

## **Area Inventory Notes**

*Notes include the notes taken during in person inventory by ad hoc committee members and every write-in/survey response.*

1. Area 57 Policies and Procedures are not always in alignment with the AA Service Manual. While every Area has autonomy, are there opportunities to improve Oklahoma's P&P to align with the AA Service Manual more closely, including with things like job descriptions, roles/responsibilities, voting procedures, etc.?
  - a. Oklahoma may lack in right of participation (GSRs and groups are supposed to be responsible, but in Oklahoma it is the DCMs way more than the GSRs) and right of appeal (since GSRs only vote once a year during the Assembly, it is hard to appeal aggrieved decisions); concepts are based on spiritual principles, and were very thoughtful, so we should therefore be mindful of using their insight and perspectives
  - b. Going just with the service manual is something we could do, but there may be situations (like voting procedures) that make things go more slowly; our current structure allows for changes to happen in just two quarters, whereas the service manual takes things more slowly.
  - c. Changes in NY happen often, so if we try to align more closely, we'll have to continually evaluate it.
  - d. There is not a clear description of the structure and setup for Area 57, much is left unanswered or open to interpretation.
  - e. Where we do not line up that be harmful
    - i. Having a uniformed structure that most use keeps us united globally.
    - ii. Many Areas have way more districts than we do in order to get more intimate with one another.
    - iii. Assembly lacks enough voting members (many Areas have all members as voting members, like officers, committee chairs, etc.); the GSRs may be too new to be fully informed.
  - f. Participation is low and that is not a symptom of misalignment with the service structure.
  - g. Absolutely job descriptions should be more thorough and more clearly defined; GSRs barely have a voice. Example: the DCMs are the ones that decide how GSRs vote
  - h. Area 57 is the way we are, in part, because our current structure allows each district to have the same weight as all the others. Specifically, this allows the rural districts to not be overwhelmed by the metropolitan districts.
  - i. We could be looking at Oklahoma as being different, and not right or wrong; God could be in charge of how we do our business.
  - j. If you don't like something, change it.
  - k. Lack of participation is the problem; GSRs have a strong voice in the districts, but not always at the Area level.
  - l. In the past, GSRs were told they do not vote at the Area meeting, which means they may not have an incentive to even come to the meetings, particularly for those locations that are very far away.

- m. Commenters Most were on board with changing P&P for Area 57. Some Concerns are not having enough voting rights, no job descriptions, could be called guidelines, wanting to align with service manual for easier study and understanding, better standard across the area. Opposition was we would have to change frequently to align with the service manual, it is working for Oklahoma, and our Autonomy is important.
- n. Yes
- o. Need to do away with area policies and procedures and just go with the service manual.
- p. P&P should align with Service Manual. Committee positions to me are very clear.
- q. I think the voting is very well as is.
- r. Yes, I would like to see area 57 align w AA as a whole
- s. I like our autonomy
- t. I'm afraid this has gone "out of line". The groups just want to have their meetings and this has All the markings of installing a hierarchy.
- u. Oklahoma is different than other areas and we have autonomy to be different to accommodate our demographics and practices.
- v. I support the autonomy of Area 57, as it empowers us to tailor our policies and procedures to best serve our unique community needs while honoring the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- w. Yes I believe that we can update or propose updates to our P&P
- x. More clarity on who can vote and what will be voted on sooner so it can be brought to the groups.
- y. GSO offers suggestions regarding policies and procedures
- z. I am a newcomer to OK AA and am finding the service structure unwieldy and divisive. There seems to be no cohesive structure.
- aa. I think Oklahoma should align itself with the service manual, which in turn, will align Oklahoma with the rest of the areas. I think GSRs should be allowed to vote at all area meetings. It doesn't make sense that GSRs don't get to vote in area meetings, since they are the voice of the meetings. DCMs have a lot of meetings to visit and how are they supposed to know how each group feels about an issue.
- bb. When I became alt delegate, I also heard how area 57 is different. So I polled all the areas in the region to see how others do it. It turns out that no two of them do it the same. Voting procedures, who votes, what officers they have, how often they meet etc. : All different.
- cc. Each area exercises it autonomy!
- dd. To "be like other areas or to be like the Service Manual is a poor reason to change. Each change should be made to better carry the message.
- ee. Area Officer Duties and Responsibilities: No job descriptions exist in the current Policy and Procedure for Area Officers. At a minimum, a working document should be created as an appendix to the Policy and Procedure. This would align with Concept 10. Job descriptions were not read aloud at the last few elections before accepting nominations. I feel like this is important as the individual needs to understand the responsibilities of these positions. We cannot assume that individuals know these responsibilities.

