Suffolk County General Service Inventory

November 18th, 2022

8PM-9:30PM ET

Hybrid-Online & In-person

Facilitated by Craig W.-Area 11 Panel 65 Past Delegate

Online: 37 people

In-person: 20 people

Opened at 8:02 with the *Serenity Prayer*

Introductions and review of the inventory guidelines. Member of Suffolk County asked "*what the purpose of a county inventory is*," and facilitator responded that "*much like individuals take inventory in their personal recovery, so does The Group, The District/County, and The Area*."

Note Cards-write down or message the facilitator online 1 thing you would like to see change/different in Suffolk County General Service.

- *Multiple submissions that in-person participation needs to be better.*
- *We need to take the time to stick around after the meeting to have uncomfortable conversations.*
- *Multiple submission regarding the need for more diversity amongst the committee-why does this room not look like our surroundings outside of this room?*
- *We need more participation from our Committee Chairs.*
- *Good as is.*
- *Multiple submissions stating a need for more participation from the groups.*
- *Need better outreach to dark groups to get more people involved in General Service.*
- *Multiple submissions stating the need for more inclusion of virtual groups in the Service Structure.*
- *We need the Delegate's Questionnaire earlier-group G.S.R.'s do not have enough time to discuss proposed changes in A.A. with our groups. Ideally, groups should have two business meetings for discussion.*
- *Multiple submissions asking for the monthly County minutes to be made available earlier.*
- *Cannot find a service sponsor. Filled out the service sponsor application, and have not heard back from anybody in months.*
- *We need better communication with each other-simply showing up is not enough.*
- *Would like SGS meetings, events, and service opportunities to include and be made available to those with accessibility concerns.*

Inventory Questions

1. What is the basic purpose of Suffolk County General Service? Area we fulfilling that purpose?

- *Our purpose is to reach meetings across the county and let them know what is going on in General Service. We need more participation and could be doing better.*
- *We have a lot of work to do.*
- *The people present here are fulfilling our purpose, but we need to be more enthusiastic and inspiring.*
- *Our purpose is to make sure the groups' voices are heard throughout the upside down triangle. How do we know if we are being effective?*
    - *Facilitator shares experience-we measure effectiveness by participation and adherence to the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.*
- *We are falling short with participation within our committee work.*

2. In the spirit of Tradition 5, what additional service opportunities can Suffolk County General Service engage in to carry A.A.'s message?

- *We need to make Suffolk County General Service more interesting. There could be service opportunities attached to that, like getting together separately for pizza and doughnuts.*
- *Our messaging needs updating. We are not explaining the roles and responsibilities of our positions enough. It becomes 'alphabet soup' to those that are new to service. We have to find a more practical way of explaining what we do here.*
- *We have plenty of service opportunities now, we just need to get more participation.*
- *Is there an opportunity to have a sign-up like SIA has, so interested members can get notifications of upcoming events?*
- *We would benefit from a Prayer/Unity chair. We also could connect more outside of this committee meeting.*
- *We need to get more uncomfortable and share ideas-big, bold, crazy ideas.*
- *The G.S.R. process needs to be simplified-it is too confusing.*
- *We have a vacant Hispanic Liaison position open-there could be more opportunities for us to communicate with populations that are underrepresented in A.A. in Suffolk County.*
- *We need to be going out and talking to the groups directly. We should be encouraging groups to have an email address so we can keep in contact with them. We also need to get our Committee Meeting Minutes out earlier. We need to spend more time.*

Facilitator pauses to ask the body how many people did not get the inventory packet prior to this inventory-8 people stated they did not receive the packet

3. Considering Tradition 2 and Concept 9, does Suffolk County have strong and active service committees who bring the A.A. message to professionals, correctional/rehabilitation facilities, remote and accessibility communities, etc.?

    - *Yes-we have strong leaders in some positions, but we need people to commit to vacant positions.*
    - *Yes-Corrections Committee in particular has been doing good work.*
    - *Member shares about being more attentive to committee reports when attending County Meetings in-person-has not recalled all the committee reports when attending online.*
    - *It is difficult to fairly assess our committee work given the Covid-19 pandemic. A lot of institutions, rehabs and correctional facilities have not allowed volunteers in-person.*
    - *New trusted servants are not showing up to the Accessibilities Committee meetings-we need more help.*

4. What does Suffolk County General Service do to help all involved be well-informed about A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts and A.A.'s General Service Structure? Is service sponsorship encouraged? What can we do better?

