



A.A. District 4 General Service

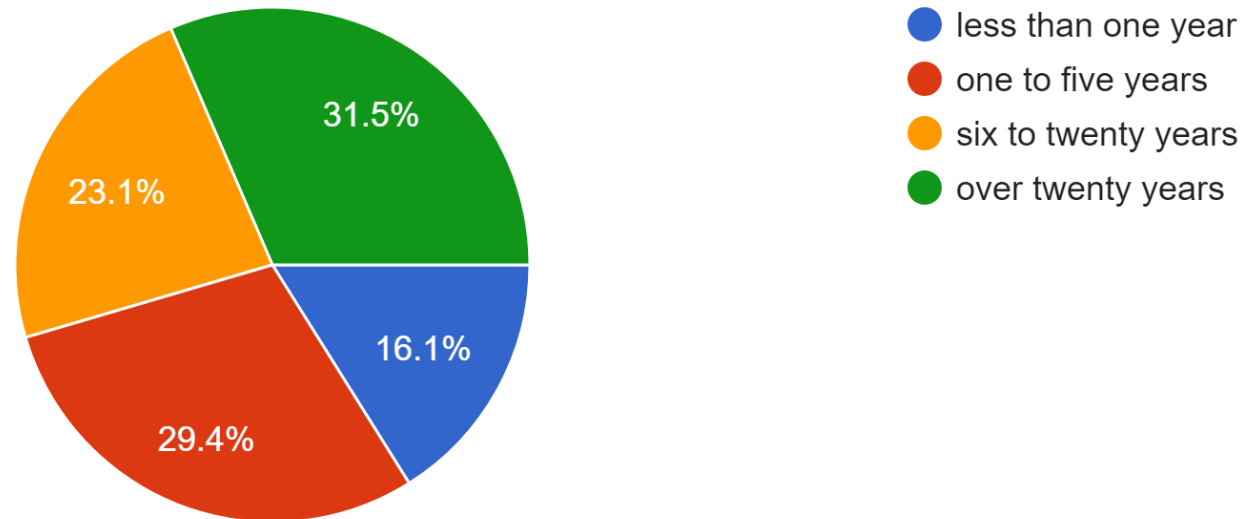
District 4 Member
Survey 2021

145 Responses as of Apr 8th, 2021

Question 1

(optional) How long have you been sober? Please check one.

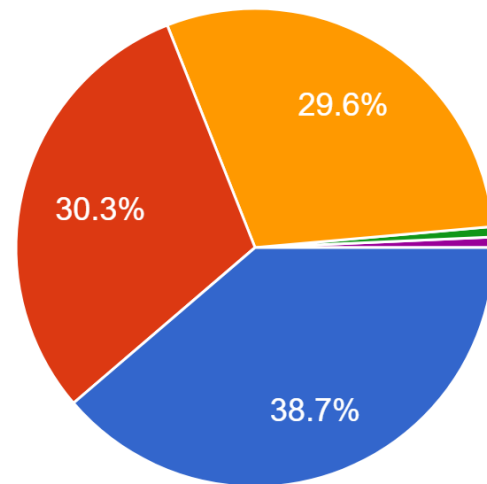
143 responses



Question 2

How would you rather attend AA business and committee meetings at this time? This does not mean your regular AA meetings, just service meeti...e meetings, area meetings, etc. Please check one:

142 responses



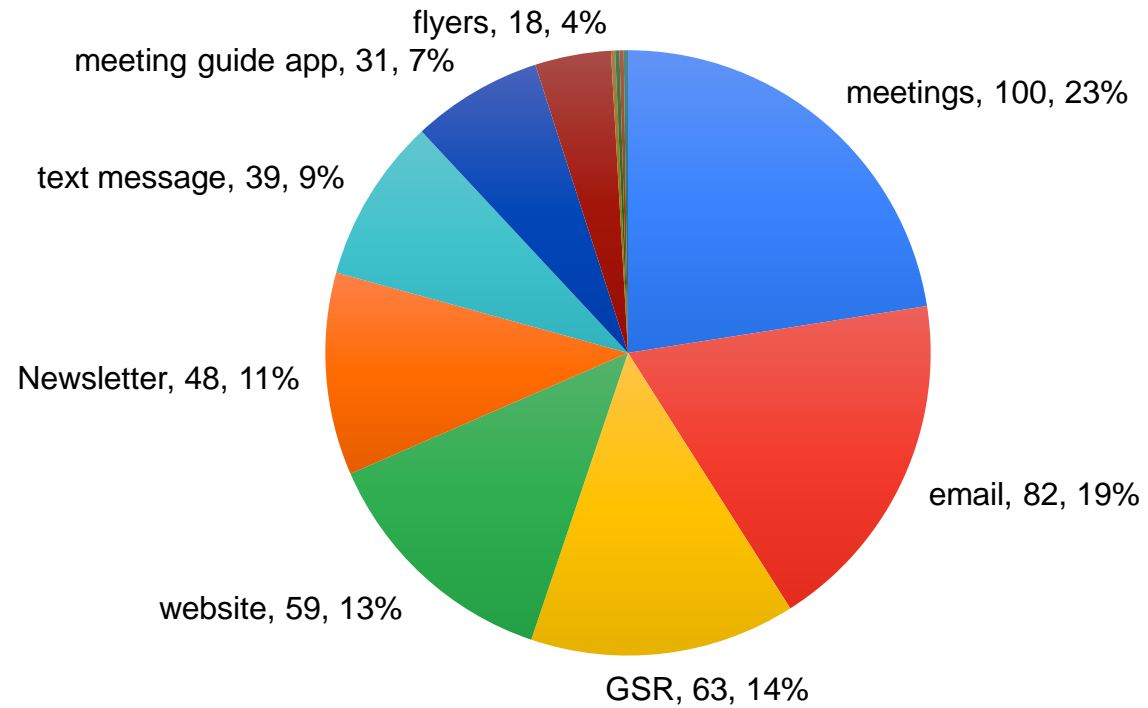
- in person
- virtual (for example on ZOOM or SKYPE)
- hybrid (a combination of in person and virtual)
- Prefer virtual primarily. Perhaps in person prior to each Quarterly to encourage people to meet the officers and committee chairs one on one for...
- I don't attend

