

District 48 Group Inventory

Summer 2023

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The 13 questions used for this inventory were selected from the pamphlet: **The A.A. Group ...Where it all begins: How a Group Functions, How to Get Started** (2018). The questions were discussed by GSRs and Officers prior to District 48 business meetings June, July, August, and September 2023. Responses to each question have been summarized below.

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?

The basic purpose is to carry the message.

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

Support is provided to individual groups through District 48 service positions. GSRs participate in committees and subcommittees which benefit the entire district and ensure the message is carried. District 48 also conducts direct community outreach. To further achieve the basic purpose of carrying the message, every GSR not chairing a committee could actively participate in a committee or subcommittee. GSRs could become more familiar with other local districts and Area 59.

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

African American and Hispanic representation in District 48 membership has declined over the years. The district could conduct outreach with agencies serving targeted populations including those with disabilities. This would require greater participation in district committees/subcommittees.

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?

There are a variety of factors that contribute to a new member staying with the program or not. To help new members feel welcome, District 48 could be more intentional in engaging new members at meetings and fostering connection with the program. Home groups might consider adding a "fellowship" service commitment.

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

To further emphasize the importance of sponsorship, District 48 could hold events like the GSR orientation that occurred this year. In this way, members can learn the basic tenets of sponsorship. Also, District 48 could offer resources to those that are interested in sponsorship. Being aware of members that need a sponsor and encouraging service sponsorship are other ways District 48 can promote sponsorship.

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

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?

No such issues have been observed in connection with District 48 business meetings. GSRs discussed efforts taken at the group level to maintain good working relationships with the organizations renting meeting places and encouraging members to practice recovery principles while attending meetings. The standard should be to leave the location in better condition than it was on arrival.

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

District 48 business meetings are conducted as outlined in the district handbook which is available on the website. All GSRs should have a copy, and it is important that members understand the format and procedures of business meetings. When necessary, rules and procedures are reviewed so that all in attendance are clear as to when they may or may not participate in discussions.

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?

Those in service positions should be knowledgeable and well supported by others that are knowledgeable about those commitments. It's important to consider how the traditions are maintained and how AA is represented through service positions. There is not enough participation at the district level for there to be true competition when selecting officers. To encourage more participation, current District 48 Officers and GSRs should get those they sponsor involved in service.

10. Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?

It was estimated that District 48 business meetings have been held at the same location for around 35 years. The facility is fully accessible, and the church has been accommodating to the needs of the district.

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

To effectively carry the message, membership must be engaged in each of the Three Legacies. This includes attending meetings, working with others, and taking

commitments. At the district level, the facilitation of committees and subcommittees could be improved. Currently, most committees are comprised only of the chairperson, and instead of the responsibilities being shared by committee members, the chairperson performs all duties of the committee. At the group level, Recovery seems to be the strongest of the three legacies while improvements could be made in Unity and Service. The lack of GSR attendance at district business meetings and district events sets a poor example for the general membership. Those willing to take service positions should be better informed and receive some training. Specific efforts should be made to offer support when it is noticed that an individual is struggling with their service commitment.

12. What has our group done lately to bring the A.A. 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?

District 48 communicates regularly with professionals. For instance, CPI continually interacts with those providing services to drug court participants. This committee could greatly benefit from increased membership. With more members, the committee could perform wider outreach and carry the message to a greater variety of professionals such as educators and school personnel. District 48 also communicates with professionals through Bridge the Gap. Individual members may choose to use their personal connections to bring the message to the attention of medical professionals or clergy.

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

Contributions to District 48 have grown this year. The group treasurer orientation seems to have helped. Also, there might be increased membership in some groups. The district is planning to contribute to Area 59 and GSO in the fourth quarter of this year. Money has been a contentious issue for groups in the past. To curb this, group members should be informed of how the 7th tradition collections are being used by the group. Groups can ask the district for support if needed.