

Motion #2

New Business

Oregon Area 58 Motion

Submitted by: District 36

Motion:

Effective immediately when taking its own inventory Oregon Area simply asks the attached questions in order and allows discussion to begin immediately.

Intent/Purpose:

To provide a more effective catalyst for conversation while affording time for thoughtful dialogue during our inventory proceedings. Taking an Area inventory is critically important and in order to reap the benefits of this process we must allow for discussion of the issues presented. These questions, which were loosely adopted from "The AA Group" pamphlet, will provide adequate opportunity for a group "conversation" and therefore an opportunity for us to grow.

Current Practice:

Oregon Area currently engages a process of eliminating talking points from a large list of options thru a series of votes. This process of "deciding what to actually discuss" has at times taken the entire time slot allowed for the inventory.

Budgetary Impact:

none

- 1) What is the basic purpose of Oregon Area 58?
- 2) What more can Oregon Area do to carry the message?
- 3) Is Oregon Area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross section of our community, including those with special needs?
- 4) Do new members stick with us or does the turnover seem excessive? If so why? What can we do as an area to retain members?
- 5) Do we emphasize the importance of counsel with those who have experience in general service?
- 6) Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our trusted servants?
- 7) Are all members given the opportunity to speak and participate in meetings and business?
- 8) Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility, not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
- 9) Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?
- 10) What has the Area done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community- the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
- 11) How is Oregon Area fulfilling its responsibility to the seventh tradition?
- 12) How can we increase our effectiveness in serving the groups of Oregon Area, the still suffering alcoholics of Oregon Area, and those with whom we cooperate?

Discussion

Roberto: If we stick to these 12 questions, does that allow us to bring in other issues or other themes or do we have to stick with these at all times. Are we pigeon holing ourselves with just these questions? Is this a guideline?

Amy B: Question 12 asks, "How can we increase our effectiveness as a whole" so that is kind of an encompassing question right there. On a personal, note my home group employs these questions for our meetings and the secretary reads them off and it kind of keeps everything to AA related discussion as well.

Gus: What I heard the question to say is "are we going to be limited to these 12 questions and could we add others?"

Amy: Again, back to question 12 it kind of goes into a realm of other things. In my viewpoint.

Gus: Then the answer is yes?

Amy: Yes

Roberto: Keeping that question, doesn't this still leave us back to the same point that it is becomes broad now instead....is this redundant?

Amy: I think it's kind of like a topic. When we do it at my home group, it gets a person to stick to....are they bringing up something that has to do with our AA service. It does seem to be very conducive to discussion immediately rather than discussing what we might discuss and then maybe we won't discuss it.

Josh: I am very much in favor of this motion. I see what's in the intent/purpose, a catalyst for conversation. These questions will stimulate that open dialogue and I believe the sooner we can open the microphones up to the body as a whole so that folks can come up and start vetting their ideas, opinions and feelings about what we are doing and not doing, the better. I also see question 12 as very beautiful broad question of "yes what can we do to increase our effectiveness." There isn't a wrong statement there. We are not making any decisions here; we are simply having a conversation, and out of this, hopefully effective motions will come forward about how we can amend our guidelines or change our practices. It will allow us to use our time for maximum effectiveness.

Edith: In favor of the idea of not spending time on what we are going to discuss. However, using these same questions at a meeting, I question whether these questions are covering what we need as an Area. Specifically question 3 & 4. I'm wondering if it is possible to fine tune the questions and have them be more specific to Area.

Gus: Would the motion maker like to respond to that?

Amy: I re-state my past statement. Don't we want people to be enthusiastic about service; so are we attracting new members by coming to the Assembly by being super enthusiastic? So I feel like this is relevant to all aspects of service.

Ron: I support this. I feel we have precious little time to conduct our inventory; and if we provided some sort of order and structure, we can spend more time on doing what it is we come here to do which is our service work. There are going to be certain questions, which we will only spend a few seconds on, and then we are going to move onto other questions like 12. I foresee question 12 as something that will take up a great majority of our time but just to sit here and take off things that we are not going to talk about is not in my opinion the best thing for us to do. I would love to see this motion taken back to the groups and see what they think.