Question 2 comments - (regarding attending AA business and committee meetings): 38 responses

- Would very much like to get back to socially distanced in person meeting where possible or hybrid.
- it's time to get back to normal in-person format
- Even after Covid I think having the hybrid option will foster greater participation. Especially for those with accessibility issues
- virtual
- Not having to drive in traffic has made a big difference in my attendance (5:30)
- Virtual till fall due to COVID then in-person
- with masks and social distancing
- I need to learn how it all works
- I prefer outdoors or virtual
- Hybrid business meetings are difficult to control
- F2F is a better option in my opinion but virtual has the ability to reach a larger body of members. A hybrid solution allows member to choose . one meeting they maybe able to attend and the next one they may have to work Late but can still attend virtually, etc.
- not for me yet
- I do not attend as I am so new, I chose hybrid as I think people like choices.
- I do not feel safe returning to "in person" meetings of any kind yet. I am grateful for the virtual meeting opportunities.
- At this point: masks and social distance
- Concurrent/ hybrid
- It is much more convenient to attend committee meetings and district meetings online. However, it would be beneficial for some people to attend in person on a regular basis, so perhaps a quarterly face to face meeting. I am AGAINST hybrid meetings of this type because unless there is a sound system and microphone that transmits audio clearly to online attendees they are unable to fully participate in the meeting. Our objective is to be inclusive, not have some people feel "on the outside". Speaker / Presenter hybrid meetings are different since the format purposely makes attendees, both present and online, be listeners only, not active participants in discussion.
- I love the virtual aspect of the meetings as I remember way to many meetings where I drive 30 minutes each way to attend a 20 minute total meeting at Central Office. Hybrid is my preferred way at the moment where I have options on how to attend.
- Being a disabled member, access to virtual business and committee meetings is helpful.
- It's more dynamic in person.
- My response is representative of 2021 preference. I anticipate it changing in 2022
- I am thankful for them
- 100% works
- I prefer to do other service
- Hybrid gives more opportunities for folks to join in service using zoom while the F2F continues to build a stronger community.
- I am very new
- I attended a business meeting for the first time and was very confused. maybe an explanation would help.
- had to navigate from app. not updated
- need IN PERSON meetings Central Office reopened for business meetings.
- never attended a business or committee meeting
- never attended
- I like the YPG business meeting/YPG service committee meetings. They are smaller, easier to know the people I'm working with. I have not attended many regular AA business district meetings to me they seemed strictly business vs. YPG business meeting, if we crack a joke or goof a little as long as it doesn't distract from the objective of the meeting it's okay. I think there's something, somewhere about rule 62
- I would like to join more committee based meetings to be more involved with accountability. I prefer in person meetings. They require more work (commitment) and I get more out of them by feeling more involved.
- I am a part of the Suncoast Service Committee. I do prefer in-person meetings when it comes to business and service commitment.
- more breakdowns on service positions and requirements
- I have no preference I don't currently attend business or committee meetings.
- AA seems to have been working well for quite some time
- I don't attend business or committee meetings yet

Question 3

How would you prefer to get AA information? Please check all that apply:
143 responses



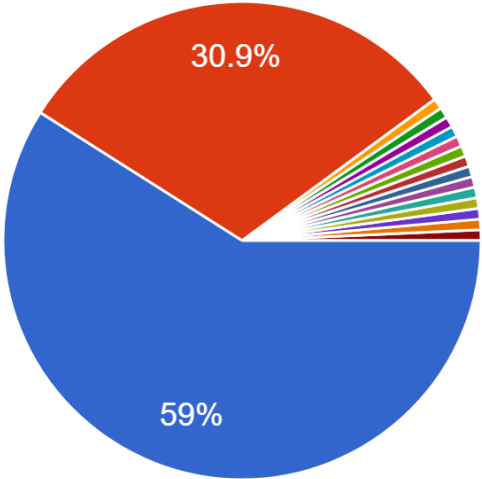
Question 3 comments - other (alternate ways to get AA information)13 responses

