

# Unity AA Group Inventory

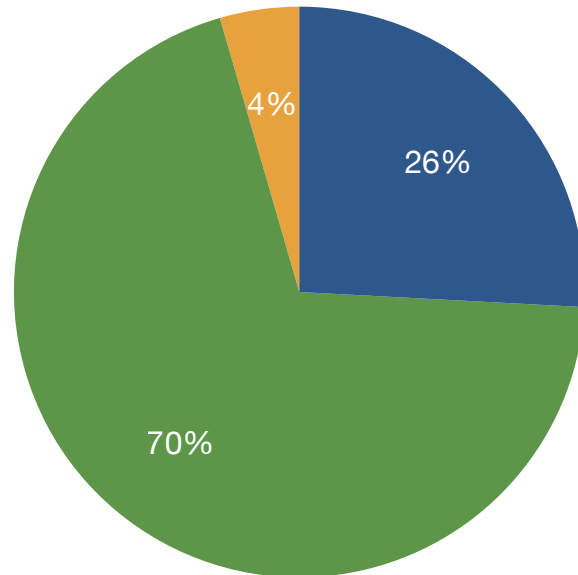


Presented by:  
Cliff P. DCM District 3, Area 39  
November 6th, 2022

1. Do you attend the monthly business meetings?

● Yes      ● No      ● I Don't Know

Yes: 23  
 No: 62  
 I don't know: 4



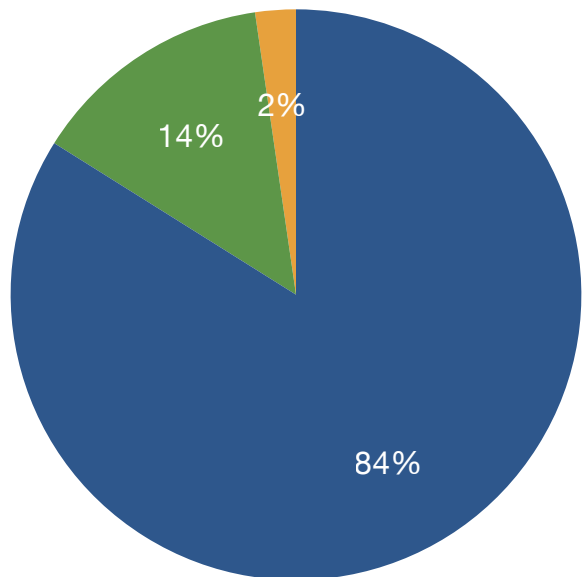
I don't live that close to unity anymore	I don't have a lot of time to be involved, therefore render my opinion not helpful
To get a better understanding of how the group works	I just don't
I love my group, and I want to be helpful	Too much drama and emotional triggers for me.
Always work Wednesday nights	I used too but work has gotten in the way the last 9 months.
Good way to stay involved	Availability
Busy	I have another commitment on Wednesdays but I appreciate the reading the minutes.
Time doesn't work for me.	schedule conflict
1. I am lazy. 2. I'm afraid of the tension.	Not interested currently
Sometimes I do but sometimes I have things to do	I haven't made it a priority to do so.
I'm actually not sure Unity AA!?!? Hmmmm??	No reason, simply have not attended.
I have in the past - doesn't work with my current schedule	Scheduling with work is difficult
My sponsor suggested it early on, and it helped keep me sober.	No time or forget.
I'm a lazy fuck.	I just forget

