

**Suffolk County General Service Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee
Chair Report to Suffolk General Service Meeting 11/17/23**

Chair's response to questions/concerns posed at previous SGS Meeting:

- New Information re Connecticut - District 1, Area 11
 - Out of curiosity, I went to the District 1 page on Area 11's website (ct-aa.org)
 - I came across a redistricting booklet outlining how District 1 will redistrict in 2024 into 6 districts.
 - For more information on this, see their website
- The committee discussed briefly how Nassau County is having similar issues to ours
 - They currently have 14 Districts
 - Clustered into 6 Districts.
- Concerns about "losing voting power"
 - The ideal in service is that we don't vote in a bloc
 - We don't vote for the interest of the county, we vote for what is best for the Area and AA as a whole
 - Concept III empowers us with the "Right of Decision."
 - GSRs ought not demand a DCM vote a certain way just as a group ought not demand a GSR vote a certain way.
 - A DCM may learn new information at an assembly
 - It is helpful to hold on to the responsibility asked of a GSR: that is to listen to different points of view.
 - The DCM carries the conscience of the District, not the County.
 - We in service aspire to the ideal of "keeping an open mind."

The committee discussed the Question: Is SGS empowering the DCMs with a responsibility that is equal to their delegated authority, and vis versa (see Concept 10)? I shared about my experience being a DCM in District 613 in Manhattan and as DCMC of Manhattan General Service.

- Each District meets independently of the County Meeting.
 - The County meets every other month
 - District 613 met every month (don't recommend)
- District 613 had a DCM, an Alternate, it's own Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee Chair
 - Manhattan DCMC assigns each District with a Committee Responsibility (Grapevine, CPC, Corrections, etc.)
 - Districts have their own meeting spaces, their own budgets (through group contributions and 7th tradition collections)
 - MGSM created line items in its budget for each of the Districts to "use or lose" for doing service related to their commitment (PR workshops, sending big books to libraries, etc.) This money was not for fellowship oriented events (holiday parties, picnics, or pizza parties)
 - In my time serving in 613, the District held a Corrections Correspondence Workshop, a PI Workshop, and we put literature in libraries.
- Some of the Responsibilities of the DCM as outlined the in Service Manual (p. 15) are:
 - Regularly hold District Meetings
 - Organize workshops and/or sharing sessions on service activities.
 - Help GSRs become acquainted with Service Material and introduce them to new service material
 - Carry the District's group conscience to the Area Assemblies and the Area Committee
- The Committee is continuing to discuss whether the current SGS structure adequately supports the previously stated responsibilities.
- Alternates: We're getting the sense that people shy away from leadership roles like DCM because they lack the knowledge and experience to do the job. Become an Alternate and learn as you go. The DCM can mentor you while you learn the job. The same goes for GSRs. If you know someone is interested but don't think they could do the job, propose to your group that they be your alternate.