

Important Things I Should Know About What is Happening this Weekend

Friday Night

Join members from the Host District at the Host Sharing meeting where we share our experience, strength, and hope on a personal level – no business ... just an opportunity to hear a few new friends and old friends share their recovery.

Stay close by and plan to attend a Workshop on a service-related topic. Topics are selected and voted on by the Group Representatives (GRs) at the previous Assembly. A committee is appointed to chair the Workshop and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Saturday Morning

New GRs – If this is your first time attending an Assembly as a GR, plan to attend the New GR Orientation meeting at 8:00 a.m. – check with the folks at the Registration Table for the exact location.

More experienced GRs – Feel free to sit in on the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting at 8:00 a.m. or drop by the New GR Orientation to lend your experience as the new GRs learn the ropes. Remember the Assembly starts at 9:15 a.m.

The Assembly:

The Assembly is scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m., so please plan to be there on time.

The Area Chair opens the Assembly in the main meeting room. Then roll is taken, previous minutes are approved, and brief announcements and reports are given. As soon as this has been completed, members of the Assembly break into their chosen Action Committee meetings which last until lunch.

After lunch, the Assembly continues in the main meeting room. We hear reports from the Action Committees, District Representatives (DRs), and our Delegate. We also finish up any old business and conduct any new business.

The Assembly (cont'd):

Some agenda items require making motions and taking a vote. Keep in mind that only GRs have a vote although all members have a voice. Sometimes it seems like there is either too much information or not enough for voting, in which case there will be discussion. Although a GR may not completely understand an issue, he/she is encouraged to vote, even if by abstaining. Sometimes there is discussion after a vote that includes minority opinion followed by a re-vote. We try our hardest to hear every voice, for this is how Al-Anon works. The afternoon portion of the Assembly may be long... don't worry, we always get through it – and it is always interesting!

Saturday Night

After dinner, there is usually an Al-Anon Speaker Meeting followed by an AA Speaker Meeting.

Sunday Morning

GRs are invited to attend an informal meeting with the Area Chair at 8:00 a.m. where they have the opportunity to ask questions about what went on at the Assembly, offer feedback on how things could be done differently at future Assemblies, and express any concerns they are having and questions about service work.

Everyone is invited to stay and sit in on the AWSC meeting that starts at 9:15 a.m.



ASSEMBLY SURVIVAL TIPS

- Bring your service manual.
- Bring some paper and a pen for notes.
- Bring an open mind, your Higher Power, and your sense of humor.
- Be ready to ask questions and give feedback on issues. If you're uncomfortable, ask a friend to stand with you when you're speaking.
- Know that when addressing the Assembly, you'll be asked to speak into a microphone... don't worry, it doesn't bite. Experience has shown this to be essential so that everyone in the large main meeting room can hear you.
- Assemblies can get a bit noisy from time to time. If you have a hearing problem, you may want to sit up front or closer to the loudspeaker.
- When voting, always ask your Higher Power for guidance.
- Respect the value of dissenting and minority opinions, before and after votes are taken. Be willing to express them, and be open to hearing them. Minority opinion has been known to alter people's perspectives.
- Remember that an Assembly isn't just about taking care of business, but to learn HOW to take care of business by respecting others and getting along with them.
- Dress comfortably... it can get to be a long day.
- Dress in layers – Summer Assemblies can get hot and Winter Assemblies can get chilly. (Remember we will be in a large room, sometimes a gym, where the temperature can be hard to control.)
- Fanny fatigue can be a problem for some, so bring something soft to sit on.
- Be ready to make new friends from around the Area.
- Remember... no one has all the answers.



What are Assemblies All About?

- or -

What Am I Doing Here?

A Guide for GRs

