

## Brooklyn County Inventory Notes

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The goal of the inventory is to have everyone share their own experience focused on the question of how well we carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. County members were asked to consider the following questions prior to sharing:

1. What does our County do well?
2. What might our County improve to better carry the message?
3. Are there ways our County can support groups/GSRs to better connect and participate in the greater AA fellowship beyond the group level (e.g., district, county, area, and other AA entities?)
4. If you were building a new county today, what would you do differently?
5. Is the current structure of Brooklyn County General Service working? (i.e. the number of districts, the number of meetings to attend, the spreading of service work, the county service structure in general...)
6. Anything else you think we need to address.

### **Feedback from County members:**

- The GSRs go out of their way to self-organize and reconnect the smaller groups to the county.
- With all the post-Pandemic displacement of groups, people are not sure what District they belong to. Consider reexamining and clarifying the County map and District lines and clusters.
- The absence of representation slows the flow of ideas. Although labor intensive, returning to doing more footwork by visiting meetings and sharing about service would be helpful, including having GSRs visit groups not active in general service.
- Before the pandemic, there was a palpable excitement and engagement in doing service, almost contagious. Virtual participation has changed the quality of the experience.
  - Note: The other side of the coin also came up. Some others feel online participation is important.
- Seeing others do service is infectious, involving people in the District for County events would help broaden the experience beyond picnics and alcathons.
- We need to be more aware of GSR/service burnout. Offering scholarships to events, NERAASA, e.g. may recharge enthusiasm.

- There is a lack of enthusiasm about doing service. Better demonstrating the through line of how the service we do translates to helping the alcoholic and better resources could help. Groups might see the value in the new things that are going to be available. Perhaps we can better explain that everyone's voice matters and increase the understanding of the importance of helping other alcoholics through service.
- The big events used to put us on the map, such as the Share-a-Day and the Spiritual Breakfast, but the challenges to holding these events are a struggle and sometimes insurmountable. Topical workshops on what people go through to stay sober, service, etc. may help.
- District organization needs work, there is a willingness by many trusted servants who want to improve the district service structure.
- More important than the events, we need to rebuild the internal structure and remove any bars to getting involved in service.
- The County could be better at explaining the role of the GSR in practical terms as well as explaining the difference between Intergroup and General Service, which would clear up some of the confusion.
- Conducting more GSR training is essential.
- Workshops on Concepts can help appreciate what AA is built from.
- Simplifications of Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure would be helpful.
- It is difficult to rank the importance of events other than assemblies- County vs. District meetings – the information is unclear.
- There are many problems with receiving emails.
- It is clear that we need tech support help, and it may have to be paid (8th Tradition) workers.
- Given the changing perspectives on alcohol, how can we make AA more inviting without proselytizing.