

69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REPORT
“Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings”

Workshop Session _____ **B** _____ **Time** 2:15-4:45 PM

Name of Facilitator _____ **Beau B** _____ **Recorder** _____ **David R** _____, P68A25

Please PRINT and limit the Workshop Report to two pages only and give it to the Conference Coordinator or Conference Assistant. Both can be found sitting on the dais during General Sessions. Thank you.

WORKSHOP REPORT

1. Discussion topic: STATE PRIMARY PURPOSE AT BEGINNING OF MEETING

- Group conscience plan to help. Newcomers packet. Meeting list, sponsorship, etc.
- Intergroup code of conduct
- Clarify what primary purpose is.
- Allow newcomers an opportunity to understand. Don't tell them they are wrong or berate them for not understanding
- However, don't use it as a weapon.
- Share with the groups
- Group autonomy – they get to aside
- Read traditions
- Read blue card
- Confine sharing to problems relating to alcohol
- Pulling people aside who don't know our primary purpose
- Read the preamble
- Sponsorship
- Study tradition – “we have but one..”
- Workshops
- Mention that other 12-step programs have different primary purpose, and read ours.
- Allow anyone to serve
- Be patient & tolerant – no criticism
- Be willing to change things
- Stop hoarding service positions – rotation is key!

- It's okay to question long-timers of the group.
- Secret Facebook pages for info.
- Enthusiastic participation
- Arrange steering committee meetings with announcements and foods
- Be an example
- Do things outside meetings
- Attract service members
- Pick up a newcomer
- Show gratitude 😊
- Making positions attractive

2. Discussion topic: SAFETY IN AA

- "Truth talk" – It is not 13th stepping – it is sexual predatory behavior.
- Is group's responsibility
- Silence could mean death.
- Criminal activity is not protected by our traditions. Be willing to report crimes to police
- Be willing to support someone who wants to report a crime
- Is the person growing up in AA & changing for the better – or is the person a "repeat offender?" Discretion
- Workshops at district & Area level
- Group member – Sponsor responsibility
- Group Inventory
- Discuss group conscience & /or policy
- Understanding of anonymity & as it relates to safety
- Single Gender meetings
- Convey unity
- Homegroup responsibility
- Tolerance of mental & emotional issues
- Service positions to support safety – greeter
- Ask for a volunteer to read 1=2 sections from the service piece.
- Stick together – leave meetings in a group at end of meeting

- Beware of over reactions.
- Use as a meeting topic
- If you see/know something, share it to the group at business meetings.
- By being silent, the situation gets worse.

3. Discussion topic: HOW TO KEEP THE “SINGLENESSE OF PURPOSE” INTACT WITH THE INFLUX OF OPIOID/ADDICTS AND STILL BE ATTRACTIVE & INCLUSIVE.

- Help them by getting them to the proper fellowship
- Good leadership & effective chairs
- Assign a temporary sponsor
- Use the service piece on dealing with an influx of newcomers
- More closed meetings
- Business meetings
- Intergroup code of conduct
- Sponsor helps sponsee shine in meetings
- 12th step people who come to the meeting
- Greeters with knowledge of their 12 step programs
- Tradition 5 as meeting topic
- Do they have a problem with alcohol?
- Don't talk about other 12-Step programs
- Beginner's meetings & beginners format.
- Court orientation
- Humility, not experts on everything
- Encourage questions before & after meetings
- Working with professionals – CPC
- Remember The newcomer may not know what they are
- Welcoming
- Read the blue card
- Cover in Group inventory
- Welcome them until they decide where they belong
- Don't lead those who are not sure that they are members. “Tradition 3”
- Make it common language in your story that you have a service sponsor!
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4. Discussion topic: **INCLUSION**

