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# NERAASA Takes Its Own Inventory

## FINAL REPORT

February 27, 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

During the 2020 Business Meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire, NERAASA voted to take an inventory of itself. The Northeast Regional Trustee, Francis G., then appointed a geographically diverse committee with 7 members:

Don B. (Co-Chair, P68 A29 Past Delegate)  
Rose S. (Co-Chair, P68 A45 Past Delegate)  
Denise M. (Secretary, P70 A50 Alternate Delegate)  
Bill W. (P66 A48 Past Delegate)  
Margie S. (P69 A60 Past Delegate)  
Alison H. (P70 A61 Alternate Delegate)  
Peter B. (P70 A28 Alternate Delegate)

The committee developed a two-phase approach: Phase I involved the administration of the NERAASA Inventory Questionnaire between December 1, 2020 and January 4, 2021. Phase II included two virtual open discussions for a review of the questionnaire results and a forum for comments, questions, and discussion, held on January 24 and January 27, 2021.

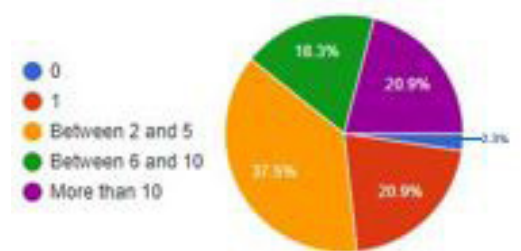
### NERAASA Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup and Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.

## Who responded to the Inventory Questionnaire?

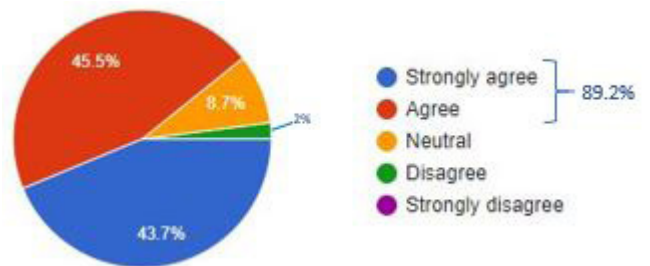
There were 346 responses to the questionnaire in English and 7 in Spanish. A 24% response rate was determined based on the 1470 unique emails of 2019 and 2020 NERAASA registrants to whom the survey was sent directly multiple times. Delegates in the 18 Areas were contacted and asked to encourage participation from members in their Areas, and a link to the survey was positioned on the NERAASA 2021 website.

21% of those who responded to the survey had attended 1 NERAASA. Another 21% had attended over 10 NERAASAs. 129 respondents, or 38%, had attended between 2 and 5. GSRs and their Alternates, combined with DCMs, DCMCs, and Alternates accounted for 47% of the responses (81 GSRs and 80 DCMs). Past Delegates completed 16% of the responses. All 18 Areas of the Northeast Region participated, with the most responses from Area 59, Eastern Pennsylvania



## 1) NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing General Service Conference related issues.

The responses were overwhelmingly positive with 89.2% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement. Only 2% of respondents disagreed, with no respondents strongly disagreeing to the statement. The responses and comments were largely positive and indicated agreement and adherence to the first part of the NERAASA purpose statement. However, the following themes are suggested for further consideration:

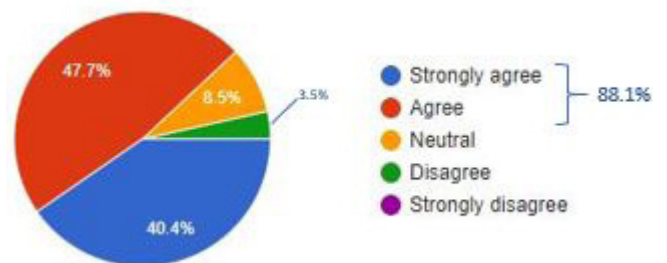


1. There are time limitations, based on
  - a. time available during NERAASA to cover an agenda item in full and have sufficient time for discussion.
  - b. Additionally, there was a limitation based on the time between distribution of final conference agenda items and background, on or around February 15th, and the timing of NERAASA, which is the last full weekend in February, per NERAASA Guidelines. At most, then, there are 10 days between receipt of final Conference Agenda Items and the start of NERAASA.

2. The second main theme was that NERAASA's ability to fulfill the purpose of discussing Conference Related Issues, depends largely on Host committee and how, when and which topics are selected as well as preparation and adherence to the topic by the individual speakers/panelists.

## 2) NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing concerns affecting A.A. as a whole.

The responses were overwhelming positive with 88.1% agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement. Only 3.5% of respondents disagreed, with no respondents strongly disagreeing to the statement. The responses and comments were also largely positive, and indicated agreement and adherence to the second part of the NERAASA purpose statement. However, the following themes are suggested for further consideration:



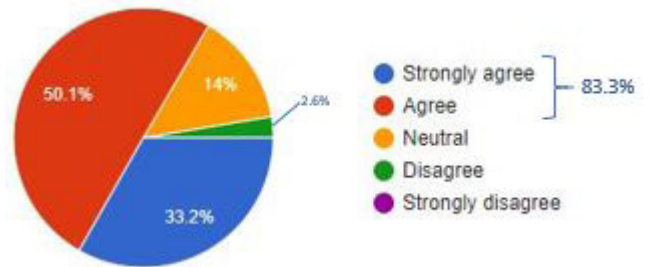
1. Is NERAASA's ability to discuss concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, impeded by the time and focus spent on conference agenda items?
2. Could or should NERAASA as a service assembly, spend more time on items that touch the AA membership as a whole?

3) NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.

343 Responses in English/7 in Spanish

Strongly Agree	33.2%	Neutral	14%	Disagree	2.6%
Agree	<u>50.1%</u>			Strongly disagree	<u>0.0%</u>
	83.3%				2.6%

Despite an 83.3% positive response rate, 12 of the 38 comments pointed out that the focus is mainly on service and A.A. as a whole rather than on issues of recovery and unity within the Northeast Region. A few comments stressed the need for more racial diversity and discussion of special needs. A half dozen comments praised the roundtables while one favored the presentations for fulfilling our purpose. Another pointed out the original NERAASA purpose of preparing our delegates for the Conference. One expressed concern about our Saturday night speaker selection, and another called for 11th Step meditation sessions.

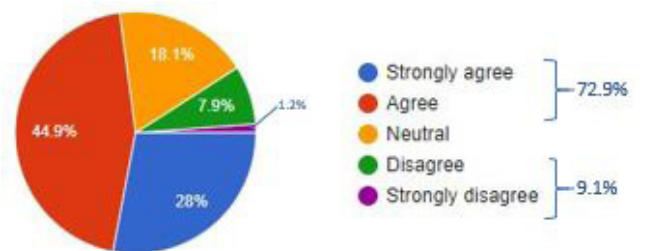


4) The purpose of NERAASA is communicated clearly.

343 Responses in English/7 in Spanish

Strongly Agree	28.0%	Neutral	18.1%	Disagree	7.9%
Agree	<u>44.9%</u>			Strongly disagree	<u>1.2%</u>
	72.9%				9.1%

Even though there was a 72.9% positive response rate, a strong plurality of the 52 comments stressed the need for improvement in this area. The most succinct comments included: “NERAASA clearly fulfills its purpose, but it fails to communicate its purpose clearly.” “The purpose could be clarified and simplified.” “We could do better.” “We have much work to do here.” “You get the best understanding of NERAASA by attending with someone who has been there before.” Suggested improvements included creating a “Bring a Sponsee” program, partnering with local service structures, repeating the “Mission Statement” frequently, and posting a skeleton agenda on the website. The most memorable negative comment called it “Neraasic Park,” because “it’s where the A.A. dinosaurs go.”



## 5) What is YOUR purpose in attending NERAASA?

300 people answered this question and the overwhelming reason given, in one way or the other, was to learn about service and the Conference. Many of the people also mentioned meeting other AAs and AA friends and fellow trusted servants.

The only other answer given was given by some 17 people who simply gave their service position, or in the case of 1 responder who was perhaps more honest than the others, "It was required as an officer of my area."

You can see some representative answers below, with the full record in Appendix (A-5).

1. Learn/connect/have input/share ideas
2. To learn about how to do better service work
3. More information about agenda items
4. To network and learn
5. Awareness of current issues facing AA
6. Gather information to take back to district and home group
7. Meet others in my service position
8. For Conference info and to see friends
9. Get recharged about service

## 6) The service roundtables meet my needs.

We received 342 responses to this. Virtually everyone agreed that the roundtables were important, even one of the most important reasons to come to NERAASA, there were a fairly high number of people who felt they could be improved upon.

The main points raised were:

24 people mentioned that the effectiveness of the roundtables depended on the facilitator, some of whom are not perceived as particularly effective or knowledgeable;

20 people complained about the late hour that the roundtables are held ;

5 people mentioned (they all pertained to the roundtables held for GSRs and DCMs) that the number of people present is too high and the room was too crowded;

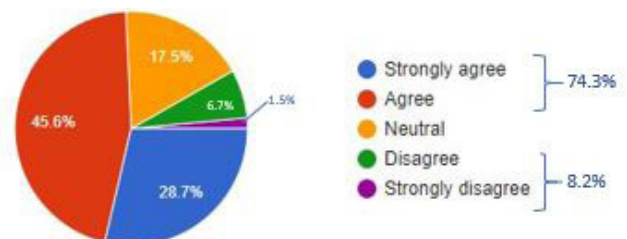
4 people mentioned the need for Spanish translation at the roundtables; and

1 commented that it was impossible to attend more than one of them as they were all at the same time.

A pie chart showing these ideas is given above and all of the comments are available in Appendix (A-6).

Representative comments:

1. Would like to have Roundtables earlier in the day
2. Always excellent!



3. Most years yes, a few years, not so much. The moderator has a strong influence over this.
4. One of my favorite parts of the weekend.
5. GSR and DCM Roundtable on second night may better serve both groups if the sessions are not combined.

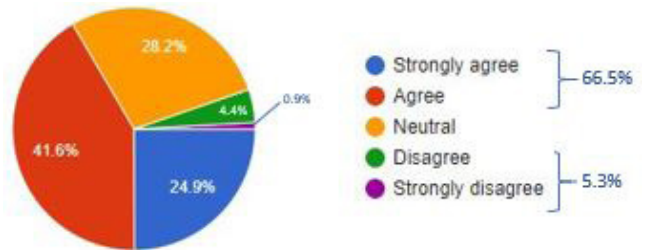
In brief, attendees feel NERAASA is doing a good job in having the roundtables, but future Committees should find some valuable ideas for improvement here.

**7) The NERAASA Business Meeting gives all members the opportunity to participate.**

341 Responses in English/7 in Spanish  
Summary of Comments: (66)

Strongly Agree	14	Neutral	22	Disagree	10
Agree	<u>17</u>			Strongly disagree	<u>03</u>
	31				13

The overall response was positive for this question, although 5.3% felt it needed improvement. 13 of the 66 comments suggested improvements. Many stressed the time limitation, or that they had no interest in attending, or that they felt it was boring. A couple felt it was not a good example of the conference structure and process. As with many other questions many felt there are always personalities that dominate the discussion. Finally a few felt it scared the newcomer.



On the positive side many felt a good job is done with the time allotted and that they look forward to it. Some examples

- One of my favorite parts of NERAASA....it is the opportunity for the newer trusted servants to experience the forming of a large group conscience by embracing our 36 (+6) spiritual principles.
- Translation services are present, and time is given for their use. All who desire to share have an opportunity

Full record of comments in Appendix (A-7).

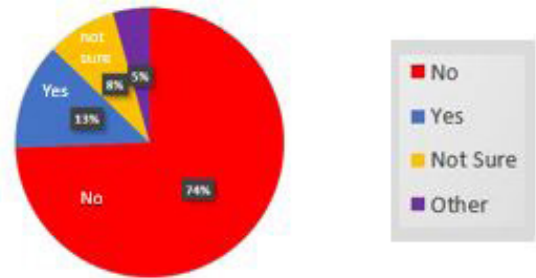
## 8) Should NERAASA have purposes other than those set out in the Guidelines?

203 Responses in English/7 in Spanish

Even though 74% felt there was no need to change the NERAASA Purpose in the guidelines, 26 comments stressed the need for improvement in this area. Some suggestions and comments were:

- Add all AA Members (Said many times)
- Mention Service Roundtables in the Purpose
- Stimulating interest in general service (Said many times)
- Perhaps fostering greater connectivity/interaction/cooperation among the areas of the NE Region
- Eliminate NERD and wrap it into NERAASA. Adjust the Guidelines to state that NERD is part of NERAASA.
- Good idea should be discussed
- What happens at NERAASA is fine but not necessarily indicative of the statement.
- GSO has had a visible presence at NERAASA, is GSO now a part of NERAASA?

Full record of comments in Appendix (A-8).



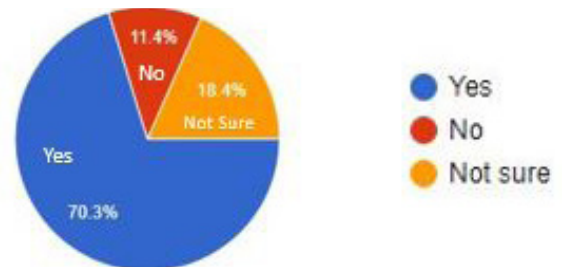
## 9) Does one NERAASA per year meet our needs?

While this question was basically a yes, no, or unsure, there were some comments generated. Many of the comments addressed why or why not attendees thought there should or should not be more than one NERAASA a year. Some comments were strictly about how NERAASA could be improved, which is not the purpose of this question or the subsequent discussion.

Concerning comments included the fact that it seems that even though the purpose of NERAASA is printed on the program, and advertised on the flyer, some members either still don't understand what NERAASA really is, or perhaps the purpose is so broad that attendees do not know what is going to transpire and end up having unfulfilled expectations.

It is also apparent that some attendees may have a limited understanding of how NERAASA happens. Comments indicated that attendees thought NERAASA was more of a "thing" or a "standing institution in the Northeast Region," rather than a rotating committee of annual volunteers.

Many comments expressed the idea of liking multiple NERAASAs or virtual forums throughout the years, such as roundtables, or where area coordinators (and this is already happening with many committees) continue to meet. In line with suggestions for more than one NERAASA per year, one survey respondent





suggested bringing back NERC (Northeast Regional Conference) in the fall. The timing for this event (in the fall) was also suggested in several other comments. These are exciting and admirable ideas, but also beg the question of how would this change the structure of NERAASA as it now stands. Most of the comments in regard to support of a second NERAASA, leaned toward the second session being less about Conference and more about serving the needs of our trusted servants.

There was concern that having more than one NERAASA per year in real time would be both cost and time prohibitive. One comment, which I can only assume comes from a former NERAASA Committee member said, "Try planning two and see who get institutionalized!"

Many comments centered around the fact that AA has changed since our last "in person" NERAASA and advocated doing much more online in the future. While this sounds like a really wonderful idea in this time, when the world goes back to some semblance of normalcy is it reasonable to think that we will all want to be sitting in front of our computers when we can be doing AA service in real time with real people? Minority opinion included that NERAASA is boring and the purpose unclear; and a concern that each Area is autonomous and overindulging in Regional events could have the unintended consequence of homogenizing our viewpoint on complex and/or sensitive matters.

## 10) How can we attract the diversity of our Northeast Regional A.A. membership to NERAASA?

287 of the 342 inventory respondents provided comments to this question.

"Diversity" was defined differently by different members. Some highlighted race, some mentioned gender or sexual orientation, and some our service positions within the fellowship, while others concentrated on linguistic differences, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and A.A. members who also struggled with drug addiction.

The biggest group of respondents (about 95) felt that the best way to increase diversity was through outreach, including more advertising and flyers. Other respondents also felt that this started at the home group level and that GSRs and home group members were responsible for outreach and explanations to any minority members hesitant to attend A.A. Some felt that the problem could be solved by our ability through both outreach and affordability to recruit more DCMs and GSRs to attend NERAASA. Approximately 20 believe NERAASA is a financial hardship and that scholarships would make it possible for more minorities, DCMs and GSRs to attend, while 13 respondents feel that virtual meeting formats have changed everything and that all future NERAASAs should be in a hybrid format (virtual and in-person at the same time).

Approximately 10 respondents believe that we are already doing a good job of attracting a diverse crowd, or that the crowd is diverse as it is.

Several comments claim that the problem is either at the top or at the bottom of the triangle. Some insist that the bottom of the triangle needs to become more diverse so the rest of the fellowship will follow suit, with essentially the same number of comments indicating that the home groups need to become more

diverse by reaching out to minorities.

There were comments indicating that diversity needs to be addressed across the board for the whole fellowship before it can be addressed for NERAASA. One respondent pointed out that the Membership Survey needs to be completed along with many other steps, such as A.A. as a whole understanding our demographics, handling the issue regionally and developing short-, medium- and long-term plans. Is NERAASA collecting demographic information and does the inventory committee have any historical reference points? A few comments called for a special committee spearheaded by minorities. One suggested reaching out to the NAACP for help.

Two minority opinions expressed that NERAASA was boring, and one thought diversity had become a “loaded term” and should be treated as an outside issue. Another comment related that we should “stop trying so hard to be diverse; it is insulting and patronizing to group our members by our differences. Many comments called for more presentations by minorities, more minorities on panels and workshops. Several comments concerned Spanish translations in particular, and one comment indicating concern that members that also suffered from drug addiction were still being made to feel unwelcome. Overall, it seems that a clearer definition of diversity is needed, and we might collect more demographic information from NERAASA attendees.