- DCM'S
- Aa.org
- In today's world social media seems to be a way to send info but not sure how to address and anonymity
- Preferably from the GSR or DCM/ACM AND on the district website. Encourage GSRs and DCMs to share by emailing them a district meeting rough summary/bullet point list of primary interest and critical needs right after the meeting to them. This is not a polished report but a short list of 'takeaways'. The DCMs or GSRs can touch it up if they wish or just send it right out to their group members.
- online, Facebook
- Friends
- from people in AA
- get creative ! AA fun sober fun/ activities
- Facebook page/social media? (for younger people, it may help)
- Facebook ?
- direct mail, monthly campaigns, webinars
- If you provide info through other channels you may de incentivize in-person attendance.
- through certain groups on Facebook/social media

Question 4

Has your group been informed of issues that will be discussed at the General Service Conference, for example considering a fifth edition of the Big Book?

139 responses



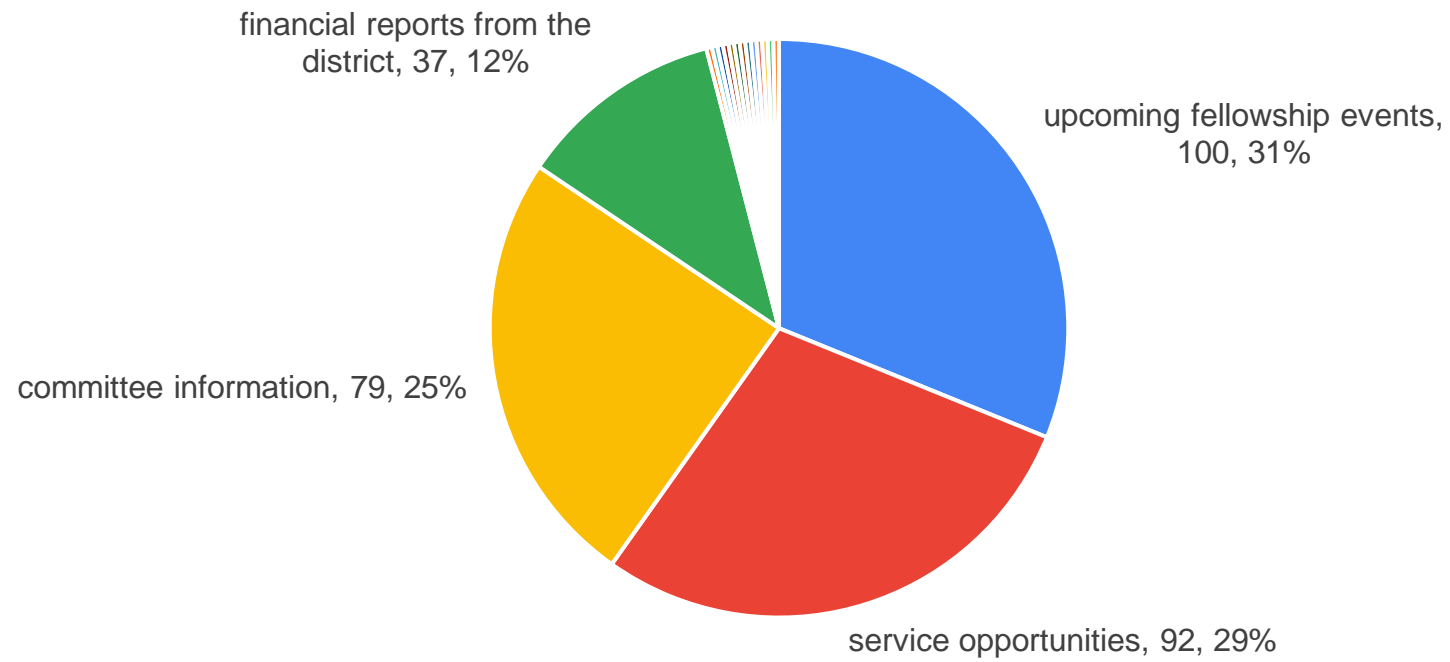
- Yes
- No
- Not yet. The information has not been...
- It is on our agenda
- not yet. next group business meeting.
- I do t think so
- OurGSR will be presenting it after her...
- No but my group still is only meeting o...

Question 4 comments - (on getting information about the General Service Conference issues being discussed) 27 responses

- Need for narrowing most probable's and sharing with group, as the Agenda is enormous
- Not yet for 2021 because agenda item background info has not been disseminated but absolutely yes for past years. Our GSR does that at our business meetings
- May want to share via blog emails
- DCM forwarded info to my groups
- I recently moved to District full time and realized my group doesn't have a GSR. I plan to bring it up to the group if they want a GSR and I am willing to do the service
- Email
- My group's business meeting for March is next sat. on 3/20, and will be informed then, hopefully.
- Please don't change the BB to become politically correct
- Information first came through a service sponsor who received the emailed agenda items and background information link from the Area 15 delegate. Also received district email with the info to our group contact.
- Our GSR does a good job of getting info to us
- I have a service sponsor and we have been delving into the topics at our weekly meetings.
- To my knowledge my home group has not had any contact from a DCM in the last three years
- An email listing the topics would be helpful so we can do group conscience
- I have no idea what the General Service conference is
- group meeting
- Rumors
- AA magazine?
- maybe a hand out or a web link
- I think some people don't really mind what's going on in the conference its interesting to me but it is too much of commitment in my life right now.
- needs more info
- I like being informed and this meeting's service members do a great job
- We discuss these every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month . (Suncoast Service Committee).
- Suncoast service committee has been informed.
- This is not something I currently have the time to invest in so I have no opinion
- I'm not sure keep up the great work
- not sure/not that I am aware of. It would be easier if it was more readily available or even announced when needed.
- This is my meeting here

Question 5

Which AA information do you find the most useful? Please check all that apply:
138 Responses



Question 5 comments - (on most useful AA information) 13 responses

- Make leaps in service with workshops and boot camps
- coffee talks & workshops on AA history, service structure, etc.
- Liking the Coffee Talks
- Policy
- I find most useful to me personally, information about what AA needs to remain effective, now and in the future.
- "Most useful" implies a ranking but there is no ranking opportunity on this question. I am not sure how committee information is different from service opportunity except maybe committee information is a subset of service opportunities? All of this information is useful for various reasons.
- in person
- meeting types age ranges?
- should have easier ways to find
- word of mouth at meetings and events
- useful AA information , Sarasota area, if I were new to the area or new to AA if it isn't specifically a "YPG" meeting, like the one on Wednesday night, which AA meetings am I likely to find other young people.
- ways to network and find common characteristics with others in the community
- focusing on AA info is important when announced in an efficient manner

Question 6 - What information would you like to see on the website? 36 responses

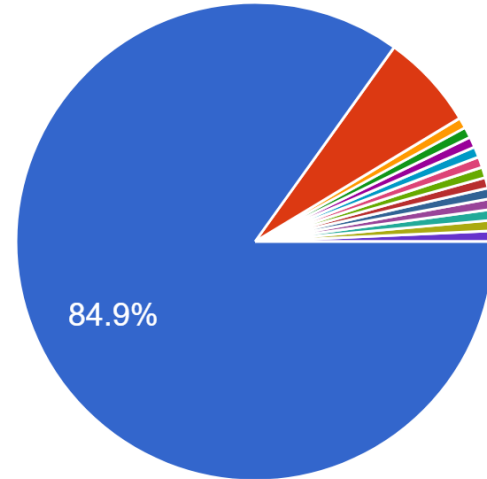
- All the above
- as much information as possible for things going on locally
- "Contact list of DCM'S Committee Reports and opportunities "
- Credit card contributions on-line for the Central Office fund raiser.
- current
- Dist. 4 website is very well designed
- don't do
- educational
- Events and committee meeting dates and things going on in D4 and Area 15 that are PERTINENT TO D4. (But not things that don't really have an impact on D4
- Every thing
- fellowship events, committee information, service opportunities, financial reports from district
- GSO, group changes, archives information, workshops and digital literature (like AA.org)
- H and I service opportunities
- Honestly I don't visit the website very often. I do meetings mostly in person and the meeting guide app when out of town.
- How AA as a whole is doing, and what is needed from the fellowship to increase sustainability.
- I don't know how long its been since it was last updated from what I recall the user experience wasn't very pleasant, so it didn't matter what information was on the site, I did not want to interact with the site. for me, what I would like to see is how the information is presented change first. meeting time: location, fellowship events coming up, committee meeting times and locations
- I haven't visited the website recently
- Like what in there now
- Link to make direct contribution not mail.
- "I know you're talking about the district 4 website but it would have been helpful if you would specify that in the question along with the URL for the website itself. It would be good to have a contact point (maybe a standard title email) for DCM/ACM for each group. So, a group could type in their name or group number and see what sub-district they're in and be able to email their DCM or ACM (or both with one email address).A one-page snapshot description of the difference in Central Office, Intergroup, District 4, Area 15 and the General Service Board and how to contribute to each."
- love service commitments and unity ideas/plans
- Links to resources we might need
- "Meeting changes Minutes of committee and district meetings A column called "Of local note.... Or some such thing Central office news"
- meeting location
- meetings, fellowship
- meetings, locations, time
- More link to ALL districts, areas, & countries
- NEW Meetings information
- not sure
- social sober fun events, (team building).
- The 5 basics and not much else
- The district Newsletter
- to be honest I don't check the website
- website changes have been great, haven't noticed anything missing (that's not already planned)
- Website is great
- What is on the web sites is good but perhaps more of it and more in-depth.

