

RECORD OF NOVEMBER 4, 2018, SENY INVENTORY [PANEL 67]

9:13 a.m.: Chair (Jane E.) calls meeting to order; Serenity Prayer and Preamble, in English and Spanish. Mike O. (Recording Secretary) will be Inventory Recording Secretary; Chair (Jane) will take theme notes. Rich P., Northeast Trustee, will moderate.

Rich P.: Process will be open range, where person at mic can talk about either the suggested topics or any other topics, and we'll see if a theme comes out. One topic, which I always include in Inventories, is how did you find your first AA meeting.

52 Trusted Servants Shared; Each Person Received 3 Minutes

A majority addressed the number of meetings. Trusted Servants from Counties other than Manhattan and Brooklyn generally shared that could attend all the meetings GSRs normally attend. A majority of Trusted Servants from Manhattan and Brooklyn shared that they chose which meetings to attend, usually choosing to attend Assemblies and either their District or County meetings, but a minority said they could attend all meetings. Reasons for not attending Assembly, County, and District meetings varied; several speakers cited family and work reasons, while a few indicated that they saw either the County or District levels of service as superfluous, splitting evenly about which was superfluous. A few suggested using methods other than inperson Assemblies to encourage participation.

An appreciable minority of speakers addressed rotating Assemblies versus not rotating Assemblies. Most supported rotation on the grounds that it enhanced Area Unity. Some opposing rotation because of the difficulties in attending Assemblies in geographically remote Counties; one trusted servant had been scolded for not attending enough Assemblies or District Meetings. Some said that more Sunday Assemblies might encourage participation, especially from the Hispanic community. A few speakers said that they had not seen cliques developing at the Area level along County lines or otherwise, but they had seen cliques develop at the County or District level.

Some speakers shared that they were happy with the support and training they received from the Area. More shared that they thought the Area could conduct more thorough GSR trainings. They felt that the Area does not do enough to support GSRs. Some Counties offer trainings, even boot camps, which are well-received. Queens was cited as an example by more than one speaker. Several speakers said that they had no idea what a GSR did when they became a GSR, which might explain why 80% don't come at all and only 50% return a second time. One speaker shared that there was not a clear line of progression from service as a GSR to other positions below the Group level, which was discouraging.

Several people spoke of sponsors who, early in their recovery, encouraged them or made them get into service. Trusted Servants shared how service below the Group level enhanced their spiritual and personal lives. But, they also shared that their enthusiasm does not always translate; some home Groups are receptive while others remain more parochial. The same things some GSRs did that worked to encourage participation – bringing back materials, explaining issues, speaking enthusiastically about Assemblies – did not work for others. So, while it's important to

reach dark groups, it's not clear how we can make them interested. A few speakers were from Groups that had not had GSRs before or in which the position of GSR had lapsed; they had very little to no information about the Area before becoming GSR and could have used more help from Area or from AA literature in knowing what message(s) to bring back. More training would have been helpful.

In this vein some addressed the purpose of SENY, which was to enable GSRs to bring the message back to home Groups and to encourage interest in the Legacies and broader AA. They sought to do so through their enthusiasm and by bringing back information for the Group. A few shared their belief that service at this level is not for everyone, but the Area does not control who each Group selected.

Speakers who addressed the issue were satisfied with the Area, but not necessarily with the County structure, in particular those Counties with more meetings.

11:41 a.m.: All who wanted to having spoken, Inventory Closed