#### 11) What can we do to ensure that all A.A. members interested in service are able to attend an accessible and affordable NERAASA?

There were 248 responses.

149 said attendees should be subsidized where needed.

100 called for scholarships. Mostly undefined in source, while 49 said that areas, districts and groups should assist their committee members, DCMs and GSRs.

In contrast, only 27 responses indicated that the event was too expensive. Of these, most highlighted lodging cost; a few thought registration was too expensive, and only one complained about the price of meal tickets.

7 people asked about physical accessibility issues: mobility, difficulty hearing, problems with lighting. And just as many complained about travel distance. Some thought that NERAASAs should be held at the edges of the region, some advocated having them all in the center, and one thought the region itself should be split in half.

52 people advocated a Zoom component—either all virtual, or hybrid, or alternating Zoom years with in-person years, or each NERAASA having Zoom and physical events.

7 responses called for better communication in various ways, especially convincing groups of the importance of NERAASA. Only one respondent thought that NERAASA was too elitist, just for service junkies.

## 12) Is there anything you would like to add?

133 responses

46—no; otherwise all over the map, complaining about mic hogs and late-night roundtables.

Some notable comments:

“An inventory of NERAASA is long overdue. This inventory survey is just the start of the inventory process, but the survey results should produce some clearly expressed needs, lead to some policy changes and actions warranted for future improvements.”

“I think it is important we keep NERAASA evolving and growing to meet the needs of AA as a whole.”

“NERAASA awakened me in a way I never expected or could consider. I enjoy it more than conventions or roundups.”

“This ‘inventory’ is more like a survey, and does not lend itself to discussion and the presence of a Higher Power.”

## Virtual Discussion Sessions, January 24 and 27, 2021

### NERAASA Inventory Committee Virtual Discussion Sessions, January 24 and 27, 2021

The Inventory Committee of the North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) held two virtual discussion sessions in a videoconference format on Sunday, January 24, and Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Total attendance including Committee members was 64, representing 15 of the 18 Areas in the Northeast Region. During each session, after introductory remarks, each Committee member gave a short presentation concerning the results of the Inventory survey, and then attendees were invited to make comments on three of the Inventory questions, followed by general discussion. Here is a summary of the remarks given.

#### **Question #6: The service roundtables meet my needs.**

- The GSR/DCM roundtables were so heavily attended that very few people got a chance to speak. The DCMs and GSRs planned to exchange questions, which was of some value. I tried to attend a different roundtable, but I was not permitted to enter because I didn't have the correct service position listed on my badge. Why can't all roundtables be accessible to anyone who wishes to attend them?
- There are too many people in the GSR/DCM roundtables. The facilitator can't hear from enough of them. All we hear are the same complaints and the same comments every year. That's why I went to the Registrar roundtable on the second night, and had a much more rewarding experience. I learned a lot, asked questions, received answers, got much more information.
- The GSR/DCM roundtables have too many people and are too unwieldy. Two years ago it was even worse, because the two were combined on the second night.
- We need to break up the GSR and DCM roundtables into subsets. Why not have one group for 1st year trusted servants, and another group for those in their 2nd year? Otherwise, we deal with the same questions every year, and hear the same lame answers about supplying food and they will come. We need to write down our lessons learned about how to facilitate more participation, so we can provide better solutions to the attendees.
- My biggest disappointment every year is not being able to go to more than one roundtable per night. Why can't a GSR go to a meeting of Area Chairs? We're denying our members an opportunity to learn about service further down the triangle.
- We need to break down the GSRs and DCMs into smaller sections. Why don't we utilize our Delegates and Past Delegates to help facilitate the other roundtables?
- Who gets the most out of the roundtables -- the older or the newer members? Can that information be extracted from the survey results? Past roundtables have spent too much time discussing how they can

## MINUTES FROM VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS

stay in touch after NERAASA. Can't we create a standard pre-set process or guideline for how participants can stay connected?

- Divide the GSRs in half. Be proactive; create a post-NERAASA Google Group. Every facilitator should have served in the position that they are facilitating. I have always gone to any roundtable I chose. I regularly go to the roundtable for the next service position that I'll stand for during elections.
- The GSR roundtable this past year saved my home group. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, I contacted the GSR roundtable group and got lots of help on how to transition to virtual meetings.
- Some facilitators are not very well prepared. This makes for a poor roundtable experience. Facilitating is a skill; facilitators need to be trained to do a good job. Advance preparation makes a big difference. Roundtable sharing is the heart of the NERAASA experience, so we should make sure our facilitators know what they are doing.
- Due to excellent facilitator preparation, the Corrections roundtables were extraordinary for the past two years. There's never enough time to attend everything I'd like to attend. I don't complain about the lateness of the roundtables, because I used to drink late at night.
- The question was asked whether the NERAASA Guidelines call for roundtable facilitators to be Past Delegates. The answer was no, nothing in the Guidelines addresses roundtable facilitators.
- The lateness of the service roundtables has always been the main complaint. Some prefer to sleep.
- We could stress the importance of the roundtables by scheduling them earlier. If the need has been expressed, why not publish it in the Guidelines?
- Roundtables have been held in the afternoon during past NERAASAs. We should return to that practice.
- The roundtables are the most valuable part of NERAASA. I was able to take a lot of great information back to our groups. At the DCM roundtable, though, a lot of people said the same thing, so there were not a lot of different opinions. We had promised to share questions and answers back and forth between GSRs and DCMs, but that promise was not delivered until after the weekend was over, when something was emailed.

### **Question 10: How can we attract the diversity of our Northeast Regional A.A. membership to NERAASA?**

- We need more diversity in the rooms. Despite making up a significant percent of the population, I rarely see more than one or two People of Color in any of my local A.A. meetings.
- A.A. has tons of problems with diversity, even though some of our groups are very diverse. Both the top

and the bottom of our service triangle need to become more diverse, so we need to stop waiting for the other end of the triangle to take action, and get something done wherever we are.

- I am responsible to reach out and invite People of Color and members of all demographic groups to get involved in service. As a trusted servant in general service, I represent and serve everyone in A.A.
- All recovery is local. We need to do more than make lists; we need to take specific local actions. We need to identify by home group and district what diversity and accessibility needs exist. Are meetings virtual or face to face? Do members need ASL? Closed captioning? Spanish language? Do we reach out to people who aren't going to meetings?
- How can we attract diverse populations? I have personal experience with accessibility issues when I was unable to walk up or down stairs. We need to visit the meetings in each district to determine their accessibility needs, then take action to improve the situation. This requires boots on the ground. We can divide the district and send each committee member to several meetings. This issue goes far beyond physical access, language translation, or hearing impairment, but we must start somewhere.
- Diversity is too broad a word. It includes physical access, LGBTQ, POC, language, and much more. Are we being all-inclusive? We have much to learn from how other countries are dealing with such issues.
- We are talking about two completely different conversations here: (1) Does A.A. as a whole attract a diverse membership? (2) Do we reflect the diversity of our Northeast Region at NERAASA? Tracking diversity is not a regional responsibility, but the responsibility of our fellowship, meetings, and districts.
- What are we doing now that doesn't attract people? What do we do that offends people?
- We need to slow down the pace of the discussions in order to facilitate Spanish language interpretation. Unless we slow down, we discourage participation by Spanish speakers.

### **Question #11: What can we do to ensure that all A.A. members interested in service are able to attend an accessible and affordable NERAASA?**

- NERAASA is a wonderful opportunity to provide information to our members, groups, districts, counties, etc. about just how inspirational NERAASA is. We need to tell people how NERAASA teaches someone how to be a better GSR (or whatever). We need to educate people that groups should send their GSRs to NERAASA.
- It is not the responsibility of NERAASA, but of the groups, districts, and areas to make sure their trusted servants are able to afford, access, and attend NERAASA. Every group should make it a priority to send their GSR. Distance or technology should not be an issue. If a GSR or DCM demonstrates their commitment to service, they should be funded to attend. Create a committee with a goal of carrying the A.A. message locally and attending the regional service assembly together.

## MINUTES FROM VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS

- NERAASA is an incredibly well-attended event. Each Area should support funding to send people. In the past, our Area gave each committee chair \$150 towards NERAASA expenses. This year, that amount can fund seven people to attend virtually. The roundtables set me on fire for service.
- You probably can't make NERAASA any more accessible or affordable. Why are we charging people \$21 this year just to turn on their computer? Past Delegates should be seen and not heard.
- The virtual format in 2021 makes NERAASA much more affordable. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to work through our fears of anonymity issues, etc. on virtual meeting platforms. Physical attendance in 2019 and 2020 cost as much as \$400 for many attendees. The inventory results are not accurate because they are based on past in-person events. This year's cost of \$21 and digital format makes NERAASA 2021 much more affordable and accessible. We should be asking this question next year, not now.
- Our district is sending all GSRs to NERAASA this year. Our monthly Area Committee Meetings and Officer Meetings are all going hybrid this year. Why can't we do that for future NERAASAs, too? In this time of change, we can be making history.
- We want to hold NERAASA at the best venue available, but the cost becomes prohibitive for some people. Why not look for more affordable accommodations, such as a retreat house?
- We encourage people to share lodging if possible. In continental Europe, they have taken over a hostel for a weekend.
- The cost of lodging and meals is not too prohibitive, but airfare and other travel expenses get costly. After a long day, we want to stay somewhere comfortable. Unless your area is hosting, the travel can't be avoided.
- People are not obliged to stay in the host hotel. There are always more affordable facilities nearby, many of them pet-friendly.
- In the spirit of rotation, the Northeast Regional Delegates at the General Service Conference consider bids submitted by the different areas and make host selections based on a number of factors including how recently an area has hosted NERAASA, proximity to air, rail, and public transportation, hotel and meal costs, etc. Other regions simply rotate equally among their areas.
- Attendees can stay together to share costs. Most areas, many districts, and even some groups help subsidize their attendees.
- NERAASA has gotten too big to permit rotation among all 18 areas of the Northeast. There is a requirement for big hotels with access to interstate transportation. The hotels get sold out relatively quickly. Some areas simply do not have the hotel capacity to host NERAASA.

## MINUTES FROM VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS

- Are we making a problem where there really isn't one? Many service entities give scholarships or stipends. Any member who really wants to attend can usually find a way to do so.
- It's expensive to get from some parts of the Northeast Region to other parts. Is the hosting venue close to an airport? Is an airport shuttle available? If not, does the host committee pick up and drop off people at the airport?
- Being at one of the outer edges of the region, we attend NERAASA when it is nearby, but have very low participation when NERAASA is far away.

### **General Comments and Discussion:**

- NERAASA is all about service. The term "service junkie" is very judgmental, so I don't use it. In our Area, we have lots of fellowship, recovery, and service-related activities. We need this big service meeting for those interested in service.
- Both in-person and virtual meeting options have something to offer. NERAASA could offer both. Why don't we have pamphlets or other literature about NERAASA or other regional service assemblies?
- I strongly disagree that the purpose of NERAASA is communicated clearly. We need to do much more to get the word out about what NERAASA is. We need to generate interest in NERAASA, especially among GSRs. I "caught fire" because I was so excited to attend NERAASA. Perhaps we could offer digital transcripts of the sessions and speakers. The price of CDs is so high that only Archives can afford to purchase them.
- Several comments called NERAASA "boring." Nothing at NERAASA is boring to me, but what is boring to others, and why? Are people bored only at the Business Meeting? Do we have too many sessions where people come to the mic and say the same things?
- The Committee did a great job and asked all the right questions.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NERAASA Inventory Committee is grateful for the efforts and talents of the following trusted servants:

Jeff B., Panel 69 Area 44 Past Delegate, NERAASA 2021 Virtual Host Committee Chair

Felix E., Area 44, Spanish Interpretation and Translation

Francis G., North East Regional Trustee

Jon M., Area 60, NERAASA Alternate Webmaster

Sandra P., Area 44, Spanish Interpretation

Terry P., Area 29, NERAASA Webmaster

Javier R., Area 13, Spanish Translation

Adelaida S., Area 13, Spanish Translation

AND AREA 44 N-NJ for the use of its Zoom account

# APPENDIX A

Each of the following sub-appendices contains the complete comments for the question listed.

- A-1: NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing General Service Conference related issues.
- A-2: NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing concerns affecting A.A. as a whole.
- A-3: NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.
- A-4: The purpose of NERAASA is communicated clearly.
- A-5: What is YOUR purpose in attending NERAASA?
- A-6: The service roundtables meet my needs.
- A-7: The NERAASA Business Meeting gives all members the opportunity to participate.
- A-8: Should NERAASA have purposes other than those set out in the Guidelines?
- A-9: Does one NERAASA per year meet our needs?
- A-10: How can we attract the diversity of our Northeast Regional A.A. membership to NERAASA?
- A-11: What can we do to ensure that all A.A. members interested in service are able to attend an accessible and affordable NERAASA?
- A-12: Is there anything you would like to add?

# APPENDIX A- 1

## COMMENTS

### A- 1: NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing General Service Conference related issues.

- They determine to be tone Deaf!
- Time limitations preclude discussion on all issues.
- I usually feel so informed after NERAASA. It really depends on the speakers and how they have prepared.
- NERAASA has lit the fire for service for me
- I think NERAASA does a great job in the available time.
- NERAASA needs to be careful we are not creating blocks votes of GSC issues
- Certain topics seem to have more time for comment after the panel presentation. The topics with shorter time for questions and comments seem to be to big hot topics.
- The NERAASA agenda is set before the Conference Final Agenda has been released, so some of the hottest topics end up not being discussed.
- Due to the short time between the Conference Agenda and NERAASA it makes it difficult to cover all the agenda items.
- My only concern is having Delegates present to discuss/ form opinions ahead of conference.
- I disagree simply based on timing. The conference agenda comes out the week prior to NERAASA. This requires filters to manage the information flow. I admit I don't know that I have a solution given the current constraints of the Trustees Agenda Committee and GSO Staff
- I like the way the topics are preseted without dicussing the specific motions.
- I'd like to see us frame our presentations more as "background material", rather than discussion/views on agenda items. I believe it would be respectful/inclusive of some AAs' views that I've heard.
- Items presented are pertinent to our region but not necessarily on the GSC agenda.
- all the issues for the most part were presented with great clarity and it was very informative
- the repetition from the floor mics is difficult, and terribly time consuming, as is the lack of knowledge of Traditions.
- They could use some work on that. Panels are not always on agenda items which given the timing of NERAASA I think it should be.
- It's like the super bowl, wrestlemania, and the indy 500 when it comes to service work. Yip!Yip!
- Too many presentations . There are very few conference items of import. Conference is over blown.
- New topic, new article's, what is new in AA
- there are times when no Conference are discussed
- I'm always looking to be as informed on AA issues as possible. I seem to get that at NERAASA. I like to find out where I've wrong.
- Popular topics often are not a focus . Perhaps a pre Conference fellowship ( not delegate/trustee ) survey should be taken to choose at least one popular interest topic
- Too many presentations . There are very few conference items of import. Conference is over blown.
- I gained so much information at Nerassa. It was easy to pass on to my district.
- Sometimes, but not always.
- There's never enough time! We need a longer NERAASA weekend to fulfill its purpose of discussing GSC related issues.
- None
- I was so impressed with NERAASA 2019, my first one. There was open discussion of issues that in other AA venues seem to be shut down immediately as too controversial. I had been feeling discouraged about AA's growing conservatism over my 30 years of sobriety, and this gave me great hope.
- None
- NERAASA fulfills its purposes of discussing GSC related issues ... as the organizers define those issues, not necessarily as how the groups and members define them.
- While NERAASA has been pigeon holed into discussing agenda items. This is not indicative of ALL General Service Conference related issues. More leeway should be allowed to discuss items such as how the board is preforming, being transparent, and reporting to the fellowship.
- We need more on Seventh Tradition please, information
- This depends very much on the host committee and well-researched presentations.
- NERAASA oversteps by inferring that all areas need to do service the same way. (With inner groups and small districts)

- Already completed survey
- I have been at some panels that did not do that. And of course the round tables do not do that.
- GREAT INFORMATION DISPLAED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS.
- Is not as current as it could be
- Because preliminary conference agenda items are available (even if only in a short period of time) this is covered well. Would like to see more of the “Policy and Admissions, Agenda, Trustee and Report and Charter Committee” items covered at NERAA-SA. Unsure of what mechanism the NERAASA host committee uses to secure topics for discussion related to all areas of the NE Region and or AA as a whole but generally think this is handled well also.
- Some years more than others
- Those who are speakers on each topic, sometimes the speaker gets up and says “oh I didn’t do my homework or prepare a speech” They are doing a disservice to the AA Member. There should be an Alternate Speaker to ensure there is a prepared and informative speech given at NERAASA. We must remember we are a direct reflection of AA. Though we ought never be organized however some of us travel 10+ hours for NERAASA and would appreciate the speakers who volunteer to give an honest effort.
- That’s a somewhat agree. Since my first NERASSA in 2008, where it was completely true, it seems to have strayed from that somewhat.
- Depending on the program agenda
- NERAASA is and has been a perfect platform to do this.
- For the most part this is true but it is up to each Host committee to determine which GSC items to include. Some Host Areas do this better than others. For example, NERAASA 2020 in New Hampshire did an excellent job as did Area 44 Norther NJ in 2015 when we hosted NERAASA
- I love NERAASA
- It is not as well known as it should be. Groups do not have a strong GSR. Or they do not want to listen.
- A wide range of related issues are discussed and the opportunity to express and hear many opinions is available.
- I did not put strongly agree as it does fulfill that purpose however it does much more and I wouldn’t consider it the main purpose.
- I went home with so much information through the Meeting , Workshops, Round table, and Lots Lots of Literature.
- While presentations are useful, the agenda items are nuanced, hence the need for background material. Not sure the solution, but think about how more background on the presentations can be provided. Perhaps “pre-reads” for registered people?
- This should always be the main concern of NERAASA.
- Depends on the host committee
- Though logistically challenging, it would be preferable for the Host Program Committee to poll all the Region Delegates when identifying General Service Conference items of mutual interest to the Region.

