

Area 2019 Inventory: Comment Tracking Form

Individuals: 14 responses from 14 Individuals
Districts: 85 individual responses/votes from 4 Districts (3 English and 1 Spanish)
Group: 5 responses from 5 Groups

Question: 1. Do you attend Area meetings? If no, why not? If yes, why?

Results: 70 Responses: 34 Yes, 25 No, 11 Sometimes

34 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, to understand. • Yes, I attend Area Meetings because I love being of service and being with others who feel the same. • Yes, it has brought me much joy to serve at the Area level. I have learned a great deal. • Yes, I've attended for about 12 years. I attended because I was GSR, then District Secretary, then Area Committee and officer positions, so I was being responsible to my service commitments. • Yes, to be informed and is also a part of my duties as District 8 DCMC. • Yes, love service, stay connected to AA as a whole. • Yes, I go to Area meetings. I go because I want to be involved in AA at any level I can be of service. • Yes, most people did not know what an Area meeting was. Those who did know what they are found them somewhat interesting. • 6 Yes: Never miss a commitment as Committee Chair; better serve my District; not when too far away; half on Saturday (1). • Yes, to be informed, to vote. Often, they are far away. • Yes, part of service. • Yes, part of service. • Yes, to receive information among all Districts. • Yes, for information from GSO. • Yes, to inform me and my Group. • Yes, for more knowledge. • Yes, I am learning a lot about AA as a whole. • Yes, I am concerned. • Yes, to learn about service. • Yes, to participate, learn, and for unity.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, to learn more.
24 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, work-related reasons. • No; no interest; work reminders. • 18 No: Prior commitment; too far; too soon - new GSR; not eligible to vote; Group not interested; work weekends; family time; lot of non-Area AA commitments; would if on Saturday (1). • No, because on Sundays. • Busy schedules. Uniformed. Feeling of not understanding. Meetings aren't broadcasted. People are enabling by saying "You don't really have to go, nobody goes anyways." Locations too far. School. Family. Work. Misrepresentation. Unimportance. Meeting is 2nd Sunday of each month and location is posted on the Area website. Why not skype the Area meeting? Too long. Feeling obligated to stay the whole time.
11 Sometimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes. Not when there are time and conflicting events. Learning about General Service. • 10 Some: If not too far, if share-back, if a vote; Saturday better (2); not if more than two hours away; not if more than one hour away; meetings too long, expect others to connect, boring.
<p>Question: 2. Is Area 09 doing enough to reach out to remote communities, generally defined as "Any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture, or geography?"</p>	
<p>Results: 41 Responses: 17 Yes, 12 No, 9 Can improve, 3 Unknown</p>	
17 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think so, especially with the Spanish-speaking community. I assume that what participants learn during Committee break-out sessions benefits remote communities such as prisons, elderly community, professional community, etc. • For the most part. • General answer was to ask those people in those areas, but were satisfied in our local Area. • Yes, through GSRs and Assemblies. • Yes, it is working.
12 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, deaf community. • Spanish communities supported but do not hear about how to reach OTHER remote communities; no mechanism to identify them or how to reach them; know of only one Japanese meeting. • General consensus is No. We have only one American Sign Language and deaf meeting. One Japanese meeting. Not many elderly meetings. Setting up Native American meetings in the Inland Empire. Is there a Remote Community Committee? No, other