Ben: I am opposed to this motion as it is written; mainly because I feel that in sitting and generating topics to be discussed is an exploratory process, and we can kind of get a feel of what's going on with other people's districts and their home groups. I would like to see at the beginning of the Area Inventory this brought up as a possible option to pursue as well as additional topics to bring forth.

Bill: Was also very frustrated at the last inventory because of the time it took at voting to decide what we were going to vote on. I don't want to be hamstrung by 12 questions. Is the writer of this motion willing to amend this to say that these are 12 *suggested* questions that we use and the facilitator of the inventory is free to add questions? Make it a suggestion. I'm an alcoholic and when you tell me what to do, I'm going to resist; but if you *suggest*, I might do it.

Gus: Amy, are you willing to amend?

Amy: NO

Kim: I like the fact that our Oregon Area Alternate Delegate is going to go an Extra Regional Forum on Inventories next year in 2011, from the motion that was just passed. One of the things that they will be discussing is an Area Inventory... I know that is still a year and half-away but I'm hoping that when he does come back we will have some other options to choose. I'm not sure if I am opposed or for this motion. It is a good start because I know that when we did our last inventory in September it didn't work.

Martha: We just voted to send our Alternate Delegate to a conference to learn how to better do one of these Area Inventories and at that point, it was stated that this Inventory was a custom and it's not in our guidelines as re-occurring thing. I believe that the format is up to the Alternate Delegate and I don't see the point of this motion. A better inventory and a smoother process will happen automatically if we give our feedback to the Alternate Delegate.

Erik: I'm for the intent of this motion but I am asking that it be withdrawn because of the previous motion that was just passed. Because of that motion, we will have a better idea of how to handle an Area Inventory.

Gus: Amy, are you willing to withdraw your motion.

Amy: NO!

Rick H: Not sure I like the set of 12 questions in the order that they are set forth because as alcoholics we tend to be long winded and I can see inventory after inventory recycling through the first 3 or 5 set of questions and never reaching the end of the list.

Steve: DITTO!

Chase: I am opposed to the motion; but I like that we are all on the same team. I do know that the other motion does put me into an opportunity to learn and grow; but it won't be until right before the 2nd Inventory that I conduct for you. It will be a couple weeks before the 2nd September Assembly that I will be doing the inventory. As I said in my head, and you have not heard it yet... (*Crowd laughs*) I did say it in my report.....wait, did I say it in my report? OK I'm talking to myself now. One of my goals in my term here and especially before September of this year is to examine our inventory process. I would really like to have the opportunity to communicate with District 36 and other Districts of the Area to bring something fresh to our Area Inventory process; and I would not like to be tied down by these 12 questions. They are good questions, but I would prefer to have a little more latitude and have some trust from the body to bring something to you that will work for you. Time is a factor for this traditional event that is not a requirement for us to do. If you had 120 minutes to do this session and you took all 12 questions, you would have 10 minutes per question; and if you have 120 people in the room, which is what we average in the inventory, you would only have, with one person sharing for one minute, 10 people sharing out of 120 people on each topic. So time is a factor, which is why we have a reduction process that could be fine-tuned to bring something closer to the spirit of this motion without compromising something that might work for us with a little bit of tweaking.

Joe: Wow Chase, that is a hard act to follow. At my home group we also try to find out our weaknesses and discuss our strengths. I like the idea of having a format but maybe we should have our trusted servant have 6 questions available already that they believe the body believes that are our strengths and weaknesses to discuss and then figure out what we want to discuss and speed it up. I like the new idea; I just think it needs to be re-done, so that we are not just stuck to these 12 questions.

Judy: Against the motion as it is written. I believe in the intent of it. I attended the Policy and Admissions breakout yesterday, and we did talk about the General Service Board and the General Service Conference taking an inventory of itself. The background materials we used had some very interesting suggestions for the structure of it, and I think those ideas would be pertinent to the Oregon Area if we want to keep the continuity of AA as a whole. I also agree that there are agenda items that we have been asked to take back to our groups and discuss them with the members of AA and with that, there are specific structure recommendations; and I would like to have this taken back to the groups.

Josh calls the question:

Bob 2nd

Vote to end debate - Debate has ended

Urgent and/or Administrative

Motion is tabled