- ff. To get GSRs more involved in Area Service, we should consider a change that would make Area Assemblies quarterly. Consider changing the Policy and Procedure that would make GSRs, DCMs, and Committee Chairs voting body members. Reference Page 19, and Page 20 in the Service Manual. This puts the power back at the top of the upside-down triangle rather than just giving the power to the DCMs. I also believe this would increase participation from the Groups/GSRs at the Area Level.
  - gg. It could be a good idea to form a committee that would oversee and recommend changes to the current policies and procedures
  - hh. Yes. Especially in committee work, no description at all for my committee chair job has made me have to guess and try to help 8 district chairs in my committee learn what they ought to be doing while I wasn't given a job description Myself. And we have to do better than that lives are at stake. And to tell people instead of reading the service manual and learning how to do the job we say things like "well about the time you rotate out you're going to know what you're supposed to be doing" . I don't think that's effective at all. My sponsor equipped me to know what to do. Also the DCM job should be to chair the district just like in the manual. It's so confusing to new people and people I read the manual to because it doesn't line up. To add to not equipping them at all the best we can keep telling new servants is "that's how we have always done it. "
  - ii. Our sate is suffering from " that's how we have always done things. "
  - jj. We should want to align our area with principles in the service manual. Definitely more Concept 10 with the job descriptions. Also the are P&P goes article 5 in the conference charter with people e3ligible to vote in the area assembly. The district setup with "clusters" is also perplexing and confusing. Considering District 50 has towns 460 miles a part is absolutely ridiculous. There are many other things to bring up here, but I'm sure others will make more points.
  - kk. I think we need more detailed descriptions for service positions
2. How well is Area 57 fulfilling its purpose? What could Area 57 do to better meet its purpose?
- a. The way that the Area conducts its business seems to be handled from a top-down approach versus the upside-down triangle; example is the Area office expense (including secretary) making up most of the Area budget, which flirts with focusing on prestige, a la the archives and that sort of thing; an alternative to better emphasis the area's primary purpose is reallocating that money to the committee chairs
  - b. The short answer to this question is "no". The GSRs and DCMs are not trained in what their job is, which is evidenced by lack of participation. Doing something like a more frequent GSR/DCM school more regularly could help with this
  - c. Everyone needs to step up as individuals and do better
  - d. There's more to primary purpose than just carrying the message to the newcomer
  - e. Training would indeed be a huge help. But ultimately, everyone is responsible for their participation or lack of participation

- f. Even just going to the groups and bringing the GSR packet could help with that
- g. There's an attendance policy in place for many DCM and/or committee members; this means that it is important for someone to step down if they consistently cannot participate; could also increase participation by having the DCMs show up consistently
- h. It has been said the purpose of the Area meeting is to vote, but that's wrong. The purpose of the Area meeting is to hear how the message is being carried by individuals, groups, districts and committee members across the state
- i. It is so challenging to get participation across the state for nearly anything, citing a recent example of getting boots on the ground for accessibility awareness; restated the need to have a school; the encouragement needs to come from the Area committee members to help nudge GSRs and others to participate more, thereby better carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic
- j. It is not just an issue of rural regions not participating; OKC and Tulsa sucks too
- k. Fulfilling its primary purpose for the Area would be easier if there was something like a rotational location for Area meeting; doing online schools would be easy to do too. General response was that we need to try to find a way to incorporate more GSR and DCM training. Information could be taken to the members of the area better by DCMs and committee members while also integrating technology to improve outreach.
- l. Need to do away with area policies and procedures and just go with the service manual.
- m. Same question as #1. I agree with Background. I was taught 1) is it spiritual in nature 2) does it help the next suffering alcoholic, & 3) how much does it cost
- n. Yes, it is fulfilling AA purpose very well
- o. We do well I think
- p. This happens at every AA meeting. I question whether we are now switching to recruiting members and/or attempting to sell it to the public different ways.
- q. Very well
- r. Not well. What is the purpose? Not sure everyone knows the purpose let alone how well.
- s. It appears we spend too much money and time on officers and their reports. Cutting out the DCMs report is an example of the triangle not being inverted.
- t. Area 57 could improve by focusing more on serving its members directly, rather than just talking at the fellowship. Hosting events that attract newcomers and underrepresented groups, while providing food, can boost attendance and involvement. This approach aligns more closely with the Primary Purpose of AA: carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic.
- u. Increase participation by attracting more groups to attend Joint Service/ District events and Area Meetings, thru increased engagement between DCMs and GSRs
- v. representing the groups voice as opposed to one factor or another in AA.
- w. I have lived in Area 57 for almost two months. Being a female member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have found it helpful to attend women's meetings. The nearest meeting I have been able to locate is quite a drive. I suggest DCM's

throughout the area attempt establishing a women's meeting in their respective districts.

