



To All Trusted Servants in Southwest Ohio Area 56:

We absolutely insist on enjoying life and we hope you will join us on Sunday August 19 at 2:00 pm. Please help us take our inventory! We want to explore how we can better serve you and how we can better serve the still suffering alcoholic.

Only one hour has been allotted for this process so please take some time to review the questions in advance. Let's make every minute count! As you can see, the questions are divided into five topics. We will have five tables, one for each topic and everyone can move around to various tables as they choose. Each topic table will be facilitated by a trusted servant from another General Service Area and will have a recorder. This is also a great time to study *The A.A. Service Manual* combined with *Twelve Concepts for World Service* (available free online [www.aaarea56.org](http://www.aaarea56.org)), *A.A. Comes of Age*, *Language of the Heart*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and our *Area Handbook* (available free online [www.aaarea56.org](http://www.aaarea56.org)). Below is a list of guidelines for our inventory process:

- No decisions will be made. The inventory itself is not a business meeting (decisions should be made at a regularly scheduled business meeting by the entire assembly where appropriate).
- A consensus is possible but not necessary.
- Group agrees to keep facilitator in their role.
- Check your titles at the door.
- All members agree to work together to complete the agenda.
- Members do not interrupt when someone else is talking.
- Members agree to raise their hand to be recognized.
- Members limit their sharing so all can participate.
- There is no such thing as a bad opinion.
- Members agree to treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Members agree to keep A.A.'s primary purpose upper most in mind at all times.
- This is not a forum for cross table debate or finger pointing; we will discuss principles not personalities and our stories will disclose "in a general way"
- "Love and tolerance is our code"

**"Not one of us is given a big enough torch to lead the drunks of the world out of darkness and into the light. Instead, each of us has been given a candle that burns for a short while with a flickering flame. If we stand together, the light will outshine the greatest torch. If we argue and bicker and blow at each other's candle so that each of us starts shielding our own little flame, then the alcoholics of the world will continue to suffer in darkness and so will we."**

Come and share your experience, strength and hope and help Area 56 better carry the message of our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

Yours in love and service,

Mary S.  
Delegate

## Southwest Ohio Area 56 Inventory

### Service Structure

1. What can be done to improve Area Assemblies and Area Committee meetings? (Frequency and length of meetings and assemblies, conduct of Area meetings and assemblies, program/agendas for meetings and assemblies)
2. Does the Area's process for handling AA business consistently provide a fully informed group conscience?
3. When Area decisions are made, is there correct balance between the group conscience and AA's traditional "Right of Decision"?
4. Is there proper balance of authority between the Area Committee and the Area Assembly with respect to custodial issues and the detail budget?

### Our Primary Purpose

1. How well is the Area carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic: through our committees: Archives, Audio Video, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, Group Services, Literature, PI/CPC, Treatment Facilities, Website, Workshops?
2. How well is the Area carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic through our officers, DCMs, GSRs?
3. Is our work effective? Do we need to be more/less organized?
4. How well is the Area serving the groups?
5. How can the Area better carry the message of our Legacies of Unity and Service?
6. Did you attend the 51<sup>st</sup> Ohio State Convention? Did you enjoy it? What was your favorite part?

### Trusted Servants

1. Are Area Officers and Standing Committee chairs elected or chosen with care and consideration on the basis that serving is a great responsibility and opportunity for Twelfth Step Work?
2. Are new GSRs fully informed on the members standing for Area office?
3. Do we practice the principle of rotation, or do we revolve in our Area? With officers? Committee chairs? Conference/workshop presenters?
4. When practicing rotation of the Area Committee, are incoming trusted servants fully informed of their responsibilities and provided with the information necessary to serve effectively?
5. Are enough of our past trusted servants staying involved in service to ensure the healthy growth of our Area?
6. Are new GSRs given enough information and support to be effective?
7. Do new GSRs stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why?

### Finance

1. How well are we using contributions to provide services to the groups? The Fellowship? To the still suffering alcoholic?
2. Is our Area incurring unnecessary expenses (e.g., travel, printing, copying, etc.)?
3. Is our Area fully self-supporting? In our use of prudent reserve? When accepting money from sources other than groups and individual members?
4. Does the Area provide Districts and other service entities the opportunity to be fully self-supporting?

### Communication

1. Do all districts feel a part of our Area and receive equal attention and service?
2. Is there cooperation and communication between the Districts in our Area?
3. Does our structure foster communications within AA (i.e., between Groups, Districts, the Area and GSO)?
4. How well do we support and encourage communication between GSRs and their groups?
5. Is there cooperation and communication between the Districts and the Area?