Suffolk County Inventory

Friday, November 16th 2018

Conducted by John W. - Delegate

Introduction by John W.

1. What is the basic purpose of Suffolk County General Serive?

Heather - to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Mike - carry the message of AA world service back to the group

Communicate back to the group what happens at the County.

Jim - to ensure that we’re here for generations to come.

Cathy - to find out what kind of opportunities to participate ie corrections/treatment, upcoming events, etc.

Kim - “ . . . same principle to our county structure.”

GSR is the pipeline to carry the message from the GSC to the group and from the group to the GSC (AA as a whole)

Take care of the business of General Service

2. Are we fulfilling these purposes?

Melissa - I think we do a good job. Could do better. Don’t have enough DCMS/GSRS. Make sure our county meting has a District Meeting. Not a good explanation of what a DCM is/ that there is a DCM election next month. More information needed. There’s a DCM election next month! If there was more information there would be more participation in those positions.

We come up short attendance wise. We can see how groups aren’t represented. We could do better.

Tina - committee positions are not filled. A lot of positions missing. Not enough information.

Mike - Fond of events put on by SGS. in that sense we ARE carrying the message. Audience looks the same as before. Always been the case. “that body” of people have never showed up.

If the group doesn’t have a GSR, they probably don’t know about General Service. W**hat do we do about that?**

Aubry - Go to a lot of other meetings. Carry a lot of flyers. Make a lot of announcements ic AA adding satires of young people to the Big Book. Announcements for the good of AA . . .

Michele - When DCM, went to all the dark districts in my area. Brought lit., glyers, who I was, during “AA announcement” time. Offered to attend groups business meeting. Doesn’t just have to be DCM. Can be Alt, can be GSR.

**FLAG AS QUESTION FOR SUFFOLK. WHAT CAN THE COUNTY DO TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION.**

3. PRETTY good cross section of people. Rob - No. Where are our spanish speaking meetings? Where is that whole district? Debbie - what if this meeting had a regular AA meeting - then the business started? Might bring in more/different people. Tom did that this year - bring in different speakers, never been done on any rotation. Chris - AA meeting from 6:30 - 7:30?

General problem - maintaining new comers. Not attractive to new people. What could we do to make more appealing?

If we had a meeting at 6:30 nobody would stay because of culture in AA. It’s up tot he sponsor. It’s up to us and our sponsees.

4. I don’t think so. don’t think it’s true.

Roy - I don’t think so. Tend to talk to people in your district bc that’s who you sit with.

The exact opposite - people in GS tend to be the most outgoing, consciencsious. If you become a GSR, you become pretty selfless. You want to serve AA. By it’s nature, clicks aren’t something we have.

Mike - 1st year - was having trouble, odd man out. Woman helped in beginning. “it’s in my best interest to join one of those clicks. Extend your hand and introduce myself to one of the people.” Be a part. Join those “clicks”.

I don’t think its click-ish. Service has caused me to step out of comfort zone. Support group bigger.

Chris - Same. People outgoing, nice, helpful. Jim did phenomenal job as GSR orientation.

Rob - Years when there was more participation. Several years in a row, not as much participation. No committees participation. So few DCMs/Committee Chairs. We need to make committees/district more attractive.

John - helpful to motivate by “half full rather than half empty”

5. People are pretty good with that.

Groups?

My group has had to reelect GSRs. Is some turnover with GSRs.

Alice - My group, it’s a two year commitment. Emphasised word “commitment”.

Mihcele - past two years as registrar - gotten to see how different groups run themselves. Groups have broken commitment into 1 year commitment/ 6 month commitment. Group is still covered for rotation. However it best works for your group - do it!

Heather - “Newcomer” again. It’s hard to keep new comers coming from out there (East Hampton). It’s hard for us to get out here, here early. 1 1/2 to get here.

Rob - Good amount of turnover, especially with committee chairs. Big turnout in January. How many “ghost GSRs” are there? How many take the commitment, but only show up once?

6.

Chris - Tom has done an exceptional job talking about the concepts/speakers. Jim - great job with the legacy workshops. It takes what we do here, possible, TO more people.

Jim - Mistake that we’re doing the talks on the concepts . . . at least 1/3 GSRs don’t know the traditions. Won’t understand concepts if they don’t have working knowledge of Concepts. Don’t need to know them/know that they exist. Should be doing talks on traditions, not concepts.

Debby - If we think: Anyone who comes here, doesn’t know the traditions, pointless to mention the concepts. Maybe focus more on the traditions. Get feedback.

Ed - Every month looks for a traditions speaker. Every month have a tradition speaker. Every one knows the 12 steps. Hardly anyone knows the traditions. We touch on the traditions once a month. If the GSR isn’t coming to these meetings, I’m responsible for giving some sort of feedback.

We get the traditions in the groups. People don’t tend to attend those groups. Maybe we could alternate traditions/concepts.

Eddie - I learned by reading the service manual. All the material is here. If you want to learn, you can. Theres’ plenty here to offer, if you want it.