- x. Area 57 could do a much better job in fulfilling its purpose. Because the Area splits DCMs and GSRs into separate meetings the two do not work together .
  - y. I don't feel that area 57 fulfills its purpose. I see the same people attend service meetings and the same people hold service positions. Area 57 is not carrying the message to the newcomer. At area meetings, I hardly see people from outside the OKC and Tulsa area. Where are the people from the other parts of the state?
  - z. Anything to improve the functioning of the Committees as committees. Our break-outs in a crowded room, while valuable, are not frequent enough or quiet enough to do any work. Perhaps monthly zoom meetings? Or two day committee meetings?
    - aa. Area 57 does fulfill it's purpose. It seems we could do better with reaching out to rural districts and newer members.
    - bb. Oklahoma needs 2 areas to effectively reach the whole state. Need to clearly Define responsibility in committees and put some language in job descriptions in the P&P. The mock conference is not effective at all to inform our delegates about the true conscience of our state. There are multiple agenda items that never even get discussed at all. Thats not an informed group conscience. And to randomly count off and tell people what table to go to instead of letting them participate in the items they have already read the background information on is so limiting our understanding of what were voting on. Our table asked for clarity from our delegate on an agenda item and couldn't even get it from the delegate. Whose reading background information and who's responsible for bringing clarity? Are we literally the blind leading the blind here? Our past delegates go the mic and sway the decision way too often also. As a past delegate I'm supposed to let the trusted servants of the current body and the participants come to decide. And only if asked weigh in.
    - cc. There is a lot more to primary purpose than carrying the message to a newcomer. How many people in area 57 even know who our delegate is? If we had smaller districts I believe we would have a lot more people in service and hence more informed members about what's going on in AA. Service is a 3rd of our legacies, I believe we can do a much better job at reaching out to and informing the members in our area. I also think that we should take care in we elect\appoint in all service positions in AA.
    - dd. Make it more available to serve the entire state of Oklahoma. Rotating where area is held. Or if not able to do so, solution a way to reach others
3. Is it time to re-evaluate redistricting in Area 57?
- a. Evaluating redistricting was done 25 years ago; there was not a lot of support for it. Previously, groups and districts were not supportive of it
  - b. The way the zones/clusters are set up in a way that may be confusing or inconvenient
  - c. This is another disconnect with how Area and districts are set up compared to how the service manual describes districts and DCM purview should be; having

more districts means smaller groups, which means having more intimate and one-on-one support and education

- d. The districts are currently hamstrung by the way the Area sets up voting. Specifically, each district is only allowed six DCM votes. Creating more districts would mean changing the number of votes each district has
- e. One suggestion is to have one DCM per series of groups (like just a few per district) and that DCM is the chair and only DCM for that now-smaller district
- f. Smaller districts would increase participation both with the groups and the DCMs that represent those groups. The process to evaluate moving to a different structure would probably take a really long time, but would be worth it
- g. Current structure is set up with six DCMs per district in order to ensure equal representation across districts
- h. Redistricting may not help with lack of education and participation
- i. Oklahoma has fewer districts because we wanted districts to be large enough to be viable. Smaller districts with fewer groups will create more “dark” districts, which puts some of the burden back on adjacent districts that are not dark
- j. Districts should be thought of like mini-Areas. It is challenging to fill all committee chairs within a district when there are fewer groups and fewer members
- k. The districts with a lot rural groups will definitely be underrepresented if we break out into more districts
- l. was looked @ opposition was didn't go well in the past, wasn't a viable solution, creating unviable districts, doesn't necessarily solve anything, breaks down bigger cities, too complicated, hard to work out votes and representation, could create problems with committees. Could get more involvement, more boots per district, would align with the service manual are the conversations for.
- m. No
- n. Western Oklahoma could be broken up
- o. Yes re evaluate, does not necessarily mean change but consideration is always good practice
- p. No
- q. There is nothing wrong with having equal districts as they have NO authority to dictate what the members do.
- r. Yes
- s. How do we know that this action will help? What is the problem with current boundaries?
- t. Why would we do this? Are we assuming it will fix something?
- u. It is wise not to try too many things at once; the essence of effective change is rational evaluation and purposeful action.
- v. Definitely worth Looking at
- w. YES!!!!
- x. I was unable to locate the district maps
- y. YES!! The current districting & clusters are cumbersome and inefficient. It seems the districts are too big for a DCM and Alt DCM to handle. The district needs to be split, with their own DCMs. This should allow the DCM and Alt DCM

to effectively visit all groups. Additionally, it will allow DCM's to interact with the GSRs in their District.

- z. I think Oklahoma should restrict itself. The districts are too large, and therefore, the DCMs are unable to visit all groups.
  - aa. Yes!
  - bb. "Yes, we should look at how our current district structure is. While I do not believe that all districts have the issue of travel, our rural districts have this issue. The main reason I think that restructuring is needed is to improve the work that is being done locally to reach the still-suffering alcoholic. Imagine if each cluster/zone was a district.
  - cc. Turning Zones/Clusters to Districts
  - dd. Each DCM would be the Chair of its District. They would gather in smaller groups quarterly and it puts focus on the work being done in a smaller geographic area.
  - ee. Instead of having 9 CPC District Chairs, you would have 36 CPC Chairs. (This assumes 6 zones/clusters in the current structure.)
  - ff. I am not saying 36 Districts are needed but you get the idea. An Ad hoc committee should be formed to determine what Re-Districting would look like. Maybe this committee is made up of Past District Chairs ensuring that each current district is represented on this committee. Each committee member could look at their district to determine the best way to split up the current districts.
  - gg. I think the districts are fine. More participation might be gained by being more selective of service position nominations.
  - hh. Oklahoma needs 2 areas. Redistricting wont ultimately solve the problem of dark districts in the far northwest and southeast corners of the state.
  - ii. Absolutely. This would require a unified effort, but I believe there would be a tremendous effect on participation in our area. Maybe not exactly each cluster becomes a district, maybe by county? We would have to have a transition period and go out amongst the groups and put on workshops. I would say probably at least a two year plan, to give newly formed districts time to be informed and teach them the structure. It would be a long conversation and a committee of several members versed in the service manual, AA Comes Of Age and our traditions, but it could be done.
  - jj. Its a good possibility
  - kk. No
4. Does the Area have enough time to conduct its business with just one business meeting once per quarter? Is it time to go to a two-day meeting, consider meeting more frequently than once per quarter, or have more than one assembly per year?
- a. Suggestion to go to two-day meeting to get through all business items and to increase GSR participation. This is as opposed to have more frequent meetings (i.e., once monthly or every other month); meeting monthly would be too inconvenient
  - b. We should monitor upcoming meetings to see how well we manage our time responsibly; if people were to stay more on topic, we'd have more time

