

**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 participate 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.

**Presentation - Reaching out to different ethnic groups within A.A. by Vanessa C. from District 40**  
→ The answer of how to bring diversity into A.A. is not an easy one. Even though A.A. has the ability to transcend class, race, language and education barriers, there still exists differences in privilege in A.A. Vanessa shared her experience of feeling like an outsider before and upon entering sobriety/A.A. Alcoholics with differing backgrounds, experiences, and characteristics from the majority of alcoholics face unique struggles to feel a part of and comfortable in A.A. that others may not experience. The prejudices we hold often get in the way of our effort to welcome others. Putting in extra effort to reach out to those different than us instead of telling them to pull themselves up by the bootstraps could literally save lives. The principles of honesty, courage, humility, integrity, faith, justice, brotherly love, perseverance, spirituality, and service are the tools we can use to direct our thinking and our hearts. She suggested these hard and uncomfortable questions in group inventories: How educated are we in institutionalized racism? Do we make excuses and know what white fragility is? Are we being an ally to the minority or are we trying to be a white saviors? These questions are the hard questions our society will have to tackle if we truly want to erase racism and the ugliness of our country's history. Are we willing to get uncomfortable? Are we willing to reach out and gain humility? Members shared; highlights included:

- Acknowledgement of our drive to go to meetings where we feel “comfortable,” and the importance of moving out of our comfort zone and being willing to learn in order to do more
- Recognizing when a newcomer's needs and challenges may go beyond what we are capable of addressing and suggesting outside help
- Changing the culture of A.A. to become more accepting is the responsibility of the individual; and the tools/principles we learn in A.A. allow us to do that
- Acceptance of the reality that not every meeting can be for everybody
- As people we have more in common than we may think; we all share the same “race” of alcoholism, and our solution is the same.
- Members shared how they didn't feel welcome when they came in, but acknowledged it was primarily due to having their walls up and not being welcoming themselves. We often get in our own way of connecting to others.
- A member shared the location of meetings as a barrier to reaching out
- A member shared that in A.A. we have inherited the culture of our society. Passing on a different culture is guided by the responsibility declaration, and our tendency to squander our inheritance gets in our way.
- A member shared about going to sordid and dangerous places in service of A.A. and reminded us that we can go anywhere with faith that our higher power will protect us as long as our motives are good
- A member shared the perspective that in A.A. we are uniquely qualified to practice love and tolerance for one another in a way that the rest of society may not be capable of
- A member acknowledged her tendency to make assumptions about others based on outward appearances
- A member wondered whether Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community is reaching out and going to cultural centers

Discussion of topics for next month: 1) Reaching out to the African American alcoholic, 2) Best practices for communication and service, 3) Difficulties with recovery due to departing from our basic text and too much discussion of opinions (back to basics), and 4) Homeless newcomers. The group decided to vote between number 2 (16 votes) and 3 (13 votes). **Next Month's Topic → Best Practices for Communication in Service December's Topic → Back to our basic text**

DCM Sharing Session Minutes October 26, 2019

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary