

District 7 Inventory Mid Panel 74 (2024 – 2025)

Why is a District Inventory important? A District takes an inventory to see if they are meeting the needs of the A.A. Groups, General Service Representatives (“GSR”) and the purpose to which they are to serve. An inventory allows a District to identify what has been effective and consider areas of improvement.

The inventory questions focus on reviewing these basic ideas:

- ⇒ Are we fulfilling the basic purpose of the District?
- ⇒ Are we fulfilling the basic purpose of the District Committee?
- ⇒ Are we fulfilling the basic purpose of the District Meetings?

Who Participated? All present District 7 Voting Members and Alternates (GSRs, Alternates GSRs, District 7 Officers, Committee Chairs and Website Chair) were asked to actively participate.

All A.A. Members in District 7 were welcome to attend as observers. We encouraged for District 7 non-voting AA members to provide feedback/suggestions to their Group GSR (or Alt GSR).

Inventory Date: August 17th 2024

Inventory Questions:

- Inventory questions were made available for several months to all District 7 A.A. Members
- We asked for all to give each of the questions thoughtful contemplation and to have answers available the day of the inventory

Day of Inventory:

- Our Facilitator read the questions one at a time.
- Each participant was given the opportunity to share once per question for 1 minute.
- A scribe took the sense of the responses for identifying main points shared.
- Submission for review to an ad hoc committee and for presentation to the District.

Facilitator: *Southwest Area 68 - Alternate Area Chair*

Scribe: *District 7 District Committee Members – DCM*

Time Keeper: *Southwest Area 68 - Past Area Delegate*

Questions regarding the Inventory? Tahtianna F: District7@aa-swta.org or Call/Text: 214.683.1381

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1. How effective are we in communicating within our groups?

Thoughts to consider:

- Do all our Group A.A. members know about district meetings and the opportunity to attend?
- How well are our groups informed about what is happening in A.A. as a whole?
- How well does information flow between the Groups, the District, and the Area?
- Is our District 7 Website effective? What additional information/changes would improve effectiveness?

Areas identified as effective:

- GSRs receive a lot of information via the DCM
- Information is made available through the District 7 website and is being regularly updated
- Sentiment of good participation

Areas identified for improvement:

- District 7 Website: White font color used on the website is not user friendly

Recommendations:

- Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee in January 2025 to review the hosting and platform of the District 7 website.

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2. Do new GSR's stay with us, or does turnover and missed meetings seem excessive?

Areas identified as effective:

- Strong A.A. community
- Communication between groups seems good for groups in the same immediate geographic location
- Available resources and information have improved
- Jumped into being a GSR to learn – there is much to absorb as a new GSR

Areas identified for improvement:

- Last few years there has been a noticeable lack of rotation
- Several current GSRs did not rotate off from the last panel due to group members not interested in the GSR position
- Appears to be a struggle in smaller towns for participation as GSRs
- Focus needed on how to encourage participation within the A.A. Groups
- Struggles with filling GSR and Alternate GSR positions due to the small number of core home group members
- As a brand new Alternate GSR (mid-panel) – desire expressed for needing a checklist and resources
- Improvement needed with communication between groups that are not in the same immediate geographic location

Recommendations:

- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Hold informal sharing session on service in the Group and District: Roundtable, Q&A, etc.
- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - GSR/Service Positions/Elections – Hold a Workshop/Sharing Session
 - In early August 2025 due to Group GSR and District elections are suggested to be held in September
- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - GSR packet created by District 7 for January 2024 workshop - Provide the packet to GSRs/Alt GSRs coming in after the beginning of Panel (Include contacts for District 7)
 - Follow up directly via phone or offer to meet in person
- District 7 Committee and GSRs:
 - Share the spiritual importance on the principle of rotation:
 - Importance of not being in the same position for multiple rotations
 - Self-Support within the groups involves service
 - Share positive feedback, passion and attraction for service in the Home Group
 - Bring Group members to a District meeting for their exposure and understanding
- District 7 Committee and GSRs:

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- Announcements at the AA Group meetings encouraging attendance to Service Events for learning and experiencing more about A.A.
- District 7 Committee:
 - Re-envision the current documented policy of having a 30 minute AA Service Manual Study prior to each District meeting.
- District 7 Committee:
 - Consistency in visits to all AA Groups in the District 7 geographical area

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3. How effectively do we support the GSRs?

