

DCM Round Table, 2 March 2019

Meeting Opened

Suggestion - If we have a topic and stick to your own table... Not accepted

Opened with Serenity Prayer...

Topic -

1. What is the difference between DCM and DCMC?
2. How to encourage membership engagement into General Service?
3. DCMC and ALT DCMC can do for their DCMs?
4. What to do when GSRs get frustrated?
5. What can we do besides workshops?

Discussion about sharing - 15 minutes per topic - 2 min per share - 4 min for

1. What is the difference between DCM and DCMC?

- District Committee Member Chair (DCMC)
- District Committee Member (DCM)
- Areas that have large dense metropolitan areas are broken in to sub-districts.
- DCM for Men's Meetings - DCM for specific types of meetings.
- DCMC meets with the DCMs in some cases. Often left up to the District.
- DCMC is the Chair person for the District Group meetings.
- DCMC adds a layer of meetings where the DCMC meets with the DCMs.
- Why don't we just break up into smaller districts? It would be a Area policy change.
- Combined areas, i.e. West Side, Hollywood, etc....each of those DCMs is now available as a chair after his position term is over. Seems unfair to seemingly automatically move into a new position.
- Don't get too caught up in the words and the names.
- Read your Area Guidelines - those can be very helpful.

2. How to encourage membership engagement into General Service?

- Encouraged sending two home group members to PRAASA.
- Important to have GSR and Alternate GSR.
- PRAASA works for GSRs and paid for them. When GSRs go back to their meetings because we are doing an event and volunteers came out in droves. When they asked for help so many people showed up and asked what else they could do.
- We sponsor anyone to go to PRAASA or anything they want to go to. Put an information packet together that identifies who the district and sub-district are and do and offer to help them through workshops, group inventories and even how to spend their money. Pie charts on the money and where it goes. We have documentation all the service opportunities. Then the DCM gets out to as many groups as possible and GSRs will go out to other groups as well.

- Created a flyer for a sobriety workshop where past Delegates came and spoke and invited all the newcomers who came and got involved. Huge success. Go to groups and talk to them about the 7th Tradition and where that money is going. Ask questions.
- Important about District Meetings - we have a District Round Table and let people talk about what is going on in their group etc. Important to make sure the GSRs know the meeting is for them and they have a voice. DCM and Alt DCM get out to all the meetings.
- General Service is a challenge. Educating yourself to implement more practical plans to attract new generations. Group communication between Area and Districts with solving issues that come up.
- Subject is rarely brought up. Starting with the home group - talk about General Service. Taking the General Service message in and this is what it is and this is how you start.
- Participation is a challenge, lot of young people without transportation. We are having low GSR involvement...there is a quarterly meeting coming up, who can cover it. No 2 year commitment, just cover this one meeting.
- Only 7 or 8 GSRs showing up...we started going to meetings regularly and encouraging get support and participation. Visit Groups, it helps a lot!
- Take our responsibilities really seriously. Respect the groups, trust the servants and encourage new GSRs in the District, have unity and try and visit the groups and give them a chance to participate lead by example. Inform the groups about activities especially like PRAASA. Inform the groups of the local Forum, Regional Forum and all other events in AA. Make new GSR really welcome.

3. DCMC and ALT DCMC can do for their DCMs? (How is the DCM supporting the GSR?)

- Take from the Area bring the information to the district and then to the sub-district. GSRs can then take back to the groups and as autonomous groups pick and choose what works for them.
- DCMC went to all the district meetings. Here is what your district is doing that is really strong and here is how another district is doing this better...
- Alt DCMC is there to answer questions, anytime. Announcements asking about how to help. GSR can't be just a job if you want them to stick around.
- When a position seems to start being weekly supported - looked for things that could be supportive. Hold separate meeting specialized for extra help. Ask questions about what issues are happening in Districts and then allow others to meet on their own for their own autonomy.
- To keep districts very solid and efficient when they work together with the new GSRs and the new groups. DCMC work with the Area and bring that back to the district.
- Spanish Speaking Districts with 80-90% participation. DCMs have stepped up and English Speaking Districts are growing due to that hard work as well. Some DCMs just don't know what to do, not enough information.
- Encouraged new and old GSRs. DCM would give GSR topics for panels that were created and groups were invited.