	Committees can cover remote communities. There is always more work than people to do it. Go to the Standing Committee meetings.
9 Can improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe we are doing our best, but I believe there are still many we have not reached the deaf population, Japanese Groups and Middle Eastern Groups. • I think in regards to the Hispanic community, the Area is trying hard. I do not think the Area does quite enough for disabled members and those living with physical and mental challenges. • I believe we have a large Spanish-speaking community; however, we may want to include other languages. • It could always do better. • The deaf community. • I think Area 09 could do more to reach remote communities. I don't know what is done now to reach remote communities, or even if they want to be reached. Maybe the remote communities want to be remote? • Need to better identify remote communities and provide Area structure for outreach; Area 09 needs a Remote Communities liaison; disappointed in poor attendance of English-speaking Board members at FORO.
Question: 3. Do you understand how business is conducted at Area meetings?	
Results: 45 Responses: 30 Yes, 8 No, 7 Somewhat, 1 Not applicable to the question	
30 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, I do, from participating and from my past community and educational service work. • Yes, having served as Secretary, Treasurer (briefly), and now Alternate Delegate. I think the more you serve, the more is revealed, and all of that enhances my sobriety. • Need more clarity and communication on Area function; better description on differences between ASC and Assembly. • There is understanding in principle of what we should be doing and how Area meetings should be conducting business, but it's not being translated real time. There is an order to follow. Service manual lays out ASC and Assembly procedures. Should there be "Sherpas" for new people at the Area meeting?
8 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need GSR School at Area meetings.
7 Somewhat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat, after about a half dozen of them. • More or less. Well, at least I think I do. I could be mistaken. • Starting to learn as I go. • Most of the time, but I will admit I was confused for most of my first year of attendance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSRs should provide more information to meetings; most people unaware of AA's business.
<p>Question: 4. Do you think Area 09 practices principles before personalities in the way business is conducted?</p>	
<p>Results: 38 Responses: 30 Yes, 3 No, 3 Sometimes, 2 Unsure or do not know</p>	
30 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, for the most part. The Spirit of Rotation, soliciting the minority opinion, representation at the Committee level are all ways the Traditions and Concepts are all upheld. • The more the Chair knows about Robert's Rules of Order, Area Guidelines, and Area Bylaws the better; Chair should be conducting business, not other officers; when decisions are based on incorrect information, officers should acknowledge it immediately; Board transparency is essential. • Yes, it amazes me.
3 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's chaotic with personalities. Jesus's floor motion at the General Service Conference revealed hidden agendas and voting blocks. There is microphone bullying. New people get turned off to the way business is conducted at the Area level. Business seems to be lengthy sometimes, and lots of microphone time is wasted on irrelevant information.
2 Unsure or do not know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of our [District] meeting [members in attendance] has not been to an Area meeting [so] not sure.
<p>Question: 5. Are you for, against, or neutral to the practice of Area Service Committee meetings being changed to Assemblies so we can vote on newly identified motions?</p>	
<p>Results: 49 Responses: 17 For, 19 Against, 11 Neutral, 2 Unknown</p>	
17 For	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think there are times that call for making the change, and am not averse to changing an ASC to an ASA when it is important to get a vote. • I am FOR ASC meetings being changed to Assemblies for the purpose of voting on newly identified motions. • Some thought it might help get information to people more quickly. • Yes: When a switch is to be made, both the process and the reasons should be explained, and it should be noted in the ASC agenda. • Yes, I'm in favor if it is important and there is not enough time [to follow the approved process].
19 Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe there is a process for presenting motions and should be adhered to as much as possible. • Against, it defeats the motion process. No opportunity to poll the Groups. • Anxiety and pressure to vote without informing the Group. Not promoting informed Group consciences. Can we completely stop it or is it necessary sometimes? Is it poor planning? Encourage to change it to an Assembly so often. Railroading. Vote Yes 0 No 15.

Question: 6. Is the existing Committee system performing as well as it can?

Results: 52 Responses: 12 Yes, 29 No, 10 Needs improvement, 1 Unknown

12 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. This inventory is intended to assess what is and is not working. • Yes, in theory, but our District is lacking people.
29 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probably not; too new to know. • Personalities before principles. Not showing up. (Committee Chair). Area too big. Review of splitting the Area. Showing up consistently to staff Committees too much of a commitment. Handing off without carrying responsibility. Large span of Area might be preventing members from getting involved in Area wide service commitments. Vote Yes 0 No 10.
10 Needs improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As often as I attend Area meetings, I still have little idea about what most of the Committees are doing. Perhaps if we did [Committee] verbal reports with the opportunity for questions at the beginning of the ASCs occasionally. • I believe they [Committee Chairs?] need more encouragement and support to actualize their service and fully utilize their budgets. • We could always do better. • As with anything in life, there is always room for improvement. • Should have more [District member?] attendance – Principles before personalities. • GSRs want appointments; need more collaboration between Committees, such as La Viña with Grapevine and among Treatment/Corrections/CPC; contact information for Committee Chairs; need to update Committee descriptions on Area 09 website; need transparency around budget spending; have Committees introduce themselves and describe Committee function at beginning of meeting; need better transition between Delegate’s report and Committee break-out sessions.

