

**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ASSEMBLY:
STATUS REPORT AND REQUEST FOR GROUP INPUT
AUGUST 9, 2009**

The Ad Hoc Committee was established in the fall of 2008. The purpose of the committee, as stated in the minutes of the October 2008 committee meeting, is “to explore the frequency of meetings in the Northeast Region and to make a recommendation to the Assembly as to the number of meetings in Area 47.”

The committee did an organized survey of the northeast region service structure, and we also did a less systematic collection of data from Areas outside our region. (For example, we got whatever information was available in the delegate reports included in the 20007 and 2008 Conference reports.) A summary of that information is included with this report, and I hope it will soon be available on the Area website as well. The data shows that few Areas meet monthly as a full assembly.

The Ad Hoc committee then proceeded to discuss the specific needs of Area 47, and the pros and cons of monthly Assembly meetings in our Area. Although our experience and opinions have sometimes been quite different (it is AA after all!), we have remained focused on AA’s primary purpose, the interests of our Area, and the spiritual principles that are articulated in the traditions and the concepts.

The Ad Hoc Committee is now at a point where we need input from the AA groups in our Area. Six proposals have grown from our discussions or been suggested by other Area 47 AA members. **Please help us get this report into the hands of all the GSR’s in our Area, and ask them to talk their home groups about the options set forth below or about other ideas.**

- I. The Assembly should continue to meet monthly as it does now – no change.
- II. When the second Sunday of the month falls on a holiday, the Area Chair should reschedule that Assembly to such date as he or she determines will cause the least disruption to Area business. (“Holiday” will be defined by the Area Committee and/or the Assembly, keeping in mind the spiritual, religious and cultural diversity of our membership.) This change could apply to any other option listed here, or suggested.
- III. The Assembly should meet 10 times each year, taking off July and August.
- IV. The Assembly should meet 7 times each year: in January (to welcome new GSR’s and DCM’s); in February, March & April (to handle the business of the General Service Conference); and in September, October & November (to focus on elections and wrap up other business). This option assumes that the Area Committee (and other standing committees, if they find it desirable) will continue to meet as needed, especially at other Area and NYS events like conventions and informational workshops.
- V. The Assembly should meet quarterly; and consider meeting all day Saturday and part of Sunday to accommodate both business and fellowship. This option recognizes increased

costs of food and lodging, but assumes savings in transportation expenses. The Area Committee and other standing committees would meet more frequently as needed.

- VI. The Assembly should meet in a central location, where we could rent a room or rooms for meeting and to store our Literature, Archives, sound equipment, and everything else we are transporting around the central part of the State.

Please feel free to email me at dcm0680@aacny.org and/or to come to the Ad Hoc Committee meeting(s) if you'd like to ask questions or share your thoughts in person. We know it will take time to hear back from the groups, so we do not expect to come to any kind of final recommendations until we have received all the input that is forthcoming.

Yours in service,

Deborah S.
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Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on the Assembly