

Suffolk County General Service Inventory

11/16/24

J.Gary from Area 59 is the facilitator. His service resume includes GSR, DCM, Area 59 treasurer and area chair. Alternate delegate, delegate, NE regional Trustee and treasurer of his home group.

Cathy C Nassau County DCMC is the note taker.

Instructions about participating given by J.Gary.

Question 1- What is the purpose of Suffolk General Service and are we fulfilling this purpose?

- To carry the message up and down the triangle and there could always be improvements especially finding people to take commitments and keep the commitment.
- Area 49 and GSO needs to be more transparent and disseminate information in a timely manner. Online groups are now dying down but some are still going on.

Question 2- Does everyone have an opportunity to be an active part of the County service structure, and are we providing sufficient orientation for fulfilling those roles?

- People leaving a position should pass along lessons learned to the new person
- A GSR was in the position for a long time because she was told by her sponsor to take the position but felt she was not given an orientation.
- Starting out as an alternate GSR because it was helpful to learn the GSR role
- Everyone does have opportunities to attend workshops about service and meetings are held hybrid so everyone can attend
- A new GSR said she is learning as she goes. But she feels most groups aren't represented. She wanted to be her group's GSR to keep them connected. How do we get other groups involved?

- Feels there are many opportunities that are available. Timekeeper, member of an event committee, etc. You should ask questions and advice from the previous position holder.

Question 3- Are we attracting into service an appropriate representation of our general AA population and what might we do better in this regard?

- Feels certain groups are underrepresented ie people of color, LBGTQ+
- Has participated in service throughout the county. Mostly 25% of groups represented
- Doesn't feel we are diverse. Need outreach to some populations ie the Hispanic community

J.Gary commented how this is an ongoing issue even with the trustee board. He learned about service below the group level from YPAA. Many people cannot make the time commitment because perhaps they work nights or weekends.

Question 4- Are we experiencing excessive turnover? If so what steps might be taken to address the issue?

- No-many people stay in positions forever. Same people over and over. It gets stagnant and redundant
- YPAA is diverse. Was able to do service below the group level when her program was strong
- Sponsor told her that she must stick with a position. Used to feel there was excitement
- General Service needs to have love and tolerance
- Bring people to do the "fun" stuff first and then take someone to the "business" stuff.
- Brand new GSR for a new women's group. Wants to start additional literature based meetings. Does a new group need officers?

Facilitator- the answer to that question is in Concept IX including an article from the Grapevine found in the back of the service manual.

Question 5- Are we selecting our leadership in the spirit of Concept IX, and are we

providing sufficient orientation for fulfilling these positions?

- There is a lack of participation in service. Should the area /county be redistricted? DCM positions almost obsolete. We need DCMs to be more active
- We should have nominations and secret ballots

Question 6- Is the service workload reasonable? Or is it overwhelming? What can we do to address this issue?

- Service can be overwhelming. Speaking commitments, General service meetings and the hotline but feels like she belongs here.

J.Gary replied take “never say no to AA” with a grain of salt. Things can start out okay but then life can make service overwhelming.

- We still need more participation to help carry the load. Especially alternates.

J.Gary responded that some service entities have made alternates for all positions.

- Not enough members in home group to fill group positions. Wish there were more members to report GSR stuff to.
- Finds things overwhelming but trying their best. Needs to find balance.
- Takes extra commitments because they don't like to leave things undone. Learning not to leap into every position.
- When started as GSR was yelled at by people with “seniority” because he wasn't going to the assemblies.
- You don't get sober to live in the rooms. Commitments can help you stay connected. Ask people to help with committees and hopefully it will function better. Go around to groups without a GSR and stress the importance.
- Workload is reasonable. Learn as you go. Use tools such as orientations and the service manual to help.

Question 7- What did we not talk about that we should have?

- Bring back the bus for assemblies
- Check with the groups
- County has lost sight of it's purpose- Tradition 2

Meeting concluded