

2018

IOWA AREA INVENTORY

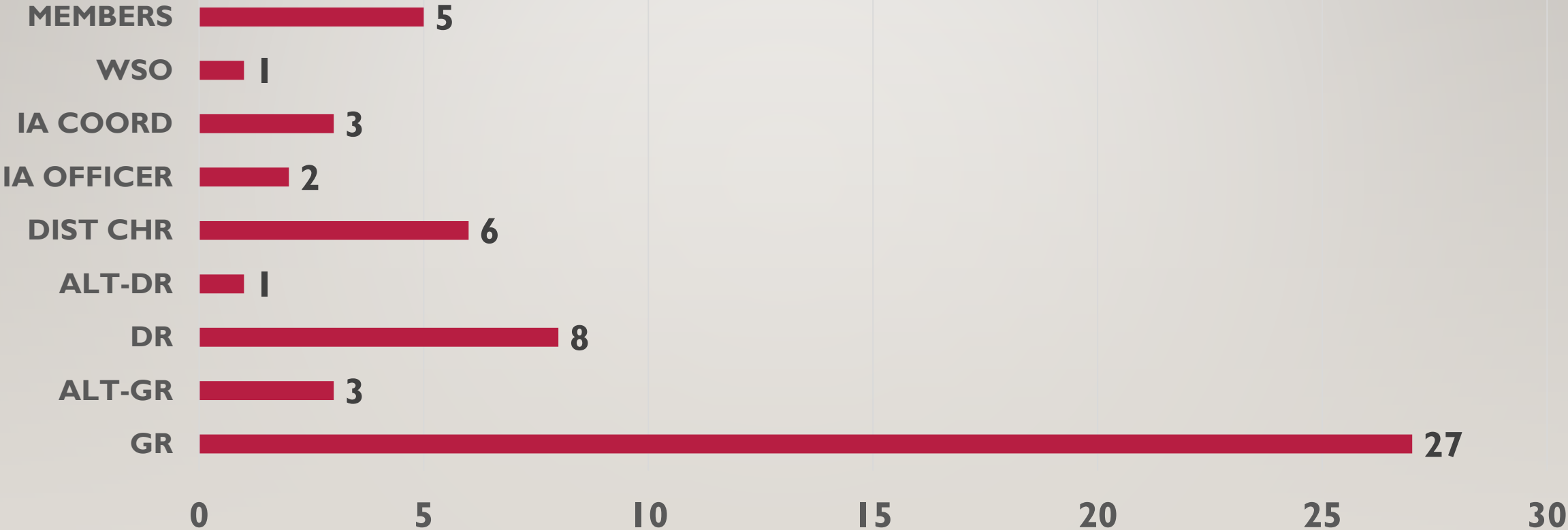
JUNE SPRING ASSEMBLY IN CLEAR LAKE ,IA

AL-ANON ATTENDANCE 75

SURVEYS RECEIVED 55

INVENTORY COMMITTEE: LISA G., KATY P., LORI R., MISSY Y., GERI G.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT SERVICE POSITION?



HOW MANY ASSEMBLIES HAVE YOU ATTENDED?



WHAT BARRIERS LIMIT MY PARTICIPATION IN ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY?

- Family commitments, other events/schedule
- Time it takes; full weekend
- Distance to travel
- Cost of hotel/travel; going alone; not reimbursed; child care; dog care
- Work conflicts; use of PTO on Fridays
- Other: sick; handicap assessible issues, boring workshops, new to Al-Anon

HOW DO I OVERCOME THOSE BARRIERS?



- Setting the Assembly as a priority
- Plan ahead; mark calendar to avoid interference
- Car pool and share room to cut costs
- Inform my group about expenses for reimbursement
- Try not to over-commit; say no to other activities

WHAT DO I GAIN FROM MY ATTENDANCE?



