

Results of the 2013 New York North Assembly Inventory

The "New York North Area Policy" states that an Area inventory will be conducted once every 3 years at the 2nd Spring Assembly/Convention following an election.

During the 2013 "NYN Spring Assembly" members were asked to participate in the inventory. 37 members completed the inventory form. Due to the low volume of participation at the Spring Assembly and in an effort to get a broader perspective of the Area, the NYN chairman asked those present at the 2013 Fall Assembly to participate in the inventory if they hadn't already done so the Spring Assembly.

A total of 52 "NYN" members participated in the inventory and were asked to answer nine questions related to the "NYN Area Assembly" while keeping the following statement in mind:

*We strive to make our Assembly businesslike and concise. **Keeping in mind that there is a lot of business to be discussed**, what are your thoughts regarding the agenda and the time frame of the Assembly.*

The following are the inventory results:

1. Does our Area actively practice "Principles above personalities?"

19 answered yes

3 people did not respond

usually

Yes, Although Spring 2012 was a good reminder of the importance.

Yes, We are very fair & open minded

Yes, thank you for that

Overall Yes. Occasionally I hear comments outside a meeting about 'personalities". I'm not comfortable when its negative.

Seems to do a good job

Mostly

Sometimes. Good intentions but there are individuals who fail at this and are very rude.

Well. When personalities get in the way we can lose site of intent. We are still works in progress

Could be better

Yes, but it is progress not perfection.

Yes. As DR I have discussed this with GR's and Groups in conflict

I think we try to.

For the most part. I see some personalities once in a while, that seem like control to me ! (at Meetings)

We try but are a work in progress.

I believe for the most part we do. I base this on my experience for the past 12 years where I have seen great growth.

Generally, yes. Spring 2012 was a bit touchy.

We're doing better

I think we are more aware and trying to follow through

First Convention

Much better than before- progress not perfect!

Yes- I think we do our best

Usually

Yes- As far a I know

We try but we are human.

As far as I can see.

Yes, we are given kind directions re: respecting the speakers, etc.

Yes, I definitely see that.

Yes, I see an emphasis on trying to use that principle.

I think most times it does, but there are times when I feel that personalities come first.

2. Do you think that there is good rotation in service at the Area level?

13 responded yes.

4 responded no

1 person did not respond

I don't have enough experience to comment on this .

yes - except we could use more new "blood" in the positions

I'm new so I don't know

yes, has perhaps improved slightly in recent years

I think so.

Yes, we also have interest & volunteers for participation

Fairly good because the positions are generally filled each time by different people, but as in the local level, there is not much for "new" people that have been in the program but don't want to advance in service.

N/A My first assembly- TOO Much information.

Mostly

Sometimes- seems like rotation of some people in different positions

Not great. Many members need to let others step up or let no one fill a position.

Not as good as when I first came into service. Lifestyles have become busy and fear plays a role.

A lot of musical chairs among same people.

I think we have improved with new faces this past election.

I think it is ok since there are so many who do not do service in Al-Anon.

Pretty much.

Yes, But we need to try to encourage people to fulfill their service commitment.

I do believe most part officers & coordinators usually serve their 3 year term.

For the most part, yes

Not sure (New GR)

Not really- it seems to be same people shuffled around

We are seeing new faces - long timers are stepping back.

This is my first convention - Don't know

no response

I'm still very new and am not familiar with the rotation at the service level.

Seems so

I do see the same faces

Fair

There does seem to many of the same faces. It would be nice to see younger members.

Hard to tell. Always looks like same people doing different positions.

DR/GR get together every September.

What does this question mean

Not enough rotation into service at the Area level, Was a bit too much rotation of area level positions among the same people- Much better this Panel, 52.

Sometimes, but we need to get newer members involved.

I really wonder about that, I get the impression that the "Old Guard" may have difficulty letting go and giving others outside their 'Group" service opportunities.

We are trying but we have along way to go. Last Election we had a # of new people step forward for Area positions, but some have since stepped down.

3. How can we encourage new members to get involved in service?

There were 4 no responses to this question.

Invite them -that's how I became involved.

Explain clearly what is involved, pledge support.

Model for them, encourage them to help, be willing to help them in service, provide education in their efforts.