- c. We do not need more time to handle our business, we just need to stay focused
- d. Area chair currently has authority to move to two days if they want
- e. If the concern is about our ability to take care of all of our business, we should leverage technology to make things more efficient
- f. Area chair states it feels like area meetings are rushed, and also that people frequently leave after lunch
- g. What would the impact be if we met more frequently? It would mean the districts would have to meet more frequently, so there are downstream impacts
- h. Giving GSRs the opportunity to vote more frequently may increase participation
- i. Meeting more frequently or for two-day meetings would absolutely be more expensive, so changes would have to be made for how/where we meet
- j. Two day meetings with emphasis on education and studying traditions/concepts would be a huge help
- k. One suggestion is to have just three committee meetings per year, and one assembly meeting per year (as opposed to have one meeting per year that is both a committee meeting and an assembly meeting)
- l. Meetings could be restructured to allow for focus on more of the "important" items like voting, instead of moving to two-day or more frequent meetings
- m. We could also rearrange assembly items (i.e., budget in Sep, elections in Dec)
- n. Consider moving meeting from Sunday to Saturday
- o. Consider moving voting to the morning and doing reports in the afternoon
- p. Consider not doing a meeting in December, and instead moving to a two-day meeting in March; would also allow for more time to focus on GSC agenda.
- q. Several people suggested 2 day meetings in multiple formats, several others suggested adjusting the way business is handled and technology being utilized was also suggested. Finances, conferences including the assembly were also brought up
- r. No
- s. Something to look at, more time is needed
- t. Two day meeting for the assembly at least
- u. I think we have enough time
- v. This can and should be kept as is. Anything further appears to be looking for or creating problems to address.
- w. Yes
- x. No, too many reports and not enough discussion time.
- y. No, maybe cut the fluff out of the agenda and have real conversations.
- z. Given the current participation levels, I believe one day per quarter is sufficient for Area 57 to conduct its business. Thank you for your attention to this, but why are we considering so many changes?
- aa. I am open to the idea. We try and cram a lot of information into one day events. Especially during the Area Assembly meeting in Sept, and we could do a better job in December handing off roles to the incoming Committee Chairs DCMs and New GSRs
- bb. you can do a 2nd meeting but make it a Zoom or TEAMS meetings to lessen burden.



- cc. I suggest having more frequent meetings for GSR's to attend and provide their group's conscience to the entire Assembly. I believe this would also promote participation.
- dd. No. The current structure does not allow adequate time to attend Committee meetings. It also does not allow time for fellowship.
- ee. I think the area has enough time to conduct their business in one day. Personally, I do not want to attend a two-day area meeting. I think by having a two-day meeting would discourage people from coming in from out of town.
- ff. "I have visited three other areas with two day assemblies. The sense of purpose and level of camaraderie were much higher. They were there for more than a business meeting. There were working committee meetings, workshops, GSR schools, speaker meetings. The actual business meeting was only part of the weekend.
- gg. The argument for a one day assembly has been to increase participation. My impression that the two day gathering is more attractive and draws more participation."
- hh. "We should do away with Area Meetings and move towards a Quarterly Area Assembly. Moving the power back to the Groups and the top of the triangle. Voting members of the Assembly could be made up of GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Chairs, and Area Officers. We should also consider it to be a two-day meeting. What does a two-day Area Assembly look like?
  - ii. Saturday Agenda
  - jj. Open with a Topic/Sharing Session
  - kk. Area Officer Reports
  - ll. DCM Reports
  - mm. Service Committee Meetings
  - nn. Saturday Night Speaker
  - oo. Sunday Agenda
  - pp. Service Committee Reports
  - qq. Old Business/New Business
- rr. To move to a two-day assembly, we would need to address the cost/locations of these meetings. The current cost of meeting space makes this idea cost-prohibitive.
- ss. A 2 day meeting/assembly could be nice if one of the days was variable and allowed for different tasks or topics quarterly.
- tt. Absolutely needs to be 2 day event. As a committee chair to be given 3-5 minutes to report on the work of 8 districts is insulting. Also everyone rushes off after lunch to get home because it always happens on a Sunday. Members who have decided to pursue church as a result of their spiritual experience are not even participating in Area. A lot more could be done to increase participation.
- uu. The weekend of the assembly should absolutely be more than one day. It seems that when we come to an area meeting we are trying to push everyone through as quickly as we can so we can leave. I would like us to reach out to several other areas and see what they do. This idea that we don't care what other areas do because we are different is sad. Why wouldn't we draw upon other people's

experience and be open to making improvements. If the answer to any of these questions is, "this is the way we've always done it so we shouldn't change anything" I would... Well what I would say wouldn't be kind. I'll leave it at that.