To gain more information about Unity AA and to convey that information to zoom users.	no ride home after
Just haven't been going long enough. I plan on attending the next one.	I attend based on necessity.
Because sobriety has given me a life and I was on the board and enjoyed the shit out of it but I am not on the board but the board members are doing such an amazing job and I have no issues with how Unity AA is run so don't have a particle reason to come to the board meetings. The ship is in good hands and I'm doing my part by living my life.	I have and i did speak about an aa problem and it was disrespected. I didnt even finish my sentence and it was overlooked and I feld discounted humiliated and leafter early from the business meeting.
I attend when I can. Sometimes it sneaks up on me and is missed. I do believe they are important and plan on attending in the future.	dont know
It is my responsibility as a member	I keep forgetting
Haven't been available when it happens	Only once. Im not in a place where I can get involved with business meetings. Maybe I'll attend more in the future
I attend because my sponsor told me it's a good way to be in the middle of the boat	occasionally
I'm usually busy	Only been here a week
I just made Unity my home group. I have attended one but was out of town for the other two.	My first day
I usually forget	Politics
To be a member among members	I forget about them or have conflicts
I want to. I need to make myself aware of when the meetings are taking place.	Not disciplined enough for me
Schedule conflict	Ptsd from meetings
Forget to	No time
Not aware of	I work evenings
I forget	
I attend when I can because it's important as a member of the group to know what is happening and to be part of the group consciousness.	
Too much drama trauma	
I believe it is important to hear and help with concerns another member may have with the group. And as well, voice a concern that I may have.	
Scheduling issues	
Procrastination	
Time constraints	

2. Does Unity AA adequately emphasize the importance of sponsorship?

Yes: 73  
 No: 12  
 I don't know; 2

● Yes      ● No      ● I don't know

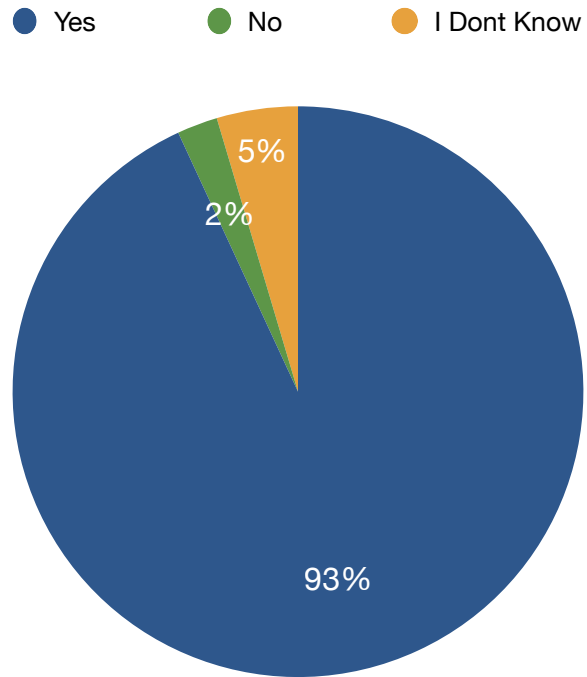


Please list anything you and/or other members can do to improve.	Walking through the books or having candle light meetings would be cool.
Continue to share on the benefits of sponsorship, and how it relates to my overall recovery	It seems inadequate to raise hands at the beginning of the meeting. No one knows who is who. If we did that at the end, then newcomers might 1. be reminded about the need for sponsorship and 2. gravitate towards people who have something they want
Better coffee machine. Let's get an automatic espresso machine. Do a go fund me or ask a rich person to buy.	Maybe just make a doc file with how to lead a zoom meeting in the Our Gang group
More rigorous training of in-person meeting leaders.	Bring in a long time sober member from out of town to share experience, strength and hope. We could do a 1 day workshop or an afternoon workshop followed by evening speaker meeting where AA's from around the city are invited. It could generate some fresh air/new ideas coming into our fellowship.
Unity is great. I have tons of work to do, as per always.	Sponsorship workshop
I'm a bit jaded about sponsorship; jealous because I have not found the right fit for me. I really have tried but also don't trust easily.	Reach out to newcomers after meeting.
If it is appropriate we, as meeting leaders, could tell our members/ newcomers how important a sponsor really is.	encourage more pamphlets also accentuate the necessity of sponsor sponsee deal the step work-maybe coveid through a period of reorganization
Others improve the length of time they share. Be conscious of the amount of people in the room who would also like to share.	In other meetings i have to to the leader asks who doesn't have a sponsor then who is willing to be a temporary sponsor then they talks about the two groups to meet up.