Question: 7. Should Area events occur at a few central locations?

Results: 37 Responses: 15 Yes, 21 No, 1 Unknown

15 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think we should explore the possibility of having Area meetings at a few central locations. • That may be easier for people with disabilities. • This would help as some meetings are two hours from me. • Area 09 should have four central locations.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus is yes, it is a good idea. Based out of the fact that every month they are very far apart, maybe 4 central locations for everyone. Increase attendance and be consumer friendly. Might be of interest to compensate members - There are policies that reimburse for mileage. Changing locations last minute makes it hard to get to. Timely communication.
21 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. My experience is that Districts like to host Area events, which allows them to get more of the local fellowship involved in setup and running the meeting. This would be lost if we meet at one place month after month, which I don't think promotes the feeling of inclusiveness, and doesn't promote involvement like occurs when meetings are dispersed. I like the changing scenery! • No, it's nice not to have to travel once in a while and special to host our service friends. • No (outreach for remote communities). • May lose people from outlying areas. Keep mobile to be fair to everyone. • No, people shouldn't have to drive hours to a "central location."
1 Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this mean? Where? Seems central locations are in Buena Park or near there.
<p>Question: 8. What would you change or add to our Area website (MSCA09aa.org) to better serve our members?</p>	
<p>Results: 35 Responses: 7 Fine as is, 20 Suggestions, 8 No opinion</p>	
20 Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Post] Committee reports, financial reports. • Perhaps time restrained (sensitive) live transmissions for disabled members or at least a recording without faces broadcast over the internet at the time of the actual ASC/Assembly. • I think it's great! More audio. • Thanks to Mitchell and Rainer, I think our website is as informative as it has ever been, and I can't think of any additions. It's a shame that we don't have a Panel 68 newsletter. • A way for new GSRs to be added to the email list. • Direct links to service opportunities. "Some SCY not user friendly." "Some SCY IV's good." [Not sure what SCY means]. • Make District formats easier and more accessible for District secretaries to post on. Be able to read Box 459 online. • [Needs to be...] Easy to use. • Area map. • I would like to see the web address streamlined. Maybe, area09social? • Keep up to date, meeting places, times, edit more often.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need integrated maps; responsive UX for mobile devices; electronic submissions of expenses through website; produce timeline for General Service Conference process; update financial reports and Group contributions. • Add a mobile friendly app. • More information. • Possess more information, and sign in [to what?]. • A lot of outdated information. Keep updated information. Issues with webmaster. New information is dumped to the home page. Very clustered. What are the Committees working on? Tabs for that. Volunteer for Committee events. Right now, the only way to get information is to know people. Can we hire professional to run website? Does webmaster get paid? Is it a rotating commitment? We should find a professional and pay them and interview them. Nobody usually steps up. Outline scope of work. More events that we participate in as Districts than are listed on the website.
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Question: 9. Do we have an effective system for accounting and reporting funds?

Results: 40 Responses: 28 Yes, 3 No, 4 Unknown, 1 Neutral, 4 Suggestions

28 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. Having two Treasurers (which I initially opposed) and a Finance Committee gives us a good checks and balance. The annual budgeting process allows all to have input into expenditure of funds.
4 Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangely, when we originally had the question about being a seat of perilous wealth and power, I realized I have no idea how much money we have, what our budgets are or what we've actually spent money on. Maybe the information has been presented and I wasn't paying attention. But perhaps we should pass out finance reports regularly. • Unclear, no one had any ideas, gray area after money leaves Area.
3 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think we have an effective system. Questions to specifics on what Archives funds are being used for. Area budget rarely gets discussed, usually just passed without question.
4 Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to veto a line item without holding up budget approval; Finance Committee create a breakdown for basic budget; increased transparency and accountability around spending; can audits be publicized?