vv. I think one day is fine but Saturdays would be better for this out of towners  
ww. Yes

5. How can Area meetings be made more effective, both in taking care of business and in increasing participation? Are there any barriers that prevent members of the Area from getting involved in the service structure?
  - a. What are we really asking here with this question? What are we even DOING at the Area? What needs to be put on the agenda? We should examine how to make our business meetings effective. For example, if anything can be emailed, then take it off the agenda. Put the most important things at the top of the agenda, and allow for plenty of time to discuss them
  - b. Extension of previous comment: treasurer's report is a great example. Maybe group activity as well
  - c. We have a culture of trying to not let the area officers and past delegates share their opinions; that makes it such that only the newest, least informed individuals are sharing. We need the experience and insight and perspective that those with more time have to offer
  - d. If someone is in a position, like GSR and DCM, and you can't find time to take care of everything, then give your position to someone else that does have the time
  - e. Service requires sacrifice; groups also feel like they don't have a voice when they do come; they also don't feel like they were properly "trained" regarding what their role is
  - f. Many groups just generally don't feel comfortable with things like asking questions; need to be made to feel welcome, training would help
  - g. Many members within groups are court-ordered; this makes it tough to get participation because they just don't care
  - h. Much of the issue and unfamiliarity with participation in the service structure just comes down to lack of awareness. What even is a GSR, DCM, Area meeting, etc.?
  - i. DCMs and GSRs should be recompensed for what they do; that is fairly standard in other Areas, and is even in the service manual
  - j. Maybe have different sections at the Area meeting for each district, so they can find their "geographic people"
  - k. The issue with lack of participation is a personal one; we are not responsible to inspire anyone who chooses to not participate
  - l. Inspiration needs to come from those that came first. Be enthusiastic, be welcoming, be loving, be a mentor
  - m. Discussion was had on other topics but suggestions were to email more business & prioritize efficiently. Putting finances on the website to shorten the presentation. Service duties and training were big conversations.
  - n. Apathy

- o. Move it around
- p. When I first went to a business meeting I did not know what I was supposed to be listening for or why it was important to go. I think if there was emphasis on welcoming new GSR and new DCMs to each meeting and briefly explain what they should be listening for and doing would be helpful.
- q. I think a lot of groups just want to do their own thing
- r. You answered your own question. Most groups are not participating for a reason. This is clearly an effort to look for something to manage.
- s. I've noticed that some groups do not encourage service work
- t. Survey after each mtg and yes
- u. A lot of questions in this question. Do we assume the low attendance has something to do with effective business meetings? Barriers would include apathy of members.
- v. If you are doing an inventory I feel our focus should be on the fact of your statement historically, only approximately 25% - 35% of groups are represented at Area business meetings. What can we do to improve this representation, and how do we achieve it?
- w. Possibly rotate the Quarterly Meetings to Other Districts as apposed to just meeting in OKC which is Centrally located
- x. can reporting be streamlined.
- y. One day Area business meetings does not allot enough time for more group GSR's to attend and feel to be contributing to the Area business decisions.
- z. Its up to the Area to encourage attendance. It should not only be a time to conduct Area business, but a time to catch up with others and have some fun. The current structure is too short to adequately digest, hear discussion and vote on issues brought to the Assembly. I have heard feedback that the meetings are boring and that the issues are hard to understand.
- aa. We need to have an assembly and then an area meeting. We need DCMs to reach out to their groups and get new people involved.
- bb. "See my answer on two-day meetings above.
- cc. Also deemphasize the business and emphasize the committee and DCM reports. To hear how the committees are carrying the message and how the groups are doing is the point. After all the only business we can do is on how we do business."
- dd. I feel we could change the voting policy to help increase participation. If we would let DCMs give reports they might participate more.
- ee. Yes. Sunday area meeting = our more God conscious, church going members are forced to decide between the 2. If we either split into 2 areas or move the area meeting from district to district allowing every district to bid on a meeting space it would not only produce more participation, it would certainly be more prudent with the groups , and alcoholics money. The southeast and northwest corners of the state are dark. The problem can be solved by my suggestion that we split into 2 areas or let every district bid to have the area meeting. Pretty simple.

