

District 55 Newsletter

1st Quarter, 2022
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“To schedule or not to schedule... Wait, what was the question?”

Maintaining AA Schedules during a pandemic...

District 55 Schedule ChairPerson

Ginnie K.

“Get into District level service work” they said...
“You’ll love it” they said...

Well, they weren’t wrong. But love isn’t something that is always easy, predictable, or convenient. This is my experience with service work, particularly as the Schedules Chairperson during an unprecedented and unpredictable pandemic.

Before I get into my experience, I want to give my heart felt love and thanks to our newsletter ChairPerson, Kelly P., for asking me to be of service, and for all of those in our District keeping the AA heartbeat going.

I have been District 55 Schedules ChairPerson since January 1, 2021. When I attended a district meeting end of 2020 and rose my hand to volunteer as the schedule’s chairperson, I had no idea what to expect. It kind of goes that way for any service position I’ve ever taken. However, this one... well, you can probably just imagine if you pause for a moment and think of all the changes we have experienced these last 2 plus years (insert nervous laughter here).

This experience has been rewarding, humbling, ruffled my feathers, risen my blood pressure, and even brought me to tears. I have grown in ways, learned a few things, and have had my character defects pop up like a game of whack-O-mole. Most importantly, I am sober today and remained sober through it.

Within the first two weeks of being Schedules person, I received a handful of changes to the schedule and almost immediately questioned my life decisions. My life was already busy enough with work, kids, homegroup service, etc. In fact, a couple of months in I asked to resign my position if someone else was available. I am grateful it worked out the way it did and I got to continue the position. God works pretty cool like that in my life because I had some rough patches in my recovery in 2021 and I believe that service work and staying connected helped keep me sober.

With the growing changes of zoom/hybrid/in-person/temporary meeting closures, I chose to create two different schedules. Some of you may have seen these; the “Zoom insert” and the “tri-fold” schedule. This seemed to work out pretty well overall and for the most part it was well-received. One of the things that I love about AA service work is the ‘trusted servant’ part of it. A trusted servant is trusted by the group to make the decisions for that position (within reason of course). That has helped me develop a creativity and confidence in areas I didn’t have before. Someone once told me “if you want self-esteem, do esteemable things”. Service work has been one of those things for me and works beautifully like that. Gotta keep my ego and pride in check though; those ugly buggers like to disguise themselves as self-esteem. Anybody else? No? only me? Okay.

To give an example of the vast number of changes that took place for our schedules last year...I have 35 different renditions of 2 separate schedules with a total of 70 separate schedules with updates and changes. That blows even my mind but not just for the reasons of the sheer numbers. It blows my mind that AA, all over the globe, kept growing forward despite the constant changes and unknowns. And if anyone dislikes drastic changes and unpredictability it's an alcoholic like me! But here we are! Here we all are! Because one alcoholic reached out to another, and those alcoholics continue to be of service. One day at a time.

This position may have been one that really threw me for a loop, but it also really changed my perspective on District level service work and what it takes to keep some of the things in AA going and it got me connected in ways that I

never was before. I have gotten emails, calls, texts, and random times, asking about meetings, or letting me know of updates, or to ask for additional schedules. The great thing about that, for an alcoholic like me, is that my HP, God, puts those interruptions in my day exactly when I need them; when I need to get out of my own self.

It's always easy to say a service position is 'easy', but until I step my feet into that role, I truly have no idea. I have a great deal of appreciation for all of those who have served at any level in AA at any time, and especially these last two years. Of my time in service work and in AA, service these last two years has proven to be the most challenging.

But guess what? I GET to be here, I GET to be sober, I GET to write something about it. And that sisters and brothers is what it is about.



District 55 has open trusted servant positions

Have you ever wondered what it's like to serve at District Level?

If so, come to a District 55 business meeting and see what it's all about! **We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall** (107 E. Prairie St.)

Current service opportunities on the District 55 committee:

Alternate DCM: Serves as back up for regular district committee member. Acts as the District Registrar by maintaining current records of the District Groups, group contacts (usually GSR and Alternate GSR) and working with the Area 92 Registrar (Alternate Delegate) to maintain currency with Area and GSO. Assist, participate, and share in the DCM's responsibilities, attending district and area meetings where feasible, depending upon local needs.

Accessibilities Chair: The Accessibility chair assists A.A. members who have a variety of challenges in accessing the A.A. message in A.A. meetings, Twelve Step work and other A.A. service. The position ensures we carry the message of A.A. to: The alcoholic who is deaf or hard-of-hearing; Alcoholics who are blind or have a visual impairment; A.A.s with physical challenges or chronic illnesses; Elder alcoholics; Parents or other caregivers; Under-served and remote communities

Treatment Chair: Carrying the message of recovery by bringing A.A. panel meeting (Bridge The Gap) into our District treatment facilities. In addition, demonstrate to the administrators and staff of those treatment facilities "how it works"; and to provide information about A.A. To offer informational programs for professional staff at inpatient and outpatient facilities in the district as needed/requested. See, also, page S46 of the Service Manual.

<<<DISTRICT 55 ACTIVITIES CONTINUES TO CRUSH IT >>>

Who says we can't dance SOBER?! The 80's themed Valentine's Day dance on February 12th was a huge success. We had lights, fog, lip syncing, music and games for the kids and adults. Participation and laughter was contagious, it was definitely something we want to repeat next year. Activities would like to give a gigantic shout out to Raul and Carlos for the light show and providing games for the crowd. Heather and Clifford gave an upbeat performance with guitars and head banging to Joan Jett – we have the video to prove it!

The St. Paddy's Day Speaker/Potluck on March 12th was well attended with every chair at the Legion taken. Jim W. shared his experience, strength, and hope and received a standing ovation. Many hands made that event the smoothest so far. Many thanks to all members who consistently

show up early to help decorate and stay late to clean up.

The annual auction is set for Saturday, April 30th at The Sequim Prairie Grange/Macleay Hall. Set up begins at 9am with a meeting at 10am. The event is a potluck with hamburgers, hot dogs, and refreshments provided. Lunch will begin around noon with the auction starting at 1pm. Please bring donations the morning of April 30th, everything that is not sold must be taken home with the person who brings it. This is District 55's Activities fundraiser that helps support events all year round and helps pay for the annual Gratitude Dinner in November. Please come show support and enjoy the camaraderie all day long!

-Melissa L. & John P.

District 55 Spring Auction

*Saturday, April 30th, 2022 @ The
Sequim Prairie Grange*

Set up: 9:00 am

Meeting: 10:00 am

Lunch: 12:00 pm

Auction: 1:00 pm

*Potluck (bring your favorite dish to share)
Hotdogs, Hamburgers and Refreshments will
be provided.*

*Please bring your SELLABLE donations to the
auction at 9:00 am. Whatever doesn't sell
needs to be taken home.*

*Bring cash - all proceeds go towards
supporting District 55 events, including The
Gratitude Banquet in November.*



