

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 Remote Communities by Beth S. from District 06 → Beth reminded us of the responsibility declaration and the definition of remote communities, which is marked by difficulty carrying the message because of language, culture, or geography. She discussed the history of remote communities, who has accessibility issues (e.g., physical, mental, emotional, spiritual; religious, ethnic, gender identity, parents/caregivers, and political beliefs), how the traditions tie into the importance of reaching out to remote communities, and how we can better do so today and in the future, emphasizing welcoming those who come into our meetings and encouraging participation. Finally, she shared a list of resources which included AA Literature: AA Guidelines on Accessibility for all Alcoholics (Beth suggested using the accessibilities checklist as a means to take inventory with our homegroups), the Accessibilities Workbook, A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs - a pamphlet available in audio format and A.S.L., Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting and publication of the Communicator, and Loners Internationalist Bulletin. Discussion followed. Highlights included:

- Some questions to guide us are “who is not here and why,” “what can we do to welcome them,” “what can we do when we’re not a part of the remote community,” and “what can we do to reach them when they’re not in the rooms?”
- A member suggested making an announcement during the meeting and having those raise their hands that are available to speak to the newcomer
- Our responsibility of welcoming the newcomer, and failure to do so, contributes to the lack of diversity in our membership
- A member shared an experience of inadvertent discouraging of newcomer participation and correcting that
- A member shared about not feeling a part of and using that experience as motivation to make others feel welcome
- Many members shared their desire to reach out to remote communities and appreciated the presentation as a means for guidance and motivation to do so
- A member shared how she tries to talk to people she wouldn’t normally talk to, suspending her judgments, and focusing on what they need
- A member suggested thinking of the groups in your area that are poorly attended, because those are the meetings that need the message of A.A.
- A member shared difficulty with reaching out to newcomers because they come in late and leave early
- A member shared the value of technology in facilitating access to A.A. for remote communities
- A member shared about a group called “Birds of a Feather” to get an immediate, unscheduled meeting
- A member shared how her group has childcare, wheelchair accessibility, and bilingual members to reduce barriers to access
- A member suggested thinking about involving our districts and GSRs in these discussions.

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, and 4) Homeless newcomers. A member suggested covering the topic over two months to gather feedback from groups and report back. **Next Month’s Topic** → Reaching out to different ethnic groups within A.A. (Vanessa C.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,

DCM Sharing Session Minutes September 28, 2019

Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary