

## 2023-24 Hawaii AREA 17 Inventory Questions

1. What is the purpose of Area? Are we fulfilling that purpose?
  - Pass on GS info, elect delegate, establish contact among district & groups of different islands; train new GSRs
  - Priority of spending; GSC interface
  - Helping Hand of AA reach alcoholic still suffering—SCC do workshops on various islands
  - Deal w/ service problems that crop up& keep delegate well informed
  - SCC work w/ GSRs to get cooperation among districts
  - Provide structure to promote unity & pass group voice to GSC
  - Encourage more GSRs from outer islands to attend by providing airfare
  - Group members don't know what area is; create unity among districts; umbrella of unity and accountability
  - Not fulfilling purpose—newcomers don't know what area is all about. Have area officers come talk about issues like corrections,
  - Inform GSC via delegate—doing well but lots of groups not represented so we don't have a complete view of area.
  
2. How effective is the Area communication with the groups, districts, and the rest of the service structure as a whole? How can we do better?
  - As a whole, area relies too heavily on email vs power of invitation to individual members—inviting them to attend
  - Need to address disinterest or uninformed members.
  - Please prioritize emails—things get lost
  - Area needs personal outreach to groups/islands
  - Things getting lost between district and groups, Create more robust website w/ google doc access
  - Set up separate gmail accounts for each subject
  - Delegate forwards docs to area, they to DCMs, they to GSR, they to groups. But members not interested.
  - Ask webmaster to create groups for sending email blast
  - DCMs' responsibility to disinterested groups—hard to go cold call. Look for solutions for better approach
  - Give out info & make sure its heard—transmit in a way they can understand
  - Go to different group meetings to share knowledge/support AA as a whole

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- We're still recovering from pandemic when participation in service structure declined, Move forward to look at what will serve us best
  - Unified message to share w/ all groups/all meetings so everyone especially newcomers hear that message repeatedly
  - Give GSRs more time—every group wants to rush thru group conscious
  - Great if districts met as a group e.g. east side vs west side volleyball, dance, BBQ, etc
3. Is the Area making general service more attractive to the fellowship? What more can Area do?
- Area came to Maui to show support to Lahaina—lasting effect/increased awareness. More events like this
  - We need GSRs—create a meeting around what is service; maybe zoom; describe committees & position duties
  - Those interest in service are always welcome—newcomers not getting involved. Need online feature to make it more available. Go forward, not backward.
  - Explain what a GSR is & what they do—make it attractive—new gsr orientation to see what & how it works. Does not work if the GSR is not there
  - Communication gap—not every one reads material. Have Area/district officers randomly visit groups to spread message
  - If a speaker seeker, invite someone from area to spread experience strength & hope include Q&A
  - Better interface w/ Intergroup—IG a natural transition to general service
  - Attraction measured by participation. Trust god; trust the process. Newcomers don't necessarily don't need to understand before getting involved
  - Service night every service rotation so people see what's involved & can be fun
  - People in area service are enthusiastic & committed—makes service seem doable to new GSRs
  - Speakers' topic— talk about what service did for me.
  - Invite members to come to district/area meetings so they get a better understanding
  - Area assemblies formal—have informal meetings w/ speaker, food, workshop, dance—make it fun and informative.

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4. Is our “Area Structure and Guidelines for Area 17 General Service” booklet a helpful service tool? Does anything need to be amended, added, or changed?
  - Need ad hoc committee to review/update outdated obsolete info; add newly available info
  - Need clarification/process outlined to have proposal initiated & approved at are assembly.
  - Add qualifications for SCCs—e.g., prior service as gsr or equivalent position —does is fall in line w/ concepts re effective leadership
  
5. When Area 17 meets, do we get work done in a timely manner? Do we need more time? Less time? How could we improve?
  - Very timely, maybe too timely—encourage more participation in making motions/having discussions. Encourage GSRs to get involved; don’t make it too complicated.
  - What can I do better as a gsr: more microphones around room, Hard for some to come to front of room.
  - Consider written reports from SCCs, officers, DCMs; only have people come up to mic if they have something new to say.
  - Find out why so many people not here—streamline process: no need repeat responsibilities as part of report.
  - how imp is it to be at group conscience—spread word, that’s how we are informed.
  - Looking as timeline for inform the delegate: over 260 groups; 30 d to disseminate info
  - Assemblies tend to be info overload—take 3 days w/ breaks so we can take time to process info needed for decision making.
  - We do a good job processing info; send ask-it basket & takeaways vis email for more thoughtful processing—everyone tired by Sun afternoon
  
6. Is the Area providing the GSRs with the proper orientation & tools to help them in their service position? How can the area attract more GSRs to attend the Area Assemblies?
  - Area officers attend add’l meetings to share experience strength & hope,
  - Talk about duties for new GSRs at start of assembly—open to all

