

# District Committee Member Report

Special Report 2024 - District 26

Kevan C - District Committee Member

## Want an online forum to discuss it?

This month, District 26 will put up a blog page specifically for the Action Item occurring in September for District 26 and District 12.

Remember that the website is viewable by the public and your anonymity can only be kept by you. Please use only your first name and last initial only

At district 26, we are always concerned about your safety and inclusion. We want to create a safe and welcoming environment. Any posts that are deemed threatening or harassing will be taken down.

[www.district26aa.org](http://www.district26aa.org)



## Elections–Available Service Positions September 2024

### District 12:

- ★ District Committee Member (DCM) & Business Meeting Co-Chairperson
- ★ Alternate District Committee Member
- ★ District Recording Secretary
- ★ District Treasurer
- ★ Alternate Treasurer
- ★ Subcommittees:
  - H&I, Treatment, Archives, Coop W/ Professional Community, Public Information, Correctional Facilities, Accessibility, Bridging the GAP, Outreach, Grapevine/Literature, District Activities

### District 26:

- ★ Alternate District Committee Member
- ★ District Treasurer & Alternate Treasurer
- ★ District Webservant
- ★ Subcommittees
  - H&I, Treatment, Archives, Coop W/ Professional Comm., Public Information, Correctional Facilities, Accessibility, Bridging the GAP, Outreach, Grapevine/Literature, District Activities

## What happened in July?

Discussions with Area Committee members about district mergers

- Is the problem actually a problem between the groups and the district or Is the problem actually between the Districts and the Area?
- How do the 12 Traditions work with these ideas?
- What happened with our Post-Delegate Report?

Monthly All Oregon DCM-Sharing Session

DCM Corner

New District Address

## Our Address Has Changed!!!

## The New Address

Our Post Office Box was purchased in January. I have no idea how long we went without a post office box. So groups can stop payment on any checks that we made since now and January.

The new address is:

**P.O. BOX 12454  
Portland, OR 97212-4039**

I have DCM cards that have the new address on them, feel free to give them out. I have also updated the address on the website under contact us.  
<http://district26aa.org/contacts.html>

**This is for only District 26  
Groups—District 12 mailing address  
hasn't changed!**

## All Oregon DCM Sharing Session:

## Sharing Session:

On the last sunday of the month, The DCMs of the Area try to get together and talk about the problem affecting their districts and try to find solutions.

This sharing session outside of the area assembly was made by [dcm5@aa-oregon.org](mailto:dcm5@aa-oregon.org). District 5-services Bend and has the largest geographical area in the state.

Confronting problems in a district:

We discussed alot about participation on the district level. What does district 5 do to attract representatives to the its meeting.

The information that I shared is posted to the district website. [Http://district26aa.org](http://district26aa.org)

## Area Level Problems – Area Level Solutions

### District 12 & District 26 Merging?

Right now, at the next regular scheduled meeting, are you in-favor or opposed to merging the districts? (Meet in your home group and send your groups General Service Representative with your groups vote.)

- Your DCM is ready to represent you at the area assembly. I have no problems taking the “heat” from the assembly.
- Redistricting is an Area-level motion and the whole area gets a chance to decide if we have done enough troubleshooting of the issue and this is our best answer.
- The DCM can always withdraw the motion before it is casted, anytime, for any reason.
- The DCM does have “right of decision” but desires it to be your decision.

## Lack of Participation?

### The Current Voting Body of Districts 12 & 26

#### District 12:

General Service Representatives/Alternate GSRs  
(limited to 1 vote per group per motion)

District Subcommittee  
Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons

District Committee Member only in cases of a tie  
vote, (not allowed to participate in motioning and  
the discussion)

#### District 26:

General Service Representatives/Alternates (limited  
to 1 vote per group)

District Subcommittees  
Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons

District Secretary

District Treasurer

District Committee Member only in cases of Tie  
Votes (not allowed to participate in motioning and  
the discussion)

**Only these individuals are allowed to motion, participate in the discussion and cast votes.**

## What is a General Service Representative (GSR)

A General Service Representative is a voting member of District 12, District 26, and Area 58.

A general service representative is allowed to contact other groups about matters that affect your group. They are also allowed to contact the other levels of service about matters that affect AA as a whole.

The GSR's vote represent every member of your groups vote. However, they are afforded the "right of decision." Meaning they are allowed to vote using their best judgement.

## What is a District Committee Member (DCM)?

The district committee member is apart of the voting body of the area assembly and is given all rights, responsibilities, and privileges to cast motions, participate in debates and vote on behalf of the entire district.

The spiritual purpose of the DCM is to represent the unrepresented.

DCM has the "Right of Decision." Which means, they are allowed to make the decision on behalf of the entire district with or without consulting the district.

## Group Participation? Is it A or B or Both or Something Else or All of Them?

**A:** Does our problem lie between the groups and the district?

- What do we think and feel is the cause that has made the groups not want to participate at the district level?
- Is the district not serving its primary purpose and any of its other purposes?
- What can we do to "fix" the problem?

**B:** Does our problem lie between the districts and the area or other levels of service?

- What is the cause of this problem? How do we "fix" the problem?
- Has the area not served the districts and groups well enough?
- Is the area not serving its primary purpose or any of its other purposes?

**C:** Is this issue cause by something else?

## Using the Twelve Traditions at the District Level

## The Traditions At Play

The traditions are useful tools in helping to diagnose the issues and concerns of the districts and the area, as well as the groups?

