

DCM Sharing Session – CNCA 06 Area Meeting February 25, 2017

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Meeting Opening with the Serenity Prayer

Translation by Nicholas. Thank you for your service!

49 DCMs, GSRs and visitors attended. Erica S. facilitated.

Topic Presentation – The Conference Process

Paul W. provided a comprehensive overview, with an educational handout and presentation, of the Conference Process. He highlighted that our AA process is the “exact opposite” of the way a mainstream business runs. Paul noted the important spiritual task of the group conscience, which is how the voice of the member comes through the group, to our delegate and our General Service Conference, to do the business of AA.

AA’s General Service Conference facilitates change on a yearly basis and it is a way for a group to express their concern to AA as a whole in the U.S. and Canada

Main points from the sharing session

- The tight timeline of the conference process creates pressure for new GSRs who begin their panel in January. DCMs can educate GSRs about the timeline, the process and offer assistance
- As a DCM, use your enthusiasm and love of Alcoholics Anonymous to encourage participation by groups whenever and however you can by visiting meetings, talking about General Service, offering your service as a facilitator, and providing topic agenda guidance, info and summaries to GSRs
- We don’t have to conduct the group conscience alone – ask for help. We won’t “break” AA if we do a group conscience “imperfectly”
- There is no perfect or one way to collect a group’s conscience. The main task is to ask the group’s participation in the greater whole of AA
- Several DCMs reflected that they were able to help GSRs by conducting practice group consciences at a workshop, District meeting or a Sub-District meeting
- There were many questions about the details of the conference process and about the relationship between General Service and Intergroups.
- The number of questions about the way Agenda Topics reach a World Service Committee and about the function and purpose of intergroups served as a reminder to get and use a Service Sponsor.

Edited details from sharing

- The Agenda Topic workshop our district did was one of the most important ways we help the incoming GSR. We do sub-district group consciences in round tables at the workshop, which is good practice in front of our fellows. There is a lot of information to try to remember in the process, so I’ve found that use email to stay in contact with the GSRs. There’s a lot of stuff to remember.
- One of the most important jobs for me as a DCM is to encourage group participation, no matter what. We don’t have to do it perfectly. I am constantly amazed at how much more intricate this process is.

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- Of our 40 groups, only 10 or 11 are registered with the district. I use this as an opportunity to visit the groups and talk about the Agenda Topics and the General Service Conference. There are a lot of very opinionated people in our membership and they often get interested in the topics.
- A Group Conscience is not an easy process, and, because of that, it is a spiritual process. As a DCM, I want to engage and invite our members and group to engage.
- Since the process is so intricate, I am constantly learning new things. It can be overwhelming but taking one piece at a time helps me. I don't have to perfect. I have a Service Sponsor and I share my enthusiasm.
- It's important to realize that we as DCMs are not the "voice" of AA. When we go to our groups, we represent not AA but rather our own experience AA.
- In order to determine which topic to approach, I use the topic summaries, make a list, and pass around a clipboard at my meeting so members can "vote" for the topic they want to have a group conscience on.
- I used a handout from a former DCM that said everything I wanted to say. I then selected a topic that everyone knew was controversial and it helped to engage the group.
- As a DCM, I facilitate the group's voice. When I wish to give my conscience, I go to another meeting.

March's topic: The Service Sponsor

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

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