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- Encourage service sponsors; bring sponsees to area assemblies so they see what its about
  - Workshops & training—e.g., what is service—GSR, etc
  - Being new to service: its a process
  - GSRs given appropriate training & tools—as I meet area chair, I asked questions. Use same concept w/ sponsees. Create transparency—being a link in the chain, Informed alcoholics are healthy alcoholics.
  - Ambiguous question—so good to ask/talk w/ others
  - Share service experience one-on-one
  - GSRs can talk to each other; share/reach out beyond immediate circle.
  - Caravans to other meetings, let them know what we do. Lineage
  - People offering orientation can have list of frequently asked questions—people sometimes too afraid to ask.
  - Provide airfare to groups' GSRs who can't afford to travel.
  - Read Structure & Guidelines' Glossary of terms: Area means all of us, everyone w/ desire not to drink—we are all responsible for making area service attractive.
7. Do we emphasize the importance of Service Sponsorship? How can we do better?
- My step sponsor was also my service sponsor—got me started
  - Ask at each assembly who has service sponsor & who is available to be service sponsor
  - Sharing experience strength & hope as service sponsor/sponsee+attraction rather than promotion
  - Carry message from district & area meetings to sponsees
  - Attend concepts & traditions study every Sunday night
  - Groups can have workshops
  - Ask your sponsor if they have gone through the traditions & concepts —if not, need different person for service sponsor
  - Read Service Manual 30 min/week w/ service sponsor/sponsees
  - Every 6 months, service night at Black Experience. Had to qualify to move on to next position. Regular group inventory— Allows people to learn about commitment & staying committed.
  - How to do better: have a separate breakout table for service commitment

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- Be careful with overload—need balance. When do we introduce these things to newcomers.
  - Section on service sponsor in AA brochure on sponsorship/p 25 in Q&A
8. What is the overall purpose of our Area Standing Committees? How effective are the Area Standing Committees? Are our Area Standing Committees set up and functioning in ways that are helpful for all districts in Hawaii? How can they improve?
- Have standing committees meet as a panel at @ assembly. Review workbook and/or relevancy pamphlet for needed review. This is how change is started thru GSC
  - Do we have none area members on standing committees—so much work/outreach needs to be done.
  - Fill in the gaps & build bridges. We need bridge builders. Communication is key.
  - Different area chairs—can they come quarterly to each island—work together,
  - Excess funds in area: send SCC to islands for workshops. Up to them to request additional budget funds to do this.
  - Responsibility not just Area & GSR—ask groups to get involved.
  - People bringing meetings into corrections facilities are encouraged to attend Monthly Corrections Zoom 1st Monday 4pm zoom ID 820-8005-1814 paw =566874,
  - If you want more service positions in your group. How many people are involved in area service and/or standing committees
  - District SC & GSRs need to work with area SCC
  - CEC having workshop at Puna Hongwanji March 23rd. More will be revealed. Catherine W willing to help other put on CEC workshop in their district.
9. Do all members understand minority opinion and its importance to the Area?
- Read rules of assembly at each session.

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- We do well at area assemblies but not with those who don't attend. Consider how our decisions affect them especially when they've had no input.
- Communicate how important a minority opinion can be.
- Concept V Right of Appeal, Minority Opinion, Redress of Grievances; see charter provisions (2/3 majority) & Roberts Rules
- Don't be ashamed to get up and say something—minority opinion can effect change.
- Read supporting documents—Guidelines For Discussion. Also read in Hawaii Structure & Guidelines.

10. What could we accomplish with the excess funds that the area has accumulated, and how should we use those funds?

- Workshops, workshops & more workshops,
- Help pay for GSRs, DCMs, Area SCC to attend PRAASA. Liability insurance for groups.
- Travel for GSRs whose groups don't have funds; send area officers/SCC to outer islands.
- Workshops at district level
- Fund equipment for area zoom meetings.
- How to get other people besides us to workshops—food/entertainment/etc
- Made assemblies more fun—maybe once a year have a venue where GSRs can bring significant other/family.
- More travel for delegate to speak to districts re: items important to them (preconference); new souls system & more mics, Budget for treasurer or someone from finance committee to travel to districts/groups for Proposed Budget review/clarification.
- Kick up delegate's conference contribution.
- Spend funds needed for website design—consider a paid position—continuity beneficial.

11. Is our area website easy to navigate? What changes would you like to see?

- Build a new one. Ad hoc committee to determine what's needed on homepage, tabs, etc. Don't confine travel to one airline.
- Event calendar like intergroup, including workshops across state.
- Consider/determine who your target audience is first.

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- When we know how to navigate the website we will find what we're looking for.
- Add keyword search bar.
- Digitize archives to make them available to all.
- QR code to intergroup/other site for buying literature.
- See our website guidelines—do we have alternate and 2 other members for website committee.
- Is title webmaster or website chair—different functions.

12. Do you have additional comments, suggestions, or feedback? What would you like to see the area do in 2024?

- When we have assemblies, find someone from local meeting of hosting district to share experience.
- DCMs allow groups to have access to their email account.
- Difficulties finding assembly venues.
- Do we need to revamp Structure & Guidelines
- Have area revisit use of technology—e.g. use offsite gathering locations.
- If 1 representative from every group came up to share on inventory questions — all the same people almost every question
- Give SCCs more time at mic—why they spend more or less money than budgeted. Give them more time to discuss their service work to improve GSR understanding.
- We need more young people involvement. Outreach committee.
- Show assembly attendees proper way to speak at the mic
- Increase GSR attendance by 10-15% at area assemblies in 2024