# APPENDIX A- 2

## COMMENTS

A-2 : NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing concerns affecting A.A. as a whole.

- They segregate all of us.
- When there are topics that merit such discussion.
- There is much discussion on conference items, however there is so much more going on in AA that never makes it to conference and reflects the issues that the fellowship has as a whole. Would be nice to have some topic discussions with current topics being voted on (polled) before nerassa and having a couple breakout sessions. These might be a little more interesting to the fellowship rather than solely concentrating on a lot of conference items that don't touch the general membership.
- A lot of times the speakers at the mics give their opinion and thus we hear from many points of view.
- Same as above
- NERAASA concerns need to be more inclusive for young, transgender and A.A. members of color
- There is no way to hear every viewpoint on every topic of interest within A.A., but at least NERAASA gives members an opportunity to express themselves.
- None
- Even though sometimes contentious, these discussions are the reason I keep coming back...to NERAASA
- Love NERAASA
- I'm not too aware of discussions of items not appearing on the conference agenda
- discussions on the issues were thoughtful and engaging
- The presentations have been very strong, but once we get to the floor...it falls apart as the great Alcoholic ego is unveiled in it's full glory, I really do wish more concentration on Concepts and Traditions were available, as it is on the local level, people are getting into service work with very little understandings of the guard rails of Traditions and Concepts.
- Presentations and sharing session are often related to upcoming conference agenda items!
- Yessum
- Always
- Same
- I suppose the Roundtables may do this
- Need more time.
- Good Panel Topics
- Good Panel Topics
- We are able to express our concerns at the mic but I have found there to be zero follow through from NERAASA weekend.
- I'm neutral because some of the issues discussed [like 5th ed. BB] are fundamental, and others are very "inside baseball."
- NERAASA has been in an overall rut of discussing only those items that the GSB thinks we should discuss by spoon feeding the items. Agenda items should not be discussed at NERAASA. It is then not a service assembly, it has become a mini conference.
- We could use improvement on financial information, ie: where does the money go?
- Issues such diversity and access have been very relevant discussions at NERAASA in recent years. Finances are always relevant and discussed at length! Also, the Grapevine and LaVina magazines.
- Unfortunately we all know that delegates sent a letter of censorship to GSB, something that should be discussed
- MY WAY OF KNOWING WHAT IS NEW IN A.A.
- I don't like change, but it's 2021 and some words must be changed.
- Remember the manuscript.
- Agree, but unsure of how we know this an any given year. IE how does the host/program committee determine this?
- Yes
- Panels are inconsistent, and panelists often do not address the topic they are assigned. Having served as a panel moderator, a time keeper and a panel presenter, it is obvious some panelists do an excellent job with this purpose. Others show up and speak off the cuff, offering nothing of substance to the topic. Hopefully it will do better in 2021 with this issue.
- I have attended quite a few NERAASA's and have always felt that I leave a better servant.
- This is done only incidently by discussing GSC topics which are often focused on issues concerning AA as a whole
- Diversity and inclusivity is still an issue
- Same as above

- 
- A wide range of related issues are discussed and the opportunity to express and hear many opinions is provided.
  - I put neutral because while that might come up it's not a purpose I've for at least.
  - Same answer as above
  - This very much depends on the NERT - how much they are willing / able to share. Their boilerplate presentation is good, but wonder if they could ask for topics in advance to discuss?
  - There is opportunity to talk about all em affecting aa
  - Though logistically challenging, it would be preferable for the Host Program Committee to poll a sample of Delegates throughout the US and Canada when identifying General Service Conference items affecting AA as a whole.
  - some bias specifically panel on pro/con new edition of Big book
  - More time needs to be spent on diversity and AA being more welcoming
  - Too much talking by past Delegates
  - sugiero darle vida al folleto de la seguridad en AA
  - Since these are intrinsic in the GSC agenda items this is tied to how well the NERAASA items focus on the GSC agenda. Since this is largely a function of the host committee we have to hope they do a good job of following GSC agenda items.
  - There is opportunity to talk about all em affecting aa

### A- 3: NERAASA fulfills its purpose of discussing pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.

- I'm not sure it is specific to the NE region, more AA as a whole.
- My experience is that this primarily occurs at the roundtables.
- Love the round table sessions. Much service passion is seen there. Very good forum to get Service "New Comers" to learn and participate and feel like a they are a contributing part of the service structure. Very important to continue to schedule and support the round-tables.
- Not sure what to say
- Not 100% sure that it focuses on Northeast "aspects".
- NERAASA needs to address the lack of diversity
- This happens in the roundtables and during breaks between panels even more than it does during the presentations and panel discussions.
- None
- The opportunity is there, I think sometimes participants engage in "what I want to be true" fluff instead of "what is true".
- I believe items are more pertinent to some areas of the NE than others. But overall it's important that our members get an understanding of what is happening in all our areas
- See Above.
- Not a lot of steps in discussions
- The presentations are great. The roundtables are the same thing every year. 1 good+1bad cancelling out to neutral
- Same
- It is my understanding NERASSA was started to prepare the delegates. It seems to have to many purposes. A short weekend can't be all things to all people.
- NERAASA seems to be more about service & unity rather than recover, which it should be I suppose.
- Would be better with more time & 11th Step meditation in order to fulfill it during that weekend.
- I don't think of NERAASA addressing recovery, other than the importance of/love for service work and it's impact on our recovery
- It is a service assembly with a strong focus on service. Other than GSC agenda items, what pertinent aspects of recovery and unity are discussed?
- Not sure if this is done
- Perhaps I missed this discussion, but one of the biggest failures of AA in this region is our failure to reach Black alcoholics in any significant number compared to the number of Black people in the population.
- Not sure if this is done
- The position-specific workshops fulfill this purpose. Otherwise, no (the fellowship is nice)
- The round table discussions do allow for sharing of good information that is helpful to most.
- Will it serve us well to inform at NERAASA that we have never been fully self supporting through our own contributions?
- We are not really common areas and should not have to do everything the same.
- not enough discussion on Alcoholics with Disabilities and/or Special Needs
- it was great, but zoom will never give the strong fellowship feelings, like being there
- Yes
- It is a great opportunity to do this in 2021 especially with addressing how to carry the message in a COVID-19 world.
- I believe we could spend more time on the Recovery and Unity aspect of NERAASA
- Same comment as #2
- The fact that attendees are from the Northeast Region sort of naturally lends itself to this being the case. I think this is a particular benefit of having regional AA Service Assemblies.
- Again I put neutral for the same reason. Service and perhaps unity but less on recovery. The three legacies are woven throughout but recovery while the cornerstone it isn't discussed as much.
- I've never heard issues broken out from other regions. It would be interesting to hear what NE issues are.

- 
- Unity and Service - Yes. If you assume that you are discussing “recovery” when looking at the agenda items, then yes, you hit the mark. Having meetings throughout is nice. The “circuit speaker-lite” Saturday night choice of (often) a Past Delegate, Trustee, Staff member is “fine.” Some love it. I could also see how it could be seen as differentiating Trusted Servants as “special” AA members due to their service.
  - Throughout the weekend program, there are several “open mic” sessions as well as as an ask-it-basket to discuss/raise pertinent AA matters (that may have been inadvertently omitted from the workshops and formal program).
  - I believe the “networking” aspect of NERAASA allows for an informal but important way for all of the Trusted Servants to meet and discuss issues effecting the N.E. Region. The Round tables also offer a great forum for sharing such matters.



# APPENDIX A- 4

## COMMENTS

### A- 4: The purpose of NERAASA is communicated clearly.

- Neraasa could be more in the forefront like SENY is
- Cavet: I have attend many NERAASAs.
- A lot of times people come to NERAASA expecting it to be like other AA conferences. Most are pleasantly surprised and they come back.
- In my observation, more people come to NERAASA for the service roundtables than for anything else, even though that is not a clearly stated purpose of NERAASA. It also seems that quite a few attendees aren't exactly sure why they are attending.
- None
- I would like to see the "Mission Statement" at the banner of this inventory repeated often verbally and in print at EVERY NERAASA
- unless you have attended this event you would not know the depth and weight of what NERAASA has to offer. Word of mouth seems to be the only way of communicating its importance
- "We have much work to do here.
- I'm happy to say I work on it and encourage others to share NERAASA information. "
- The purpose is communicated well to participants but needs to be explained the general membership. (Obviously that requires partnership with the local service structures.)
- this having been my first neraasa i was a bit perplexed but by the end of the weekend i was completely sold on the concept and how it worked to discuss the issues
- It is only by attending that one comes to a clear vision, took me two to understand why I was there.
- Could be used to inspire more interest in other positions within service structure. , Open house/job fair, style panels.
- Many people think NERAASA is a way to politically control AA. It's difficult to educate otherwise.
- So many do not know anything about the conference. I think some type of education at an area or district level would be helpful
- Not many people in the rooms know about it
- It's Neraasa. Like Neraasic park. It's a place where the AA dinosaurs go
- I think the purpose of NERAASA could be clarified and simplified.
- Same
- In my experience, a lot of people have no idea what NERAASA is or its Purpose. It needs more yearly consistency with the Members.
- I didn't really know what it was for but I had to go. So glad I did!!
- The purpose statement is too open ended & nebulous. I feel the statement needs to be more clear and concise
- Thanks for that.
- NERAASA fulfills its purpose clearly, but I don't agree that it communicates its purpose clearly
- Although I've been involved in District-level service off and on for 30 years, 2019 was the first year that NERAASA made it into my consciousness. I think I was paying attention all those years, although who knows?
- Some people will always be confused
- Generalized statement above
- "Pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common" [to the Areas of the Northeast]: please look up "buzzword" in the dictionary
- I am still not certain of the NERAASA message and how it is focused on carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. After attending several NERAASAs, it is viewed that we are only helping ourselves with the illusion of helpfulness.
- Guidelines state the agenda comes out after the January Board weekend. Understood. Would a "skeleton" agenda posted on the website , for new people who have never been to a NERAASA? We are already getting requests here for an agenda, it will help the newer people to have some idea of what to plan for. They are not willing to commit to three days without seeing something. The presentation topics need not be on there, just when those are, when the Roundtables are, Area Highlights are, and so on.
- Its purpose is perhaps communicated once you attend a NERAASA, but most members (in my area) have no idea what the acronym NERAASA stands for, never mind what its purpose is. Even GSRs are often woefully uneducated. Could more guidance be given about how to communicate about NERAASA - its purpose and importance and joy?

- Stick to your purpose.
- Maybe there could be a small packet made for first time attendees. It can be a lot to take in when u are new to NERASSA.
- THE ROUND TABLES
- Some year it seems the host committees don't quite seem to carry out the purpose
- Yes
- I had a fuzzy idea what the purpose of NERASSA was in 2008. It depends on many variables, especially how the Area has prepared those attending. The event has a lot of political overtones and hallway conversations, if not outright talking during the Q&A in the main room. It does seem to have a small percentage of attendees who bring a convention mentality. Perhaps the virtual format will change these issues.
- Yes we all know this is the best Service Assembly
- I think we could do a much better job of this
- We can ALWAYS communicate on a higher level and get the word out
- I bet 80% of AA,Ãs do not know of NERASSA
- I think a stronger effort to communicate the purpose early on to groups and individual AA members might bring increased participation. I attended my first session because my Sponsor was going and had been involved in Service for years. Maybe a 'Bring a Sponsee' program?
- I didn't put strongly agree because while it is clear to many it's not clear to all. Only certain people know what's up. I wouldn't put it neutral or below though.
- "On the Group Level there's not enough knowledge from what I experienced. Very few Member's know about NERASSA.
- There's no physical information that I've Seen to pass out to Member's so they can read and Understands NERASSA role in our Structure of AA. "
- We could do better at communicating why the purpose is so essential.
- There seems to be a split between the importance of the Conference related topic presentations and the Round Tables. I believe over the years the strength has changed to lean more towards the Round Tables.
- at conference yes, but prior to at area assemble & district meeting no
- Not all is areas hear about this
- See Above
- Yes the NE service assembly, open to all
- I think you have the best understanding of NERASSA from attending with someone has been there. I don't think many people understand what NERASSA is.
- Could be talked on and brought to district level bit more by key people in chair positions to district level via visiting Zoom district meetings
- THE HISPANIC GROUPS OF AA THE GUILINES OF AA AND GIVE THEM TO GSR MCD SO THEY HANDLE TO THEIR GROUPS MEMBER.

### A-5 : What is YOUR purpose in attending NERAASA?

- Compartir y aprender acerca del servicio,cada neraasa es una experiencia única. (To share and learn about service, each NERAASA is a unique experience.)
- Para dialogar sobre los puntos a tratar en la Conferencia (To discuss Conference topics)
- Para informarme mas acerca del servicio en AA. (To better inform myself about service in AA.)
- To get a better understanding, and to bring information back to my group
- Meet others in my service position
- To hear discussion of Conference issues, to get an idea of where AA as a whole is trending, to renew friendships.
- learn/connect/have input/share ideas
- To learn more about our service structure and how it serves our primary purpose
- remain informed
- The roundtables
- Concerned Member!
- To stay informed about current and relevant issues, to keep the spirit of Love and Service alive for me, and to stay connected to the members of A.A. as a whole in the NE Region.
- To support AA and needs its
- To stay in touch with what is happening in AA, get insight into the topics for Area discussion and to see friends I only see once a year.
- To obtain new ideas to further my service commitment to my area,
- An informed group conscience , perspective, leadership
- Stay involved, stay in the heard. Learn.
- Further expand my knowledge, meet other trusted servants from NE region
- To learn how best to fulfill our primary purpose and to share my experience, strength, and hope. To review, by discussion and presentations, the conference agenda items. To attend the NERT report and the GSO financial report presentations. To attend an appropriate service roundtable. Etc., I could go on.
- LEARNING, and the SPIRITUAL CONNECTION that I get from being a part of a greater fellowship of kindred spirits. I love feeling the connection to my "service fellows" at this large event and enjoy attending and participating in roundtable sessions where I learn so so much that I can bring back to my District and/or Home Group. I have attended regional service assemblies since my early sobriety as Alt GSR, GSR, DCM and Area committee member. I plan to continue attending NERAASA events in the future even after I rotate out of my current service position.
- Enhance my service to AA by attending round tables and panel discussion that I can incorporate into my various service positions
- Fellowship, Information, Meeting new people, making connections
- To see other people and make connections as well as to learn about what is happening in AA as a whole.
- Learning more about issues facing AA, meeting other recovering people who are in service, meeting people from GSO
- Education and fellowship
- Improve my knowledge of AA as a whole and to learn how to better be of service.
- Staying informed to issues affecting the Fellowship that may not be local to me.
- To become more informed on issues AA members are facing
- to learn more about AA worldwide and how to carry the message better
- Learning about issues in my region, and also seeing people who I only see once a year here!
- Information and ideas on how I can better perform in my service positions
- To connect with other like minded trusted servants and share ideas of what's working/not working
- To learn how to better fit myself to be of maximum service to God, to A.A., and to others.
- To be informed and to have my voice heard
- Service, fellowship, and increasing my knowledge of AA Service.
- networking with others to find solutions to issues and ideas and share our areas common interests with aa
- I have not attended
- GSR

- To stay informed on current issues affecting AA, things I can do better. And to network with others involved in service.
- Was a GSR for many years. Now I just enjoy going to keep informed with the issues going on in AA
- To learn how I can serve the still suffering alcoholic better and bring AA within reach of anyone who wants it.
- To learn and be involved
- To learn more about service within my position - website/tech
- Learn more about the region and the roles of all of the service positions.
- To learn more about General Service. I am an Office Administrator at an Intergroup and this is my yearly opportunity to interface with the General Service community
- To gain greater understanding of what stands in the way of reaching the still suffering alcoholic as well as the one that suffers in the rooms currently working one or two sides of our triangle. My goal and purpose is to garner a greater understanding and commitment of what a "informed conscience" looks and feels like.
- To learn and grow, be of service, & listen. I enjoy NERAASA immensely.
- To improve my knowledge of effective service/service opportunities and to be enabled to share that information with my district. (I am a DCM.)
- The fellowship and the food
- Exposure to multiple points of view
- At the time it was to be a better GSR and as a result of the conference I truly feel that way. It gave a new purpose to my service work as an informed servant and my duties to my group became clearer after attending. Further my understanding of AA and my ability to serve my area and group
- For information and seeing old friends
- I have been a GSR and am a DCM
- "To meet with other Committee chairs from around the North East Region.
- To hear what is working or not working
- In passing the message"
- To become more informed on any given topic, through listening to sharing of members all over the northeast. To better serve A.A., by attending round table discussions that relate to my current service position.
- Education of the program
- To learn more about and become better at service.
- Find out what the region thinks about current agenda items
- Recovery, Unity, and Service
- To get pumped up about service
- 1. See old friends and meet new ones from outside my area who love service. 2. Discuss GSO issues. 3. Volunteer
- To learn from others in service
- DCMC
- I attend in order to understand the background of the conference agenda items and the different points of view so that I can help my home group/district come to an education decision.
- to fellowship with others that are in service and to learn more
- To better understand the regional perspectives in the AA structure and to visit and meet new friends
- Past DCM & GSR
- To learn
- To bring back useful information to groups on how important service work is.
- To meet with others in service and learn , share ideas and strategies for the good of AA
- To learn more about what is happening in other areas and at GSO
- To become informed and share experiences
- Network with other DCMs
- Learn more of what is going on in the upcoming year and how other areas deal with issues
- Experience.
- To stay abreast on the latest goings-on in the world of general service, to learn new tips, techniques, and tools to inform the groups and AA members within my district and/or AA as a whole, network with people from other service areas and entities, to eat ice cream socially
- Fellowship. There is too little of it.
- To obtain information in AA as a whole
- To learn about service and AA as a whole
- Information. Fellowship. Recovery, Unity, Service.
- to find out what other members of the Fellowship think about issues.
- Involvement in service to AA as a whole