Question: 10. Are Area Officers and Committee Chairs chosen with care and consideration or are personalities put before principles?

Results: 53 Responses: 24 Yes, 14 No, 10 Not always, 5 Unknown

24 Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think personalities play a part, but I also think that is almost unavoidable. What is more concerning is that people might not speak up or express an opinion for fear of not being liked.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the most part with care but I have witnessed some officers being chosen in what looked like a popularity contest rather than [their] service record. • I think so. Everyone who has attended the minimum number of Area events can vote. If anything, we may want to further clarify eligibility. Do we want a new Delegate, for example, who has not served as an Area officer? • I like the election process. • It follows the three Legacies. Three of last four Delegates chosen from the hat. • Chosen with care. • Yes, in our District we are just happy to have someone willing. • They are chosen with care and confidence. • Yes, with care and consideration. • We choose carefully.
14 No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone thought it seemed like a popularity contest, personalities coming before personalities. • No, there is no care when making the choices. • D18: Vote for “care and consideration” = 0; “personalities put before principles” = 8; abstain = 6. Personalities do get voted in, but it really is a fair process. I think the system is fair. Committee for example where people have chosen to not to participate with Committee Chairs who have put personalities before principles. I feel that there are Committee Chairs who have not shown up 3 times but they don’t get voted out. It goes along the lines of showing up consistently. This is why Bill wrote so many essays about “qualifying the call”. The “qualified” and the “call”. If people aren’t there, it doesn’t happen. Keeping it more inclusive. The Area’s Board is supposed to keep Traditions alive.
5 Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure (I’m too new and don’t notice). • From what I’ve seen, it depends on what position is to be filled.
10 Not always	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area officer selection seems competitive; when it comes to Committee Chairs it seems like because the positions are less sought after maybe there is less of a talent pool for leadership; there is no budget for non-Committee activities requiring an <i>ad hoc</i> motion to allow spending.
Question: 11. What is your understanding of the basic purpose of Area 09?	
Results: 35 Responses	
34 Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry the message of AA throughout our service area. Coordinate activities of Committees. Vote on our Delegates.

- I think it is the same as that of all service, to carry the message. And perhaps to help all of us learn about service. And to be a link in the chain between members in our area and the Conference.
- Support our Committee carrying the Group conscience to our meetings.
- To carry the voices via the Delegate of all our members to the GSC and to serve alcoholics, professionals, and the like throughout Mid-Southern California.
- Brings District together for larger functions to vote on items affecting our area and AA as a whole.
- To provide coordination among Districts, and to give members the opportunity to strengthen their interests, like Corrections, Cooperation with the Professional Community, etc.
- To keep the Groups informed about AA as a whole and to try to carry the message through its Committees in the Area.
- To inform Groups what's going on in AA as a whole and have Groups have a voice on these issues.
- To keep Groups informed and to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and to make sure AA is still here for those yet to find the doors of AA.
- Information.
- Help AA as a whole work better all the time.
- To make sure AA is still there.
- I think it is to help spread the AA program, by helping GSR's find other ways to be of service to their Groups and AA in general.
- To bring information to the Districts, to be liaison between New York and Districts.
- Carry Group conscience to Delegates; updates on Committee activities and accomplishments; for new members purpose seems complex and convoluted; link between GSO and world service; voice between GSO and Districts/Groups; distributing information, voting on motions, discussing Committee functions in different Groups and Districts.
- Share information among Groups and AA as a whole. Carry the message of AA.
- Communicate with New York.
- To bring information back to our Groups and the alcoholic who still suffers.
- To meet the needs of our trusted servants and bring information to the Area.
- They bring us the information to take to our Groups; the purpose is to have a better way to improve our service.
- To learn.
- It helps us be informed, and [discussions at] the [Committee] tables are good.
- To bring the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A link [enlase] to GSO.• A link to GSO and the Conference.• A link to New York and AA as a whole.• A link to AA as a whole.• Make sure people have a robust knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts. Become really well versed in this. To be responsible and not act like an alcoholic like I used to be. Are they being trusted servants? To support the Fellowship of the members in Area 09. |
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