John W - consensus on need for more speakers, workshops, etc. re traditions.

7.

Mike - My voice was heard by Delegate re Lawsuit. I had the opportunity to air my discontent.

JD - ?

Jim - We’re moving in that direction. We have the transparency here. WE are doing that well.

Jim - You have to be positive. Working on a written grip conscience - ad hoc group chair. WE have a great draft moving forward. Going through all the minutes since 1984. Time is limited at meetings. WE have to get to business. WE try to do our best.

8.

Ken - DCM don’t know how I got into this position. Didn’t understand voting procedure. Just stepped into position.

Eddie - Wasn’t high availability for County positions. None for one position. We’re filling position, but it’s the same group of people switching hats.

Rob - Disregarding Format - Used to have tradition speaker lists. Used to meet before and after meeting to have workshops. Stand alone workshops. Used to have speakers come in. Hispanic District meets separately - discuss among themselves re traditions/concepts. We should have that here. Don’t thin we’re doing all we can do. Others have conference calls.

9.

Cathy - Former CPC Chair. Previous chair informed me. Guidelines are available via GSO. Attended SENY CPC meetings.

Kim - Only one in my district. Been coming for 2 years. Usually just 2 of us. Haven’t learned much. Just take my notes and bring back to groups. Not learning from DCM.

John - Are there opportunities to sit with people you don’t know? ex. NERAASA, on the bus.

WE have provided oppoertunitys to sit with other ditricts. We promote service sponsors. Use service sponsors.

Michelle - every position that I have had has had position description. Some one has been there to answer my questions.

10.

Most things have been very clear to me.

Gina - WE always have an opportunity to ask questions/to clarify.

Regina - Yes. Usually very clear.

11.

Regina. WE always make sure we have a quorum.

Opportunity to discuss? Yes. Minority opinion? yes.

12.

Regina - the MO has always been heard. Given opportunity to explain.

13.

Tina - ?

This is an inventory. Not here to slam the county. others comments have been negetive. Not positive.

Debbie - This is SGS inventory, not for any individuals.

Regina - We were clear at beginning, instructions were clear at beginning on how inventory would be conducted.

Chris - We do as much as we can. We pay for a bus to get SGS to SENY assemblies.

Alice - As a GSR, it’s important to make effort to attend assemblies. Appreciate elder member giving it to me straight.

Jim - in spirit of 5th tradition - we’re doing the best we can to give members opportunity to improve quality of 12th step work. Lot of room for improvement . . . because vacancies in chair positions. Can’t carry message we don’t have. Cant carry message of various committees where positions aren’t filled.

Dave - WE do the best we can with the people are here.

14.

Treasurer - We do have funds over prudent reserve. We’re doing good.

Eddie - Do good with money. Have a lot of events. Money generated from here. Workshops. Unity Breakfast. Money well-managed.

Alice - Group is serious about contributing to GSO. Never been to SENY. Group is happy to contribute to “the GSR”.

Tina - Impressed that several times of committees/positions asking for more money, group has always been good about giving money where needed. SGS has money to give.

Chris - Some times weren’t alway sure money was there.

Jim - Definitely self-supporting. Reason we have money is because Unity Breakfast - running at profit. Could be better at “zeroing out”. Each year, have been $1000s over.

15

Kathy - from group perspective - how would we know our funds have been received?

Treasurer - can always reach out to me via e-mail.

John/Treasuer - County thanks you with record of amount. Area - Same. GSO - Same

16

Debbie - 2nd SGS meeting. Heard about this meeting from “Big Meeting”. A lot of acronyms flying around. Familiarized self with SENY web page. Could we better get the word out re information, events? A lot of people don’t know to look to the SENY website.

Frank - Information! Im here for information. This is a business meeting. We’re here to conduct business. If I don’t have info, I’m disappointed. WE have had a wealth of info. Just show up and learn. What we think gets lost, gets found by a new group of people. Nobody is going to stop you from being a GSR because you don’t know anything.

Tom - Every month group has a tradition meeting. Concepts has been held for a long time. Traditions hold group together. Where else but here are you going to hear about the concepts.

Gene - My group, too , has traditions meeting. I would haven’t know about concepts if I hadn’t come here. It’s out responsibility to spread the word ourselves.

Dave - If we sent a letter to group, encouraging people to come to SGS. A written letter would go a long way - to small groups.

Brendan - Come a long way since last I was GSR 8-9 years ago. re: emails, website. Only people in service talk about concepts.

Kim - Agree with letter idea. Post cards re anniversaries. Why don’t we do something like that? Have an introductory meeting. Send post cards, emails, etc. Test run meeting. See if people show up.

Rob - WE have SENY bylaws, Service Manual. Suffolk doesn’t follow. County structure - detached from groups. Districts should meed locally.

Next Step - review minutes methodically. Tease out things to work on. Set up sub-committees to work on certain ideas brought up. You are a health county! You are doing a great job and have a terrific opportunity to grow!