- learn/connect/have input/share ideas
- To become better informed about issues and concerns affecting GSO, AA as a whole, and our program of recovery, unity and service. To share the information with my district and home group to help prepare them for Preconference activities.
- learn/connect/have input/share ideas
- Not attending this year. I do not do Zoom or any other social media. Typically however, I attend NERAASA because I love to be around AA members [in person] that have “a fire in the belly” for the AA way of life. As already stated, I like to be as informed as possible to better formulate my thoughts on matters from what I learn. I am comfortable knowing that I will always be learning. Also, I enjoy seeing members that I have gotten to know over the years from attending so many of these events.
- I attend NERAASA to get recharged about service. To be among service peers
- Learn more
- To keep current on service matters that effect the Northeast Region. And to cast my votes on policies that are being made according to what I feel my home group would want.
- Learn more about aa service , the issues affecting aa as a whole and to meet and collaborate with others
- To become aware of how others in the NE Region view issues that will be on the conference agenda and to reconnect with friends from other areas.
- Fellowship, Information, maintaining a spiritual connection
- To be informed about the viability of AA finances and instructions.
- I am part of the Northeast Regional group.
- Early in my service career I attended to learn. Now that I am a Last Delegate I attend to support current officers and other members that present.
- To meet and share with others involved in the same areas of service that I am.
- “I Serve as the GSR for My Home Group, and January 2021 Will Serve as District 620 DCM.
- Besides that I’m a Second time attendee to NERAASA. I Really enjoyed My First time, and look forward to attending again.”
- Fellowship. There is too little of it.
- Gsr from area 49, learning the process
- I am a district chair.
- To learn about how to do better service work.
- Meet with others involved in service and discuss how we can better serve the fellowship.
- Delegate
- To learn how to better perform my service commitment and learn about current general service related topics and issues.
- to acquire knowledge and strengthen my commitment to general service
- to keep my home group informed as well as being a voice for my home group as their GSR
- To meet with other AA members in service so we can exchange ideas and experience.
- To learn how to better perform my service commitment and learn about current general service related topics and issues.
- To learn and to deepen my greater involvement in AA.
- Alt DCM for District 36 in Area 29
- Getting as much info as possible to do my service job well and to make connections with others with that job; to hear about agenda items
- As DCM it help me explain the items for the conference to the gsr’s of my district
- To understand how to provide better service to the fellowship.
- To learn how to be a better trusted servant.
- Service works
- Service works
- To learn about the larger picture of AA service and now as a current delegate it takes on much more meaning
- Area 45 District 25 DCM and to learn more
- To hear open discussions of important AA issues that aren’t being seriously discussed elsewhere.
- panels regarding GSC and round tables
- To learn what is new in the discussion in the North East Region. Meet other Alcoholics interested in serving. To serve AA as a whole.
- Area 45 District 25 DCM and to learn more
- education, service, seeing friends
- Get ideas from other Areas on how things are done. Updates on GSO Agenda
- I have not attended yet
- GSR

- GSR
- I love service work and learning about what is going on in AA outside of my group, district and area
- Seeing old friends, sharing the love for service and, learning shared information on many topics
- It used to be to deepen my understanding of service below the Group level. Now it's just required as part of my service.
- To learn how the Northeast area is doing. I identify with this part of the country in that I grew up in Maine, have lived in NH. Mass and NY.
- It was required as an officer of my area.
- To support those newer in service, and learn from them and grow spiritually
- As a past area delegate, I am interested in seeing what is on the GSC agenda and how members are discussing/understanding issues. I enjoy meeting current delegates, trustees, staff, and other area officers and members. It is heartening to see the love for AA service of so many members willing to give time, energy, and money for its future. Participating in or hosting roundtables is service that I can do and enjoy. I keep an eye to other service opportunities for the future.
- Recovery, Unity, and Service
- Learn
- Keeping abreast of the GSC. Recharge my service batteries.
- See people from other areas
- Network and learn what I can
- To become educated and share with others
- GSR
- Information, sharing viewpoints and perspectives, learning from others
- As DCM of my district I wanted to gain more information/knowledge to bring back
- Learn more about GSC Agenda items, share my experience in service, fellowship
- socialize, get together with AA service folks, learn more about GSC agenda items
- I am an Alanon member and have sober and active alcoholics in my life.
- To get a better understanding of my current position of DCM
- To keep learning in AA everything it stands for
- Get informed, meet old friends and encourage the next generation of service workers
- Dcm
- I have been technical support providing the equipment for the interpreters to communicate the message in Spanish and also for the low level hearing people.
- To become better informed. Then to be able to make well informed decisions. To hear points of view I can't consider on my own
- Information and connection
- To be more involved in the fellowship and to be able to share what goes on with my group members.
- ALT dcm for district 3 area 48
- Learn about conference issues and the state of AA as a whole
- Information around what other Areas and committees do and do not do.
- Serving as Area Officer
- TO OBTAIN TO PASS ON NEW INFORMATION IN THE WORLD OF A.A.
- To give feedback to my Home Group and to my District
- At this time of crisis and having everything closed and little support, I need to know if AA will be there to support me and new coming AAs. Knowing and watching AAs budget I can gauge our stability. Please be careful with money. Spend it for a good cause because everyone is struggling too and the revenues will dry up.
- "To better understand the working structure of AA Anonymous and it's services of all work parts as a whole.
- I want to be an informative instrument/servant to any sick and suffering alcoholic that may need my service anywhere. "
- love learning about what's going on
- GSR for my home group
- Learn more about GSC Agenda items, share my experience in service, fellowship
- Unity, Recovery and Service and to speak up for members with Special Needs
- I am a district officer and I feel that it is important for me to stay informed on what is affecting AA as a whole to be able to bring that back to my district and to meetings that I attend.
- I want to discuss issues and be a part of making sure as is there for everyone
- To see, hear, and feel the beauty of what Bill and Bob started , and to learn more on GSR's and AA in corrections.
- Past Delegate
- Learn more about GSC Agenda items, share my experience in service, fellowship
- DCM
- Secretary of Area

- To learn more about AA service, the service structure and to fellowship with other AAs that are into service.
- Round tables
- to learn about service
- To be informed about health of AA.
- be aware of updates, participate in elections, become inspired
- Hear about the larger AA, see friends from around the region, focus on conference items, get that service enthusiasm boost
- More information about agenda items, contacts within the NE Region as a whole and in my service position. Call me crazy, but I also enjoy the business meeting because it gives me a chance to see how others act and respond when “things aren’t going my way”. I get to see AA behavior modeled.
- To see what’s new or ideas for my service position
- Bring information back to area, district, homegroup
- I gather information to take back to my District and to my homegroup
- to hear discussion on topics that the General Service Conference will discuss
- Connect with other AA service members involved with technology to help the still suffering alcoholic
- Keep up to date on issues affecting fellowship
- I attended the meeting that our District hosted in 2019 to serve on the Food committee.
- To learn more about the duties of the various service positions
- Awareness of current issues facing AA, collaboration between different areas regarding service positions and Fellowship.
- Better learn and be informed in AA, in certain/particular roles & functions and AA as a whole.
- I attended as a GSR. I will attend in the future as an interested AA member.
- For Conference info and to see friends
- To learn behind the scene operates
- To hear as much about the upcoming General Service Conference, other AA members experience at NERAASA, and answers to questions which are asked.
- Stay informed on Conference items related to AA as a whole, and the impacts of those items on the Northeast areas as well. I like to stay connected through the Service Roundtables.
- To get a better understanding of what is going on in AA
- Learning more about how other AAs view the questions that Conference is taking up.
- To learn about General Service and find out how other Areas operate.
- To know what is currently happening in AA and what is being proposed
- Serve the alcoholics that do not know we exists and those who do
- I attended as a GSR. I will attend in the future as an interested AA member.
- Serve the alcoholics that do not know we exists and those who do
- So that I can learn more about AA and the current position I am in.
- I am the GSR for my homegroup.
- information, education, fellowship
- I am a GSR for my Home Group.
- To be a part of AA
- To be informed about health of AA.
- To be of service
- Information
- To stay informed.
- LISTEN FROM THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE
- I have several purposes for attending NERAASA including participating in the Roundtables, listening to presentation on current GSC items, supporting the Trusted servants in my Area, supporting the incoming Delegates, socializing with my service buddies and meeting new people. The roundtables where trusted servants can share their experience, strength and hope with others in the same position that they are serving in is an incredibly important opportunity to ask questions and pick up ideas and techniques for better serving the Fellowship
- Corrections Service
- Connecting with other like-minded, committed individuals in service
- To hear/participate in discussions of GSC topics, and to share experiences with other Areas within the Region, particularly experiences related to my service position.
- I always learn something new. Meet devoted AAs
- To interact with others in Service, listen to opinions, and get new ideas.
- To network and learn.

- Find out what service positions I hold are doing in other areas
- I love to learn about AA and General Service
- I enjoyed My first time experience at NERASSA. I also, am the Incoming DCM for District 620, January 2021. When I attended before I gained so more information, it gave me a new profound way to look and do Service. I also, would like the experience to Fellowship.
- Chair, History & Archives - Area 44
- Discussing AA, learning about concerns and solutions , meeting new people, networking, enjoy service focus
- Hear presentations. Attend and support Roundtables. Connect with fellow Trusted Servants. Fellowship.
- I have had different purposes for attending over the years. I love giving back to the society that helped save my life. Anything that can help me in that endeavor I will continue to support.
- Better understand how to serve better
- Getting to know our fellowship better in all aspects
- Fellowship and to carry the message
- Fellowship and NE service
- Interaction, information and fellowship
- to learn more about service
- Keep updated on service opportunities and learn about conference agenda items, and stay connected
- To learn more about service structure
- Open my mind to new ideas. Share my experience and engage in Roundtable discussion
- Participate in and learn about current AA issues
- To bring information back to my Group (GSR) and my District ( Chair: Cooperation with the Professional Community)
- Hearing from others about the aspects of my position.
- To become more informed about AA as a whole and to broaden my understanding of the issues facing our Fellowship today.
- Sharing, learning, fellowship
- To re-connect with trusted servants whom I've met at previous NERAASAs.
- To stay in touch with AA in my Area, Region and AA as a whole.
- To compare notes of what other service commitments like mine are doing
- Find out what changes are happening in AA as a whole & how they might affect my local AA. Learn more about service positions, tradition & concepts through demonstrations of committee members and panels
- To communicate with other Areas on how they are handling service related issues.
- Networking and listening for solutions
- Information and see friends
- To better serve my area.
- attended as an AA to better understand the purpose of NERAASA, then as a GSR and now as a DCM to continue to carry the message
- Learn more about being a DCM.
- Learn & engage in fellowship
- Learn from other Treasurers best practices, but that seems secondary purpose given evening workshop.
- "1.To stay connected 2.It was my responsibility to go as DCM and GSR 3. Always go bc it's fun!"
- To continue learning in AA and what AA stands for
- To learn how to be of better service to my area
- obligation
- Find ways to pass the message
- To learn more about the various service positions and AA as WHOLE
- To learn more about service
- Get tips from people who hold the same position as I do. Meet new service geeks and to spend much needed time with people in service from my Area
- To get updated information
- Learn best practices in service, e.g. technology and engage in fellowship
- hear all presentations and opinions from the region
- To learn more about AA, & be a more informed GSR
- Hear about GSC-related items, issues related to AA as a whole, and connect with friends from across the Northeast Region
- To learn abt conference issues, regional issues, and get information from gso representatives
- Hear about GSC-related items, issues related to AA as a whole, and connect with friends from across the Northeast Region
- Education and keeping up with pertinent topics



- Learn more about being a DCM.
- To learn how to do my service position better. To share my experience with others.
- Keeping in tune with pulse of AA.
- Keeping in tune with pulse of AA.
- to learn about items being talked about at the conference.
- Interested Member
- to learn more about service
- To be of service improve knowledge connect with other Aa members To specifically connect with others that share same position  
As for me I would connect w Treatment chairs from other areas I would also hear way in on snd bring back information to our Area
- I was new to service and wanted to learn more about the committee I was involved in
- To stay informed about what is happening in A.A. worldwide.
- Deepen my capacity to serve the next sick and suffering alcoholic. I like to draw on the wisdom of people from different areas to exchange ideas.
- Enjoy the Event find it enlightening and very useful for my District and my Home Group
- To learn more about what is happening w AA as a whole.
- BECAUSE IS A VERY NICE EXPERIENCE OF GRUPING TOGETHER AND SHERING EXPERIENCE AREA TO AREA
- My first time at NERAASA was last year primarily interested in the treatment service committee workshops not necessarily what was going on with AA as a whole but since then understand NERAASA's purpose better since attending it in person.
- Keeping in tune with pulse of AA.
- Stay abreast/communication within NE Regions and concerns affecting AA as a whole
- GSR for District 38 in New Jersey
- information and fellowship
- To see what's new or ideas for my service position to get more information and find out ideas for my service position.
- To learn and understand the GSC agenda items to be able to discuss them with my group and advise the Delegate or other officers.
- To be kept informed of changes!
- More solid understanding of and prep for conf material
- I want to know what topics will be discussed at the next Conference and to learn more about them so I can inform my group members and eventually my delegate.
- To remain informed about AA as a whole.
- I attend for a better understanding of how the Areas work together for the health of A.A. as a whole.
- always to learn about my current service position
- Learn more about my service commitment by talking and listening to others with the same position
- Information. Fellowship. Service.
- Website Chair
- Sharing, learning, fellowship
- As a DCM in my Area, I collect information from NERAASA and forward it to my GSR'S.
- Nwwly elected GSR.

### A- 6: The service roundtables meet my needs.

- Como miembro de la comunidad latina siempre y cuando se provea interprete. (As long as interpretation is provided for members of the Latino community.)
- Sometimes the Chair does not have much experience with the Committee's responsibilities. I think better chair selection would be helpful.
- GSR round table was a little frenetic the two years I attended
- Some Moderators could be better at letting the attendees steer the discussion, while keeping the group focused on the topics selected.
- I struggle to stay awake enough to get the full benefit, While I am sure the presenters are excellent- I'm just too tired to attend AND be present
- love them
- Good sharing of information.
- Not only the roundtable topics and content, but just as important are the contacts I have made with my fellow service folks.
- It depends on the moderator. If it is structured I have learned a lot of valuable information about the job I was doing.
- Wish there were more and / or at different times
- Wish they weren't all crammed into same timeframe so that I could attend more of them. One of my favorite parts of NERAASA and the one I feel I get the most out of in the way of service and this is supposed to be a "service" assembly.
- Roundtables are extremely helpful.
- they are too late and I am whipped by the time they are on
- Only when moderators are prepared. Otherwise no
- The service roundtables are far and away the main attraction for most people who attend NERAASA.
- None
- Great to meet others serving in similar positions and hear how other Area's handle different situations.
- Two issues. 1) This is where the fluff happens with folks, quite naturally, showing off the strengths of their committees and not seeking to be stronger. 2) Participation from our Hispanic community is limited due to translation services.
- Some are great, some are not. It totally depends on who is leading/chairing. Perhaps there could be fewer roundtables with more organized participation
- the round tables need a better matrix or how to effectively communicate with one another. (ie use the microphone and stick to a topic)
- The roundtables are incredibly useful, I often hear that they are the best part of NERAASA! We support people in their service commitments, and those who want to learn more about what they might want to do.
- Need more time with round tables
- my round table was great experience. it gave me a better insight into what was expected of my service position and I was able to make some great contacts with other GSR's that was helpful when the pandemic hit. I was able to call upon them for the help and guidance I learned at the conference.
- I was once a GSR near the end of my rotation considering standing for treasurer. I attended the treasurer's round table. Everyone was very welcoming, but they were of all area treasurers. It would be nice to have some way to incorporate those positions on the group level.
- I found myself surrounded by GSR's who were not getting questions answered by the presenters. The committees need to understand the lack of full knowledge of Traditions and Concepts.
- I enjoy the round tables but would like them to be earlier in the day, say first thing in the morning on Sat and Sun..
- I think the roundtables are as valuable as the panels. I wish they weren't so late at night. Sometimes I want to attend more than one (the position I have and the position into which I'll be rotating).
- Again would be cool to encourage participation in other position panels
- They should not be at the end of the day
- GSR and DCM round tables could be amazing but are usually disorganized and only a few people speak. Treasurer's round table focuses on problems instead of innovation. Spanish speaking round table usually fruitful!
- It depends on the facilitator - some have been great, others not so much

