

10am - Meeting Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Erica S.

Translation by Nicholas. Thank you for your service!

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

Welcome to six newcomers.

Presentation – Helping GSRs with Group Inventories – Chelsea W.

- She volunteered to present because of her experience, strength and hope. She has attended multiple group inventories, facilitated inventories and taken notes and that she has something to share about the inventory process.
- The purpose of the inventory is to “take the temperature” of the meeting – an examination of the fulfillment of our primary purpose. It’s not only a “Fourth Step” for a meeting but also to gather member’s thoughts on how can we improve. It’s more solution focused.
- As you prepare, read the *AA Group* pamphlet, page 13 and review the 13 suggested inventory questions
- The group can also use the Traditions checklist for individuals and the Concepts checklist
- Get in touch with old-timers. Find out if there’s been a group inventory. Usually a group inventory is a special meeting outside the meeting time, not during the meeting
- She feels that one barrier to General Service is our language – use plain language. Make the inventory questions user-friendly and change the language, e.g., “When we have elections, is it a popularity contest or those who have been in service?”
- She opens group inventories with a reading, page. 273 of *As Bill Sees It*
- Try to engage the newcomers – they often have the most to contribute.
- Give a brief description of the process
- Leave time at the end for a “What’s on your mind” period for individual feedback
- One meeting has a group inventory every two years. Other group pulls questions out of a hat.
- See Chelsea’s presentation handout, attached

Members Share

Round the table, sharing session-style

- His experience is that his meeting members gather over a lunch and discuss all 13 questions. It’s helpful to have an experienced General Service person who is able to recall previous inventory meetings
- He has presented the inventory questions to the group to see what interests them
- Make sure that you have a separate recorder and that the summary presented to the meeting reflects the recorded version
- As the meeting’s GSR, she has an investment in the outcome, so getting an outside facilitator was key. Setting a time limit was very helpful.
- His large group -30 meetings – uses a panel of three facilitators. The facilitators answer “Ask-It Basket” questions at the end.
- She has an outside meeting with facilitator and note-taker. It’s inspiring.
- In her District inventory, they got through all the questions, keeping it simple and not getting bogged down in the language. She now has more courage because of the presentation and feels like she has another tool to bring to her sub-district.
- One member left a meeting due to a “saving seats” issue that was brought up in an inventory but never resolved

DCM Sharing Session October 2017

- His experience is that inventory is valuable, and that the process of change is inherently slow and incremental
- For the meeting inventory just past, they passed out 20 questions three months ahead of the event and had an outside facilitator. Nothing was decided, they simply uncovered and discussed issues
- She's never been in an inventory and is very grateful for all the information
- She appreciates the positive approach of the presentation
- To get a good group inventory, it's important to engage as many members as possible. It is important to include newcomers and to also go around a second time for further feedback. Spend time on deciding which questions to use.
- Her group does an inventory every other year, with 14 questions. It's not solution-oriented but they did change the prayer at the end. She also learned that GSRs needed more training.
- He suggests don't wait until your group becomes toxic to hold an inventory
- At her district officers inventory, the facilitator began the meeting with a spiritually enriching reading about correcting our mistakes - *AA Comes of Age*, p. 231
- At a 30-year-old meeting, they had never done an inventory. The meeting asked for a group conscience on 1) Do nothing 2) do a regular group inventory, or 3) do a question a month to "ease into it." The group decision was to do a regular group inventory. They now do a monthly maintenance question.
- She experienced controversy. Some members took the opportunity to attack other members or blame them. The secretary needed to intervene. Questions were placed in the hat

Next Month's Topic – NCCAA and H&I and How They Fit into the CNCA Service Structure. Sonya will present

- ALL – Please bring radios. We need everyone to have an opportunity to share.
- Thank you, Nicholas, for translating.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline P., Recording Secretary