By example, sharing own experience & by asking people specifically to consider it.

personal invitation

Have them attend an assembly, and see all the experience, strength, hope ,etc....

We have gone to groups with low participation with the AI-Anon "Players" to address issues in a "Friendly" way. Also encourage groups to have inventory on "stepping up".

Keep doing new GR meetings

Invite them to attend service meetings and also to volunteer @ events such a days of sharing and assemblies

Try not to overwhelm the newcomer

Let Dual members know how they can serve. Link service to personal recovery. Make purpose & function of meetings more visible

Wish there was an answer

Personal Invitations

Talk of the recovery that is ahead of you, It enhances your recovery.

Share benefits of service.

Be very supportive and encouraging not critical.

One to One contact and follow through with. Drive together to service events

Bring a Newcomer to a Convention

Allow /ask new members to do tasks that we feel they can do.

Visits from our Delegate when possible

If we are able to encourage each newcomer to help with a small task at a meeting: one small task in setting up or taking down, handing out papers, passing the sign-in book, etc. I believe it helps a great deal.

Give more information about opportunities available.

Demonstrate a positive attitude about service to make it attractive.

Current Service members could share their 'Experience, Strength and Hope" at their home groups.

Ask them individually

Personal Invitation

At group level-educate, encourage (show) enthusiasm- service sponsorships, identify serve needs and responsibilities in written so people will be more apt to volunteer with understanding.

Share how personally has helped us grow

Share our experience & hope in service

Advertisement

Ask them personally like one to one. Tell them they cant make a mistake.

Have service workshops, service sponsors, DR's come to local meetings

Make more personal phone calls - car pooling
Power of example & sharing experience
Instead of asking for volunteers, have long time members recommend aloud new members they think would make a good fit for a certain service position.
Invite them to make coffee or setup chairs, etc... start small.
Wish I knew
Bring them to meetings & go back from Assembly & convention and talk it up.
Bring them to a district meeting, an area assembly and or/convention.
Have them get in the car and give them a hug.
Big problem also.
Ask them to get more involved with home group- setting up for mtgs, making coffee or cleanup- carpools, etc. Keep them involved so they come back.
Invite people to attend service oriented meetings as guests . Sponsor/ask people to do service.
Offer to mentor new members and allow them opportunity to know expectations
Why are there 90 women and only 8 men in this room?
Current service can "court" qualified members.
By sharing our experience & how helpful service work is in our recovery.
Be willing to encourage them on a personal individual basis and come along side them for support and information.
I firmly believe that personal invitation is best way to get new people into service.

4. Is our Area supporting the groups and the districts well?

12 Members answered Yes to this question.

There were 6 that did not respond to this question.

2 Members responded NO

I think the area is doing an effective job on this.

It looks like they are going to mindfully reach out to the districts that have not come to the assemblies. This would be the beginning of support.

I think so, but evidently we have some weak spots (Districts)

Yes, the move towards more KBDM is positive

Maybe area Reps can visit District Meetings for your own "Meet and Greet"

Some coordinators are more available & helpful than others. Panel members are very Helpful!!

If we take info back

Sometimes

As well as can. We need current information. We need to keep reaching out.

Especially supportive of new GR's & DR's

If we are not, we need input from the group & districts - we can only do & meet needs that are voiced or issues brought to the area !!

The DR's should get a conflict resolution flip chart when they become DR.

Yes by use of newsletter, website & conventions/assemblies. Otherwise - I don't know

In District 21 we have a close working relationship with every officer & coordinator in our area.

We're working on this better now with a new plan as of this Assembly.

I don't know and I should find out.

No see Q7 - Need to have Convention & Assembly workshops & events info ahead of time to GR's & Groups. Better support for New GR's & DR's Many don't know what to expect at Assemblies- how to access reports before hand.

I would like to see Area Delegate visit District Meetings

Trying- New thought force great idea

I don't know 1st convention

Groups are resistive to change. Dual members entrenched & disregard traditions

To the best of our abilities

It seems so

Fair

A-

How are you supporting groups & districts? I don't see it.

We certainly could do more outreach to groups that are not sending representation to the DR meeting

Area - NO District - YES

Yes, Available by various methods of communication.

I feel they are, but I am new to the NYN Area.

I believe so.

I hope we are beginning to do so. This "Thought Force" on Dim & Dark Districts is a great step forward.

5. Are the Area Assemblies inviting and informative?

Describe any suggestions that would enable us to improve the quality of the Assembly in the future.

8 members answered yes

7 members did not respond

To me yes! More time for interactive events.

very inviting

yes. I think having the tables & seating all facing forward improves focus and reduced side conversations.

I questioned the timing(Mother's Day) of Spring 2013, but the venue and cost were great!! Reverting to 2 min@ microphone was good! Remind people how to use the mic so all can hear.

I would like to see our district have the assembly a day before the convention and possibly "spice up" the convention so we can all attend the convention- this will enhance the recovery of us too!

Informative yes. For new people they can be boring which is discouraging. Humor injected here & there helps.

A bit confusing- Maybe it's because in new. Can you offer a "NEWCOMER" Workshop?

Keep it Simple ,Congenial & Welcoming. Skits are fun!! Hats, & Alphabet Soup.

The agenda is good. Timing has been improved- Timing and boundaries are clear and respect- thank you

In most cases yes. Sometimes we have to find a balance between discussion and nit-picking.

More outreach. Try for better retention.

Informative, Yes.

Put a time limit for KBDM discussion & Avoid repeating the same question many times.

Yes - Great & Informative Assemblies. This weekend! Lots to go back & share @ the meetings.

We need to incorporate stretch breaks as our seats. Perhaps more interactive activities.

I feel that every Area Assembly gets better than the previous one in some way (small or large) . Having worked on the Fall 2012 Assembly I got to experience this first hand for the second time.

Have the Delegate report only read highlights & not read for a half hr. in a monotone voice. With all available electronically- and the report copy can be copies and made available to assembly members. Perhaps the Delegate could make the report more interesting& focus on certain pieces from the WSO she obtained in a more personal tone.

I enjoy the Assemblies

Getting much more friendly & inviting by using KBDM & the Serenity Prayer before voting , etc.

My first to attend, very long, need some self care- brief interventions-- to relax in light of the mind from overload

Bullets in reports -embellish sharing with on those bullets more face to face than reading

Yes- More workshops

Many people, groups cannot afford to send/come to assemblies that are in high rent areas! This was a wonderful weekend but hard to afford

Yes, Shorter assemblies, to much information.

Yes, very informative

Shorten the Delegate's Report to 30 min. max. or do a summary and suggest the report to read on-line- Just refer to Highlights. Allow GR's to attend some convention meeting rather than just the assembly meetings. Shorten assembly and schedule convention meetings between morning & afternoon sessions.. Length of assembly meeting are way to long. This discourages new GR's to attend future assemblies. People attending the assembly should be informed of what lengthy document will be discussed and have the opportunity to pre-read these documents (i.e. Delegate Report & Voting procedures on line) Then at the assembly these documents can be presented in summary, discussion can take place and the length of the Assembly meetings can be shortened.

Keep the Delegate report a little shorter

Delegate's reports needs to be streamlined.

Yes - And the more economical spaces are preferable, even though the group, district, etc. pay our way a simpler , but not.

Yes- Keep up the New GR & New DR meetings

First one - Great Job !!

Research shows people cannot take in information after 90 minutes. People cannot sit for long periods of time. The muscles start to SAG off the bones after 10 minutes. Many members have physical challenges that makes sitting for longer periods of time agony. Therefore, I suggest that a quick 1 minute break take place every 90 minutes. People only need to stand up, shake out their bodies, stretch and sit back down to get oxygen flowing to the brain again. Perhaps create a thought force for changing up the format of Assemblies. Love in Service

This assembly is much less intense than Chautauqua, it really helped that we are in an open, well lighted comfortable setting

More substance, less (unknown word). **Summarize**

I wish we could address an issue once per assembly, instead of 3 & 4 times then bring it up to motion, discussion and vote. Limit the time.

I felt the assembly was informative.

The assembly meetings on Saturday are exhausting. Perhaps we could read the Delegate's report ahead of time and the report could be shortened.

6. As Coordinators, do you feel supported in your position?

11 answered Yes

10 No Responses

14 wrote N/A

Yes, As Literature for AIS, everyone has been very supportive & helpful.

What is a Coordinator??

DR- N/A

When I was in a coordinator position I felt supported.

I Am not a coordinator.

I do feel I am (archives)

not a coordinator

N/A but have in the past

Most definitely

Yes, very.

I feel supported from the Area level but not so much from my group.

I am supported by the other coordinators

No

I'm not a Coordinator.

Occasionally I am challenged by members so at times personality above principles is occurring. But overall my home group is very supportive, appearing more interested in trying service

I feel very supported by my fellow officers, coordinators and by members of the area.

7. What should happen for our Area to be more dynamic?

12 no responses

Encouraging all districts to participate.

too new to answer

Consider

Communication & Cooperation are key factors

see # 5 - I would like to see our district have the assembly a day before the convention and possibly "spice up" the convention so we can all attend the convention- this will enhance the recovery of us too!

Cooperation between Districts to work on projects related to outreach and member participation in Fellowship activities such as Days of Sharing and anniversaries, etc.

Do Skits/plays what lightens up the tense mtg.

Have some "Take Home" materials for GR's to bring back that are useful for "Personal Recovery" to share with groups and to see how ME = WE

Area Chair has the ability to do things that she lets come to a vote: Not needed and wastes time.

We are dynamic. There is always room to strive for better.

More outreach, stress steps/sponsorship, retention of oldtimers.

Maybe do an outreach of literature @ abused women - you may or may not be dealing with alcoholism

It only takes 1 dynamic member to stimulate others into dynamism.

If by dynamic, you mean exciting, we were talking at lunch about this. It seems to us that we need more of the types of presentations Connie organized for today. Breaking up long sessions with active participation such as the new GR's did today, making it lighter, personal or fun while informative.

More icebreaker type of workshops at Day of Sharing events

Add more interactive involvement

Need to have Convention & Assembly workshops & events info ahead of time to GR's & Groups. Better support for New GR's & DR's Many don't know what to expect at Assemblies- how to access reports before hand.

More involvement- not sure about specifics- new to assembly as GR

Area Coordinators, Trustees, etc. visit groups - Days of Sharing

We are trying to vary presentations and encourage involvement of many

Yes- More workshops

Get more young blood

More 'Days of Sharing'

More workshops/Days of sharing

Go to a different district for a meeting

KBDM great addition

Encourage speaker exchanges between groups and districts in close proximity. Perhaps at days of Sharing people could sign up if they are willing to participate in speaker exchange meetings.

Be positive (attitude) for all communications. Being sarcastic & sour looks doesn't help.

Yes

More participation

Have more skits and show how service works worldwide

Day of Sharings
Fun events that are informative with Meeting-type segments. Days of Sharing are great.
It would be great to have GR's for every meeting, attending other groups, sharing ideas, signing up to help with Days of Sharing, fundraisers for AIS.
Why is the average age in this room greater than 55? / WHY NOT HIRE someone to do the website? Website is a low point.
Unknown. - - The rotation of Spring Convention allows each part of Area to experience the Assemblies, get educated on How AI-Anon works.
???
The newsletter is a wonderful the area uses and they do it so well !
I really think as an area we need to do an Area wide Public Outreach project. Needless to say it would cost money but the area does have the means to do something.

8. What could we do to encourage the Alateen participation

9 members did not respond

Have activities they would enjoy. Have assembly in a less expensive place.

I'm considering sponsoring one myself

Needs to start with encouragement at the district level. Can we leverage the Northern Highlights in some way.

Carpool, subsidy, have teen members do the "attracting"

What I have heard from Alateen Sponsors is they need people to drive kids to area assemblies.

Ask them to do a panel - Offer scholarships

Give them roles and participation in the discussion and voting on items

This is tough- Ask them to "tell their story" at some point -- ask them how we can encourage service.

Challenging-because of cost and accommodations & need for a few teens, not just 1 or 2 - with NYNAC, the "Convention" focus is taken.

Invite them- just like AI-Anons- wish it were easier

Districts need to encourage Alateens to be active at Dist. as GR's and therefore encourage them to attend Assembly, even for the day.

They are already invited when sponsors tell them about events. They also need to elect a GR. One teen will not come alone.