- They're so freaking late! I mean c'mon now! On top of that it's the same stuff every year. I was an ADCM who tried to get people enthusiastic about service for 2 years and the a DCM who tried to get people enthusiastic about service. I've seen a lot of the same people at all of these. Switch it up a little. Jussayin
- This 24 hour agenda isn't very effective.
- Is the object of service
- GSR round table was a little frenetic the two years I attended
- GSR round table was a little frenetic the two years I attended
- I don't have & haven't had a general service position in many years. I've gotten less than welcoming reactions from the leaders of the round tables because I attend in a "member" status. So I've stopped attending the round tables.
- I usually don't attend them
- panels too are helpful.
- Back in the nineties when I was an Intergroup chair I learned a lot from interacting with my counterparts. As a PD I have been called upon to moderate a variety of roundtables. Prefer to be a mere participant following my current passions. At early NERRASSAs there were three round table sessions including one during the day Saturday. It may be an instance of an old guy feeling nostalgic for the old days but found tables seemed so .much more informative.
- One of my favorite parts of the weekend
- I Loved the Service Roundtables.
- This 24 hour agenda isn't very effective.
- A favorite with many. As a delegate I felt like the time of day is very late. We are under a lot of pressure and sleep is important to stay healthy. Especially in flu season.
- Last years DCM round table was not as productive as my previous year,Ãs experience in a GSR round table, it was not facilitated effectively. It was disorganized and could have been lead better. To many people where talking and disagreeing. The facilitator was not in control. I,Ãd rather they speak to the group and share their own experience.
- Most of the service roundtables I have attended were fabulous. One year it was less than satisfactory because the table leader was unprepared and didn't seem to know how to lead the table.
- Last years DCM round table was not as productive as my previous year,Ãs experience in a GSR round table, it was not facilitated effectively. It was disorganized and could have been lead better. To many people where talking and disagreeing. The facilitator was not in control. I,Ãd rather they speak to the group and share their own experience.
- Need more time!!
- Hard to attend all I wanted as they were overlapping and also too late at night
- getting the contact info of the others at that roundtable should be a default (larger groups like GSRs might be harder)
- Except when Buck Rose was chairing them.
- It's tough to talk sometimes
- Which events were the "service roundtables"? If they were the groups segregated by position (e.g., DCM roundtable) then I didn't get a lot out of them. If they were the discussions of issues, they were very valuable.
- GSR and DCM roundtable on second night may better serve both groups if the sessions are not combined
- It's tough to talk sometimes
- Don't know what that is since I'm new to GSR position
- I'm an area registrar and we were able to have Karen Hale come to facilitate our roundtable. I am incredibly grateful to her for doing so, but I GSO did not listen to us or take our concerns seriously. I had zero follow-up from Greg Tobin even after I sent two separate emails. Very unhappy with management at GSO.
- When they are managed well, the roundtable are very useful
- Best part. Could use more.
- This all depends on the moderator and the topics discussed. There should be more free communication and sharing.
- Many in my Area find this the "best" part of NERAASA!
- The roundtables were esp invaluable when I was serving in different positions through the service structure. Just as groups create solidarity, support, and understanding for recovery, so the roundtables for service."
- Round tables don't discuss issues when districts go dark because areas redistrictef them/ forgetting the flow in. Down to areas.
- Roundtables are given short shrift w/ time allotment/late night timeslot, IMO
- Due to the late hour most of these occur, they are short and relatively unproductive. With the use of Zoom, these could be extended beyond the actual event to allow them to develop into a more productive process that allows for more problem solving, and the development of relationships.
- Have learned so much from others in my position.
- I believe they should be earlier. Perhaps first thing in the morning before the panels begin.
- SHARING EXPERIENCE/STRENGTH/ HOPE
- To serve my home-group with the information from others who have had similar issues, problems or insights.

- they are WAY to late for me
- Needs more accessible seating and, to meet ADA compliance
- I came to attend the corrections table, and the instructor knew very little about it, so she just turned it over to the group, not very happy about that,
- The roundtable discussions I attended were ok but a couple of people took up so much time half the room never got to share. Both the meeting chair and the most verbose member were from the same very large, very populated area. Carrying the message plays out differently in non-metropolitan areas and we didn't get much of a chance to hear from them.
- Roundtables are critical to NERAASA - I love them and so often I hear great feedback from others
- Would like to have roundtables earlier in day. Would like to see more of the roundtables meeting periodically in a virtual format throughout the year, and having some portion of those available for observers from the NE.
- Seem to be one-sided don't address questions or ideas
- The technology workshop only deals with website tools
- Always excellent!
- DCM & GSR tables are over crowded, which makes for dysfunctional and quite distracting. More leadership/coordinator of the group.
- I was unable to participate as they took place too late in the evening. Would have preferred they were scheduled in the AM.
- Round Tables are wonderful however often those who are Chairing the Roundtables or Attending do not run them all the same as the other Round Tables some have a presentation or speech therefore there is less time for discussion, or there is not a timer for those who bring up concerns and not everyone is able to share there own concerns. A timer is a huge help.
- Most years yes, a few years not so much. The moderator has a strong influence over this.
- Their quality depends upon the facilitator and other participants.
- The information hasn't been very useful. People get diverted on tangents that are only of interest to a couple of people in the room.
- I usually skip the roundtables.
- I was unable to participate as they took place too late in the evening. Would have preferred they were scheduled in the AM.
- I have made great friends and learned so much over the years
- Peer to peer contact is wonderful
- I love the roundtables
- In the four NERAASAs I've attended, two roundtables were extremely helpful; one moderately helpful; and one was disappointing - partly due to limitations of the facility, although those limitations could have been considered by the facilitators.
- I wish there was more time for roundtables (and maybe they were a little earlier!).
- I just wish there were more or longer.
- The Round table was Awesome, Comforting and Very Inspiring. I not only gathered lots of information physical and verbally. I gathered Hope and Strength that I wasn't a failure at my GSR Service Position. I just needed more information and tools that seems only NERASSA had.
- These are the highlight of the whole thing. Too bad the read-outs (summary of discussion) on Sunday have less attendees than other parts. And I'm not even sure what is done with the read-outs. Are they ever used?
- Depends on facilitators
- I've participated, and been energized, in several round tables over the years: Grapevine, Archives, Treasurer, Accessibilities (formerly Special Needs), Chair, and Delegate.
- I do strongly believe these sharing sessions have helped many Area Officers and Committee Chairs bring back ideas and recommendations for processes to their areas which improve service.
- Attended 1st GSR breakout very crowded and basic. poor set up to facilitate could not hear question and answers . did not go to follow up session
- The area chair roundtable at the 2020 NERAASA was poorly mediated. My concerns were not discussed. Past delegates are not always the right people to moderate the roundtables.
- Last year I wasn't the DCM yet though I had a hunch I might be next in line, I am grateful I attended it's round table
- Round tables can be highjacked by one person. They can be hit or miss
- i no longer attend the roundtables im a past delegate
- The GSR round tables were too late at night, lacked focus or purpose & the facilitator talked mostly to just a couple people in the front of the room
- Too late at night
- The moderator makes a huge difference in completing its tasks.
- This was the most helpful to me as a new committee member
- The value of the roundtables is dependent on the leader and attendees. Perhaps the virtual format will be better-attended by folks


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with varying experiences.

- Disappointed with the time slots which were much later than expected. Hoping to have better time slots for those service roundtables in the future than late at night. Not all of us were able to book rooms at the hotel where the event was taking place.
- I feel they are one sided. And some concerns or statements are ignored when asking for questions or comments only the ones the CHAIR wants are chosen not any of the other topics.
- These are too late in the day/night/morning after such a full day- shorter breaks- end earlier
- My first NERAASA was Feb. 2020. I learned so much from the participants in the roundtable discussions.
- best part of the weekend
- Seems only SENY has DCMCs
- Depends on facilitators
- No experience with this.



- to be combative, or disorganized, or not anything they should care about)
- But it is a shitshow.
- It's confusing - need more opportunities for service by those outside the committee
- There is a better way, not sure how.
- It's confusing - need more opportunities for service by those outside the committee
- If held on Sundays -NO, I attend church service so I am not able to attend NERAASA
- Not enough time, too many people at the mic, usually somewhat uninformed, jammed in awkwardly. I would support a system in which only the DCMs, Delegates, and Trustees made business decisions.
- The size of the room can be very intimidating to those not comfortable speaking at a microphone. Other options should be allowed for our collective voice to be heard.
- This is a real positive! Members here like that!
- Worth the price of admission. I haven't yet missed one yet! Good experience for those interested in GSC. There is never enough time to get through the business, but not sure what can be done. I think the experience of participating in it is important and maybe sufficient.
- Yes, but it scares many newcomers
- Still trying to figure out WTF happened when Buck, Gary, and Rich P managed to kill off a business item about the NERAASA web site (ninja Roberts Rules in action).
- I have asked the board to provide support for the equipment operators just as they provide support for the interpreters.
- That meeting is interesting, but probably for the wrong reasons.
- THAT IS AN EXPERIENCE IN THE MAKING, LIKE NO OTHER
- Yes, but it scares many newcomers
- The opportunity is there but would be nice to see (1) members self-regulate in that they don't have to comment on every topic until others have had a chance to speak at least once (2) the large attendance in the room may be too intimidating for some.... wonder if we have a mechanism for really encouraging the voice of a quiet AA member whom we need to hear.
- I didn't know there was a NERAASA business meeting
- At the last Business Meeting there were a lot of suggestions however the Chair and other attendees felt their suggestions were not heard.
- It can be confusing to first timers, and intimidating to others.
- Attendance is poor, business gets pushed off year after year.
- I've never seen anything as ineffective a NERAASA business meeting. I think that the members of NERAASA should delegate authority to a smaller group of informed people to make the decisions.
- One of my favorite parts of NERAASA.....it is the opportunity for the newer trusted servants to to experience the forming of a large group conscience by embracing our 36 (+6) spiritual principles.
- While I agree it does. I've been to one and honestly while interesting other events could also run concurrent. If I recall that was the only event going on. So it was just another break to many.
- Sometimes there is serious soap boxing going on.
- A business meeting for people who love business meetings. Will never make everyone happy. And one year in between business meetings means that things will happen at a glacial pace. People don't know the background / agenda in advance (would be great if they could get it). Some people don't know the procedures either leading to a messy vote and discussion (though not abnormal from other business meetings :))
- Great that the business meeting is open.
- The business meeting allows sufficient time to discuss substantive matters of grave importance. Excepting for self-proclaimed parliamentarians, and "double dippers," the business meeting runs smooth enough for a gathering of its size. In any event, the ask-it-basket provides an opportunity to discuss/raise pertinent matters (that may have been curtailed due to time constraints).
- I believe something needs to be done to stress the importance of the meeting and guide it to relevant issues - and to lessen the importance of things like proofing the minutes. Maybe it needs to be longer.
- exercise in serenity prayer. suggest time limits for each item presented. Meeting ran too long and got bogged down with point of order and procedure details not leaving time to discuss all items on agender. 12 tradition not practiced from open microphone. principles over personalities.
- Many people do not go which I find disconcerting. There is not enough support for the business meeting
- never enough time
- To be honest I've never attended one so can't really comment.
- The NERAASA business meeting has become an embarrassment to the event. It is as if people spend all weekend talking about



trying to work together and then the business meeting shows precisely the opposite attitude. I say most people don't have a voice because most don't attend the business meeting because its such a spectacle.

- not enough time for that
- Great that the business meeting is open.
- No experience.



# APPENDIX A- 8

## COMMENTS

A-8: Should NERAASA have purposes other than those set out in the Guidelines?

- Si (Yes)
- No (No)
- I'd drop the NE Region portion, it is NE as it is attendees from the NE but it is AA as a whole.
- No!!!
- Never
- Include A.A. members who are not in service positions
- no
- No - be what you are
- Yes, using untapped resources at the Area level. During rotation, many trusted servants fall off the radar , especially PDs
- Just to conform with actual practice, the service roundtables should be mentioned in the statement of purpose.
- not really
- NO!
- probably best to stick with the guidelines
- None comes readily to mind
- No
- I feel the current Guidelines meet the need.
- I feel there is some speakers that get a bit off topic but over all I don't think anything should change from the way it is now.
- Let's live up to this statement.
- No
- No
- i do not believe so
- I wonder if something about " informs about the AA service position you're in, or may be interested in taking" would help with questions 4 and 10.
- No - keep it simple!
- No
- No
- No, it is better to stay focused on the statement above. There are other conferences that can be attended that can fill other needs. The focus on Conference issues made my daily reporting to the group more meaningful and more insightful.
- NO
- Nope.
- The business is far to complicated to have at the event. We should start doing a virtual business meeting on an alternate weekend.
- No
- No
- Stimulating interest in general service
- no
- no
- no.
- I don't think so .
- No
- nah, it's good
- No
- No. Don't go ypaa'ing it up. Dr. Bob said "keep it simple"
- Yes more time for fellowship
- No
- No
- No.
- No

- Not sure
- I think NERAASA needs to better promote AA Service.
- No answer at the moment.
- Perhaps fostering greater connectivity/interaction/cooperation among the areas of the NE Region
- No
- No
- No, we barely have time to get to the important agenda items.
- No
- no
- Primary purpose is to stay sober and help another alcoholic achieve sobriety.
- No
- I can't think of any additional purposes
- Yes more time for fellowship
- No.
- No
- no
- No!
- No
- keep an open mind on this one
- no
- I don't think so, but then I am not sure if I remember them very well.
- No
- Not that I can think of, thankfully. Grateful for the current guidelines.
- No
- No
- It should be open to all AA members
- No. The work it's doing is very important; don't dilute it.
- "-perhaps specify purpose of sharing experience with trusted servants in similar service positions(round tables)
- -is it true that NERAASA grew out of need for Delegates in Northeast Region to be better prepared for the GSC?"
- No
- It should be open to all AA members
- Educating general AAs some way of the greater whole of AA
- I think it is fine where from an informational stand point, but I'm not sure if GSO is hearing us.
- No
- No.
- I see no need to change
- NERAASA should focus more on issues facing AA at the moment, leaving agenda items to the delegates and their pre-conference or mini conference assembly.
- How about "informs NER AAs about their commitments"?
- No. The purpose is correct - clear and concise.
- No
- No. Not enough time.
- Nope
- Depends
- No
- no
- No, it is already difficult to address all of the issues in the statement of purpose in one weekend
- GSO has had a visible presence at NERAASA, is GSO now now a part of NERAASA?
- Not sure
- No
- No
- Not sure
- No
- No
- No. Stay true to our original intentions.

- No
- No opinion at this time
- No
- No
- ALWAYS ROOM TO IMPROVE
- no. everyone else has or should have guidelines.
- no
- No, it is already difficult to address all of the issues in the statement of purpose in one weekend
- you about cover it all.
- No.
- No, it is already difficult to address all of the issues in the statement of purpose in one weekend
- No
- No
- Nope, but many of the guidelines for how it registers participants, the costs spent on printing, etc. should be reviewed as how many of us get information and participate has been changing over the recent years as technology has evolved let alone the effects of covid.
- No
- No
- no
- Not in my opinion.
- I believe so
- No
- No, I think it meets it's purpose well
- No
- I don't know what's in the guidelines
- No
- I favor an interpretation of Tradition Nine that keeps all "service boards or committees" narrow in their areas of concern and responsibility/authority.
- no, I don't think so
- No
- No
- I'm not sure
- I'm open to hearing what the purposes would be and considering them. At this point, it would seem we need to be consistent the stated purpose in programming.
- No
- No
- I don't think so
- No
- No sure
- Based upon my knowledge at this point, I would say 'affirmative'.
- No
- I think we need to make sure we are maximizing our efforts to fulfill the purposes we in our current guidelines before we start considering additional purposes
- Not sure
- Not in my opinion.
- No
- Not Sure
- No
- I think that there should be some thought given to alternate methods of discussing the concerns of AA as a whole and ways of focusing on issues of recovery, unity and service here in the Northeast
- Not sure
- Nope
- Not sure.
- So it is not for all AA, is it?

- What happens at NERAASA is fine but not necessarily indicative of the statement.
- No its fine
- Not necessarily.
- No
- No
- Add all AA members and add District Committee members. If we want more people involved, invite them. NERAASA in general comes off very snotty. It used to bother me and now I ignore it and focus on the message.
- Eliminate NERD and wrap it into NERAASA. Adjust the Guidelines to state that NERD is part of NERAASA.
- No. I believe NERAASA works as intended. Adding more to the plate could dilute its purpose. When anything goes, eventually no one goes.
- No
- No
- No
- Don't really have an opinion
- In my opinion, no.
- No
- I do not believe NERAASA should expand its current scope: better to do one thing well than many badly (Tradition 5).
- Other than my comments earlier in this survey, I think NERAASA is just perfect.
- No
- No
- The statement of purpose is clear and we need no other purpose at this time.
- No
- No
- No
- Not sure right place to discuss. Thinking out loud. NERAASA and much of service structure related to geographic proximity, which goes out window with ""zoom"" and social media allowing more individual and group direct participation in national service structure. Pandemic shut down and zoom and social media truly a historic paradigm shift for AA service structure and how things done, suggesting need for reorganizational development committees and workshops on Home Groups, 7th Tradition etc. How many old meetings/groups not coming back after zoom and new ones started on zoom that will never have physical meeting place? Will physical Area assemblies go away because zoom cheaper and associated inefficiency gains? Pro and cons of hybrids assemblies? Should NERAASA resume in person format in future?
- Entire service structure of Districts, Sections, Areas and regional coordination groups like NERAASA from different era (and coordination with Intergroups) boots on ground. Does that need rethinking by some committees with recommendations? "
- No
- For a two day weekend, NERAASA covers enough. I was unable to attend all the round tables I had hoped to.
- No
- NO
- No
- No
- no
- No- let's try to do the stated purpose better
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- Not in my opinion.
- Not in my opinion.
- ok as is
- Yes
- No
- Not informed enough to answer
- YES GOOD IDEA AND IT SHOULD BE DESCUSED
- No. What they have per the guidelines gives them wide latitude and believe they should do their best to stick with the

guidelines as they have been written.

