effective way? 3,2,2,3,2,3
- How fully trained and supported are the trusted servants who interact with members of the community? 2,4,3,3,3,4
- How well has the area built cooperative relationships with those in the larger community? 4,3,3,3,4,4
- How easily can those in the larger community reach an NA member who is in a position to respond to their questions or requests? 2,?,4,3,2,3

**How well has the area cooperated and collaborated with the region and NA World Services this year?**

- How effectively does the area communicate with the region and with NA World Services? ?, 2,3,?, ?
- How well does the area respond to requests from the region and from NA World Services? How fully does the area share its needs and concerns with the region and NA World Services? ?,?,4,2,2,4
- How reliably does the area forward funds to the region and/or NA World Services? 4,4,4,4,2,?
- How effectively does the area use resources (such as written materials or experience from other trusted servants) that are available through the region and/or NA World Services? ?,2,3,2,3,3
- How fully has the area formed a cooperative relationship with the region and NA World Services? 3,3,3,3,2,?
- How well is the area creating a sense of unity with the region and NA World Services? ?,2,4,2,2,3

Is there any particular area of service and/or area function that you perceive is outstanding? Please identify:

Group1: "Always room for improvement"

Group2: "meets needs of groups. Trains committee members. Managing Treasury. Interacts with community"

Group3: "website subcommittee, learning day"

Group4: "conventions"

Group5: "PI+Web - last two webperson"

"H+I baniry Job (spelling??)"

Group6: "outreach"

Group7: DID NOT FILL OUT THIS PORTION

Is there any particular area of service and/or area function that you perceive would need improvement? Please identify:

Group1: "Communication , Training"

Group2: "foster an attitude of unity, courtesy, and mutual respect. Use human and financial resources to carry the message. Communicate with region and NA World Services. Foster willingness of members to volunteer for service positions"

Group3: "In area meeting more cooperation between members will help others to want to get involved. Foster more unity."

Group4: "Time management @ Area. Our GSR doesn't consistently receive minutes. H+I doesn't follow up with people after they are oriented. Convention and Activities more inclusive of everyone."

Group5: " ASC meetings"

Group6: " Training Trusted Servants"

Group7: DID NOT FILL OUT THIS PORTION

ILS,

Joe and Dave