

# DCM Report

District 41 / April 17th / 2013



JOHNSTOWN, PA

## Getaway Weekend

134 people attended the Getaway Weekend in the Penn Hills - from our District Bob S., Karen S., Natalie M. and I (Jon M) attended. It was a fantastic opportunity for meeting and sharing ideas with other DCM's and GSR's, and an overall reinforcement of the benefits and requirements on service work. To anyone who did not attend I would highly recommend attending next years. Much of the benefit of attending came from the opportunity to talk one on one with a wide variety of other district's DCMs and GSRs, gaining understanding of how they interpret and fulfil their position's obligations, and especially where they reach beyond the base requirements.

## Getaway Weekend Notes of Interest

Part of any position - including GSR's, District Positions, Committee Coordinators - is to find a suitable alternate and inform them of their duties.

Reiterated the benefits of leaving a position vacant rather than having one person with two roles. The benefit is to allow someone to take the initiative of filling a vacant seat rather than attempting to take what appears to be someone's existing responsibility.

Suggested streamlining district meetings by emailing and making available the previous month's minutes prior with an expectation that they will be read before the next meeting - then all that is required is their approval at district.

General consensus that disagreements at the district level can be arbitrated by referencing the AA Service Manual; Recommended that all district officers and GSR's obtain and read the Service Manual, and use as a tool in home group conscience meetings for arbitration of disputes.

Noted multiple times that the GSR is the "Defender of the Traditions" in their home group meetings.

During a roundtable open discussion with all attending DCM's and GSR's, a number of groups were asking about best practices for enforcing the 5th tradition in regards to AA Members identifying themselves as 'Addicts' or 'Cross-Addicted'. There was no simple solution to this, however it was suggested that the chairperson make it clear that when speaking people identify themselves as Alcoholics or having the desire to stop drinking in order to retain our singleness of purpose. It was also suggested that GSR's take the initiative, one on one and in private before or after the meeting to speak with anyone about this where appropriate. It is of the utmost importance that no one feel turned away or unwelcome. Also related to this tradition: Rather than judging or becoming frustrated with those openly sharing on other issues, such as mental issues, codependency or drugs, have pamphlets on hand from other fellowships and/or organizations in order to be of service to anyone reaching out for help, while still maintaining our singleness of purpose.

Majority of income for AAWS coming from sales of literature - thus they are NOT self supporting via the seventh tradition. It is imperative that more donations come from the group level in order to reverse this trend. Literature sales are currently flat, and it is likely they will begin to decline in the coming years. It was recommended that all GSR's bring this information back to their groups and urge them to donate as they can. If every AA Member sent in just \$1 per year it would raise \$13 million dollars per year.

Tracey, the GSO Special Worker on the Corrections Desk, gave her lead regarding the importance to her sobriety as well as AA as a whole of communicating with those AA's currently incarcerated. She shared with us several letters from inmates that were incredibly moving. It was made clear how easy it is to be a support via writing to an inmate; for more information contact Tracey at [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).

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## Pre-Conference Assembly Notes

Yvette (Area 60 Delegate) retracted our bid for 2016 NERAASA in order to allow an area that had never hosted to run potentially unopposed.

2nd Quarterly Area 60 Meeting - May 19th, Penn Hills. All GSR's and district elected officers urged to attend.

The following items were voted on - Any GSR or DCM was eligible to vote.  
We had 2 voting members present from our district (Natalie M and myself).

1. Consider replacing language in the dust jacket of the 4th edition of the Big Book to put emphasis on the first 164 pages as being the most important part. 2x "No" Votes; Item did not pass.
2. Consider adding "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the "Open" meeting side of the Primary Purpose Blue Card. 2x "No" Votes; Item did not pass.
3. Review report from PI Committee on creation of social media page for AA. 1x YES Vote. Item did not pass.
4. Consider a request from AAWS to use existing online store to sell AA E-Books. 2x YES Votes; Item did not pass.
5. Consider request to update information about suggested qualifications for Area Registrar to include computer access. 1x YES vote; Item passed.
6. Review change to directorship of AAWS - same board members on both boards. 2x YES votes; Item passed.
7. Richard Crum was elected the new Area 60 Secretary. (1x YES vote)

If anyone has any questions on any of the above agenda items and the position we took as a district, feel free to ask.

## Service Opportunity

After the success of the St. Patrick's Day Dance last month, a number of AA Member's have asked about a follow up event. A possible location has been determined but we are looking for ideas on what type of event to host. Anyone interested in helping to make this event happen can talk to Jon M. or Heuston.