

DCM Sharing Session – CNCA 06 Area Meeting January 21, 2017

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Meeting Opening with the Serenity Prayer

Translation by Nicolas. Thank you for your service!

For our Panel 67 kick off DCM Sharing session, the room was filled to Standing Room Only with 52 enthusiastic DCMs, GSRs and visitors. Erica S. facilitated.

New Business

We:

- 1) Chose a recording secretary in Third Legacy process. Two DCMs made themselves available.
- 2) Took a group conscience on the format of our sharing sessions for this panel. Speakers will present on a topic for 10 minutes, maximum 15 minutes. For open sharing, members will raise their hand and the group leader will ask if someone would like to share who hasn't
- 3) Held a brief sharing session from experienced DCMs on the practice, challenges and rewards of being a DCM.

See sharing below. Some of the consistent messages from these experienced DCMs included:

- a) make sure you have a service sponsor
- b) listen, listen, listen to your sub-district groups
- c) experience the spiritual beauty and joy of helping meetings and members and
- d) this service will provide many spiritual growth opportunities

- 4) By acclamation, we decided on February's topic of Agenda Topics and the conference process. Paul W. will present.

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Sharing Session Recap

Topic: Experience, strength and hope from experienced DCMs for new DCMs

- It was useful to hold a sub-district meeting once monthly. This gave the GSRs time away from the area meeting to explain things, go over area and district business, motions, Twelve Concepts. Our first meeting was about what it is to be a GSR. If GSRs can't attend the Pre-Conference Assembly, they can give group conscience on agenda topics to DCM to relay to our delegate
- Monthly sub-district meetings allowed us to discuss agenda topics, actions, the Concepts and Traditions and how we see them in play locally. As a DCM, take the lead to learn and discuss General Service
- As a DCM, I needed a Service Sponsor who I bounced questions off and talked to them about my "stupid" questions
- My primary responsibility was to visit to every single meeting in district to talk about the importance of having a GSR and to let them know I am willing to work with the GSRs. I established a sub-district meeting and it "Keep the chain" strong. In a weak sub-district, my job was to rig the Geeral Service message to every meeting. It all added up to keeping he district more in touch with general service

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- I made a commitment during my panel to visit every group in my sub-district at least once. Many groups didn't want to have a GSR. I left my name, phone, and email and sometimes someone from a meeting would get in touch with me.
- Even when a group is "dark" with no GSR, they could give a group conscience to bring back to the delegate. I saw how a DCM can kind of be a "coach" for GSRs. It's "just kind of awesome" to see how close we are to AA. A DCM can help groups know that the member and group is the most important thing in AA.
- My best experience as a DCM was that I got help sub-district groups, and to educate and help the GSRs to communicate with them and help them grow through the Traditions, and to watch a meeting become a group. I encourage DCMs to help GSRs grow their group into one that participates in the communication of AA. I really like watching a group's eyes open and begin to participate.
- Instead of going to every group, get an alternate to help you.
- I went thru the service manual and GSR pamphlet and wrote up a thing about why a group would want to have a GSR. It helped to get people more involved; it seemed very effective.
- I had not learned how to be a GSR but I attended my DCM meeting and I learned
- As a DCM, I helped groups do a group inventory. If a meeting does not have a GSR, they may not do it. Often groups need a GSR from the outside as they sometimes feel like their GSR is "controlling" their meeting.
- My DCM meeting wasn't a meeting. Instead of answering questions, I tried to foster discussion and to go around in group conscience style to share on something we were talking about.
- As a DCM, I guided them to have business meetings; I find it's helpful to touch on business once a month. As DCM, if there is no business meeting, try to get it going. Keep it short - it starts forming the group.
- Being a DCM allowed me to help and help educate meetings. The groups have a vote, which is a gift to the group that instills a sense of responsibility. As DCM, my job is to bring the vote back to area, district and New York in a non-biased way. The internal piece about stepping up is huge. I could not do it without a service sponsor. I encountered not only my unwillingness, but also personalities more educated than me who seem to know what they're doing. I did find myself clashing with personalities. If it wasn't for a service sponsor, I would have "folded" a long time ago. I am talking about the internal, spiritual piece, where I want to be of service but I find my own imperfections trying to take me back.
- Welcome to the new DCMs, I've been in General Service for 13 years. In my experience, every district and sub-districts are at all different levels. When I began, we didn't have enough participation to have a Third Legacy process, but now it does. We struggle with participation all over. I suggest to pick just one goal for one year rather than "have to" do so many tasks. Try to Keep It Simple. In any service position, I've gotten so much more than what I've given. It has been an experience of spiritual renewal.
- In a district with a lot of sub-districts, I think it's a good idea to give a presentation at the district meeting. And, at the sub-district meeting, give a presentation on the area meeting. At some point, I felt like I wasn't doing a great job. I had to shift my focus on the needs of the group and stop looking at what other DCMs were doing.

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- I have a suggestion of what *NOT* to do. I industriously took notes at all district and area meetings and emailed them to the GSRs. Attendance at my DCM meeting fell off precipitously.
- My suggestions it to keep an open mind, open arms and an open, heart. When I came into service. Just by being here, we know at least one of two groups. We know the makeup of group, dist. Sd, focus on being enthusisatics and comm with GSR and groups, worry about the other problems later. Being enthusiastic helps.
- I attended a “mystery” where I was told I couldn’t make an general service announcement. I left with a resentment but I also left my phone number and made myself available.
- I found it was best for the DCM to do a general service presentation to a “dark” meeting rather than the secretary. I have found some secretaries are biased about general service.
- This is my second round as DCM, thank you for being here! The most important thing for me was to learn how to listen. I always felt like I had to have an answer. So, that’s where my service sponsor came in. I talked to other DCMs and allowed the meetings to ask questions rather than me telling them. We had discussions on the questions; it was very beneficial.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am with the Responsibility Statement and a reminder to bring radios in February to hear translations.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline P.
Recording Secretary
DCM, District 10, Sub-District 03