Fellowship; meet new members; see my friends

Feeling a part of larger purpose; Hope that Al-Anon is a live; Unity

Be a part of decision making; participate in service

Learn information; pick up lots of ideas

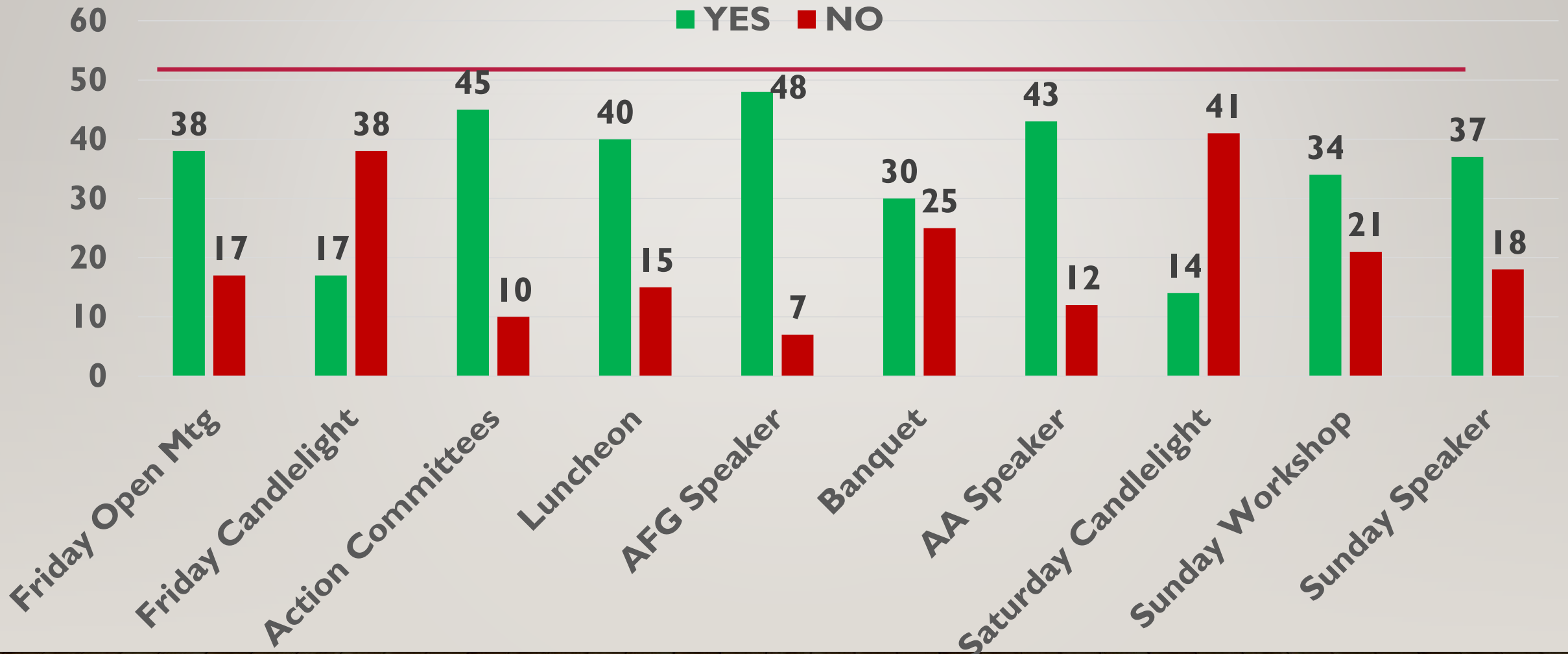
Learn about WSO

Improved self-esteem by being involved

HOW DO I EDUCATE OTHER MEMBERS IN MY DISTRICT ON VALUABLE IDEAS I'VE GAINED FROM THE ASSEMBLY?

- Share/report at my home group meeting; send out email to home group
- Share at District Meetings
- Take good notes to share
- Share what I learned from the experience and speakers
- Share enthusiasm after returning

I ATTEND THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF THE BUSINESS MEETING



I WOULD LIKE A WORKSHOP ON...

- 33 Subjects were provided by the survey! A list will be provided. Suggestions included:
 - Tiers of officers; acronyms
 - Humor in Recovery
 - Welcoming the New Comer
 - Being assertive without hurting others
 - Steps, Traditions, Concept, and Warranties
 - Training for various service positions and what to expect in those positions



DO YOU FEEL WELCOMED AT AREA ASSEMBLIES?

