

CNCA Area 06 Inventory

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Facilitator: John W., AAWS Director

Recording Secretary: Nisaa A., Area 49 Chair

1. What is your vision for how we can better fulfill our purpose as an Area?

- Preparation for service commitments and service participations
 - “How to prepare a GSR” was a suggestion for an initiative to prepare GSRs
 - Others expressed the need for preparation for service positions
 - Workshops on different areas of service
 - GSRs should know their importance and that we want them to participate
- Many members expressed the desire to continue to embrace technology, such as hybrid and virtual
 - Consider that many have joined via zoom and others are remote
 - Virtual has given more access to participating in General Service
 - Best practices on how to run virtual meetings
- Include GSRs in the decision making
- Fewer Area meetings and more assemblies
- More transparency on housekeeping treasury decisions, don't circumvent the process
- Greater communications and cooperation with other service entities
- Continue pre-inventory meetings to explain what inventories are about
- Return to serving the groups
- Break down barriers to participation
 - Accessibilities support such as closed captioning in-person
- International convention in California area
- Interpretation could be improved
- Reflect on the fifth warranty
- Ensure that we are not voting our own individual conscience, but the conscience of the groups we are representing.
- Actively recruit and retain new trusted servants

2. How well is information flowing between groups, districts, and the Area?

- Individuals could share information that the Area is providing
- Better reporting system is needed--am I the bottleneck?
- Feels like a top-down system of importance, not enough coming from groups
- There are a lot of resources to keep the groups informed
- Assist in making information easier to understand and absorb, give highlights
- The Area does a good job of providing information
- Our district meet agendas are so full we don't have time to discuss Area business

- Visit groups that do not have GSRs to share information
- Make it clear where you can find information
- Think of a more centralized way of collecting and accessing information
- Subdistrict meetings can be a place for GSRs to ask questions and get support

3. Are the Area Committee Meeting, the standing and sub-committees, and the sharing sessions effectively serving the full Area?

- There is always room for improvement although we are doing a good job
- Better clarity during new business presentations is needed, we are asking questions that can wait until actual discussion starts
- Refrain from sharing multiple times
- More interpreters for the meetings, especially when we go back live
- Consider dividing the Area to effectively conduct business
- Reports could be submitted in writing and then 2 minute shares could show the enthusiasm of the commitment
- Have a survey or focus groups for feedback
- Add a GSR Sharing Session
- Consider restructuring the business meeting and possibly extending the meeting
- Need to do a better job with safety, for example the BIPOC community in AA
- There is a lack of diversity
- Committee members do extra work outside of the meetings, we get a lot done

4. Are we mindful of the spiritual principles underlying the right of decision and the right of participation when we conduct Area business?

- Some are given more opportunities to express their personal views when all members should have equal time
- Using email blasts to try to gather support for or against a motion outside the meeting is not in line with our principles
- How do we preserve the spiritual foundations of anonymity?
- Should committee chairs have a vote?
- More transparency on how agenda items come about
- Have more trust and respect in our service leaders and fellow trusted servants
- Find ways to engage the groups that aren't participating
- If you see a need for change, don't just complain--make a motion and follow the process

5. How do the size and demographics of CNCA help or hinder our effectiveness in serving the groups?

- The size is hindering participation when we have to limit shares
- Could a combination, redistribution, or shift in geographical boundaries help?

- Virtual has allowed districts to consistently participate
- Shouldn't be about how to effectively run business meeting, but about carrying the message
- Motions Book has old Ad Hoc report that discusses dividing the Area
- Our size allows us access to more resources, and is the reason we can provide so many services and be truly bilingual
- Visit other Areas
- Concentrate on working with districts as opposed to dividing the Area
- Lack of diversity, especially considering our demographics here in the Bay area

6. Are people who do service for CNCA adequately supported?

- Solutions should come from the groups and districts, officers are here to help
- People are supported in their service in CNCA
- Are we adequately supporting Spanish speaking trusted servants with interpretation and translation?
- There is a financial barrier to doing service at the Area level, reimbursement does not cover everything
- Support from other experienced trusted servants can help to not feel overwhelmed
- Pass on information to your successors--what do you wish you had known?
- Have more trust in the committees who present motions
- Consider what we are asking of our trusted servants who are not retired, have children, etc.

7. How have we risen to the challenges of service in the pandemic? Where have we fallen short?

- CNCA met the challenge
- Could have started the Hybrid Ad Hoc process sooner, but trust that we will find a solution to allow all to participate
- Voting procedures are being lost with the virtual participation
- Some of the heart is lost when we do business in the virtual room
- How to handle virtual groups?
- There should be discussion about returning to in-person before we decide
- Business meetings have run more effectively virtually
- Allowed first time GSRs to do service with virtual being an option
- This inventory had less in attendance than before, people are not here
- Have not been adequately supporting the Spanish community virtually
- Remote communities and those with accessibility needs feel included
- We worked out how to apply the traditions to virtual meetings
- When passing on information we should add what we have learned from doing service virtually