    - *We have GSR orientation before the monthly committee meeting. We additionally have created a Service Sponsorship Chair position and have a series where committee members review the twelve concepts, but we could always be doing more.*
    - *There has been more activity encouraging service sponsorship with this rotation.*
    - *Another share stating the committee has done a great job, and that a lot of the concerns have to do with a lack of participation.*
    - *Multiple shares that the trusted servants during this rotation have done a 'great' and 'excellent' job, but we are still lacking participation.*
    - *We need better communication. I have no idea who my D.C.M. is, and there is not enough information flowing down to the groups.*
    - *I have not been able to find a service sponsor. I called members on the service sponsorship list-some people told me 'no,' and others did not get back to me. We could benefit from a Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts workshop.*
    - *Member shares that they have struggled with time-management this rotation due to family responsibilities. We need more time for the D.C.M.'s to engage our G.S.R.'s. Maybe we need to consider restructuring.*

7. Are all who participate in Suffolk County General Service clear on protocols, job descriptions, who they can seek for guidance and ask for help? Are alternates ready and able to fill in positions where rotation happens? Are we given all we need to succeed? Workbooks, A.A. literature, guidelines?

- *Yes, I am clear on protocols and we have literature, but we do not have alternates available.*
- *As a G.S.R., I had to go and get a lot of the information myself. Feeling frustrated with my homegroup not listening to the information during my G.S.R. report. There seems to be a disconnect between the D.C.M.'s and the G.S.R.'s, and we may benefit from restructuring and having more intimate G.S.R. meetings. Would also prefer to have the proposed agenda items for the General Service Conference emailed to us earlier, so our groups have more than 1 business meeting to discuss them.*
- *These meetings are boring, including my report I have given at the mic this past rotation. This is all information that can be accessed online. We need more sharing amongst the G.S.R.'s, and I would like us to look into restructuring.*

Note Cards-write down or message the facilitator online 1 thing you are willing to commit to help create change in Suffolk County General Service.

- *I'm committing to becoming a G.S.R.*
- *I'm committing to continuing to come to the county committee meetings.*
- *I'm committing to attending these committee meetings in-person.*
- *Multiple people committing to helping with the technology of running hybrid meetings.*
- *I'm committing to service sponsoring other A.A. members and helping more overall.*
- *I'm committing to visiting more groups as a D.C.M.*
- *I'm committing to facilitating an in-person workshop for dark districts.*
- *I'm committing to developing a template for G.S.R.'s to use and posting it on the bulletin board.*
- *I'm committing to visiting more silent groups to encourage G.S.R. participation.*
- *I'm committing to getting deeper into the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts with a service sponsor in order to be more effective in my role.*
- *I'm committing to visiting groups in-person as often as I can and taking my service commitment seriously while trying to facilitate change in the county.*
- *I'm committing to coming up with ideas to make the county meetings more interesting and visiting more groups in-person.*
- *I'm committing to simplifying the G.S.R. process.*
- *I'm committing to planning and facilitating bi-monthly sharing sessions and/or workshops to engage more G.S.R.'s.*
- *I'm committing to help with a newsletter for all Suffolk County A.A. members that want to sign up, offering information on events within Suffolk County and SENY.*

- *I'm committing to making Suffolk County General Service more interesting and exciting.*
- *I'm committing to getting out of my comfort zone and sharing ideas. I'm also committing to working with others to find ways to grow more participation.*
- *I'm committing to anything that will help facilitate change and make these meetings less boring.*
- *I'm committing to making sure that information is still shared to G.S.R.'s of online groups that cannot attend in-person.*
- *I'm committing to helping create smaller G.S.R. meetings and connecting with silent groups within the county to gain more participation.*
- *I'm committing to reading the A.A. Service Manual and passing the information I have learned to my alternate and other A.A. members.*
- *I'm committing to being more exciting and enthusiastic while serving.*
- *I'm committing to being more positive when discussing the importance of the group's voice.*
- *I'm committing to signing up for something for the next rotation.*
- *I'm committing to announcing service opportunities at my homegroup and inviting members to the county meeting.*

Facilitator's Observations

- *In general service, we use the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts to guide us, foster participation, make things fun, and carry the A.A. message.*
- *I can see there are good-hearted A.A. members here, but it is clear that there are current issues with communication and information is getting lost. This inventory is about honestly taking stock.*
- *A question you may want to consider asking is: Can A.A. thrive in the current structure you have?*
    - *There is a current trend in General Service where people are opting for a smaller, more intimate setting and A.A. entities are restructuring.*
- *In addition to carrying the message, we need to remember to meet people where they are at.*

Closed at 9:35 PM ET with the *Declaration of Unity*