- Not in my opinion.
- Don't think so. Can't be all things to everybody.
- Discuss how the Zoom app is effecting AA as a whole
- No
- The Statement of Purpose is excellent as it is.
- No
- No.
- The stated purposes are solid.
- no
- No
- No.
- No
- NO
- no

### A-9 : Does one NERAASA per year meet our needs?

- 2 comment boxes for question #8 I think?
- However, I would be open to suggestions.
- I would like to see it have a mentor program so a new person can meet up with someone before, during and after. But that is usually a job for the service sponsors.
- Service needs to be the focus.
- Include A.A. members who do not hold service positions
- What happened to question #9? In response to the missing question (Does one NERAASA per year meet our needs?), one NERAASA per year does what it does, and quite well, so it does meet our needs, but expanding NERAASA to include additional activities (especially in a virtual format) during any given year could, despite the inevitable scheduling conflicts and onerous workload involved, prove ultimately to be a very beneficial exercise.
- None
- I think having more than one is cost and time prohibitive. I would like to see more of an effort in having the committees / roundtables meet throughout the year. Similar to the Trustees Committees. This can happen easily on a virtual platform.
- Now with the Zoom revolution, it would certainly be possible to do NERAASA more than once a year, as travelling and hotel costs would be eliminated
- A great deal has happened in a years time. What we discussed in Feb 2020 was a preamble to what and where we are today. A great example would be "in person meetings" and the responsibilities we have as guests in places of worship". How do we share the truth of who we are vs what we can get away with.
- Could be an every other year thing.
- Only way to find out is to ask this question as "would you attend a second annual NERAASA?" My answer would be yes.
- Virtual platforms provide opportunities for workshops and roundtables throughout the year
- Once a year may not be enough as I mentioned above about incomplete agenda items being put aside for a year.
- There are many other activities that require time and its a huge undertaking.
- Sorry man, I like, got a job and stuff. As much as I absolutely love traveling and AA I don't want to use all my weekends going to AA events. And I'm just a DCM not even a big shot
- I take in so much that weekend that if there is another per year I would be attending as well.
- To be honest NERAASA can get boring and it, doesn't clear what NERAASA really does? .
- I would like to think that 2 a year would be helpful, but I could also see how that could have unintended consequences.
- Considering current events (COVID) any regional event is subject to cancellation. While Zoom meetings are ok, there is no opportunity for sidebar conversations and personal interaction.
- If people are having difficulty affording travel once a year, how likely are they to travel twice?
- Many miss NERC. A second event in the fall could concentrate on sharing experience such as roundtables. Renew acquaintances since the spring. There are not many opportunities for service oriented members to get together as a region behind crowded months Feb to June. February event when could be devoted to GSC agenda items."
- All that NERRASA offered me and has to offer AA as a Whole. It should definitely be holding more Events and sharing the information that helps AA as a whole be better. In my opinion it's needed. I know Plenty of GSR's and DCM that can use the information, I received. All the information was so helpful and gave me a sense of guidance and Confidence in returning to fulfill My Service Position.
- If we had two, that'd be better, no? It would allow for more time.
- Twice a year would be better
- None
- None
- Not at this time during this season of times, much division seen in AA right now.
- This is perfect.
- It is a major effort to put on the event. I don't think it would be practical to do it more than once a year. It is also timely since it meets a couple wks after the final Conference agenda is available.
- Given how well ZOOM (online conferencing) has worked for AA during the pandemic, might be worth looking at using it for more targeted and/or quarterly or biannual regional meetings.

- We could have virtual announcements while the virus crisis exists. It is cost effective to go online until the epidemic passes.
- I love NERAASA I believe we need more of them
- this being my first time in ( NH ) I missed a few meetings, so maybe two times a year would be easier ?
- One in person NERAASA does - but consider how we can extend via virtual platforms. Use the roundtable in person as intro to the service position and then continue the roundtables as virtual the rest of the year. Make the virtual roundtables (or some portion of them) available to all NERAASA attendees so others can learn about service positions and how different areas structure their service positions.
- Unaffordable beyond once a year
- In my case yes as I have been involved in service for many years. Similar to my other comments, if a particular NERAASA is a little off on discussing current issues and sticking to service assignment collaboration, some may not want to come back.
- Absolutely as long as the information is passed down to the Delegates and it is passed down to the Areas, Districts, to the GSR's and Groups. Some are not always receiving information from NERAASA - which is a line of communication issue not because of NERAASA but due to others lack of communication.
- It depends on what the focus would be. Day or weekend? A follow up day to the Conference items? More in depth training?
- our area couldn't afford to support this more than once per year
- I feel more communication is better
- With the necessary preparation required for an event of this size, two such events a year would be difficult. In addition, at some point NERAASAs will be back in person and many Areas would have a difficult time funding two in-person events. However, one in-person and one virtual NERAASA might be feasible.
- Since the virtual environment has opened up, it might be helpful to have an additional (virtual) Regional conference/workshop after the Conference each year.
- Ambitious enough goals already, given the time constraints.
- Perhaps now that virtual is well adopted more events can be woven in before and after when we go back live. Like the business meeting. Lol. It could be done right before virtually.
- Multiple meetings per year could get expensive.
- I definitely feel, NERAASA needs to be more active in our growth for AA as a Whole and the Members. To Me NERAASA is Vital because you have so much Information and a deliverance that no-one else seems to have. I walked out of NERASSA last Year with a SKC on My Shirt, Super Knowledge Confidence. I finally had a clue of AA outside and Inside of My Group.
- I really think it would be a Tremendous Service to AA as a Whole and for the Members and a New Comer like Me.
- I say twice a Year, and year round Workshops. Fool for thought, NERASSA isn't known about, So that means People are unable to talk about or suggest a Member attends, if they have no idea about NERASSA. I hear members continuously say what's NERASSA. There a need for NERASSA to be more active than once a year. Like they tell us ""you can't keep it unless you give it away"" and NERASSA has to give it away. We need the information, the knowledge and experience for our growth, it's one of the missing links."
- Try planning two and see who will end up institutionalized!
- Do we need it twice a year? No - not if this is about prepping Delegates/Alt Delegates as well as creating an informed Region on GSC items. But if a second NERAASA was done - perhaps virtually - that was a service workshop, presentations from the Trustees + Q&A, and roundtables, it could be useful. How awesome would it be if NERAASA was able to take the Roundtables - something people rave about in learning and functioning in service - and was able to develop a network of people in Service with great resources! What if NERAASA was the way - for example - Treasurers could ask each other questions or Area members could talk about how they write motions? All of the sudden NERAASA is less about the Conference and more about serving the Region's Trusted Servants.
- The costs of having more than one a year would be too great on areas and individuals
- Each Area is autonomous. Overindulging in Regional events could have the unintended consequence of homogenizing our viewpoint on complex and/or sensitive matters.
- I don't think areas and members can afford more than once. I believe it would water it down if it were more than once as well.
- Because of the other service events that are carried out in my Area, having more than one would be difficult to attend.
- Maybe it can be twice a year with the Zoom platform
- I would be for a second meeting/year if it was via virtual.
- I believe that there should be two. With a second being held around late July or early August.
- Spring and Fall would be good
- Would like to see NERAASA meet more than once a year. If not in person, than perhaps virtually which I know they are doing for this upcoming February 2021. Why not consider it more than once with a stronger focus on service committee roundtables or break it up for one meet for service and another for the General Service Committee topics?
- There is only one GSC per year.

- 
- There are changes that happens on a regular basic. With just one meeting, there is not enough time to thoroughly discuss each issue and have ample amount of time to answer all the questions presented.
  - One Conference
  - The costs of having more than one a year would be too great on areas and individuals



### A- 10: How can we attract the diversity of our Northeast Regional A.A. membership to NERAASA?

- Compartiendo la experiencia con los demás, grupo, distrito, área y demás eventos de todas las áreas. (Sharing experience with the group, the district, the area, and others about events in every area.)
- Mas comunicación con los RSG's (More communication with DGS's)
- Fomentando la comunicación entre los MCD y los RSG para que se enteren de este evento; no limitandose a informar, sino compartir el proposito y los beneficios de participar en asambleas de esta naturaleza. (Fomenting communication between DCM's and DGS's so that they are aware about this event; not limiting to simply informing, but also sharing the purpose and benefits of participating in assemblies of this nature.)
- Not sure at this time
- More recovery meetings as part of the program could make the event more attractive.
- By encouraging GSRs to keep home groups informed of the primary purpose of AA.
- Insure financial support/greater online presence through websites
- More outreach by the committee
- Stop the segregation of members!
- Determine specific districts/groups who may appear to not be represented and call/write to them directly.
- Embrace unconscious bias present in all of us.
- provide a little entertainment- I remember being new and feeling uncomfortable in my own skin- add that to new to NERAASA and it is enough to drive people out. A little entertainment with round tables in the late afternoon might be a more attractive program.
- I believe that we already do, maybe that 2% is already attending!
- Make it more affordable. That would be super.
- All Areas promote NERAASA and communicate its existence to the Intergroups/Districts/Groups. We are united with alcoholism as our common bond, not by how we are different.
- Workshop with presentations and discussion.
- Good question. I don't have a simple answer. NERAASA is a service assembly. Attracting new folks to service at all levels has always been a challenge. Many but not all trusted servants possess that "Service Passion" and enthusiasm which can be contagious. A.A. needs more of that.
- Outreach and enhanced contact with Professionals in the community, treatment facilities, nursing homes, etc.
- Talk about it at our home groups and commitments.
- Ensure that Spanish translators are available for all panels and as many roundtables as possible. This means reimbursing translators and budgeting for this expense by the host committee.
- Service starts with sponsorship and the home group.
- Once we get back to normal I think visiting areas in districts with a specific Neraasa focus would be a good idea
- Not sure. Maybe "scholarship" awards to members of minority groups who might not be able to attend due to financial restraints?
- More outreach to clarify NERAASA purpose via media, perhaps a YouTube channel
- i think so
- Make it less expensive and offer online and in person participation. It is not accessible to all this way.
- Encourage service sponsorship. Encourage groups to financially support their GSRs so they can attend. Encourage Districts to financially support their DCMS. ETC
- Areas and Districts can be more involved in this.
- Direct communication with members
- Areas, districts, and Intergroups/central service offices should be strongly encouraged to offer more workshops and trainings about service, and to stress in those sessions the value of attending NERAASA.
- Keep inviting and informing
- None
- speak to recovery sponsors about the importance of promoting service to sponsees
- Continue advanced information
- ???

- Continue to communicate. Good sponsorship/service sponsorship and spread the word! Enthusiastically! If we want others to check out service we need to have it be an attractive package.
- Each of us as trusted servants can be more forthcoming about service and why it is important, to our own recovery and to AA as a whole. These could be meeting topics, workshops, etc.
- Unsure
- If you want to expand past service related topics, that may attract more members who think it is just a service thing
- Everyone who has attended should speak/invite/notify their local community via homegroup, newsletters, websites and one-on-one invitation. Also make easier to find "events" on GSO/aa.org site. It is not very prominent or easy to find...
- Great question, and happy it's being addressed. I do not have an answer however believe this is paramount to Unity. We have our answer that we are not fully united when the membership appears to miss a large section of our society
- Would choosing agenda items that specifically speak to inclusivity be helpful?
- So important! Reach out to all groups and encourage districts with the idea of sponsorship (especially this year!)
- Who feels we aren't attracting a diverse group? I believe its up to each area and committee members to properly educate and inform their members of what NERAASA is and what it isn't. Encouraging people to attend.
- More scholarships by areas
- Not sure, it is like so much else in life and in this program. You have to want it. I was sold on it by the enthusiastic response of my Delegate as well as my DCMC, as they spoke about the benefits that I would receive from attending and they were right.
- Area, could do more to educate members about Neraasa, its purpose and benefits in attending.
- This has always been a problem, all we can do is inform
- Good question, the arrogance of the Alcoholic is naturally drawn towards self importance, this happens at group level and so we find our selves sorely under represented by GSR's. The groups jut don't see the need.
- Age old question. ? Reach out to NAACP?
- Make it more affordable
- Great question. If I had the answer to that we would not have to work so hard at finding servants.
- Choose venues in diverse neighborhoods.
- Have the documents from prior years available on the website
- It is important that neraasa continue to rotate between the areas so that Maryland members can attend when it's in the south and Maine members can when it's in the north.
- By not setting the bar there. We need to attract more diversity to service than we have in our AA membership overall.
- Provide lodging and meals for socio-economically disadvantaged representatives or always make it hybrid so groups who can't afford travel & lodging could always attend.
- flyers, e-mails word of mouth, mail
- Virtual platform gathering remove barriers of money and geography that prevent many who might otherwise benefit from the rich experience in the region. It would allow more voices to be heard.
- Education.
- Talk it up
- good question. we're asking the same thing in our area
- Going virtual so there is no cost.
- Not sure
- Lower the cost incurred for the weekend. A lot of AA people don't have enough money to cover the weekend
- How can we attract them to AA as a whole? You answer mine and I'll answer yours
- It's too boring. Have more fellowship opportunities and don't have anything scheduled after dinner.
- Putting the invitation out there, making it more appealing so all AA can spread the word
- easier access
- choose locations with public transportation. Have Greeters walking around whose job it is to make folks FEEL WELCOME! Give them a script, if necessary.
- Sponser
- Word of mouth
- Not sure
- Insure financial support/greater online presence through websites
- Make the role NERAASA plays in the service structure of AA clear. Why am I spending time and money on NERAASA? What can I learn at NERAASA? Will NERAASA enrich my AA life?
- Insure financial support/greater online presence through websites
- STOP TRYING SO HARD to be diverse. It's become insulting & patronizing. It's having a reverse affect on so many. It's become quite annoying & usually unnecessary. And it seems quite disingenuous. AA has gone way too far with trying to be inclusive. There are some that think this is what your supposed to do when all they're doing is segregating people by highlighting their

differences. This inclusiveness thing has gotten NUTS. It's 2020/21. Most of the world get's it with the exception of those that like to keep creating segregation by creating labels & hence "victims". STOP!!!

- Hybrid format
- I THINK IT IS ALREADY VERY DIVERSE
- Tools - online links , flyers etc that can be distributed throughout fellowship . DCMs are left to advertise the event on their on thus emphasis becomes on person not program
- Good question, wish I had a good answer. We had a Zoom area convention recently and had topics on the program to attempt to attract a diverse cross section of our membership. I wish I could say we had success.
- i believe that we are doing a pretty good job of that
- We are attracting ok.
- In random areas have different activities.
- Inexpensive, convenient, attractive.
- People have to know More about what is NERAASA, and what's it's Purpose in AA as a Whole.
- There needs to be way more attractions of Flyers, Meeting, Workshops, etc
- Invite the Member's who don't know, a chance to get to know.
- It's too boring. Have more fellowship opportunities and don,Äôt have anything scheduled after dinner.
- Lol, write clear service manual!!!
- I wish I knew!
- On line and in person advertising.
- Perhaps Area Delegates can encourage more people in their area to attend.
- This is hard. Initiatives for diversity are often most successful when spearheaded by the minority communities themselves. Recruiting key people from diverse communities to the NERASSA committee(s)would be the first step.
- Through our service structure.bbgg
- More communication/involvement from districts to groups
- more transparent communication
- more social activities. have it be held at a more "tourist" location highlighting that year`s local flavor. skiing in VT/NH, on the beaches of the east coast. include golf, bowling, comedy show, dances, etc.
- With topics and discussions that are relevant to everyone.
- Through our service structure.bbgg
- Good question. Allow for more non-English speaking facets in the programming.
- Other affordable hotels nearby to the host hotel
- In what manner to you mean diversity, and why? Do you mean we need to attract more GSRs. Or more POC. I think if you NERAASA does a better job attracting GSRs and DCMs, it will find the diversity of the fellowship.
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Continue to offer something for everyone
- Invite those without service commitments
- Increase the diversity of AA membership and of the AA service structure. Explicitly address the discouraging levels of racism and sexism in AA and AA service.
- perhaps alternate one year in person and one year virtual
- This year! Zoom platform!
- Invite those without service commitments
- I think all of this comes from sponsorship.
- Areas overall need to be more responsible with diversity
- More people talking about it, sending out information via email or mailings, education. I have no idea what I,Äôm doing and it was difficult to get straight answers on my position and what to do.
- advertise it in a fun way
- I believe we do
- I think you're putting the cart before the horse here; the issue is that the rooms do not reflect our diverse society, and that absence is intensified going down the triangle.
- Not sure I understand the question.
- Diversity can be better achieved as soon as all members are willing to carry the message of love and service to those areas where the minorities are, by treating our non English speaking members as 1st class rather than an after thought.
- Diverse speakers at presentations: what if we have significantly LESS than half of the presenters be white, cisgendered, apparently heterosexual, over 40, and English speaking? Would that help? Information can be obtained from the 18 delegates regarding traits, without bias.

