

My first year as a GSR, the concept of a group or service committee inventory was completely new to me. I enlisted the help of my subdistrict DCM to help with my home group inventory and we went through a rigorous five-week process of discussing all the questions in *The AA Group* pamphlet. But that was after I had attended my district inventory and the Area inventory assembly.

I was a fascinated, if clueless, observer at that inventory assembly. The questions baffled me, but hearing the answers helped me start to piece together how our area functions. Sort of, LOL. But it didn't matter that I didn't get it—what I did understand was that members cared about what we were doing here, what seemed to be working, and what needed improvement. I was also inspired by our guest, a nonalcoholic trustee, who shared why he was motivated to be of service to A.A. And the host district served the best carrot cake I have ever tasted. I don't even like carrot cake that much, but I'm still talking about it 12 years later.

The following panel, my main takeaway about Area inventory was our then alternate delegate suggesting a few months later that DCMs could be exploring any action items in our monthly sharing session. That's how I learned what now seems obvious: a key part of group inventory is some sort of follow-up. The process itself is amazing, but if we don't take any action on what we have learned, we haven't finished it. While the officers certainly look through the notes for action items, we are all responsible as members of the Area.

And then, two years later, I was submitting all sorts of questions for the inventory. I didn't have answers, but I saw things that needed discussion. And two years after that, regardless of which questions we ended up with, I was the DCMC overcoming my fear of the microphone, trying to gently but pointedly bring attention to areas where I thought we needed to improve. I went from knowing nothing, to thinking I knew everything! But seriously, I had some concerns, I voiced them, and I felt better for it. So, I encourage you all to speak up if you have something to say.

In 2017, when I was Area chair, our inventory assembly was hosted by my local district less than a month after I lost my home in the devastating Tubbs wildfire. The main memory I have of that year was suiting up, showing up, and being embraced by the love and support of the fellowship. For one day, I could simply focus on chairing our assembly and what was working in my own life—recovery, unity and service. In 2019, our inventory assembly was rescheduled due to another wildfire, and ended up being the last assembly we held in person before the pandemic took us virtual. And now, here we are again!

We take our inventory as an Area in the first year of the panel so we have that second year to improve and grow. What should we be focusing on with our questions? What are we doing well? What could we do better? I look forward to hearing from you.

In service and gratitude,
Jennifer B.
Panel 71 Delegate

Looking for Something?

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