Question 7 -

Do you feel that our district is a useful resource for AA groups to get help with group issues or conflicts - for example : singleness of purpose, how to do 7th tradition contributions during the pandemic, strategies for group unity as we shift from indoor to outdoor meetings or a combination of virtual and indoor meetings?

Do you feel that our district is a useful resource for AA groups to get help with group issues or conflicts - for example : singleness of purpose, ho...s or a combination of virtual and indoor meetings?

139 responses

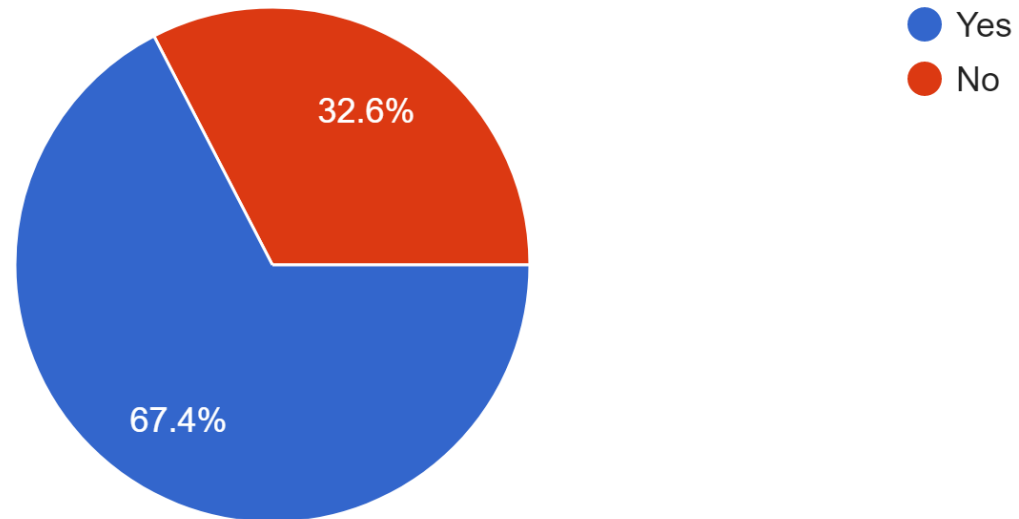


- Yes
- No
- Yes but need to communicate that to t...
- DCM's are not communicating with th...
- The info is there if you seek it out but...
- don't know
- Very new as joined during the pandem...
- This question doesn't make the best s...

Question 8

Do you know what service your groups' financial contributions to our local district support?

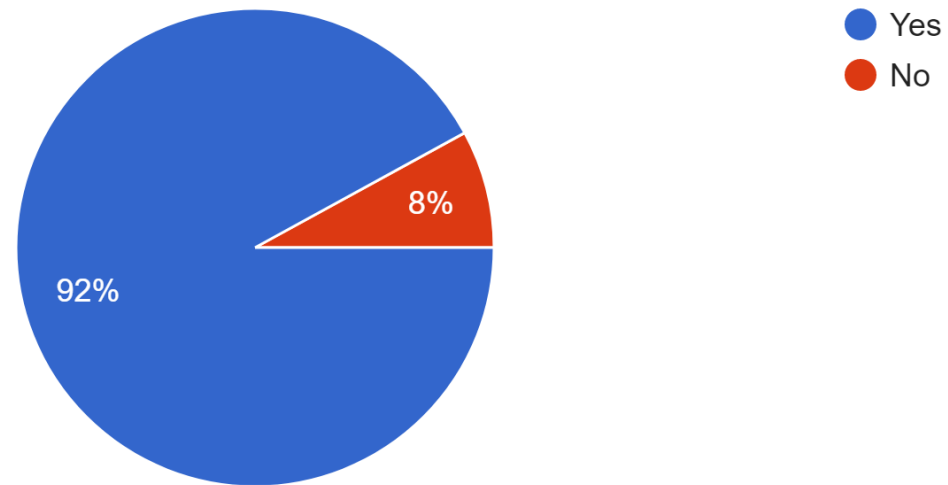
138 responses



Question 9

Do you understand the responsibility of a General Service Representative (GSR) and its importance to your group and AA as a whole?

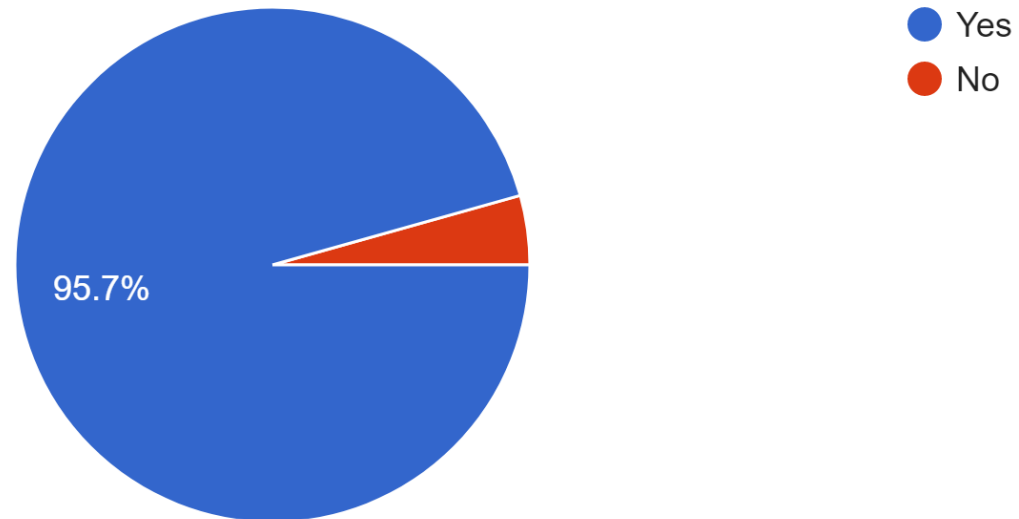
138 responses



Question 10

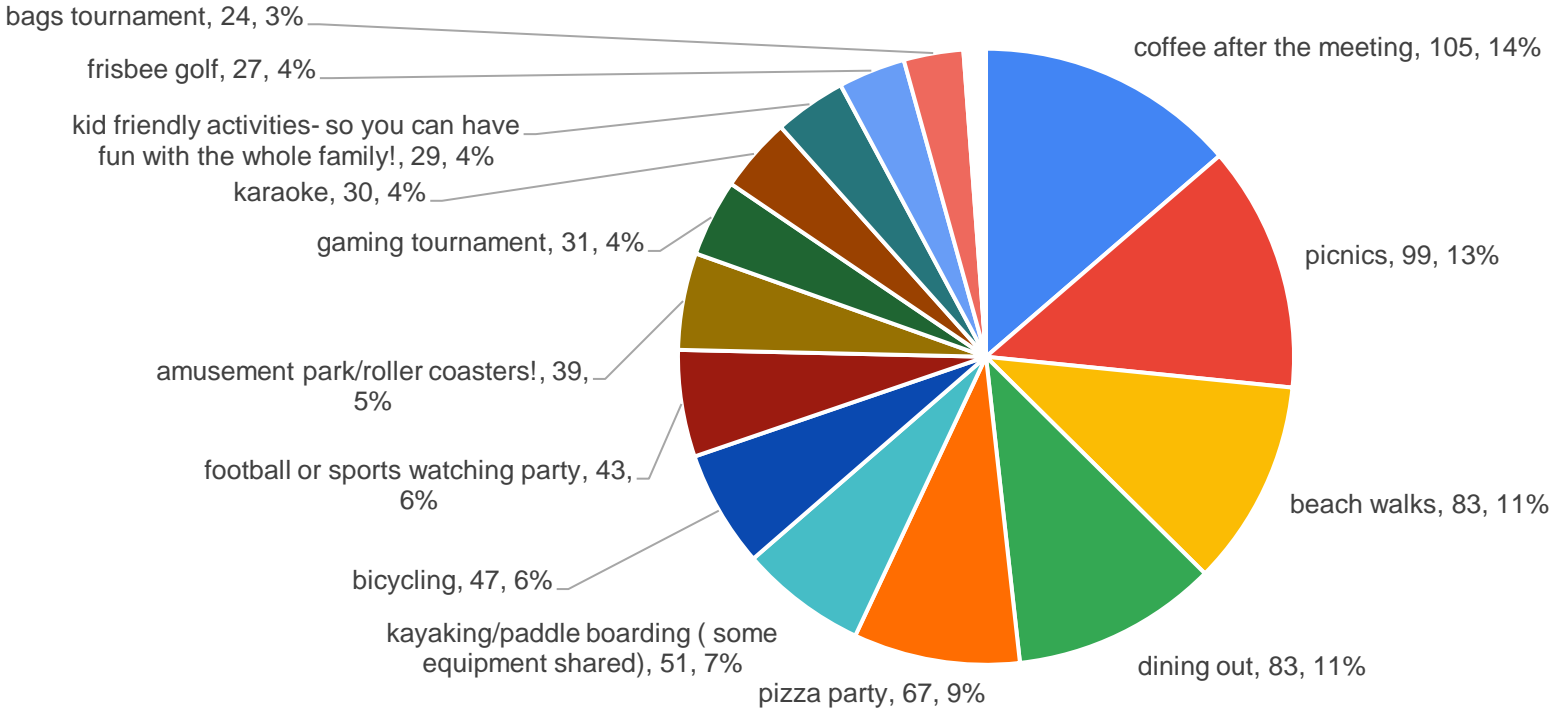
Would you consider participating in AA fellowship activities now or after the pandemic?