The most important traditions are going to be our best allies in helping to create the fellowship we desire:

Tradition One

Tradition Two

Tradition Four

Tradition Six

Tradition Seven

Tradition Nine

## Tradition One: What Is Best for Everyone?

- What do we feel is best for District 26 and District 12?
  - ◆ Do we think that the two districts should split?
  - ◆ Do we continue to operate the districts as it is currently?
  - ◆ Do we merge want to merge the 2 districts together fully?
    - Do we believe that the groups of the two districts would be well served?
    - Will the districts stop being dysfunctional?
    - Do we need more structure or do we need less?

## Tradition Two: Are We Able to Form a Group Conscience?

Do we feel that we have enough of a group conscience to assess the situation?

How do we inform the groups of the issues at hand?

If the groups in the district aren't participating enough to vote, do we make the decisions for or about them?

Is lack of participation voting in itself?

## Tradition Four: Do groups have the right to not participate?

- Is lack of participation actually participation?
  - ◆ Is not participating actually a vote of no confidence?
  - ◆ Is not participating an act of ignorance?
- Is the autonomy of a non-participating group a matter that is affecting other groups?
- Does the district get the "right" of say about a groups lack of participation?
  
- A possible scenario: (Also, a minority opinion concept)
  - ◆ Several groups that were non-participating when 2 districts have decided to merge together. Will those groups get to operate the piece of the group as the old district? Or are they forced to accept the new merged district?

## Tradition Six: Is Intergroup An Outside Enterprise?

- ❖ Facts about non-profit organizations: (Your DCM is a professional in business organization.)
  - Portland Area Intergroup is a 501(c)1 non profit organization. It owns a copyright, it is on the bottom of their website. They must file a tax return annually and they also are required to employ an accountant. They have built an endowment (equity). The funds it collects must be used towards the organization's mission and also under the stipulations by the donor.
  - Area 58/District 26/AA Groups are a 501(c)3 organizations, they are social groups that do not own property. They have no interest in building an endowment (equity). They are not required to file a tax return as they are simply apart of another organization: AA World Services. All donations are able to be used at liberty by the organization.

As I have attended group around the district: I've found that many of the groups do not know the difference between the district and intergroup, and also the difference between an Intergroup Representative and an General Service Representative.

## Tradition Seven: Fully Self-Supporting

Will the two districts be able to become self-supporting?

If they are to become one district, what does that district need?

Does self-supporting only refer to money? Or does this concept refer to other things such as time? Volunteer work? And participation? Voting?

What do we need to make each district operate through the contributions from the groups? What do groups need to contribute really?

## Tradition Nine: Organization Creating New Service Structures:

Is the problem created by a lack of structure? Or is the problem created by too much structure?

If the districts merge together, what problems can occur from having approximately 60 groups meeting together? How do we alleviate the issues of a large group population?

Is there too much structure at the district level? Is that structure interfering with a groups ability to carry the message to suffering alcoholics?

## Creating New Service Structures.

## What is a Local Committee or a Zone Committee?

The long form of Tradition 3 states that any two or more members can create an AA group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.

A district is any two or more groups that the area assembly has recognized as working together.

A local committee is when either two districts or two groups want to work together. Their representative, often called a Local Committee Member (LCM), may or may not be recognized by another service structure in AA.

A zone committee is just a term I made that means two districts working together. I created that term so that we had a distinction between a local committee between two groups and a local committee between two districts.

## How do the groups form a LCM?

## What are the benefits of an LCM?

## What are some of the drawbacks of a local committee?

Local committees are formed when 2 or more groups (or districts, in some cases) want to work together. How the local committees form and function are entirely up to the groups that form them.

The benefits of a local committee are that groups can share resources easier. Groups that are really small, probably can't do a lot of committee work on their own such as H&I, PI, Cooperation with correctional facilities (Jails/Prisons), Large districts in either number of groups or by the geographical area rely on local committees to help provide services.

The local committee might not be recognized by the AA service structure. Meaning groups would have to have 2 representatives, a local committee representative and a general service representative.

## What does the district need to do to foster groups helping other groups?

In reality, the only real action that we need to take at the district is that we recognize that a local committee member is able to participate by being a voting member at the district. The groups will decide on if a local committee is right for them. Local committees are deemed a committee that a group has sent a GSR to participate and vote at.

## DCM Corner

## Gratitude:

I am thankful for the experiences that I have encountered here at the district level.

There is a story and a history of what has occurred here at the district levels. The best part of the story hasn't even been written yet.

I have experienced both positive and negative experiences but it has given me some of the best discussions I have ever had in my life. The email exchange that I have had with the delegate, alt-delegate, Area Chairs, and Area Committees. Those alone have widened my perspectives about service work alone.

## Failure and Success

A "Premortem" Perspective:

A Premortem perspective is concept that something will go wrong and how will it go wrong? I ask this all the time with other people.

A Postmortem Perspective:

That we look at things after they have failed and try to understand how it failed.

Prototype Mentality:

Understand that prototypes often fail. The information is collected. Then the next prototype is made and tested, This is done until there is a success viable product. Understanding that prototypes do fail helps us to gather information.

## The Serenity Prayer (Long Form)

God grant me the Serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And the Wisdom to know the difference.

Living **one day at a time**,  
Enjoying one moment at a time.  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would like it.

Trusting that he will make all things right,  
If I surrender to his will.  
That I may be reasonably happy in this world  
And supremely happy in the next. Amen."

## Thank You

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service to you.

Feel free to reach out anytime for any reason. It gives me great joy to be of service to the district committee, to the groups, and most of all, to the people that are of service that help me.

I am always interested in your questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions.

Yours in service,

Kevan C, District Committee Member  
dcm26@aa-oregon.org