

An Inventory on My Service Work

Why Am I in Service? – An Inventory on Myself

Some suggestions for taking this inventory:

- Read Bill W's excellent essay article "Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need" on page 38-42 in *The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
- Read the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, especially pages 60-71 (steps three – four), pages 84-85 (step 10), Chapter 8 and Chapter 9.
- Read Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, especially Step 4, Step 10, Step 12, Tradition 1, Tradition 2, Tradition 9, Tradition 12.
- Read the Traditions Checklist from *The AA Grapevine*.
- Read AA Pamphlets, especially *The AA Group* and *GSR*.
- Remember:

"Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people around us"

Page 77, Alcoholics Anonymous

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1. Why am I in Service? Is it ego? Is it a desire to carry the message? Both? Why did I stand for the position I serve today?

2. Do I regularly do an inventory on myself and my motives in regards to my service work?

3. Am I familiar with the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts?
Do I work to apply them not only in my service position but in all of my affairs?

4. Am I responsible to my service position?
 - Do I know what my duties are?
 - Do I practice Step Ten's suggestion – "love and tolerance of others is our code" in carrying out these duties?
 - Do I ask for help when I see that I am unable to fulfill my duties?
 - Do I perform my duties in a timely manner or do I find that I have a pattern of procrastination?

5. Am I working towards Bill W's suggestion of accepting criticism from others with grace, while keeping an open mind on their comments?

6. Do I accept the group conscience?
Do I work to carry it out or do I feel that I need to push for my point of view?

7. Do I hold AA's unity as a high priority in my service work?

8. Am I conscious of my motives, my tone of voice, and my body language when I am doing service work?

9. Am I humble, or do I feel that my position in AA service work (or the number of years I have been in service or the number of years I have been sober) entitles me to certain things?

Do I use my service position to gain power or to influence others?

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10. Do I allow other “trusted servants” serving in AA to grow into their job or am I quick to criticize?

11. Are my offers of “help” a disguise for stepping in and controlling?

12. Do I trust God no matter what?

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GSR

1. How am I reporting back to my groups the issues discussed at the Area or my District?
Am I reporting back in an even-handed manner, presenting the pros and the cons on the issue (to the point that no one in my group would be able to guess where I stand on the issue) or do I present my position on the issue in a favorable light and down play other positions?

2. Am I responsible as a GSR?
Do I attend my group's business meeting (or home group) meetings?
If I cannot make an Area or a District meeting do I take the responsibility of making sure my alternate GSR or another representative from my group will be there?

3. Do I make regular announcements at my group's AA meetings informing the group about the work that Area and District are doing to carry the message?

4. Do I know what my role is in my group conscience?

5. Have I read the *AA Service Manual* and if I have questions asked them?
Am I familiar with the "Right of Decision", "Right of Participation", and "Right of Appeal" philosophies expressed in the Concepts?

6. Can I clearly explain AA's service structure and how it works to members of my group?

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DCM

1. Do I reach out to all the groups in my area, especially groups who do not have a GSR?
 - Do I attend groups' AA meetings and business (or home group) meetings and talk about the responsibilities of general service work?

2. What additional steps could I suggest to the District to help the GSRs become familiar with the *AA Service Manual, Box 4-5-9*, the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts, the *Guidelines* from GSO and other Conference approved books and pamphlets?

3. How can I improve my communications with my alternate DCM?
 - Do I delegate work and authority to my alternate DCM?
 - If I were no longer able to serve as DCM have I adequately informed my alternate and shared enough information with him/her to he/she could easily step into the position?

4. How do I report back to my District the issues discussed at the Area Committee Meeting?
 - Am I reporting back in an even-handed manner, presenting the pros and the cons on the issue (to the point that no one in my District would be able to guess where I stand on the issue)?
 - Or do I present my position on the issue in a favorable light and down play other positions?
 - Do I take the time to orient new GSRs on their position, responsibilities, role in District and Area meetings and to bring them up to speed on the issues which will be discussed at the next Area meeting?

5. What else can I do to help the GSRs make interesting reports to their groups about District and Area's work?
 - Do I encourage them to bring members of their group to District meetings?

6. When I leave this position will I be able to say that the District is more unified, more active in carrying the message, more informed in AA's history, current Conference topics and service structure than it was when I first took the position?

An Inventory on My Service Work **Standing Committee Chairs**

1. What more can my committee do to reach out to serve all the islands and every District in Hawaii?
2. Are there additional steps my committee can take to encourage every group in the state to have a representative on my committee?
3. What else can my committee do to make sure that we are adequately informed as to what priorities the groups want us to accomplish?
4. Is prudent fiscal responsibility a priority in my committee's spending decisions?
5. Do I delegate work and authority among my committee members, or do I feel that only I am qualified to do certain things?
6. What else can I do, as the leader of my committee, to have the enthusiasm and knowledge to organize and give the committee direction and incentive?

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Area Officer

1. What else can I do to promote growth and harmony in our Fellowship? What else can I do to inform the Area about the Conference structure and the current issues now being discussed?

2. Have I reviewed and done a personal inventory on my performance of my duties, as defined by the *Structure and Guidelines* of Hawaii Area and in the *AA Service Manual*? If I need help, do I ask for it?

3. What steps am I taking to let the groups and the Districts know that I am readily available to the fellowship to offer my experience, strength and hope with them?

4. Do I constantly keep in mind Bill W's advice to Trusted Servants:
 - "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example."
 - "A leader in AA service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job."
 - "Good leadership originates plans, policies and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service" but also "remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better and it will give credit to the source."
 - "Good leadership never passes the buck."

5. What steps am I taking to work on the important aspects of having "the ability to compromise cheerfully: and, at the same time, knowing when it is "truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's convictions about an issue until it is settled"?

6. Who am I? The "elder statesman" or the "bleeding beacon", as Bill W. writes in Tradition Two in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

"The elder statesman is the one who sees the wisdom of the group's decision, who holds no resentment over his reduced status, whose judgment, fortified by considerable experience, is sound, and who is willing to sit quietly on the sidelines patiently awaiting developments. The bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection to office, and who continues to be consumed by self-pity."