

2019 Area 21 Inventory – Responses to be reviewed/discussed at the September 2021 Area Assembly

PLEASE READ THE RESPONSES AND CHOOSE THE RESPONSE THAT YOU AGREE WITH MOST OR DISAGREE WITH THE MOST AND SHARE ON THAT RESPONSE DURING THE ASSEMBLY.

6. Does the Area carry its fair share of the job of helping Districts? The Grapevine Inc.? General Service Office? AA groups in corrections and treatment centers?

a) I have no experience with area helping district.

b) I am fairly new to this Area, but I have received from the Area much information in the above areas.

c) Being from a rural, economically depressed district I don't know what other districts experience, but we do appreciate visits from our delegate from time to time.

d) Some of my fellow AA's who hold service positions in the District believe that, when Area 21 amasses a larger reserve of funds than is needed for prudence, it would be appropriate to share that surplus of funds with districts when those districts can identify a specific need that needs to be addressed. In District 12, we have a specific need for funds to purchase more literature to distribute for CPC efforts. Area treatment centers, churches, and other institutions are interested in making AA literature available and the need surpasses what we are able to pay for with the available funds in our annual budget. Financial support of this kind from the Area would provide specific, concrete benefits to still-suffering alcoholics in the area.

e) NR

f) Any time I email my service sponsor, an Area Committee Chairperson or anyone in Area that I think can answer my question, I get a speedy reply to my question. I have never contacted the Grapevine or GSO regarding a question. Any questions I have had for Corrections or Treatment have been answered fully by the Area Chairperson(s) in person or via email or text in a speedy manner as well.

g) I feel that the Area does an excellent job at helping groups, and districts, carry the message in correctional facilities. However, I feel that the Area could do more to help the others. I know that the Area is there to help Districts and Treatment Committees, but I feel that the Area could be more proactive in assisting. I feel the Area does an excellent job of making sure that Area Assemblies have Grapevine literature, but I feel that more can be done to help attract members to the Grapevine. I cannot honestly say if the Area does its fair share of helping the General Service Office because I have not heard any update one way or another.

h) District-yes
Grapevine-kind of
GSO- yes
Corrections/treatment- no

i) Seems like it.

j) We could do much better.

k) Yes.

l) I am unaware of any direct support provided by Area 21 to District 12 in any of these ways.

m) I am not sure if Districts know to ask the Area for help. I would say that we could do better at communicating to the districts.

n) This is an area we could improve on. It is a two-way street. Districts need to be talking and communicating more with Area about what needs are. In District 12 we are often short of funds and could use assistance with things like literature and CPC. It would be great if Area more actively worked with districts to do things together. Joint projects. Districts could qualify for financial and work support from Area if they are working together on an outreach project for instance.

o) No, our District in the past has needed help from Area with Vacant Chairs and was told that wasn't the purpose of Area, as well the Archivist in Area said that they don't need any information on our District, even though our District has proved it has a very rich history. We could use service manuals, or other ways of attending the Area Assemblies since geographically not everyone can travel that far for an assembly.

p) Short Answer: This is not (entirely) up to the Area.

Thoughts and Suggestions, Question 6:

While Area can make DCMs and GSRs aware of what our Area has to offer, it is up to the Districts as to whether they avail themselves of those services. Having said that, one crucial element of this is the selection of the Area Committee Chairs since they are the people who will be primarily responsible for a workshop presented in a given District. I believe the most critical of these positions is that of GSR Workshop Chair, since that person is the one GSRs will interact with most at Area Assemblies, and from whom they might receive additional information and experience from if a GSR Workshop is held in their District or vicinity. Accordingly, in my opinion, *great care must be taken* in choosing the person who will serve the Area in this capacity. Bill Wilson is said to have stated that GSR is the most important Service position in the General Service Structure. In my individual opinion, Area 21 has not always demonstrated the utmost diligence in selecting these trusted servants.

q) This I cannot speak intelligently on except to say extending meeting into corrections seems to be more difficult than it should be. It seems that funding is available but working it into the budget as an ongoing service is troublesome.

r) We seem to have an excess of funds that should help the District more. A good attempt has been made to be involved more by Jacksonville groups to corrections & treatment. Hope more can be done.

s) They are always glad to help, it seems.

t) Again, "fair" and "helping" can be defined differently by different people. The Area has offered the time of the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to host workshops at any District that requests one. The Area supports the Grapevine is supported through literature sales at each Assembly, but also by the work of the Grapevine Committee. Did Area in 2019 make a contribution to G.S.O.; I am not certain? There are standing Area committees for Corrections and Treatment and I think they have contacted districts to identify meetings in treatment centers and correctional facilities and contacts for those meetings in order to offer help if it is requested. That's a pretty good effort on the part of Area.