

# Area 49 Southeastern New York (“SENY”) Inventory Details

**To:** Area 49 (SENY)

**From:** Matt K., Past Delegate from Area 11 (CT)

**Date:** 9/22/24

**Subject:** Area Inventory

Greetings Area 49!

Thank you for the opportunity to facilitate your Area inventory on October 7, 2024. I do not take this lightly and am honored to have your trust. I look forward to having this experience with you.

## **A. COMMUNICATIONS BEFORE THE INVENTORY**

**DCMCs & DCMs: if you have not already done so, please be sure to communicate**

(via email or otherwise) with your Counties and/or Districts (especially GSRs), letting them know that the inventory will be taking place at the Area Committee meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and inviting them to share with you any feedback they may have for it. Recognizing that SENY has been having its Area Inventory at an Assembly, rather than at the Area Committee, any trusted servants (from within SENY) in attendance at the inventory will have voice during the inventory.<sup>1</sup>

## **B. CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE THE INVENTORY**

### **i. Individual Reflection Questions**

The following questions are intended to get the thoughts flowing ahead of time. These are for each of member to quietly consider for themselves.

- What do I love the most about Area 49?
- What can Area 49 do better to fulfill its purpose?
- What is the function of the Area Committee? The function of the Area Assemblies?
- How familiar are we with A.A.’s 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, and the A.A. Service Manual?
- How often does Area 49 consult with other Areas outside of Area 49—to learn from other Areas as far as their challenges and their successes?
- How is SENY’s relationship with other service bodies within the Area, such as intergroups/central offices, YPAA committees, and other service bodies?
- As individual members of SENY, have we *personally* fallen short in any ways that could/should be corrected?

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<sup>1</sup> Given the size of the Area Assemblies in SENY, it would not be possible for every member in attendance at an Assembly to share during an inventory. Having the inventory during the Area Committee will hopefully allow everyone in attendance the opportunity to share if they would like. That said, DCMCs & DCMs are encouraged to communicate (via email or otherwise) with their Counties and/or Districts ahead of time to obtain any feedback. Additionally, if any local A.A. members (such as GSRs or other trusted servants who may not necessarily be members of the Area Committee) wish to attend the inventory and participate, such members will have the opportunity to do so.

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- How unified is Area 49 and what ideas might help strengthen the Area’s unity?
- How well do we retain new members into service in Area 49? How is our turnover? What can we do better?
- Does the Area 49 Committee accurately reflect the A.A. members in Area 49? Is Area 49 accessible to all interested A.A. members?
- How is the distribution of workload among trusted servants?
- Is our Area part of the year-round General Service Conference process?
- Recognizing that Area service is an important responsibility, are we choosing our trusted servants with care?
- Are we appropriately utilizing technology and other tools to assist with communication, while still ensuring all can access the information?
- Do I understand my service responsibility? Is there anything preventing me from fulfilling my duties and being as effective as possible? Do I need help? Am I asking for help? (If not, why not?)
- Am I receiving the appropriate mentorship to help me be the best trusted servant possible?
- Am I offering those newer to service the type of mentorship that I would want for myself?
- Is Area 49 utilizing its 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds in the most useful ways it can?
- How well do we communicate with each other within Area 49?
- Are there any creative and visionary ideas that might help Area 49 thrive?
- Does Area 49 conduct business efficiently, effectively, and fairly? Are all voices heard equally? Do we place principles before personalities? In what ways might I *personally* help Area 49 in conducting business efficiently, effectively, and fairly?

Again, the above questions are simply intended for everyone to individually reflect on.

### ii. Group Discussion Questions (Discussion During the Inventory)

The actual discussion questions during the inventory will be fewer in number and are set forth below:

- (1) How well is Area 49 fulfilling its primary purpose to the **alcoholic who still suffers and in serving the needs of Area 49**? What can we do better?
- (2) Are we ensuring that **all of our trusted servants are being set up to thrive** within their service roles in Area 49?
- (3) How is the **flow of information** within Area 49? How are our current communication **methods**? What can we do better?
- (4) How **unified** are we in Area 49? Could we be better? If so, how?
- (5) If there was **one tangible solution that you would propose in response to a concern** about Area 49, what would that be?
- (6) **What’s on your mind** (not already covered)?

Please consider those questions prior to the inventory.

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### **C. LOGISTICS DURING THE AREA INVENTORY**

- The inventory will consist of approximately 5 or 6 discussion questions (see above).
- Shares will be generally limited to two minutes.
- Members are asked not to share a second time on the same discussion question.
- Due to time constraints, it would not be possible for every member to share on every discussion question. Thus, please consider ahead of time which discussion question(s) you really want to contribute towards.
- Reflect on whether you are normally more outspoken at the Area, or whether you are normally quiet. If you are typically more outspoken, consider taking somewhat of a step back and allowing others to speak up. On the other hand, if you are typically more quiet, please consider taking a step forward and speak up more.
- All participants are asked to be respectful of one another and place principles before personalities. This is not a venue for any personal attacks.
- The facilitator asks for the ability to exercise discretion when needed. For example, if time constraints or an otherwise sense of the body leads the facilitator to believe it would be useful to limit shares to 1.5 minutes, rearrange questions, scale back on the number of questions, alter questions, add a question, or make other discretionary decisions, please support the facilitator’s ability to make such judgment calls as needed. “Backseat chairing” can be especially challenging during an inventory. Please allow the facilitator to facilitate, which may involve them taking some liberty from time to time.
- When discussing a concern, it is especially helpful to also offer potential solutions.
- The facilitator plans to bring a note-taker from outside of Area 49, which will allow everyone—including your Area Secretary—the opportunity to fully participate.
- Let’s have fun! Yes, this process can be fun!

### **D. FINAL THOUGHTS**

While it is suggested that responses be shared during the inventory on October 7<sup>th</sup> whenever possible, you may submit written responses to the six discussion questions (highlighted on page 2) before the inventory, during the inventory, or up to two weeks after the inventory by emailing the facilitator at [pastdelegate@ct-aa.org](mailto:pastdelegate@ct-aa.org). Also, feel free to contact the facilitator if you have any additional questions or concerns about the process.

The impact of the inventory will largely depend on the actions the Area takes afterwards. Following the inventory, please carefully review the notes from the inventory and consider ways to put into practice some of the ideas that are sure to surface during the inventory.

Looking forward to the inventory and thank you again for the opportunity! Again, let’s have some fun!

Respectfully in Service,  
Matt K.  
Area 11 (CT), Panel 71 Past Delegate