- 3rd Tradition includes all who suffer
- Compassion & tolerance for differences – excludes no one
- Gender neutral language
- Accessibility
- Atheist agnostic
- God Word
- Asking questions -to get to know “where” we come from, familiarity
- Participating in meetings – have a greeter
- Exclusion = Death
- LGBTQIA (A = allied and/or asexual)
- Respect for newcomers – sexual predation - stop calling it 13th Step!
- Breakdown rigid group practices
- Reaching out to remote communities
- Look for who is missing
- Group inventories – make this more a part of AA language
- Racial sensitivity
- Don’t politicize inclusion – it is our 3rd Tradition – It’s NOT political correctness
- Do not treat those with little or fragile faith as if they just need to change their minds.
- Call members you haven’t seen in a while
- Get phone numbers of newcomers and call them
- Newcomer “orientation” – briefing on appropriate meeting behavior so they are not embarrassed by doing or saying something considered inappropriate.
- Break down rigid group practices
- Reaching out to remote communities
- Look for who is missing
- Rotation is key! Stop hoarding positions & follow the rotation suggestions!
- Group inventories – make this more a part of AA language.
- Just like at Conference – sit in different seats with different people at the home group.

5: Discussion topic: GOOD MEETING LEADERSHIP

- What is good?
- Accountability
- How to run meeting well
- Informal meeting format
- Regular home group mtgs to keep it clear.
- Sponsorship, sponsorship, sponsorship!
- Format of sober time not being followed
- Workshops at home, district, area to show
- Be an example of how to chair
- Home group members help out
- Group conscience process can be helpful, Group inventory
- Involve long term members
- Workshops on the group pamphlet.
- Newcomer rotation with sponsor co-chairing
- Stay on track – share your ESH
- Written instructions for meeting treasurer, and written reports (responsibility with accountability to those we serve)
- Arrive early, stay late
- Time limits on sharing, with friendly cue when time is up
- Group leaders/GSRs should understand their delegated authority and responsibility
- Strong, regular business meetings
- Find ways to encourage all to serve, (not just for those “*service people*”)
- Chairperson coordinator
- Quarterly chairperson workshop, required to chair meetings.
- Chairperson guidelines
- Meeting formats available.

6: Discussion topic: IMPORTANCE & SUPPORT OF GRAPEVINE & LA VINA

- Mention importance of GV/LV in every piece of literature
- Literature meeting that reads AAGV books. Buy a box or two of books for meeting to read
- At announcements – the group GV Rep reads a joke from the new GV book.
- Include GV in self-support endeavors
- Intergroup committee support GV

- Provide specific examples of how to use GV/LV as a recovery tool
- More info available for becoming GV Rep
- 77% of GV subscribers learn about GV/LV in their home group or from GVR/RLV so elect those.
- Each AA group pick 2-3 names out of hat, who will provide their GV/LV strong
- Having copies readily available
- Gifting subscriptions
- Meeting chair play GV story audio to set up the meeting topic.
- The adventures of Super Sober (Big Book) & Boy Wonder (GV)
- Chest of Hope – Georgia
- Give inmate (CTM)
- Use GV books as meeting topic
- Immediate past delegate becomes GV chair at area
- Amends bylaws – GV does not need to be self-sufficient – funded by GSO
- Have GSR/RSG stress importance of obtaining a GVR/RLV for the group
- GVR should announce projects like C_____ (?), Subscription challenge, Daily Quote
- Sell GV books in your home group and announce new books
- Conduct “how to write & submit a story” workshops
- GV as accessibility tool. Audio for blind members!
- Start a GV meeting.
- Group/District/Area/individuals buy subscriptions of La Vina and donate to prisons & treatment centers.
- Have a short item for new GVR/LVRs to use in monthly group/district reports.
- Add that it’s from the GV to the Preamble card/sheet.
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7: Discussion topic: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS TO BE OF SERVICE!

- Write a thank you card to the speaker
- Sponsors push service
- All members serve
- Safety “liaison” (New positions”
- Sponsorship = Leadership

- Give GSRs support & “schooling”
- Make it an honor to serve
- Acknowledge all “non-service” jobs
- Specific jobs
- Share in meetings about benefits of service – what service has done for you.