

# DCM Report

Hello All,

Having just returned from the winter workshop in Temple, TX I am much impressed with the new panel 72 officers and chairpersons and especially with our district GSRs, officers, and chairpersons. While there I attended some workshops and made some connections with our area officers, committee chairs and fellow DCM's. The service conference inspired me and would like to share some thoughts that resonated with me from that experience in my report.

The theme of the workshop was "The Solution: Step Into The Book", very creative but it left me thinking if I was to condense my experience into a short phrase it would have to be "primary purpose, one alcoholic working with another alcoholic". This can be accomplished by attending a local meeting, putting our hand out there to help, or to be helped, and following up on those encounters. But what about the alcoholic who does not have access to local meetings due to a lack of resources, information, or has some other type of physical or communication challenges that may be present in their lives?

We are living in a time of great change and upheaval from the norms we may have been accustomed to. Even in a post pandemic society some members still may not be able to attend live meetings due to health issues, or some may not want to because they prefer the use of new technologies that are available.

It's my belief that the message of hope and recovery should be available to all who suffer from the malady of alcoholism, not just the fortunate who live near an awesome group. But what about those with accessibility challenges? Are we ready for these members at our meetings? Although Alcoholics Anonymous is widely known and publicly accepted many with special accessibility needs lack basic access to our fellowship. What can we do to accommodate these members? I realize, this puts an enormous weight on our shoulders and changes will not occur overnight, but it may be time to start thinking about bringing up recommendations before our groups. More information about AA accessibilities can be found on our area's website at <https://www.aa-swta.org/committees/accessibilities-chairperson/> that includes a **group special needs access survey**.

Along the lines of accessibility...last month, we designated a district sub-committee to seek out the silent groups within our district. The purpose of this sub-committee is to reach out to these silent groups to confirm they are indeed meeting, ensure their group information is up to date on local websites, and to inform and invite them to participate at district and area. If you specifically know of a group that is not represented at district and have a contact number or meeting information, please forward to me at 512-850-8953 and I would be happy to follow up. As a District Committee Member, it is my mission and responsibility to inform and engage Group Service Representatives, not to sway or influence them in any direction. The GSR serves as a critical link between their group and AA as a whole therefore participation and input at the district and area level is important and highly valued.

Thank you for your service,

Your DCM, George Thomas