Group Inventory Summary 2017. Notes in RED by Al. January 2018

Group 1 Suggestions

1a. It would be helpful to have Step presentations in addition to 1st Steps.

2c. On occasion people ask questions/give feedback during or following a 1st step presentation which may be inappropriate.

3b. The group felt that having Mini 1st steps by people of similar age as newcomer would be helpful. Also, having 3 - 4 people take the newcomer to another room for the mini 1st steps may be a consideration (This is done in many AA Groups so that the whole meeting for everyone is not consumed by the mini 1st steps)Recent newcomers replied that being taken out of the group would have felt threatening.

3c. Sponsors.We need work/help in this area. Ideas: a) Periodic meetings on Sponsorship - requirements; expectations; resources, etc. b) Sponsor Packet c) Sponsor training session.

5a. See 3c

5e. Some people do not take medallions  (or have taken only a Desire Chip). Consideration might be given to modifying the wording  from "the latest chip you received"to "the length of your sobriety" We added this sentence.

6a. Meeting topics which should routinely be discussed: a) Circles b) Working the steps

6c. a) Urgent needs to share  - consideration should be given to doing these immediately as opposed to after other topics This has been added to our meeting. b) people ought to be encouraged to contact other members for support more often. c) Remember to raise your hand if a share is too graphic and/or triggers you. d)reminder of guidelines - a male member asking a female member to talk in private is inappropriate behavior.

6c. Fellowship outside the meeting was suggested.

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Group 2 Suggestions.

1. We could discuss our experience in living the steps more frequently.
2. We need more active sponsors, both temporary and permanent sponsors.
3. We should clarify the role of a temporary sponsor.Are there members who do not have a sponsor but want to have one?
4. It would be helpful to designate a greeter for each evening to welcome people to their first meeting.
5. We need to improve the ways we help new members identify the persons who are willing to serve as sponsors. We need to be sensitive to concerns about diversity in race, religion, and gender. Are we inclusive enough?
6. Would it be helpful to have a women’s only meeting in the next room?
7. When a person needs support, how do we help them identify the people to call who can give them effective support?

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Group 3 Suggestions

1a: The steps are being discussed in the group, but more could be done. Two suggestions: 1) frame a share in terms of a step. A person could say “My experience with the fourth step is x, y, and z.” 2) Have a second week where a step is the lead topic. The group could read the step the first week, then go home and think about it, and then at the next meeting have discussion of what you did or thought.

1b: We give enough time.

1c: We do not emphasize step practice enough. Emphasis on steps would be better if there were sponsors.

2a: For the most part principles are kept over personalities, but there have been a few occasions where people have stepped over lines.

2b: Financial support is good.

2c: Anonymity is not a problem. People who have run into others outside of the meeting have never had any issues over meetings or chance encounters.

3a: 12 steps calls are answered in a timely fashion. Other volunteers for the phone contact could be used.

3b: Newcomers seem to be looked after pretty well, discussed whether or not there needs to be a permanent newcomer welcome position.

3c: We need to do more about sponsorship, whether temporary or permanent. A seminar on sponsorship, talking about how-to or who is eligible?

4: We could create a list of professional counselors that deal with sex addition and mail contact information so they can easily refer clients to our meetings.

5. Tools are good.

6. Did not really discuss.

7b: We used to meet at Hilltop after meeting. It would be nice to do this or other gathering before or after. Example of the Bristol group. A member volunteered to host 6 p.m. dinner at HillTop on Monday nights.

8: PADS not so much a problem anymore. But space is small. Do we need to split off and have a second Monday night meeting elsewhere?