- **Yes 51; Sometimes 3; It's Okay.** - **How to improve:**
 - Centralize Assembly location
 - Ice breaker on Friday or Saturday
 - Have the Al-Anon program available prior to Assembly
 - Mentors or someone to shepherd new people at Assembly
 - Improve on having Al-Anon greeters at the door
 - Ribbons on Area Officers, Coordinators, Speakers so people know who they are- introduction of them so people can approach them during Assembly

WHEN ATTENDING ASSEMBLY, DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED ON ISSUES THAT REQUIRE DISCUSSION AND VOTE. WHY OR WHY NOT?

- YES -45 and NO 6
- WHY- I attend AWSC; I get a DR packet; I get information from Area Website and Newsletter; technology has helped improve and quicken links of communication- email
- WHY NOT- No agenda at Business Meeting-feel left out; do not always get information from DR; I do not understand the policies; sometimes information is limited from WSO as to what can be shared; computer issues.

DO YOU FEEL THE AREA OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS ARE APPROACHABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND RESPOND TO MEMBERS' NEEDS? HOW CAN WE IMPROVE

- YES 55! Good at circulating; very comfortable, sweet and willing to help
- How to improve:
 - We do not know who they are
 - Education or information on what they do
 - Some seem unsure about their positions



COULD PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBERS BE INCREASED IN THE ACTION COMMITTEES (AC)?

- Yes, No and no idea how to answer the question; 20+ suggestions included:
 - Need more appealing subjects
 - AC have run their course- substitute in workshops; stop the Action Committees
 - AC seem like they are just time fillers
 - AC feels disconnected- we have discussions and then what?
 - Need more members to attend Assembly; increase in attendance could always improve
 - AC is limited due to communication between Assemblies... workshops would provide something to bring back to the groups
 - AC too much turn over to carry initiatives through
 - They seem to be improving with incorporating discussions

IN WHAT WAYS, IF ANY, COULD WE UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY TO HELP YOU FEEL MORE INFORMED?

- Email reports, Al-Anon program, Business Agenda to DRs and GRs **before** Assembly
- Have Al-Anon program and Business Agenda on the website **prior** to Assembly
- Utilization of Area Website as far as getting information out to members
- Mail Chimp- reminders for Assembly, let membership know the AWSC Minutes are on the Area Website for their viewing, messages, updates, great way to stay in touch and build membership
- Continue with email and newsletter
- Laptop at registration for members to sign up for the Loop and Area website updates
- Virtual meetings
- App for Area (like WSO has)

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY?

- Meeting new people, fellowship, connecting, networking, seeing friends; getting together with other Districts
- Delegates report; learn about business as it relates to Al-Anon as a whole
- Getting informed about other groups, districts, Area and WSO
- Speakers and attending my committee
- Assemblies are all over the state; get to see places I would not normally experience



WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT ASSEMBLY?

- Lack of transparency- no business agenda
- Dread going to Action Committees
- Delegate and Business meeting in the afternoon right after lunch when folks are most tired, hard to think and absorb the great information. Make a switch some how.
- Business meeting too long; too long to sit
- DO NOT READ PREVIOUS MINUTES- do a summery, waste of time, is often outdated info
- Candlelight meeting are too late at night
- Three day event- can it be Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday if we utilize time better?
- Not knowing people

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE IOWA ASSEMBLY OR EXPAND ON PREVIOUS ANSWERS

- Copy of Business Agenda for all - PLEASE
- More workshops/presentations/skits that come from WSC.
- Area has not had opportunity to enjoy all the information that is given to our Delegate
- Take away Action Committees and have workshops that are Buzz Sessions or Hot Topics & use ideas of members.
- Expand Delegate report and limit Action Committee to make time for it
- Ways to take back information and reports back to the group- email or website
- GRs need to be present and register to vote; need improved participation somehow

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE IOWA ASSEMBLY OR EXPAND ON PREVIOUS ANSWERS

- Better use of Friday Night AWSC time altogether- short workshop, informal roundtable, or discussion to strengthen unity and fellowship
- Mic time after the Business meeting for: ideas, input on topics that members may have thought about. Could use 2 minute 1x at mic per topic for etiquette form.
- Business Meeting or Delegate Report on Saturday morning when we are fresh
- Assembly – 2 days instead of 3; better use of time is needed
- Move AMIAS training to Marshalltown during January service workshop