4. What to do when GSRs get frustrated?

- Don't overload the GSRs and need to be educated slowly. Explain slowly. Connection needs to happen slowly. Asking them how you can help and reach out personally. They need to know they are being heard.

- Getting people, GSR, tell them to help themselves by asking for help. Gather information and get a volunteer list. Send all the contact information as an attachment. If GSRs have contacts they can reach out to each other. Make use of technology. We can all help each other.
- 10 years ago our Trusted Servants were not tolerable...would tell GSRs to go back to the group and do the steps... This is a new generation. Thinking is changing. Advantage for the intergroup participants become GSRs. Encourage GSRs to have a service sponsor and steps sponsor. Tell GSRs they are in good hands and make them feel welcome, like when they were newcomers.
- Inventory and meditation, why is this person pissed off, what did I do wrong? Stop and ask myself, what is going on here and wait for the right answer to come. Main objective, not progress, just don't create more of a mess.
- GSRs can be really overwhelmed. Had a past Delegate come and share about what General Service is and it helped the GSRs come back and keep trying. Don't bombard them. Help to guide them with enough information. They don't use acronyms.
- Program of attraction, how can I share what service has done for me? Are we going to chase the person who just isn't interested. Created a 1k line item for GSRs to get to events like PRAASA. Help people get the service bug.
- You are going to hear a lot of stuff that you will not understand...don't let it freak you out. Stick around and give it a chance and it will start to make sense. Lean on your DCM in the beginning and service sponsorship...have a service sponsorship coordinator.
- Some groups really against general service. A lot of changes based on work and agendas. How to encourage the new GSR on agenda. Inform them on how things work in the District. When the GSRs learn they need to register with GSO and you will get a packet, they realize that it takes effort, time and funding.
- Adopted as a District - Beginner Binders - and became a part of the bylaws. The GSR starts out not knowing what to do. Don't know what their job is. Here is what a District Committee Member is etc... A lot of non participation. Show up at meetings showing that we are here to support them. Ask when their business meeting is. Making them know that they are important. As a result, more participation and understanding...more people listed, which came from listening.

5. What activities can we do besides workshops?

- Quarterly speaker meetings and have a group "host" the meeting and then in August Jamboree. November - Delegate will come and talk about General Service followed by Q&A.
- Volleyball tournaments, Home Group Activities, Workshops can get really big. All different dances for each Home Group.
- Nice if standing committees have a forum where they present what they are doing. Find out what your group cares about figure out how to mix that into workshops and panels. That is what is driving the district activities.
- Workshop on special topics. Encourage the groups to become closer to the Districts. Special meeting every month and talk about the District Anniversary. When we do it at the group level and not district level they get interested. They ask questions.
- Take pamphlets from PRAASA back to the groups and share what the DCMC has learned. We have to do the work by sharing that AA saved your life and many relate and we learn that by PRAASA, Area, District, Round Tables.
- Make workshops FUN. Game day!!! Bingo, Jeopardy, food!!! Food will always bring them.

- Report back from PRAASA. Delegate opens her home and has a panel. GSRs can talk about anything they want. It is a safe place to ask any questions. Someone wants to put on a musical as a workshop. Meeting people helps keep AA alive.
- Greatest things to get people involved - Food. If I go do it, invite others with me. Don't tell spouses to come just tell them to meet you at this time and place. Home Group Day. Christmas Breakfast and gets people involved. Dunk Tank at the Home Group Day...dunk your sponsor. Dances, toga parties, boat cruises, anything to get people involved.
- Question about how much other Districts pay to get people to PRAASA -
- One did a raffle that helped get some to get to PRAASA.

Closed meeting with the Responsibility Statement

Submitted by Amber K.