- ff. Leadership starts at the top. Again, we should take great care in who we elect to our service positions. If we keep reports dialed into pertinent information (new groups, time and location changes, etc...) that would help a lot. Also maybe if the leadership set the tone at the beginning others would follow suit. It feels the area committee reports start with personal anecdotes, jokes, etc... Then the next person does the same. Then during other reports there is a time crunch and even sometimes having reports omitted from the schedule. This is very disheartening. Think of the sacrifice a member makes getting up at 4 in the morning, driving 3-4 hours to honor their commitment and then being told we are going to skip your report. I would also reiterate having smaller districts would really increase participation and make groups feel more important in the service structure.
- gg. Location
- hh. Individual reach is ours may help. Like we use textedly.
- 6. Does Area 57 effectively support the Districts and Groups? Do our Area Service Committees reach out to provide enough support to Districts and groups? What improvements can be made to better support them?
  - a. Engaging groups more, particularly those that are not historically involved, will absolutely increase support and participation
  - b. Have we considered doing something like a traveling Fun in the Fellowship?
  - c. Consider putting together presentations that have narration such that they can be easily distributed and shared in order to increase education
  - d. We have to make meetings interesting and attractive and informative. They have to have a reason for wanting to come
  - e. We need to make people feel like they are needed
  - f. GSO culls the inactive groups, Area officers visiting groups, workshops conflicting with other events and could use technology to present better, pg. 13 service manual, committees in his previous area made presentations for groups, post committee meeting minutes/ reports online use zoom, move locations being useful in other areas
  - g. Yes
  - h. There is always room for improvement, we as a whole do pretty well. It all falls back on sponsorship & falling thru with commitment, if you cant do it don't sign up
  - i. I would like to see area officers and committee members at district meetings or joint service. Making the approach to new district chairs and committee members.
  - j. Yes but rural are still somewhat overlooked
  - k. 70% relatively are not involved because we are heading towards management . Nobody wants this other than the participants looking to expand it.
  - l. Yes
  - m. No and no. Make area work more attractive
  - n. I don't know for sure but I don't recall having any officers or committee members visit my home group. So personally a lot of room to grow in this area.
  - o. Let's keep in mind that the Area is at the bottom of the upside-down triangle and should be prepared to serve. Our focus should be on the fact that historically, only approximately 25% - 35% of groups are represented at Area business

meetings. What can we do to improve this representation, and how do we achieve it?

- p. Invite Each Different Committee Chairs to participate in the State Sponsored Workshops , not just the same people. I have been a Committee Chair for almost 2 years and have not been asked to participate in such workshops
  - q. "not as effectively as they could, but that goes both ways
  - r. Because the District is too large and quarterly meetings are too short it affects Committee Chairs. If DCMs and GSRs cannot service the Area how can a Committee Chair be effective?
  - s. No! What does the area do? We can revamp the people in area service positions. We need new opinions, new blood, and outside experience. If nothing changes, nothing changes!!
  - t. From what I see, the DCMs are key. I have seen groups come alive with an active DCM and the other direction too. Perhaps a DCM school in each district? This is a tough one.
  - u. It seems like the district chair is the only one that is getting communication from the Area other than chairs. I don't think I have seen a Area committee member unless they are part of our district.
  - v. If I don't even have a job description as a committee chair how can I serve the districts? The most important thing we may have accomplished as a committee was to inform all the districts about how to do the work of the committee. I had to completely create the job in my district committee before I became area committee chair. So if we keep doing all this work then tell the Next chair we're autonomous and they are supposed to just figure it out. We have to get this stuff in writing, or we lose momentum by starting over every 2 years.
  - w. Again, who we elect and appoint to service positions matters. How many times do we hear a servant say I didn't get anything done this past quarter, hopefully I'll have something to report next time. So often we elect someone everyone knows and then they appoint their friends to service positions. If we don't take our service positions at all levels seriously, we will always fall short. I think the full job description should be read out loud at all levels before say if they are willing to stand for a position.
  - x. I don't see much reaching out to the districts unless it's for some sort of financial support, possibly offering to attend the district meetings to explain what the service position does and how it can help the district would be good
  - y. Yes
7. Does the Area's finances effectively support the members of Area 57 in their efforts to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic? If not, why?
- a. It is confusing how we all spend our money.
  - b. The percentage of our budget that is allocated to committee chairs is only about 15%.
  - c. Giving some of the money back to the district, after cutting budget items like secretarial service, will allow the districts to do things like fund DCMs to make trips to various DCM and other district committee commitments.

