

A.A. Group Inventory

Jackson Fellowship

February 7, 2010

Many groups periodically hold a "group inventory meeting" to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through AA's suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. Some groups take inventory by examining our Twelve Traditions, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles.

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?

See our Charter

To respond to concerns of members, assist in interpreting traditions, provide information regarding finances, supplies, General Service meetings.

To stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

To be of service to the newcomer. To provide a safe, anonymous place for AA meetings. To carry the message by example within and without the doors of AA.

To carry the message...

2. What more can our group do to carry the message?

Secretary workshops. There is a section in the meeting binder that describes the duties.

H&I: Men and women going to jails. Bridging the Gap program volunteers

Materials to MDs, Behavioral Health, Senior Center

Use a bigger symbol on the door

Put announcements in newspaper once/month: Do you need AA? Hotline #_____

Beginners meeting, open to all; closed meeting to AA's only for variety

Focus (meeting topic) on service at the meeting, district and sponsorship levels.

More tolerance in open meetings regarding those who mention "drugs" in their share—with a kinder reminder of our singleness of purpose.

3. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross section of our community, including those with special needs?

Building is not ADA compliant, but we do have some in wheelchairs

We reflect diversity of our county--

We do have a doctor, lawyer and Indian chief

Suggestion to also put N.A. schedules up on the rack in the entry room

Perhaps we do not have an outreach to the Hispanic community?

4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do to retain members?

We are probably not much different than the national average; people always seem to be welcomed back

.Beginners meeting

Increase availability and discussion of sponsorship

Greeters at the door for beginners. This could be a "service" position

Every member could say "hello" to a newcomer to welcome him/her

Invite newcomers to coffee/lunch after the meeting

Pass around phone numbers during the meeting for the newcomer, maybe take the name and phone # (if they are willing)

Assign a sponsor??

Some members have "calling cards" they give to newcomers

5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?

We do a good job. One member stated she heard it loud and clear in this Fellowship, "You need a sponsor". Suggestions are: request quarterly updates to the phone list whereby members interested in being a temporary sponsor would so indicate by adding an asterisk next to their name. This feature is already available. We have a sponsorship pamphlet. The script could say something about getting a sponsor, or could ask for volunteers to be temporary sponsor at beginning of each meeting. With a new phone list for newcomers, they could be handed a sponsor pamphlet. We could assemble a "Newcomer Packet" to be given out to new people.

6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other AAs outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?

We announce "What we say here, when we leave here, etc..." Our list of topics includes anonymity. We read the Traditions at every meeting. It is addressed in meetings, and newcomers ask about anonymity. Sponsors should be encouraged to address the traditions with sponsees. Seeing members outside of meetings can require some caution—such as giving a hug, calling out to someone by name to say hello. Sometimes there is too much gossip. The individual AA should feel safe enough to be rigorously honest, laugh, vent or cry at meetings.

7. Does our group emphasize to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean up and other housekeeping chores that are essential for our Twelfth Step efforts?

Trusted servants, sponsors, along with their sponsees might be encouraged to act as examples for the newcomer. Monthly clean up days have been done in the past. The secretary script now asks for volunteers for clean up after each meeting.

8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?

In the announcements, a note to the Secretary serves as a reminder to keep shares short when there are many people present. The announcements list Secretary, Steering Committee member openings. Members are encouraged to participate in the Gold Country Roundup. Open/Closed meetings may dictate if friends, visitors, guests are called upon. Tag meetings are sometimes helpful.

9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?

This does not seem to be a problem in terms of a popularity contest. It is sometimes difficult to fill "slots" for Steering Committee and some meeting secretary positions. Suggestion is that sponsors could encourage their sponsees into service, by helping to train new people into positions.

10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?

We are, as much as possible. Complaints are responded to quickly. The bathrooms/toilets are not handicap approved. Unsightly blinds were “fixed” by opening them. The garbage can in the entry way lacks esthetic value—Lysol spray can be used. There is a possibility of a new meeting place in the future.

11. Does our group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA—as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?

The legacy of recovery is well addressed in the 12 Steps Unity is addressed in the 12 Traditions. The Legacies are a part of the “Concepts” of AA. Suggestion is that a one day workshop on the concepts could be done. Perhaps the DCM or Alternate DCM would be willing to speak. One member suggested a display of the AA “timeline” in the lobby.

12. What has our group done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?

There is a local PI/CPC committee. Some members are active in visiting the jail, and others go to Mule Creek. Some individual members are in regular contact with professionals in the community: i.e. Peer support for Behavioral Health, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, Problems come up with anonymity and also HIPAA.

13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

We are doing well. We meet our rent, we’ve got a prudent reserve of approximately 3 months rent, which is appropriate to these challenging economic times. We support District 30 and the Hotline. One member suggested using the statement “Break the Buck Barrier”, but that was not approved by the Steering Committee.