- More education at the Area, District, and group level about the fun and inspiration in attending NERAASA.
- Seek members from underrepresented segments of the fellowship to be in leadership.
- Stay sober
- We need to attract the diversity of AA as a whole first.
- That begins in the home group. The question should be what are home groups doing?
- Needs to get the membership involved at the grass roots level with more involvement with the Area at the Delegate level to carry the message to the members
- Sponsor delegated positions, get them involved
- Good question
- Need to increase the diversity of our membership first
- make it easier to attend (e.g., like on Zoom), make the web site more interactive/useful
- Reaching out
- Get more people involved in service starting with those who sponsor.
- Let people know that you can get information at NERAASA even if you aren't currently in the service structure
- Have members of color on the panels
- Perhaps having some pre conference Zoom Meetings to provide a head start on the conference agenda might yield a more productive conference. This could really help the roundtable too.
- Engage as participants
- Getting word to more diverse groups.
- I worry about the alcoholic who also uses drugs. I am concerned that in many places, they are still made to feel different/unwelcome. They have enough of a stigma in society. AA members should never add to that feeling of isolation.
- Get them involved in general service in their area
- NNJ Use social media platforms in private groups, use Microsoft TEAMS, have a morning workshop virtual event to reinforce northeast or area involvement.
- That is the big question. We need to appeal to all if we want all.
- No suggestion
- EVERYONE TO MOTIVATE ALL MEMBERS NEAR YOU AND ALL IDENTITIES
- Reach out to the intergroups and Districts to see how and where the communities might benefit having meeting held.
- announcing the neraasa at the areas website and asking servers to spread the word or making a date with a sponsor to watch neraasa could help
- Personal invitation
- I do not know
- Emphasize it to newcomers.
- Need to increase the diversity of our membership first
- Make the Assembly more accessible to older members (years of experience) who now have physical difficulties participating
- I feel we need to be stay current. Zoom meetings Venmo. Even after the pandemic. We need young people to feel welcome. We are still too old and too white
- Encourage the rewarding benefits of service
- Need to increase the diversity of our membership first
- What does this question mean? Change location that is more attractive to this "diverse" population
- Make sure the deadline for participating at NERASAA is on the registration form in English and Spanish. Most people have no idea of how the behind the scenes work is done. It was the hot topic of last year's business meeting.
- Service minded individuals are a lock. Others go for fellowship. Winter travel can be a deterrent for some. More scholarships might help.
- begins in the groups themselves
- Outreach by the area. Hybrid formats with a virtual option may help.
- Brenda all inclusive to all groups and individuals and accessibility
- Create a bring a buddy program
- Attendees need to really share the excitement, bring it back to the homegroups. I know for myself, I come back fired up and share it. Sometimes I feel like people zone out. I don't have an answer, but I see a few eyes light up with my excitement.
- Better outreach....people mention when they tell their stories or chair
- I don't know
- Flood the fellowship with invites
- "Diversity" has become such a loaded term these days I think it best to consider it an "outside issue" and seriously rethink just what it is that is needed for NERAASA to fulfil its purpose.

- Advertising it more broadly
- Create a diversity outreach committee
- By simply inviting everyone and by planning and executing a top notch experience. Attraction not promotion.
- A question that has been plaguing AA for a longtime.....has much to do with Sponsors.
- I don't know
- Despite Bill's efforts to try to equalize the financial expenses so that all members could participate in service, there is a wide gap in income levels in service. Service beyond the group or district has widened between white upper middle class and a working class of diversity. Taking three days off to attend was a luxury for many, and now, even virtually may not be possible.
- The experience needs to be more affordable to those in current service positions, and to those who are interested in service. That's why 2021 virtual NERAASA may be the great equalizer!
- We also need topics and issues that interest a more diverse membership. "
- More outreach to minority communities.
- Make written copies of the presentations available to everyone. I looked in the NERAASA archives and this used to be done.
- attractive promotion
- By simply inviting everyone and by planning and executing a top notch experience. Attraction not promotion.
- Cost and communication
- It's all about awareness. Reaching as many as we can is the key. Acknowledging the delicate balance between attraction and promotion, the rise of private social media groups is a great way to create that awareness while also adhering to traditions. After all, the very rise of social media is due in large part upon the inverse relationship between control and trust. In this way, there is definite synergy with certain key principles of our fellowship.
- personal contact
- I think we have to answer the question of "How do we attract diversity to our AA membership" first....
- sending out more info to groups
- Make it hybrid all the time
- Service minded individuals are a lock. Others go for fellowship. Winter travel can be a deterrent for some. More scholarships might help.
- Direct contact with "diverse" groups
- Responsible members need to invite with enthusiasm. Maybe a tiny blurb on the website regarding some of the top issues might be helpful?
- Focus on the various different communities that are not well represented in our Fellowship service events including the Spanish and Latino communities, Young people (YPAAs) and members of the LGBTQ community by identifying the key events in these communities to provide information about NERAASA to
- Age Old Question with no clear answer
- Exactly. Huge question. Difficult to answer
- More word of mouth in the run-up (maybe in the prior fall) through GSRs with particular push to groups with diverse membership.
- It's hard without watering down the purpose of the weekend. But again virtual can play a important part in our future.
- Doing great with this
- By making NERASSA known. In my experience There's not enough information to share with Members. There's no Physical Pamphlet, Flyers, Cards, etc. So how can we attend something we're unaware of. Also, the Flyers once a year that advertise NERASSA Event has to be bright, full of color to attract the eye. Member's tend to go for the Brightest Flyers and than attend. AWARENESS OF WHO AND WHAT NERASSA IS AND THEIR PURPOSE IS NECESSARY .
- Exactly what this survey represents.
- Invite them, many past Delegates have an elitist attitude. Example- make sure we don't have lunch or dinner with the general population. I see Delegates clumped together or buzzing by people without a greeting. NERAASA is not friendly. Change that atmosphere and they will come. Attraction is key.
- "Step 1: GSO finishes the Membership Survey Step 2: The GSB Communications Audit findings are reviewed in light of this data Step 3: Suggestions from GSB on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI ) based on best practices and the Communications Audit are shared with the Region for action Step 4: NERAASA works with this information to try to expand its reach. Why the above? Because attempts to attract diversity without understanding a) what the current spectrum of diversity is and b) what are good methods for outreach and action in accordance with our principles has a decent chance of failure. It is creating a plan of action without understanding the current state. So many considerations need to be taken into account: Who is going to lead this diversity push? Who is qualified to take on this issue? What is the short, medium, and long term plan for this issue, to include milestones and evaluation of progress? Are you even collecting diversity-related data from NERAASA attendees and can you? Do you know how the Northeast and NERAASA align to the full diversity of AA in North American and Canada? Do you have any historical data as reference points?

- You can find little “patches” (e.g., more sessions translated in Spanish, more signing meetings), but a true effort is not simple. Countless other public, private, and non-profit organizations are trying to work this issue. As wise as members of AA may be (or think we are), don't presume that we know best on this issue. “
- Discuss the importance of Homegroups, sponsorship, and service at that level. Why a informed Group conscience and a GSR to pass it along are so important to AA's future.
- More outreach
- More understanding of the Black and Latino culture to put aside stigmatize of Alcoholics.
- Interpreting
- Publish an agenda ahead of the conference so members of the fellowship are aware of topics.
- Delegates should invite participation
- Use the virtual platforms we're all on now to have informational workshops for example
- I don't know
- Diversity is a Group, District and Area responsibility. NERAASA provides information on best practices.
- Better addressed at local level
- I believe that a great deal of attraction comes from the members who have attended NERAASA and pass the message enthusiastically.
- Be more diligent on Spanish translations and translators. Out reach
- We can attract the diversity of NERAASA membership via attraction not promotion.
- Sitting Delegates are the owners of NERAASA - they should be working this in their Areas.
- earlier and better communication of what NERAASA is and does too general public. Better communication as to what each panel is about to better prepare participate I know more people would have attended if they knew panels were discussing new edition and gender language.
- We need to continue to be enthusiastic about service work and share the benefits of service work.
- You may see this year with a virtual component your participation increases
- Getting the info out, areas need to better get this out
- We already do attract diverse members of AA to NERAASA
- Zoom and social media type connectivity?
- Make it more affordable
- Maybe have it online and in person at the same time, for the ones that can't drive that far away
- Maybe if NERAASA was split into smaller districts for half year conferences, to allow easier travel however, more shall be revealed with our current COVID restrictions.
- Maybe have the meeting in the summer
- By showing enthusiasm
- Not sure
- It starts at the homegrown and us bringing new people with us to service event. The prob is NERASSA is often a long drive away so it doesn't lend itself to just a day attendance
- I think we are doing good.
- Make it shorter
- not sure
- Expense is the biggest obstacle to people attending.
- No reason to do anything other than offer
- Hmm.... the million dollar question. How do we get people to care? People involved in general service often go. Maybe area competitions, like which area has most people?
- No Ideas.
- No Ideas.
- stick to the purpose of NERAASA
- have it a hybrid meeting
- Unknown
- We need to as members on a Area level and district level share and explain to those with little sobriety under belt tge importance of service on District Area level We need to take time to encourage others passing on information and panthlets to those who need asking or looking to be of service
- The thing that turned my attention to service was passion for a particular issue within AA. Better communication of the actual agenda items at the local level would be helpful.
- I think we have done a good job of reaching out to all A.A. members. We have provided excellent translation services in anticipation of attendance. We are not responsible if the hand is extended, but not taken.
- Keep trying to get the meeting out

- Emphasize inclusivity at our local meetings and reach out to meetings outside of local groups, to Spanish, non white, etc to connect and make all aware of neraasa
- SHERING EXPERIENCE AND THE IMPORTAN AND TO SHERE WITH CUSTODIANS AND DELEGATES
- I think the better question is how do we attract our fellow AA alcoholics to participate and do service work within AA beyond just attending their groups and being in that bubble oblivious to the rest of AA. Improving communications and relationships within the AA structure is one suggestion which I know many are patiently trying to do.
- No Ideas.
- Reach out to diversified communities
- Explain to all GSR's what AA is trying to accomplish in this area
- Make it known that we are all inclusive not exclusive.
- Its up to Areas and Districts to encourage attendance. Its not up to the NERAASA host committee to "sell" the event.
- I would think more meeting to meeting appearances from NERAASA members.
- Every participant set goal of bringing 2 newbies...
- Including diversity panel presentations.
- Offer additional scholarships so it is accessible to those experiencing financial hardships. Provide online interpretive services for the legally blind, deaf, etc.

# APPENDIX A- 11

## COMMENTS

### A-11 : What can we do to ensure that all A.A. members interested in service are able to attend an accessible and affordable NERAASA?

- Preguntar en todas las necesidades de nuestros miembros que le impide asistir a neraasa si tiene el deseo de asistir. (Asking all members what is stopping them from attending NERAASA if they have the desire to attend.)
- Mas comunicación con las diferentes entidades de servicios : distritos/ oficinas intergrupales/ comités de la viña (More communication between the different service entities: districts/intergroup offices/Grapevine-La Viña Committees)
- Que los Distritos apoyen financieramente a sus MCD y los grupos a sus RSG. (Districts should financially support their DCM's, the same for groups and their GSR's.)
- Promoting more events but I do believe this is hard during a pandemic
- Make it hybrid - in person and virtual.
- Continue to offer virtual participation
- Virtual attendance should remain after COVID is contained.
- Scholarships?
- \$\$\$\$
- Ask those with accessibility issues what we could do better, employing the GSRs and DCMs to pinpoint particular individuals who could provide firsthand feedback.
- Consider virtual NERAASA's even after the pandemic, maybe split into 4 sessions rather than one entire weekend. Or split the region so that the travel isn't so extensive for those living on opposite ends of the region.
- Continue to keep the registration cost minimal; the location hotel affordable;
- Probably have a Hybrid Zoom and participant meeting or just make zoom available to listen in.
- Sponsorship. Loans. Gift cost of hotel.
- Work with Areas to budget for scholarships? Hold NERAASA in a more geographically centralized location.
- Not sure.
- Scholarships through District, Area and Home Group contributions
- More scholarships funded by areas and districts. District 10 AREA 48 recently added two NERASSA scholarships to its budget last year and they were very well received and those two scholarships helped 4 new people attend because the cost was split.
- There are stipends at many areas and districts
- See #10. Also stop sending 5-6K to GSO when we make money. Instead establish a scholarship fund with stipends of a couple of hundred dollars to defray the cost of travel, lodging, food.
- Raffles to fund scholarships
- Simplify the meals
- I think more groups need to set money aside to send their GSRs to NERAASA. I know times are especially tough financially right now for everyone from group member to AAWS, but maybe this could be encouraged when things get "normal" again.
- Now with the virtual opportunity, we have been presented with we may concern rotating NERAASA virtually for more accessibility and affordability for our members.
- they paid for booze they can pay for NERAASA
- Have speakers go to groups and talk about NERAASA
- Reasonable hotel rates. Information about affordable eateries nearby. Do all you can to make it affordable!
- Areas and Districts can be more involved in this with scholarships and utilizing funds.
- Not sure - some just can't afford to travel
- Cont to move north and south in the Region from year to year
- Well, going totally virtual would lose some of the human and fellowship aspects of past NERAASAs, but it certainly would be less expensive in terms of time, travel, food and lodging, and health and safety concerns.
- Keep it virtual
- ???
- Provide access for all, Disabled, language needs, economically (scholarships)
- Maybe give out some more scholarships so people that would not normally be able to afford it can go.
- Keeping prices as low as possible and maintaining a scholarship program
- Make it more affordable and offer virtual options



- scholarships, rooms over the limit get compensated
- We have entered the Zoom age due to the COVID, but having online access to NERAASA (even if there is a physical in person event in the future) would eliminate many barriers to attendance
- another great question, one that I do not have a response
- Keep registration fee low as it is, remain self supporting, and inform, inform, inform. (groups, districts, Areas to reimburse?)
- Again, sponsorship, not just for DCMs but partial sponsorships (in regular years) for GSRs. This is in the power of the Districts, though, not NERAASA. Again, I think NERAASA's part is communication.
- It starts with each host committee to put together a weekend to achieve both parts of this question. Then it's up to the area's to take a role in having the necessary funding to pay for area committee members to attend.
- More scholarships by areas
- I was very lucky to have a group that could afford to send me, after I pitched it at the business meeting. The group was incredibly generous and paid for the whole thing. Maybe this year with it being virtual more people may be able to attend because the cost is so low. It will be very curious to see the response to a virtual conference, especially since for the most part most of us have been operating rather effectively in the virtual platform.
- Scholarships? Long term contract with Hotel?
- like my home group, pay the expense of the GSR and district payed for officers
- Offer scholarship programs for areas.
- Reach out to districts to beat the bushes for all who would like to go but don't know they can
- "Young people's conferences have had tremendous results in lowering the cost of attendance by holding separate, regular events prior to the conference.
- NERAASA host committees might consider holding regular events to raise funds in the years leading up to their host year... Making clear that these events are in support of NERAASA, rather than their respective Area. Any money raised before hand could potentially offset the final cost for attendees significantly."
- Make it more centralized
- Areas, districts, and groups should attempt to reimburse their members
- Maybe split it into two events so more can attend without flying
- See 10.
- Offer hybrid/virtual options. Educate at the local level about self-support. Make the event more affordable to register (I.e. \$5 and provide a fully self supporting (I.e. \$45) figure as is done with GSC.
- Make free not for weekend
- see above
- flyers, e-mails word of mouth, mail
- Virtual platforms provide easy access for many who would not otherwise be able to attend. Money spent on hosting a service assembly could be used to support AA service entities or AA as a whole in other ways
- Perhaps offer some scholarships?
- Make a pamphlet
- I wish I knew
- Make information available
- Scholarships
- Somehow lower the cost
- Scholarships, but that gets sketchy sometimes. Maybe there's an outside enterprise that'll fund them? Hmmm??? If only AA had a set of traditions that would give us some guidance on this matter
- Zoom
- If all attendees bring at least one new member to the event. A way to pass the message
- less expensive
- scholarships. locations with public transportation.
- Do are best to make it affordable to all.
- Keep costs to attend low
- Not sure
- Continue to offer virtual participation
- Promote the idea that Districts should pay to send DCMs and that AA groups should pay to send their GSRs. My home group pays for our GSR to attend paying up to \$500.
- Continue to offer virtual participation
- As for myself, I always tried to bring a member, new or not, that could afford to go or not [I was willing to pick up the bill for them. Share my room with them] that was not familiar with service outside of the group. That they may learn about our service

structure, GSO, GSC, general service positions, traditions, etc., & to just “watch the sausage being made”. Ya never know when someone is gonna have that “I cudda hadda V8” moment.

