

**10am - Sharing Session Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair.** DCMs, visitors, and GSRs attended. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participation on the topics. **Please bring radios. Announcements.** Marianne announced availability of radios, please return them at the end. Recording secretary announced providing your email to be included on the email list.

Chair explained purpose of a group inventory and possible formats; suggested roundtable discussion; group decided on 60 second timer.

**Inventory Questions:**

1. What is the basic purpose of the sharing session and how does it relate to the primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers?
  - a. **Summary/Highlights:** Involvement in General Service is to better meet the needs of the alcoholic who suffers, and the purpose of the sharing session is to learn from each other how to better fulfill our roles as DCMs to that end. It helps us to improve in relating to our groups, supporting our GSRs, spreading positive feedback and a message of hope and enthusiasm, sharing information, and explaining how General Service and the program of recovery work. S31 of the Service Manual is helpful. This sharing session teaches us how to get people and groups involved to better understand what our fellowship actually wants and what's going on in the larger world of A.A. It bring to life being of service, gets us involved, which helps to get others involved. "It's the most fun and informative of any meeting in the area."
2. Does our sharing session feel democratic? If not, how could it be more democratic?
  - a. **Summary/Highlights:** The group unanimously agreed that our session is democratic based on the idea that everybody's voice counts and has an opportunity to be heard. Members shared about how they have learned about how to be inclusive through participation in the sharing session. Members feel safe to share, and the traditions are followed. Members credited the roundtable format, voting for presentation topics, and use of a timer as facilitating that. A member mentioned it's very democratic, however it's also very white; they would like to see/hear more in our meeting that represents a more diverse group. A member shared it's up to us to entuse others from different backgrounds to participate by going to where they are. A member shared that being democratic means everyone has an even vote; that allowing non DCMs to vote can stack the deck. A member shared concern about selecting topics, noting it can be intimidating to bring up a topic in the group, and suggested perhaps submit topics to the recording secretary anonymously. A member shared that we can email, text, or slip a note to chair.
3. How can we bring more fresh and innovative topics to our sharing session?
  - a. **Summary/Highlights:** Members suggested: 1) Don't be afraid of suggesting topics, especially new DCMs. 2) Submit topics anonymously. 3) Ask your groups what they would like for a topic. 4) Breaking up into groups of 5 or so; having a representative from each group share about discussion, bringing more ideas together and encouraging more collaboration. 5) Go to other committees and ask them if there is anything they are struggling with and if they want us to bring them to the DCM sharing session. – another member liked this idea, and also suggested discussing motions from the Area 6) Invite some controversy; get ideas from the quiet conversations that happen outside the meeting. 7) Bring problems from our group to this session to discuss and bring experience to help the groups. A member was in favor of expanding our topics, but noted that certain topics very generic to the sharing session (i.e., what is valuable from one panel to the next) are helpful for those coming in and out of the meeting.

## DCM Sharing Session Minutes August 24, 2019

Chair suggested when you run an inventory to ask the questions and shut up. The recording secretary reported back to the group on the general themes that came out through discussion.

**Next Month's Topic (decided in July) → Reaching out to remote communities presentation by Beth S. from District 06.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM with the Responsibility Statement**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary