

Final Report for Area 30 Inventory Ad Hoc Committee
Date Submitted: May 7, 2022

To begin, the Ad Hoc Committee would like to thank Area 30 Chair Suzanne S. for organizing the Area Inventory, which took place on Sunday, November 7, 2021, on Zoom. We are privileged to support this important work in service to AA groups within Eastern Massachusetts and beyond.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on four occasions to review notes, transcripts, and recordings from the Area Inventory; synthesize ideas; and draft a final list for submission to an upcoming Area Assembly.

This report is divided into two sections: Recommendations and Suggestions. Recommendations are proposals for concrete changes. Suggestions are less concrete but worthy of consideration as they may be indicative of the Group Conscience of the Area. It is important to understand that these motions should be brought to the Groups for their discussion and input so that we can all return to future Assemblies with an Informed Group Conscience.

Recommendations

1. To support all those who are new to Area service, elect a “newcomer liaison” (or similar position) to help people coordinate rides to/from events, get connected with possible service sponsors, and ensure that all participants’ needs are met (i.e. translation, physical accessibility, etc.).
2. To formalize the Area’s commitment to safety, create a “safety liaison/committee” (or similar position/committee) so there is a specific point of contact for questions or concerns. Support the committee or liaison with adequate resources.
3. To reach underrepresented communities in Area 30, plan and implement an outreach strategy (especially for those who were lost to the “digital divide,” groups with unmet needs, and people with financial hardships who may need support attending events).
4. Continue development of an improved website.
5. Offer multiple forms of communication at orientations to ensure accessibility (all relevant languages, visuals with descriptive text, electronic and hard copies, large print, etc.).
6. To improve communication before Area Assemblies, disseminate agenda items (and their relevance to individuals/groups/districts) 2-4 weeks in advance.

Suggestions

1. To better serve the needs of the Area Assembly body during Assemblies, tailor greetings to all attendees (all languages, hearing impaired, visually impaired,

first-timers, etc.) and emphasize that everyone has a voice (not just voting members).

2. To facilitate connections between Assemblies, host informal discussions focused on Traditions, Concepts, service manual.
3. To ensure Area Assemblies are maximally accessible, assess interest in a new schedule or format (for example, different times/days, spreading the event over multiple days, including regular breaks in the schedule, simplifying the hybrid approach, alternating formats).
4. To expand the list of districts hosting Area Assemblies, create a mechanism for experienced districts to share experience and tips (securing a venue, accessibility considerations, etc.) and invite districts that haven't participated in hosting an Area Assembly or other event in recent history.
5. To ensure Area Meetings are maximally accessible, assess interest in a new schedule or location (for example, different times/days or varying geographic locations).
6. To make District Committee Members' (DCMs') workloads more equitable, assess options for revising existing districts or creating new districts.
7. To support the Area's General Service Representatives (GSRs):
 - a. Improve available resources (for example, a "quick reference" style checklist or periodic workshops for new GSRs)
 - b. Consider how to involve GSRs for online groups
 - c. Learn GSRs' interests and encourage them to get involved in relevant committees
8. To improve communication overall:
 - a. Committee chairs and Area Officers should reply to email messages in a timely manner, or request support from a fellow member
 - b. Agendas for both Area Meetings and Area Assemblies should include an opportunity to continue unresolved or truncated discussions from prior meetings, and to address disconnects (for example, between virtual and in-person meetings; between 12th-step work and the service structure)

Finally, a special note of gratitude to the Ad Hoc Committee members, Stephanie B. and Chris G. Their dedication to service was a critical factor in creating this report, and their contributions are deeply appreciated.

In service,
Catherine R.M.
Ad Hoc Committee Chair