

NETA Fall 2011 Assembly

DCM Sharing Session, September 18th, 2011

Lex L., District 64 DCM: Chaired and opened the meeting. He talked about lack of participation, combined districts, inter-district cooperation. He shared that The Lambda Group in Fort Worth is closing. Money's okay, but low participation from the same people all the time. No new members.

- **Bruce, District 61 DCM:** Seeing an attitude of "my home group is everything." No awareness of AA outside their home group. Bruce said that he's used to seeing people visiting other groups, etc., but that doesn't seem to be happening as much any more. Solution: he talks to people at places like a coffee shop with members of different groups.
- **John R., District 55 DCM:** The Chicago Group brings in outside speakers for a quarterly speaker meeting. That helps to mix people together. Combined 5 has closed. Maybe it could be restarted, re-energized as a service-focused entity. Belonged to a group that closed. Seemed to be due to being too self-contained.
- **Brandon H., District 1 DCM:** His home group has cut down to 2 meetings a week. People seem to expect to be served, rather than to be of service. Had a round-robin, but it seemed to diminish. Need to mix things up.
- **Dale V., District 42 DCM:** Missing our primary purpose. We need to *go looking* for opportunities to carry the message of AA. Am I willing to go to *any lengths* to stay sober?
- **Bobby W., District 52 DCM:** As GSR, had an alternate who followed him around. If someone misses 2 or 3 commitments, the group should remove them. Follow committed members around. Leadership. BE a leader.
- **Tom K., District 54 Alternate DCM:** Talk before and after meeting to members at other meetings about service. Encourage inter-group cooperation. Talk to newcomers. *Listen* at meetings. Negative remarks about business meetings drives people away from service. Share positive stuff. *Take sponsees and other people along when going to service events and carrying the message to Treatment Facilities, etc.*
- **David S. District 54 DCM:** Inter-group, inter-district, inter-service entity cooperation is vitally important. Isolation kills groups just as it does individuals. Groups acting like clubs instills an idea of being served, rather than being of service. Sharing enthusiasm in one's home group about participating in service on district/area levels, encourages participation. An important function of districts is to hold service workshops.

- **Linda, District 22 DCM:** Proud of the members in her district. Learned as a sponsor: lead by example. Teach the Traditions. Uses Language of the Heart. Encourage participation in Group Conscience. One-on-one! Get one person to participate.
- **David, District 24 DCM:** Small district, grateful for that. GSRs help to keep the district active (rather than being told what should be done). Sometimes one person gets on fire, which gets others to. Share enthusiasm.
- **Andy, District 24 Alternate DCM:** Got sober because we had something he had. Found himself around people in service, their enthusiasm in service and carrying the message was attractive.
- **Phil, District 21 Alternate DCM:** Spoke about groups vs. clubs. Got sober in a small group in another part of the country that met once a week. NETA was a big change. Got involved in group conscience and being involved on the group level. Got used to the way things are done here. Changing club-like groups probably won't happen. Goes back to sharing enthusiasm, taking people along to treatment facilities and corrections. Even if it doesn't seem to be working, just keep trying. People will start coming. Lead by example, show enthusiasm, and things improve. Talk to newcomers about The Traditions.
- **Jerry, District 56 DCM:** Started out as DCM by sending letters, then visited them. Encouraged participation. Found in one visitation that that group was now an NA group. Lack of sponsorship and working with others, groups fold. Hold workshops. Keep newcomers interested by showing them how, participation. Reach out. Division and cliques happen. But when a poker meeting takes the place of an AA meeting, division comes in.
- **Jim, District 61 Alternate DCM:** Hearing new voices, rather than the same people all the time, makes the group stronger. Know the other groups in your area. Have member of groups visit each other.
- **Bruce, District 61 DCM:** Remember to have fun in service. Has held District picnics. People came and found out about the district.

Other Questions / Concerns

Eddie (District 55 Alternate DCM) asked people to share about the Regional Forum.

Dennis, District 21 DCM: Puts a face to GSO staff. Learned about AA as a whole. Different from SWRAASA, which had more topic workshops. Get the agenda, know what you're interested in. Be open-minded about different things.

(Someone started playing the piano in the bar. Could not hear people speak.)

Phil, District 21 Alternate DCM: People in other groups have been coming to his group and sign up for service commitments, chairing meetings, voting in Group Conscience. Got feedback about the Traditions, "The AA Group" pamphlet, group autonomy, etc. Some groups have a "Program Chair" type of position that signs up meeting chairs. Others have sign up sheets where people volunteer to chair.

Dale V., District 42 DCM volunteered to chair the next DCM sharing session. Send suggested topics to him at dcvodak@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
David S.
District 54 DCM