Electronic outreach, Reach out to AA/AI-Anon members

Ask these folks this questions and we follow thru if we can with their suggestions

Become an Alateen Service Sponsor and give them a job.

Invite an Alateen with AI-Anon as they may have a fresher outlook.

Help A friend, Listen, Take them to a meeting, give them Alateen Literature

Did we have any Alateen meetings at this convention? Didn't see any ATG topics listed.

Sponsor them financially, support their fund-raising, at Roundup or other places we engage with them, make it a point to talk with them- listen to them, etc...If we can make it a personal connection it makes them feel they have a something in contact with them. Talk to their coordinators and ask them for help.

More public outreach where youth are active or can be connected with.

I don't know. We're really struggling to have any Alateen groups at all.

Find out what they would like to get out of attending

Ask them to present workshops, be speakers, etc.

Have a social time to connect - have a rock group-entertain for short time that are Alateen members

1st we have to address getting more groups.

Educate all to importance of participating

Invite them to District etc....

out reach to school district

Go to NYNAC convention talk to groups. This is the continuum---

Ask them what their needs are!! Step-up become an AMIAS

during lunch once a week. They are there already- transportation & peer fellowship.

Have Alateen meetings and activities (ice Breakers, scavenger hunts at the Assemblies.

Wish I could think of something.

Bring them to Assemblies

First help them participate at the district level, I remember 15 yrs. ago an Alateen GR in a District.

Bring them to Assemblies

? Big problem

More Alateen meetings will increase numbers of Teens. Therefore greater odds of teen participation.

I'm not sure why our Alateen groups have folded but it's sad. How do I do AMIAS trainings?

We're trying

By taking information back to the local area & sharing w/them.

Perhaps have some special event. Bring back enthusiasm and sharing's, Offer assistance to Alateen.

I think we need to be contacting sponsors of groups and talking to them about the importance of being part of the Assembly, asking them to come with some teens.

9. What is the greatest strength of our Area?

4 members did not respond

obvious support of each other and encouragement.

Diversity and many people with good foundations in service.

The friendliness of the people.

The wealth of AI-Anon experience, strength & hope and the application of the AFG principles in the assembly.

People are always willing to help & listen.

Us !!

We have members that are still stepping up for area positions, and continue to sponsor or host assemblies.

Friendliness and open-mindedness

Dedicated people & a supportive HP

Patience - Learning - Willingness to change- KBDM & using real life issues

Past coordinators and officers are active.

Willingness

Good Group Reps /District Reps

Willingness to develop creativity & flexibility

Good leadership from past Delegates & Chairs

The dedication of those holding positions shows a great commitment. KBDM is great- But repetition of the same premise 5-10 times is not. Add information not repetition.

Our Area continues to try to get healthier at the group level

Unity & Caring for those still struggling- encouraging members on reaching out

Our "Deep Bench" of former delegates and trustees

The people & their service

Lots of long timers who have served at the Area Level.

Commitment to closely following the Spirit & Traditions of AI-Anon & It's principles.

Great people who provide incredible service

A lot of dedication

We are a Work in Progress and we all are working toward the some end. We are making Progress.

Friendliness, Helpful- Supportive - Diligent workers in service.

We are learning to talk to each other in more respectful ways

People

We have 60 meetings a week in our area.

We are sincere in our striving to improve

Commitment to see AI-Anon /Alateen continue to grow. Doing whatever it takes and the willingness

Very official & by the book-- respectful (like most things in AI-Anon our greatness strengths can also be over done to defects)

Communication via website

Officers & Coordinators are dedicated and hard working, I can see it in their reports and Power-Points. Thank you for all of your time.

Enthusiasm, Dedication, Commitment

Good question

KBDM

Long time experienced Al-Anon members
Communication - Keeping it simple
Diversity- No & So Urban & Rural
Diversity of ages, economic, philosophical backgrounds. Location of NYN is beautiful.
District Reps are very committed and enthusiastic.
Lots of people wiling to do service
The members and they're willingness to participate in service.
By practicing "Principles Above Personalities" This is VERY important !
Suggestion- So much work is put into the convention by the host district that I wish those attending the assemy would be able to attend meetings. Thus having an extra day for assembly business, What a shame to travel so fat & miss the frosting on the cake.
That the people involved have many talents and skills and are willing to share them.