Thoughts to consider:

- Do we adequately inform GSRs so they can communicate relevant A.A. information to the groups?
- Is enough effort made to explain the value and purpose of a GSR?
- Do we provide sufficient availability to help individual GSRs and their Groups?
- Is enough effort been made to explain the value of Unity (Traditions) and Service (Concepts)?

Areas identified as effective:

- Improvement seen in communication, structure, consistency and availability
- GSRs are provided with printable reports, announcements and information to bring back to their groups
- GSR Orientation provided in January 2024 was very beneficial with several documents provided
- It starts with the Groups via the GSRs
- Well informed on ongoings from various service entities

Areas identified for improvement:

- Desire identified for GSRs to visit other groups within the entire geography of District 7
- GSRs to better inform the groups of information being shared
- Expand meeting presence in outlying groups – improving communication
- Many groups are still struggling from the impact of 2020 – lack of home group members

Recommendations:

- District 7 Committee:
 - Trial: organize a plan to schedule for District to notify GSRs (and any interested AA members) when District Committee members will be visiting other groups.

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4. Are Officers and Standing Committee Chairs elected with care and consideration on the basis that being a District Trusted Servant is a great responsibility?

Thoughts to Consider:

- Do we define well the scope of authority and service responsibility of our District Committee, by specific job descriptions or guidelines?
- Are the elected District Officers and Standing Committee Chairs effective in serving?

Areas identified as effective:

- Committee Chair expressed a clear understanding up front of how this District differs from others
- Committee Chair expressed assistance from a previous Committee Chair has been helpful

Areas identified for improvement:

- Policies and Procedures document for District 7 needs to be reviewed for current practice, clarity of service, financials and reorganizing the layout of the document – examples:
 - Documenting actual current practices and reviewing practice not in place
 - Trusted Servant responsibilities and descriptions need to better define expectations and duties, review for any sobriety requirements, and previous service experience
 - Financial impacts need to be reviewed and organized in the document
- Importance of attending workshops in our District, Area and in other Districts

Recommendations:

- Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to review potential change recommendations of the District 7 Policies and Procedures document – considering:
 - Panel Rotation needs for incoming/outgoing trusted servants
 - Responsibilities and descriptions of service positions
 - Current practices and/or practices no longer taking place
 - Financial procedures and clarification for use of available funds

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5. Are we “self-supporting” through Group contributions?

Thoughts to consider:

- Do we operate on a prudent financial principle?
- Is our District effective in both accounting for and reporting of funds?

Areas identified as effective:

- It is felt that the Groups have increased contributions to all entities
- Group has grown and has been able to increase contributions
- We are self-supporting
- Currently focused on maintain the Group Prudent Reserve and sending GSR to assemblies
- A Group started offering method for electronic contributions

Areas identified for improvement:

- None presented

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6. How well do we convey the responsibility to practice the Seventh Tradition within our groups, our district, our area, and to A.A. as a whole?

Areas identified as effective:

- Group treasurer reports during the Business Meeting/Group Conscience
- District 7 Treasurer recently attended a Group Business meeting to answer questions about the Area 68 Fall Assembly and Conference costs
- Group has a minimum reserve and tries to be as cost efficient as possible

Areas identified for improvement:

- Depending on who is chairing the Group AA meeting, they may advise what the money is being used for – need to improve consistency among those chairing meetings
- Can do better in explaining the importance of the 7th Traditions
- Sometimes we take it for granted that everyone knows why the 7th Tradition is important
- There appears to be miscommunication within the various groups when money is being discussed at District
- We can better share on what else the money is used for
- No recognized schedule for the Group to review Contributions

Recommendations:

- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Sharing with new GSRs and new District committee members the spiritual side of the 7th Tradition

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7. Are District meetings informative, enthusiastic and effective in serving the district?