138 responses



Question 11

Please check any activities that you would consider:
135 responses / 14 main of 23 activities / 758 of 767 observations



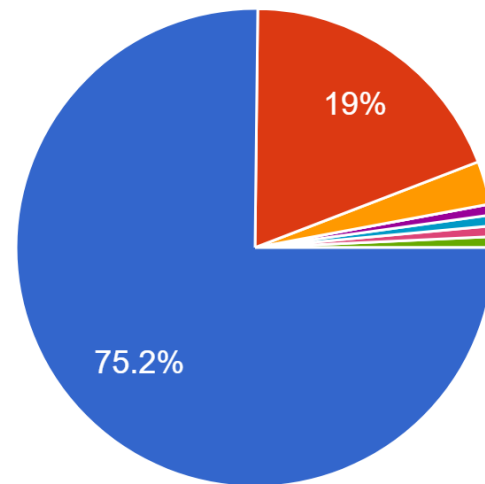
Question 11 comments - Any other activities? 27 responses

- Bowling
- golf
- Alcathon (24 hrs. of meetings & fellowship at a church hall or other building); formal dance; bowling
- scrabble tournament
- Do you know when I'll get my vaccine? Seriously; still concerned about in person meetings as have never attended one!
- We sometime do a ground cleaning or landscaping of facility that's used for meetings
- These types of activities should be self-supporting. No 7th tradition money should be spent doing these types of activities.
- Our Founders day and Gratitude dinners
- music clubhouse parties (sober)
- Trivia
- live music (Bands)
- chess tournaments, game night
- Conferences
- Theater, music concerts
- camping
- tennis/Racquetball sober cruises
- art classes like painting with a twist
- Fishing trips
- I like the activities we do with fycypaa and after meetings, like coffee and going out to ear. there are dances and basketball and manhunt. cards against humanity
- dances, bowling, mini golf, any outdoor activities, beach day, etc.
- corn hole , Games - Games - Games!
- Myakka state park
- beach meetings
- service opportunities when you can find a way to marry service opportunities with fellowship activities - the magic happens
- 12 step calls

Question 12

Do you ever feel left out from enjoying full participation in AA fellowship or service due to: age, social cultural, economic, ethnic, racial, religious ...ision, hearing, communication, or physical mobility?

137 responses



- Never
- Occasionally
- Often
- Always
- Again; have only attended Zoom meetings; so NA
- occasionally, as I get older I feel more with it as the majority of active membe...
- I don't hear well so I don't always hear...
- Since Zoom meetings started, I somet...

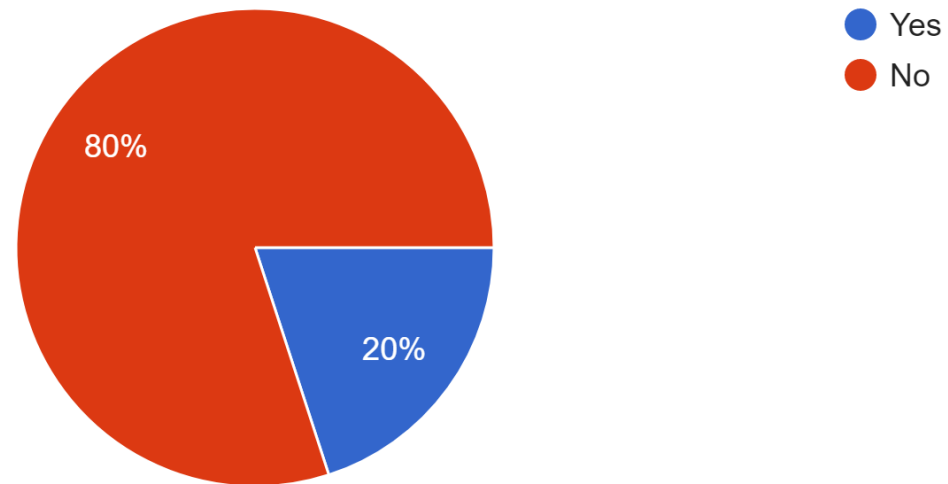
Question 12 comments - (on lack of full participation)22 responses

- I am concerned that many Alcoholics already in Recovery will lose a footing on their past, present and future program foundations in adjusting LITERATURE wording in terms of gender, sexuality identity, expression to in order to fit the needs or desires of those who are having difficulty. We are inclusive albeit the best we can be without infringing upon the foundations of others. We have age, gender and sexual identity meetings as is, perhaps a vehicle to establish a newer set of guidelines.
- I think everyone does feel left out occasionally - its the human condition
- I've often observed white men saying & doing things that are disrespectful of women & minorities; they've also dominated sharing, leadership positions & group decisions. I've also experienced aggression toward my religion.
- Clique in group
- Clickish behavior from some groups
- sacrifice - discipline -laziness
- My lack of mobility going to beach functions is always a challenge, anything that requires a distance to walk or standing in a line , no can do.
- The Year 2020
- Pandemic, age
- As a rule when I have these feelings about participation, its my own garbage that needs adjusting
- hearing issues sometimes
- There is no after the meeting fellowship here (even before the Pandemic)
- sometimes
- my own issue, shy, self worth issues
- need IN PERSON meetings!
- Sometimes it seems individuals are pushing their " brand " of " God as they understand it"
- I need to apply myself to be a part of it
- mostly my own issues, not necessarily anyone else making me feel that way
- only shyness on my part!
- In my experience, I have never experienced a lack of inclusion or acceptance in AA. In fact, when I was a degenerate, bottom of the barrel, last stop at the train station when no one else would take me in Alcoholic, AA was there. This question is mildly off putting
- Nobody should ever be left out or feel left out when it comes to anything in AA

Question 13

Do you know of any members of AA locally who are hearing or visually impaired, housebound or have mobility challenges who could use assistance to support participation in AA meetings?

