

Survey: "Strawman" Analysis of Solution Ideas

In general, a strawman is an object, document, person, or argument that temporarily stands in for and is intended to be "knocked down" by something more substantial.

This is a summary of the solution ideas I derived from the Survey responses, with sub headings for more specific ideas on how the Area could specifically implement them. Each is ranked in two ways - how much value the idea has to improve Fellowship Communication, and how difficult it would be to implement. These rankings are entirely my creation - but they are based in part on my study of the survey responses. How this information could be used is as follows. Obvious "Low hanging fruit" would be ideas with great value that are easy to implement. The ideas that are marked "Hard" might be candidates for long-term, gradual implementation. Many solutions would require coordination with the various Area Coordinators (Butterfly, Records, Web Site, etc.) before presenting them to the Assembly. (There is another file which maps these solution ideas to the problems cited by Survey responders.)

Rick

Short Solution Description	Long Solution Description	Value to Area (+, ++, +++)	Difficulty (Easy, Med, Hard)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Detailed Ideas 		
Better Communication with AWSC	Improve quality and timeliness of AWSC to GR communication to support "Knowledge Based Decision Mkg" (including considering earlier AWSC meetings w. minutes to GRs)	++	H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold AWSC meetings earlier; publish minutes & issue background 	++	H
Group Meetings on Service, Unity	GRs conduct group meetings on value and importance of Service & Unity	+++	M
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One idea from a Colorado District - have roving team of GRs who can conduct Group meetings on Service - "Why service is important to my recovery" 	+++	H

Provide Area Materials for Group Meetings	Generate Area-level materials to support Group Meetings, Workshops on Service & Unity (including calling attention to WSO materials)	++	M
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather WSO materials, add Area-specific materials, provide/sell package at Assemblies Materials, agenda, speakers for Workshops 	++ ++	M H
Encourage GR Enthusiasm	Emphasize to GRs that their enthusiasm (events, service, unity) are important ways to motivate members	++	E
Publicize Area, WSO resources	Educate GRs & members on Area and WSO resources, such as web functions, contacts for Qs & As, key literature points	+++	M
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Tip Sheet(s) (below) See E-Functionality (below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let people know about all the great stuff already on the web Improve introductory web page organization, structure 		
– Publish Area Tip Sheets, Bulletins	Generate "tip sheets" & periodic bulletins pointing to Area and WSO resources, such as web functions, contacts for Qs & As, key literature points	+++	M,H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate overall "tip sheet(s)" - maintain over time; publish as Guideline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication method: Butterfly? Assembly handout? Send to DRs? Send "tip of the month" to call attention to specific resource(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication method: Send to DRs for handing out/emailing to GRs? 	+++ ++	H M
Improve cohesion within Districts	Area and Districts explore ways to improve communication and unity within districts (particularly in geographically dispersed districts)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to investigate redistricting Institute visitation program (other Districts? Area Officers?) 	+++ ++	H H
Publicize availability of Tape Library	Better publicize availability of Area tape library and how to get tapes (this is currently on the web site)	+++	E
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate ideas to improve the inventory list? 	?	?
Improve accuracy of Area meeting list	Improve the accuracy and timeliness of the Area meeting list	+++	H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate publication of local schedules with the Area list, to insure the information is the same Publish local schedule files on Area web site, in PDF form (if not available, simply provide phone number for point of contact for local schedule) 	+++ +++	H H

Improve Butterfly usefulness	Improve the timeliness of the Butterfly and improve its contents	+++	H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Butterfly on Web site to minimize publication delays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perhaps discontinue paper publication? (Fund-raising impact - some pay for paper subscriptions) • Require specific minimum lead time for flyers and other info, or don't publish • Encourage more flyers/info about events from Districts & Groups • Include concise list of upcoming Area events (based on contributions) 	+++	E
		+++	E
		++	E
		++	M
Publish Electronic Communications Guidelines	Publish electronic communication guidelines (email, on-line conferencing, etc.) to make people aware of capability and suggest proper usage (In progress by Fellowship Communication AC - for inclusion in Area Guidelines)	+++	M
Improve Area E-functionality	Improve the functionality of the Area's web site to better support Area communication needs	+++	E,M, H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many functions on the site that few people are aware of (see above) • On-line publication of Butterfly contents (see above) • New capabilities (see below) • Implement and/or advertise "email group" capability, whereby groups could dialog via emails (examples of groups are ACs, AWSC, Area GRs), such that email addresses are hidden from recipients • There are a few glitches, and formatting could be improved in some areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Probably additional staffing to enhance, update & maintain the site as more functionality is added • Explain why members should order literature from the Area site vs. the WSO site 	++	H
		+	M
		++	H
		++	E
- Support (moderated) forums & chats	Support on-line discussion via topical forums & chats (with appropriate security safeguards)	++	H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate feasibility of forums & chats, considering anonymity & security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Model procedures after existing Al-Anon forums (such as <u>and others</u>) • Possibly don't support directly, but refer people to other resources, providing guidelines for appropriate use 	++	H
		++	M
- Districts, ACs: use pgs on Area Web	Better publicize availability of Area web pages for Districts, ACs, etc. (These pages are currently possible, but many are not aware of them or guidelines for their use)	++	E
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise District pages, provide guidelines • Institute/Advertise AC pages, provide guidelines 	++	E
		++	E

Improve Public Outreach	Make more materials and resources available for public outreach within the area, especially for young people and especially in geographically dispersed areas	++	E,H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness of WSO materials (see above) • Spread Experience, Strength & Hope from successful projects to Districts 	++ +++	E H
Improve communication processes	Continue to explore improvements to Fellowship Communication processes	+++	E-H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (See all others, all of which will involve process changes) • Address perception (cited by several survey responders) that information flow is top-down from WSO; investigate steps to improve bottom-up processes 	+++	H
Improve communication / coordination with AA	Improve communication and cooperation with AA at all levels - Group, District, Area (especially for Assemblies, Conventions w "Al-Anon participation")	+++	H
Other	(Various ideas not cited by multiple survey responders; some are reflected as part of above ideas.)	?	E-H
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise contact points (phone numbers, email addresses) for GRs to ask questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WSO will research issues for meetings, workshops, etc. ○ Area officers, delegates & coordinators are usually available for consultation • Provide a summary overview of Assembly minutes - some feel they are much too long to read. • Assure that people who are not electronically "plugged in" are not left behind in the communication process. • Improvements (specifics?) to Service Center newsletter(s) • From networks of Groups who team up to form lending library of key literature in Spanish, English, French • Explain importance of service sponsors • Alateen safety (?) • Extend outreach to families/friends impacted by other addictions • Maintain current list of GRs (each District may already do this - not clear if this is feasible at the Area level) • Encourage members to subscribe to Forum (have forum subscription forms available at Group meetings) 	++ ++ ++ ? ? ++ ? ? ? ++ ?	E H H ? H M ? H H E