- d. The responsibility to allocate funds here or there comes back to the groups and the districts, not the area.
- e. The Area is, in effect, a business, so it must be managed that way at times.
- f. It is not unusual for committee chairs to not use their money. If committee chairs, including those at the district, used their money more for directly carrying the message then we wouldn't have situations where there is a significant surplus against which to argue how it is spent.
- g. The problem is not so much about the committee chairs not spending their money. Rather, they are just not sure about how or what on which to spend the money.
- h. Give money back to districts were brought up, group and district responsibility was brought up, power of purse was mentioned, CMS are the area, districts changing their P&P, mentioned that GSRs do get to vote budget, we are a business
- i. Yes
- j. If we could get more groups to contribute, we would have more to work with. This has been an issue since I've been involved with service
- k. Yes
- l. Yes
- m. Yes
- n. No, most folks in aa Oklahoma have no clue what the area does.
- o. It seems like our finances are in order. I am always curious if our committee chairs spend to be spending or do not spend because they aren't engaged. Can we cut expenses?
- p. Let's keep in mind that the Area is at the bottom of the upside-down triangle and should be prepared to serve. Our focus should be on the fact that historically, only approximately 25% - 35% of groups are represented at Area business meetings. What can we do to improve this representation, and how do we achieve it?
- q. I believe that the Area is Transparent with its spending
- r. Once again, having one Area Assembly per year is not enough for our Trusted Servants to understand Area needs and to make informed decisions regarding budgets and expenditures
- s. No, what does the area do to carry the message to the newcomer?
- t. Yes.
- u. "Where I see improvement could be made is around the 7th Tradition. Is the Area being prudent with its 7th tradition funds? The largest part of the budget is in two areas the Office/Paid Secretary and Area Meeting location. We need to get creative on the area budget so that more of the 7th Tradition Contributions can be kept at the local and District Levels where the work of reaching the still-suffering alcoholic is happening with boots on the ground.
- v. Area Office and Associated Cost
- w. Most areas do not have a paid Secretary.
- x. Take a deeper dive into the current responsibilities of the Area Secretary.

- y. Could these responsibilities be split out among current Area Servants and the addition of an Area Registrar?
  - z. Communication with the fellowship should happen through our Area Chair, and Delegate up the triangle through the DCMs to the GSRs.
  - aa. An elected Secretary could be responsible for Area Minutes and communicating those minutes back up the triangle.
  - bb. Most areas do not have an Area Office.
  - cc. Are we tracking the number of visitors in the Area Office? What business is being conducted with these visitors? How many days is the office open?
  - dd. Can we get creative on where to store the Area Archives if we don't have an Area Office? Many areas use climate-controlled storage areas for their archives, appointments are made with the Area Archivist to gain access to the archives.
  - ee. From a business perspective we learned during COVID-19 that most business could all be done remotely with technology.
  - ff. Area Meeting Cost
  - gg. Recent motions have been made to be flexible on the days and location of area meetings. If we can revisit these ideas, there could be opportunities to save money on this budget line item.
  - hh. What about Districts bidding on hosting an Area Meeting? Through my research, there are venues in each district that would be large enough to host an Area Meeting.
  - ii. No, we need to decide what the pertinent events are for the committee to attend.
  - jj. We have an over abundance of money and we split hairs over reimbursements to committee chairs. I was told I couldn't get reimbursements for the \$200 hotel in Oklahoma City for travel to get to the area meeting. Its either I get up at 5am or stay the night before. We get no direction from our area chair on how or what to spend our budgets on. This should all be part of our policies and procedures in the committee chair job responsibilities and descriptions.
  - kk. There seems no willingness to make any changes/improvements in this area. Having a paid area secretary, paying someone to record area meetings for the paid secretaries minutes, paying for an area office when we already have central service and intergroup outside of the service structure. These are all areas of waste. Why would the average group even want to contribute to the area with their basket money if we are spending it on things like this? Its as if we don't care. We are afraid, almost embarrassed to talk about it at our budget meetings because those people are in the room. We just can't seem to accept the true meaning of principles before personalities because we are afraid it may hurt someone's feelings. These issues aren't about the person, it's about prudence and being responsible with the generosity the groups share with their area.
  - ll. I think so
  - mm. Yes
8. Does the Area trust those it selects as their trusted servants? Or does the Area try to micromanage its trusted servants?
- a. Yes, it happens often

- b. If we want to decrease the amount of micromanaging our trusted servants, we need to focus more on educating the fellowship in general about who the trusted servants are and what they're doing
- c. It is important to recognize that the fellowship is going to give you their opinion and oversight, often times no matter if you want it or not. It is important to listen to what everyone has to say, even if you disagree
- d. Generally, our trusted servants are known and are trusted
- e. However, not all the trusted servants are known. They need to be more widely known, which often times falls on the GSRs and DCMs to better educate the fellowship as a whole about who they are
- f. Trusted servants need to be mindful about their scope of authority and should not feel like they need to ask permission for everything
- g. Not micromanaged learning opportunity, concept 10, servant were taught by those before, members are responsible to select the right servants
- h. Yes
- i. As always with alcoholics power hoes to the brain or there are those that want control, I feel we do pretty good but I have seen before mention happen
- j. Trust
- k. They are trusted but watched I feel
- l. Not always. More often than not, trusted servants cast their own agendas in opposition of what they're groups desire.
- m. Cannot provide an answer
- n. No and most probably don't care enough about accountability let alone micromanage the decisions of those in leadership
- o. Not sure I can speak for the area. It seems like the word on the street is there is competition with OKC and Tulsa and Tulsa wants Tulsa officers and to move the are meeting. But that is just buzz in the streets.
- p. The job is the job. If you have been elected that is fine but it doesn't mean that the area will not monitor and or correct.
- q. I believe so, possibly have the Area Officers and Committee Chairs meet more frequently than just at the quarterly meetings, could be on Zoom every 45 days or so
- r. No, I believe getting caught up in the current politics of AA has made out delegate less effective
- s. Have not been involved long enough to make a decision
- t. No! The area does not trust their trusted servants. It is the areas own fault, but it needs to be changed. The area is not electing trusted servants who are qualified. Trusted servants at the area level seem to elected based on popularity and who they associate themselves with.
- u. I see no problems here.
- v. "Elections: I would like to hear more than just service resumes from individuals willing to serve. I would like to hear if an individual is versed in Traditions and Concepts. Have they talked to their family and employer about the time commitment needed to serve? (Especially Area Officers). The leadership essay should be covered in a General Sharing Session at the Area Meeting in June.