135 responses



Question 14

- Do you have any comments or suggestions to support communication, unity, service, or reaching the alcoholic who still suffers here in district 4? 30 responses

- Continue reaching out, carrying the message, improving technology, strive for diversity and come as close as we can to balancing attraction/promotion.
- more use of internet technology
- More information on District events, volunteer opportunities, committee work in the hard copy news letter. Perhaps a "newsletter liaison" for general service or each committee.
- I appreciate this survey asking about diversity & inclusion. Unity & outreach will be improved by making these a priority in our communication & service, and by showing others how to practice kindness & tolerance.
- Have a DCM or committee spotlight what they did as a service each month.
- Thank you for your service.
- Need to resume the Newsletter
- Identify a comm point for each group without a GSR. DCMs comm conduit for their groups
- More workshops put on by any trusted servants
- There seems to be a short supply of temporary sponsors. That could be because of covid or lack of communication between in house an on line meetings but at times it seems to be an issue.
- Need strong focus on the new comer given the steep increase in alcoholic death and drug usage & overdose during this pandemic
- Not sure what names we have to each group of meeting but in the part I gave participated in service meetings . For example the GSR's on LongBoat key and say north west Bradenton come together to put on a tradition workshop or a day of AA history with old timers. On zoom we could do a AA trivia meeting. With question related to AA history and the districts history.
- Stayed away from AA for decades due to wording in BB; "Father"; "He"; "God...He". Like the idea ♀ of non-gender pronouns!
- Ramp up outreach after the pandemic
- The district does a good job with virtual meetings which enables anyone to attend whatever the circumstances are.
- More outreach to local medical practices and major insurers.
- sober rock festivals at Gratitude Club
- bilingual multiple languages
- reaching out to grade schools to teach love and tolerance
- ask for a raise of hands for people who are willing to give rides to meetings.
- more people involved in service. I believe that some people do most of the service, like cleaning up the meetings and helping wit thanksgiving and memorial day picnics.
- in person activities/ meetings
- Fun informational events
- I think social media would be a great way of communication and sharing information
- Sometimes groups can feel a little "cliquey" but that's just human nature I think.
- better introductions for newcomers
- find ways to make face to face in person meeting more commonly known as being open people won't come if they think " AA is shut down" we live in Florida Baby!
- I find that the alcoholic who is open to the message typically finds us

Question 15 - Comments - (general comments to help us do more in district 4!) 20 responses

- Thank you for your service.
- where can I get printed copies of the survey for distribution at meetings? can I print some from the web site?
- I am impressed with the District's outreach and activity during a difficult time. The Blog is terrific as are the Coffee Talks!
- Website has improved for information, dedication of chair Alan is amazing, as is Susan N, Sharon K
- I'm new to the area so I don't have much to say on this .
- Too new here; but glad you exist! Still learning about all the resources
- Thank you for service
- Love the coffee talk series. Very informative. Possibly to have support in guiding those not familiar with zoom to get to an online meeting. This is wonderful. Will share with Sunrise
- Lead and serve, do not continue to overstep bounds of authority. District 4, Intergroup, and Central Office board should work together. Each is self-governing by its members (ALL of it's members, not a select few). Do not place District Chair or Intergroup Chair on CO Board. That causes too much centralized authority. Do not participate in discussions of the CO Board or the Intergroup business meetings without a specific invitation to speak on behalf of District 4. Just because an individual chairs one of the three service entities doesn't mean they can go to the other's business meeting and give opinions on behalf of the group that they chair.
- We in D4 need to get a better organization with regards to helping those without transportation. I am working the help line at the moment and have 3 people all young and new to the area in half way houses call for meeting info with the caveat that they wanted to go to meetings in person but had no car/transport of others to assist in getting them to a meeting. I did help one of the 3 with a ride but most of these people are between US 41 and US 301, what I call the Dead Zone...there are no recovery meetings in that area and that is also the most affordable place to live so most recovery/sober houses are located in that area.
- Information at District and General Services level is incredible. Information flow down to the individual meeting level is miniscule but I don't know how to improve it.
- Regular get togethers (dances, etc.) to encourage sober community
- Welcome Home is a virtual meeting that welcomes EVERYONE and is more than happy to assist in finding technical solutions for those with ADA needs. [REDACTED]
- Thank you for helping save my Life!
- I love the AA meeting app. so wonderful how updated it is.
- just with showing where to go to I ride my bicycle to meetings and it has been very hard for me when the meeting time or date is not updated in the app
- doing great
- Keep it up!
- maybe start a district 4 group for Alcoholics anonymous on Facebook, so locally we can still be as a whole , even if we are not around or can't reach anyone... * just an idea*