Areas identified as effective:

- Appreciates the information being shared from the District
- Information is being readily made available for GSRs to gather an informed Group Conscience
- DCM offers to hold separate meetings via zoom to share on information GSRs need to take action on with the Groups
- As a business meeting, District 7 meetings are structured and effective

Areas identified for improvement:

- Need to improve in adding enthusiasm during District 7 meetings
- Too well informed

Recommendations:

- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Trial: When the Meeting Agenda allows flexibility, implement sharing sessions on Traditions, Concepts or from Service Literature

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8. Are we mindful of the right of decision and the right of participation when we conduct District business?

Thoughts to consider:

- Do we offer ample opportunities for participation and discussion at monthly District meetings?
- Do we support arriving at an actual voice and effective conscience for our whole District?
- Are all important decisions reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity?

Areas identified as effective:

- Opportunity is available and ample time is provided to review upcoming business and hold a thorough discussion
- Receiving clarity on what needs to be taken back to the Group and gathering a vote
- Communication from the District is ample and does not feel suppressed in sharing during the discussions at a District meeting

Areas identified for improvement:

- Need to review and share with the GSRs and District Committee the 12 Concepts – how do they apply in the Group, District and Area
- Consideration in also sharing the “Right of...” within the Groups (participation, decision and appeal)
- Additional sharing with the GSRs on what to take back to their Group for information and/or voting needs
- When there is new business, suggestion to shorten other parts of the Agenda and allocate that time to discussion

Recommendations:

- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Identify Concepts - “Right of...” (Participation, Decision and Appeal) as we are addressing Business items
- GSRs:
 - As GSRs are being equipped with learning the Principles in District, sharing and encouraging practice in the A.A. Group Conscience/Business Meeting

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9. Do we provide ample time to review and prepare for the district meetings?

Thoughts to consider:

- Is our communication for business matters clear and concise?
- Is our Agenda and related documents organized and effective?
- Are reports and meeting minutes of benefit?

Areas identified as effective:

- Reports are effective
- Ample time provided to review and ask questions – consistent in offering to GSRs review with the Group, or direct via phone, zoom, in person one-on-one meetings
- Treasurer report is efficient

Areas identified for improvement:

- Delay of review by individuals may be causing some to be uniformed or misinformed

Recommendations:

- None presented

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Any additional areas of improvement not previously mentioned:

10. What is your vision for how we can better fulfill our purpose as a District?

Thoughts to consider:

- What more can we do to unify our District and better serve the groups?
- What additional activities can our District engage in, to support carrying the A.A. message?

Areas identified for improvement:

- Individual Group members reaching out to individuals that no longer appear to be coming to meetings
- Encourage for GSRs and AA members to visit other groups outside of their own home group and geographic location within District 7
- Struggling to reach other groups: Need “Team Building” and “let’s get to know each other” type events
- Host fellowship type events: to bring people together and show newcomers how to live sober
- DCM wants to hear back from the District 7 Groups on what type/topics of Service Workshops are desired for the District to hold in 2025
- Committee Chairs to identify how to better engage in showing “what we do” vs simply holding committee meetings – example only: Interactive workshop for PI and CPC with example skits
- Gathering a conscience during a group Business meeting/Group Conscience meeting is not effective as there is low attendance – perhaps asking during the general AA meetings being held and making the time to address the topics or voting needs
- One-on-one asking individuals to attend the Business Meeting/Group Conscience
- What are the questions/responses of AA members regarding getting involved in Service, District and attending workshops

Recommendations:

- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Stress the importance and desire to hear from the Groups on Workshops to be held in 2025. Ask, if possible, for the Group to vote on a Topic.
- District 7 DCM/Alt DCM:
 - Develop and disseminate widely: Questionnaire to all A.A. members – How can District 7 better serve the A.A. Groups?

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11. Are you willing to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee in September/October? Review the inventory results and offer suggestions for the next year of the Panel (*Suggestions to then be e-mailed out to all and reviewed during November 2024 District Meeting*)?

8 attendees confirmed willingness:

- Three (3) General Service Representatives (1 Port Lavaca, TX & 2 Victoria, TX)
- Two (2) District 7 Committee Chairs
- Three (3) District 7 Officers

Actual Ad Hoc Committee consisted of:

- Two (2) GSRs
- One (1) District 7 Committee Chair
- Three (3) District 7 Officers