The leadership essay is a good lead into what we should be looking for in our trusted servants. Elections should never be a popularity contest. In many cases, I have voted for an individual I didn't care for but was the most qualified for the position.

- w. Ex Officios(Past Delegates): It has been my experience that Past Delegates carry much influence at the Quarterly Area Meeting. I would like them to take more of a back seat approach rather than coming to the Mic every time they don't agree or do agree with a discussion on the floor. Just as they expect current trusted servants to not sway an opinion, they should practice the same restraint.
  - x. No, our delegate struggled to hear the group conscious this term.
  - y. I think we have too much autonomy and no organization at all when it comes to committee work. Autonomy comes with responsibility. We have to clearly define the jobs in the committees. Concept 10.
  - z. I don't know if this question is pertinent, its a bit broad and seems more a personal question with whoever put these questions together. The principle in Concept 3 is pretty clear that we inform our servants rather than instruct them. The greater issue is that we put people in positions that don't have any knowledge of the principles the service structure even operates from. Sadly I've personally witnessed that from the delegate down. I'm not here to be mean, but we really need to make more of an effort as a whole to educate and teach people the 12 concepts and even if our system in AA is different, go through the principles in the manual and explain where Oklahoma is different so they will at least be informed. I'm not talking fun in the fellowship or the state conference. I'm talking about visiting small rural areas and going to the people, getting out of the OKC and Tulsa metro, and making an effort.
    - aa. Personally I trust who is elected
    - bb. I have noticed some micromanaging
9. Does the Area effectively integrate new GSRs/DCMs at Area meetings and make them feel welcomed and included? **Skipped**
10. Does Area 57 want to consider regular Area inventories? If so, how frequent? Any other suggestions about how a regular inventory can be done more effectively?
- a. We have not done a formal inventory like this
  - b. Many of these items that we've talked about have come to the floor but not passed
  - c. Would be interested in seeing it done every other year and with an outside facilitator
  - d. Reiteration of having an outside facilitator give their own perspective; it is more impartial that way
  - e. Suggestion is to have an open-sharing session as an agenda versus having specific questions that we want to have answered
  - f. Counter-point: less than 5% of the fellowship gave their opinion on this inventory. This could be indicative of a lack of interest in doing something like this again

- g. Recommend doing the next one within a year, and then subsequent every other year
- h. Have an option for people to write-in questions in order to put together an agenda
- i. Suggest somehow tying some or all of the concepts back to the inventory. Maybe being more targeted by looking at specific things, like in the policies and procedures, or our budget
- j. Several people suggested bi-annual, tie concepts to next inventory, recommend outside facilitators, make questions less leading , not very many participants, is it worth it to do again
- k. Yes. Every 3-4 years
- l. Individuals & groups do a inventory. District and area should do it with a outside trusted servant from another district or Area
- m. Yes regularly but not too frequent, perhaps every 2-4 years. Enough time to give rotating committees a chance to respond and feedback and make changes. It takes that long to see changes
- n. Yes bi yearly maybe
- o. There comes a point when you can Destroy something that is working by an incessant and overbearing need to repair what is clearly NOT broken. This question is the epitome of that.
- p. Yes
- q. I am not sure the Area asked for an inventory. It seems to be a pet project of one or a few folks.
- r. It will be interesting to see what is done with it? And where the feedback comes from.
- s. While I believe it is commendable to reference literature and quote from the book, I would suggest that conducting business involves much more than just taking an inventory.
- t. Yes at least every other year, I suggest the non election years
- u. yes, at least every two years for the foreseeable future.
- v. I suggest an Area inventory half way though the Delegate's term.
- w. Absolutely!
- x. An area inventory is only effective if changes are made based on the findings. There is no need to have regular area inventories if nothing is going to change.
- y. Maybe every 5 years of so.
- z. Yes, the Area should consider doing an Inventory once per year. I would consider bringing an outside resource in to facilitate the inventory. This person should be outside of this State, and outside of this Region.
- aa. Yes, I feel committees from each term should be formed and given until the end of term to complete it
- bb. A yearly Area inventory is a healthy Area
- cc. I think every other year before the voting assembly would be a good idea. If our assembly wasn't only one day we could present the results to the fellowship. I wouldn't avoid an honest appraisal out of fear it may uncover problems or issues.
- dd. Not sure. Depends on this one goes

ee. Yes, maybe every two years before the current term is up? This will help with translations to the new trusted servants