- Hybrid
- Get more affordable choices for housing during the events. The expensive hotels that the area picks are not affordable to many of us.
- Provide easy to transmit materials for local distributions
- Areas, Districts and Groups need to provide scholarships’ to members who would otherwise be unable to attend.
- i believe that is an issue better addressed at the local level
- offer scholarships ? to those directly involved in service.
- You need to go to different areas and have workshops, information set up tables meetings.
- Consciously rotate venue between North and South venues. Or between. Virtual and in person events. We’ll have to see how 2021 works out.
- Zoom
- Virtual meetings instead& offer survey monkey to ask membership when is the best time for them to meet
- I don’t know. It’s not that expensive if you fill a car and get a roommate.
- Try to be as economical as possible.
- Encourage all Areas/Districts to provide funding for their GSRs, DCMs, etc
- Making a virtual option available for at least some of the weekend at a reasonable rate would be a good start.
- District ,Äscholarships,Äù
- address the spiraling increase in costs
- keep costs low and/or use group fund to finance the weekend for people in service
- Financial reimbursement is up to the groups, districts and areas. But, if we try to have NERASSA’s spread over the northeast, it would be easier to attend in person. Perhaps some parts of NERAASA could be virtual after we go back to in person NERAASAs.
- Zoom meetings in tandem with meeting LIVE could help down the line. With ASL and language interpreters, to boot.
- Other affordable hotels nearby other than the host hotel
- Always have a virtual component possibly. Travel costs and time are the two biggest hurdles. Maybe Area’s could organize car pools or “Get in the car” drives.
- Scholarships for first time attendees
- Offer scholarships
- Investigate the use of zoom and other internet technologies for NERAASA meetings going forward.
- perhaps alternate one year in person and one year virtual
- This year! Zoom platform!
- Offer scholarships
- be cost effective
- Offer zoom, not on Sunday mornings when church normally meets.
- I think it is very affordable. You can’t go wrong this year with the cost of the virtual format.
- A fund to sponsor new attendees
- Because of the pandemic....the idea of a zoom conference might continue as an integral part of doing an hybrid conference. Not everyone can afford to travel nor can each and every Area help assist their service leaders to come.
- Every AA member should be interested in service. Therefore, the question should always be asked, Are we open to all and affordable for the small groups? Having a \$20 registration fee is completely outrageous. This tradition has got to stop. Think ..can my homegroup GSR come with the coffee maker, secretary and treasurer? IF they do attend, what would they do. All topics are sophisticated for the average AA member and the round tables are not inclusive unless you are involved in Area service.
- More discussion at the Area, County, District level of what NERAASA is and the opportunity to learn about your new commitment there
- It is an expensive weekend, for sure. My Area pays registration for anyone attending and full fare for Delegate, Alt Delegate, and Chairperson to attend.
- everything we can think of, then try harder.
- Scholarship
- Area financial support
- Scholarships from the Area would help though do to the Virus Zoom seems to be the best option in the future and beyond
- Virtual we have learned
- Stress at meeting, that groups should fund service providers to attend. Get word down to group level.
- Change the perception of NERAASA at the group level so that more groups are willing to support the cost to send their GSRs

- When the reg fee for ZOOM NERAASA is almost the same, something is very wrong
- Maybe start a scholarship fund for those who can't afford the weekend when we meet in person again.
- hotel locations and prices
- Not much we can do to lower the cost. We should encourage areas and districts to help fund people who haven't attended before.
- Zoom Hybrid the conference.
- Provide Interpretation
- Scholarships/Sponsorship Grants
- Suggest that districts and/or areas have scholarships for those interested. Or a cheaper online version for those who can't afford the inperson version.
- Tell Areas about the importance and relevance of NERAASA
- Scholarships program, partial reimbursements by districts, filter info to groups. Distribute flyers mid-year to get excitement
- Group, District and Area reimbursement.
- Encourage individual Areas
- KEEPING THE REGISTRATION LOW
- Checking with the Areas , Districts and Intetgroups to make sure that the Neraass dates are published and sending out fliers for the event letting fellowship members know what is available for them.
- virtual neraasas and scholarships for special dedicated workers.
- Create a scholarship
- have scholarships
- Keep the hotels affordable.
- Change the perception of NERAASA at the group level so that more groups are willing to support the cost to send their GSRs
- improve on the physical accessibility including designating an Accessible Seating area close to the stage, make the stage accessible and offer scholarships for First Timers
- There needs to be more money available from district and central services. I have paid my own way for 3 years
- comes down to money, and location
- Keep it rotating to different areas.
- Change the perception of NERAASA at the group level so that more groups are willing to support the cost to send their GSRs
- Continue with virtual and go to these homegroups
- Email registration links to Areas and districts. Have the schedule on the website 2 months in advance fill details as they come in so folks know if they are even able to attend what they want to. I also suggest making the invite attractive to those who have never been. There's a lot of assumptions by those already enthusiastic that the new person would never guess: what's in it for them and the benefits to their spiritual growth? Service junkies scare as many away with their preaching and shoulding on people.
- Scholarships. If someone wants to go they will find a way.
- Consider hybrid in-person and virtual NERAASA. Don't do away with in person, but make virtual an additional option. That NERAASA can be virtually attended in 2021 for \$21 is so great!
- Offer a better hospitality room and joint room accomodations
- Scholarships
- My homegroup pays for my attendance. I think more people would attend if there was a payment schedule, which I'm not sure there isn't.
- Do hybrid once we go back to face to face
- Continue to have virtual options
- Good question
- Isn't that what Area and Regional assemblies and conferences are for? Otherwise, I'll be attending again the next time that we host the annual meeting.
- Have the Districts or Home groups help out financially
- Create scholarships with encouragement of contributions from recipients. Also encourage fellowship car pools and bunking!
- Zoom has opened the door for those who cannot attend in person.
- My area pays for officers to attend, my home group pays our GSR expenses. Other than that I don't know
- Getting members to ,Äòdo,Äò service work and follow through with a commitment is always tough.
- "Offering NERAASA via a virtual platform is a great accessibility for those who cannot afford to attend or who are homebound due to social/emotional/physical issues.
- Ensure the stage when there is one is wheelchair accessible, has a railing for those who use a cane for stability.
- The lighting in the room is not too bright for those who have light sensitivities.
- The chairs are often set so close together we are set on top of one another - who knows thanks to COVID we might be required

to be 6 feet apart and in separate rooms in the future streaming on many screens. Roundtables to sit at for ease of using laptops/writing is always a plus. “

- The coming 2021 NERAASA may have some of the answers to this. The bidding system by Areas to host a NERAASA in the past was competitive and fun. In recent years fewer Areas have bid to host. Thinking of travel time, expenses to travel and hotel costs, The Bidding System Needs to be Revisited.
- The NERAASA in Maryland was one of the worst in terms of location in the Northeast, hotel accessibility challenges, and a nightmare to anyone with a special need. The choice to go to remote New Hampshire in 2020, and then Pittsburgh in 2021? Difficult to get to places. Please revisit how locations are chosen.
- Scholarships would help, but so would more encouragement to younger members.
- Look for affordable venues and encourage areas and district to financially support attendees
- Utilize technology to serve those that can not attend
- Zoom has opened the door for those who cannot attend in person.
- Utilize technology to serve those that can not attend
- In the era of the pandemic, I think this is simplified.
- Districts could provide scholarships
- Keep NERAASA more centrally located.
- offer more scholarships
- Hybrid all the time
- Scholarships. If someone wants to go they will find a way.
- Pound the streets
- Encourage HG and Areas to help finance.
- MY COUNTY scholarships 3 in person attendees . this year we have on our county reps meeting to discuss reimbursing the first 20 registrations. hopefully it becomes a motion and accepted
- Keep the costs as low as possible. Consider providing scholarships.
- Not sure, maybe more scholarships
- \$21 is the easy part. Getting everyone a laptop or iPad is more difficult
- Each Area needs to be responsible for that. However perhaps a virtual roundtable before or after the main event can address ways that areas can achieve this.
- Scholarships
- Keep the Zoom option available.
- Scholarships
- Offer financial assistance for hardship cases.
- You cannot guarantee financially unless NERAASA kicks in set amount of \$\$\$. I worked on 2019 and all we could do was our best with resources available. We did a lot of negotiating so make sure your hotel liaison is comfortable with that. Most venues are accessible. Deaf and HOH need to be front and center for lip reading. Many HOH do not sign. Closed captioning via software would help many as there are many 50+ age group with hearing aides.
- Send out letters to the Groups explaining what it is and why it is important in helping to carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholics.
- Not sure
- Group sponsorship
- Scholarships
- Scholarships
- monitor pricing, consider scholarships
- Keep cost down
- Sponsor them with contributions from the group, District and Area.
- Encourage Groups to send their GSR and alternate.
- Continue to have on-line even when in person.
- In District 7 Area 70 Vermont we voted to help with room and travel expenses for anyone who wanted to attend .
- Make it affordable ... this has not always been the case
- As regards affordability, I'm a proponent of including a space on the registration form to make a voluntary scholarship contribution.
- We need to educate the the Area Treasurer/Finance Committees as well as District's and groups of the importance of helping their Officer's, DCMs and GSRs attendance at the events. Make a connection to them and suggest they help financially and fully expect a report back.
- Are there scholarships offered
- hold at venue that is close to multiple accommodation choices for economical hotels.

- Keep the cost of accommodations & locations affordable & accessible.
- Add a virtual component
- Tough one
- Zoom and social media type connectivity?
- Set up scholarships
- Better prices for where we are going and staying
- Maybe provide scholarships? Maybe keep the conferences more centrally located? My county reimbursed our hotel and travel, (2 of us) and would for 2 women if they chose to come. I know they our area supported those involved. We need to be self supporting
- zoom
- Well districts cover costs
- By making sure that home groups and Districts are able to pay for the attendee
- Encourage Areas, Districts & Groups to budget for members attendance.
- Have them closer to where people live by not having the NE region be so large
- Have a round table for those contemplating about service work.
- Virtual meeting
- keep housing costs down as much as possible...
- Zoom is a start. Drop the registration fee. Have better defined panels, round tables & meetings that aren't so repetitive to generate interest
- Sponsorships to help with costs that groups don't cover
- Not charging \$21.00 to make money for Buck
- Scholarships?
- NERAASA does as much as possible to allow all to attend.
- have it a hybrid meeting
- Unknown
- Have support have discounts for members on a group level coming from Area with other groups ... a lot more money to Area .. in some way shape fo to make it accessible Cut corners and have it at a level that is not so expensive place to stay
- Perhaps this virtual format will be the answer.
- I find that your registration fees to be affordable my District is putting up funds for all it's committee members
- Same as above
- TO BRING THE INFORMATION TO THE MEETINGS OF A.A
- Going virtual is the most affordable way and/or if in person the support of Area's and district's for those who want to go but can't afford it.
- NERAASA does as much as possible to allow all to attend.
- Lower registration costs
- Provide scholarships when necessary
- Maybe do sponsorships
- This is up to the Areas, Districts and Groups to decide. Of course all efforts should be made to keep the cost as low as possible.
- Same as above!!
- Scholarship for hotel/meal? once live again or continue zoom option as hybrid to expand attendance
- Perhaps offer scholarships for those who can't afford it?
- Set up a scholarship fund.
- Promote scholarship opportunities to all groups through their GSR and/or DCM.
- The individual areas need to step up and take it upon themselves to cover this
- No simple answer other than offering scholarships
- Consider Public Transportation when choosing sites. Offer Service "Scholarships".
- Hold Hybrid / in Person - OnLine event
- Make it affordable ... this has not always been the case
- N/A

# APPENDIX A- 12

## COMMENTS

### A-12 : Is there anything you would like to add?

- No (No)
- No
- meetings for DCM, ALT DCM not held at the end of the day when everyone is tired.
- We are not all inclusive!
- I appreciate your efforts in doing this inventory- we all need a little inventory now and then.
- There must be something we can do to have more people attend. the price is definitely a deterrent. We need a bigger cross section of people.
- Thanks for your service!
- Thank you for your AMAZING service. Please keep NERAASA as service oriented as possible.
- NERAASA has made me a person dedicated to service and has enriched my recovery :)
- no
- An inventory of NERAASA is long overdue. This inventory survey is just the start of the inventory process, but the survey results should produce some clearly expressed needs and perhaps lead to some policy changes and actions warranted for future improvements.
- Nothing comes readily to mind
- No
- I think it is important we keep NERAASA evolving and growing to meet the needs of AA as a whole.
- No
- Thank you for your loving service and these clearly well thought out questions.
- No.
- No
- "I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the Nashua Area Groups that helped to run a really great conference. They did an outstanding job organizing and making this first timer feel very comfortable at my first large scale AA conference.
- I returned from NERAASA a better GSR than when I went, so I would say my group got their monies worth. As I rotate out of that job, I look forward to my next position in service to AA. As a result attending the conference, I now have a service sponsee, who will be attending this coming years NERAASA, again at the expense of our home group."
- Please place importance on Traditions verbally and openly. It is of course inferred, but needs to be right up front.
- This year should be interesting
- Panel on service sponsorship
- Make it more interesting
- Spanish translation needs more support
- no
- To remember we become responsible.
- Your roundtables are too late.
- Keep up the great work
- roundtables too late
- No
- The roundtables are important but are scheduled at the end of the day as if an after thought. They are at the same time so I need to choose which role to nurture. The role of the GSR should be elevated.
- Yes, but I'm trying to practice restraint.
- no
- Perhaps NERAASA could address other issues, such as the willingness of Conference to change Bill W.'s writings
- "Attending NERAASA taught me to give back and helped me to understand the organization of AA.
- Separately, I am very curious to know how Covid-19 impacted AA at the meetings level and contributions to AA. In my area all the meetings closed. A few of us members decided to huddle in the cold outside in a local park to have meetings and continue thru summer. Now we are back inside, but there are restrictions to not meet more than 10 or so. And not all churches are open either. Zoom helps a lot of people but I prefer the live meetings."

- Thank you
- Not enough room at the inn
- I was actually looking forward to flying to Pittsburg during snowstorm season - no direct flights from Maine and possible icing on the wings! Will Zoom instead!
- Not at this time.
- with covid going on, when and where is that next NERAASA?
- 11th STEP meditation needs to be incorporated into this Assembly. ASAP.
- More affordable recordings of the meeting.
- Thank you for your service.
- No
- Keep up the good work.
- thank you
- Make sure this year is a Zoom Platform!
- No
- How do I get more information that is easy to understand about my position and the betterment of AA during this season? I,Ãm a new GSR for the Hanover Women,Ãs group District 35.
- Nope
- Please don't combine GSR and DCM roundtables. Total chaos!!!
- No
- YES more workshops and sharing sessions on real issues that face AA and regular members need help with. The Traditions, The service structure, and group related topics.
- I love NERAASA!! am grateful for the hard work of the Inventory Committee
- No
- Too much time regurgitating information
- I found NERAASA to be tremendously helpful to me in my service work and have not missed one since attending my first in 2005
- No
- NERAASA awakened me in a way I never expected or could consider. I enjoy it more than conventions or roundups.
- No
- No
- No
- No
- Too much time regurgitating information
- Although I registered and paid for the past two sessions, I was unable to attend either; hence, the neutrality of the responses.
- KEEP THE GOOD WORK
- "Having Work Service open is very important to an AA. The office represents the reality of AA, that we are not word-to-mouth organization. It gives stability to AAs world wide. For instance: during the close out of covid. We met in the public park most everyday which was very helpful, but after awhile the message became diluted as many other programs started to participate; and new comers without any knowledge of group protocols, started to impose their program on us. NA people started to share more than once and to cut the speakers/and chairperson. I realize the value of open groups where we learn this stuff. My mtg. in the park got so bad that I stopped going there. Now I go to live church mtgs. However, not all groups opened in my area. Also members are afraid to come in. Also we have attendance and distance observations as requested by the church which all of the above diminishes our services. "
- no
- No
- I found NERAASA to be tremendously helpful to me in my service work and have not missed one since attending my first in 2005
- I thank member of this years NERAASA 2020 for honoring my request for a Designated accessible seating area and ask that it continued into 2021 and further
- Want to know the topics for discussion before hand
- I loved it, but not to happy with the way corrections was handled
- I found NERAASA to be tremendously helpful to me in my service work and have not missed one since attending my first in 2005
- Not all are able to afford the ice cream socials and some folks feel left out
- Limit the amount of times someone can come to the microphone. We heard the same people over and over last year.
- I really like coming to NERAASA, it enriches my life and I look forward to meeting in person soon!
- None
- KISS

- N/A
- Not now
- The presentations and speeches (if possible) due to hearing impaired attendees and other medical issues should be emailed out prior to the start of each panel or the start of each day to prevent attendees from focusing on taking notes or trying to take pictures of the screens.
- NERAASA is valuable. This may be the best time and opportunity we have to address the kinks that have been there and can be adjusted now.
- Nope
- I think that the daily schedule is very long (and I have a workaholic tendency). As I recall, we crammed in 15-hour or so days. You lose people after about 6 hours. I think that adding an additional day, rather than running from 8 AM to 10 PM would be wise. You might have solid attendance throughout the entirety, but retention rates are likely low.
- no
- No
- No
- Thank you for conducting this much needed survey. I now see the difference between a survey (a true inventory) and an evaluation of the event
- No thanks
- I love NERAASA
- No.
- Since we're not a glum lot I'd like to say I'm on the can right now. Some of my best material comes from here. ☺
- No
- No
- No
- People hog the mics during discussion and it becomes a bit ego driven. The same person will share every session. Remind people if they've previously shared, please go to the back of the line, or wait 10 minutes before joining the line.
- Please get rid of the Sunday morning "Past Trustees" talk/panel. It is the same thing every year - the same people. Let's stop putting people on a pedestal for past service.
- My presence at Nebraska was very satisfying and fulfilling
- no
- No
- No- keep up the good work in service to Alcoholics
- This "inventory" is more like a survey. And does not lend to discussion and the presence of a higher power
- Thank you for doing this survey. Hopefully some improvements will come out of it.
- Suggest limit on number of times the same people get up to open microphone. A few people got up first, or second in line at every opportunity it seemed. It got to be silly, and some different people did not get a chance to speak because of that. Hard or impossible to enforce, but could be suggested at the start of each new panel.
- No
- Thank you for all you do
- I had a great time and look forward to the next "Live" NERAASA
- No enjoyed the event
- Two NERAASAs a year.
- Great to learn from experienced service members
- I'll be interested to see how things go on zoom
- Not at this time
- Not at this time
- No
- Well I'm just Greatful for Aa for all who volunteer give time service on every level That I came into Aa and that I can be of service giving back what has been freely given
- ACTUALLY THE MEMBERS OF HISPANIC A.A THERE MISSING THIS INFORMATION
- Thank you for your service from the bottom of my heart and the opportunity to give you my two cents for what it's worth. Peace and serenity to you all.
- Not at this time
- Have workshops informing how an archives digital/historical scheme can be developed for categorizing information
- Keep up the good work
- The rule by mob at the business meeting needs to finally come to an end. NERASSA needs to establish a way Area to appoint a



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set number of voting members to attend the Business meeting

- No thanks!!
- Thank you for opportunity for feedback
- NERAASA helped me see how grand and far-reaching A.A. service is in our area of the nation. Everyone is very motivated to keep A.A. thriving.
- No, always loved the flow of information, especially at the roundtables.
- No
- This “inventory” is more like a survey. And does not lend to discussion and the presence of a higher power
- No