<p>Would be nice if we had a list on the board of temp sponsors!</p>	<p>It would be nice to have more hybrid meetings</p>
<p>There isn't a part of the meeting where sponsorship has an overview. At meeting start, we say "please raise your hand if you're willing to be a temporary sponsor" and folks raise their hand for a brief moment and that's it. If it's a 1st step meeting, folks usually share about how they got a sponsor, etc. , but I think adding a phrase in the introduction as simple as - at Unity AA we recommend getting a sponsor. A sponsor is someone who can walk you through the 12 steps of AA. To learn more about sponsorship, please see (meeting leader or "specific sponsorship coordinator person") after the meeting.</p> <p>Newcomers might not know what sponsorship is and even if they do, the raising hands part is over so quickly they might not remember who raised their hands. I think giving it a short spotlight would help newcomers. I also recommend either removing the word "temporary" (confusing to newcomers).</p> <p>Overall, I think if folks hang around they'll understand we work with sponsors and need to get one, but an extra spotlight for it could get someone who is shy and also on the fence to feel more comfortable about reaching out.</p> <p>I've visited a couple meetings that do this and actually have a sponsorship coordinator as a position that is held by two people, one male, one female for a certain period of time. Could be worth exploring.</p>	<p>I think that beating into a newcomer that a sponsor is needed and the only way to recover is not a good start for all newcomers. It is overwhelming to begin with then to have people talk about how it only works with a sponsor is not true at all. It also is no where in the Big Book about sponsorship. It says just another alcoholic to talk with. Which has worked for me since I used a sponsor to work the steps. But I no longer use a daily, weekly or monthly sponsor for anything. Also Unity is 1000% cliques and if you have a falling out with a clique member or see someone outside of the clique then you are thrown to the side and looked down upon from those people. We are all there for recovery and the cliques have given Unity a bad name and made many feel unwelcome especially for the women who feel unwanted because they do not fit in to the mold Unity has tried to establish like the one way thinking on every issue and any push back is unwelcome and received poorly.</p>
<p>The Twelve Step in the 12 X 12, page 111 claims we are not to give advice; so sharing our experience, strength, and hope is what we have to share.</p>	<p>I need to help host meetings and sponsor someone</p>
<p>Safety! I thought I was more equipped than I was to lead but when a man gets disrespectful with his language and threatening my sobriety I take issue. When it was so disrupting and you lose control of the meeting does the meeting end? There were several people who have led before in the room and one person who works for the church. People need to be kicked out. Period. Especially if they continue to be disrespectful. And emotionally toxic.</p>	<p>Have a class on what good sponsorship is and is not.</p>
<p>It is asked during the start of each meeting will temporary sponsors please raise their hand. I believe enough is being done-</p>	<p>I don't know</p>
<p>Become a sponsor.</p>	<p>I don't hear people sharing about sponsorship and it's importance as much as I hear about it in other groups. I try to share about my experiences with sponsorship and what both sides of sponsorship do for me. I am not sure how to encourage it more.</p>

3. Does Unity AA effectively communicate the program of Alcoholics Anonymous (the 12 Steps)?

Yes; 81  
 No: 2  
 I Dont Know: 4



Continue to share on the 12 steps and read our literature in the meetings.

I have nothing to add.

Yes again with the sponsorship

We should consider more meetings on Sunday.

Talk to newcomers.

Better chairs and more activities

I think it would be nice to read the promises before each meeting. Might also be nice to reconfigure language of the first step meetings to include an actual emphasis on the first step!

Reading How It Works gives clear direction of what we do, so reading them each meeting maybe will stick with some.

Read the big book every day, split the meeting, big book, not big book

I will say it's been more frequent than not where more and more people are talking about drugs and I can't relate. Lots of people not actively working a program and court ordered talking about drugs. I would never have gotten sober at NA.

We can do more literature meetings.

Not everyone agrees with everyone else. Stop letting bullies be part of the Unity hierarchy.

We could be a little better with trans people

Describing yourself as an alcoholic and not just an addict.

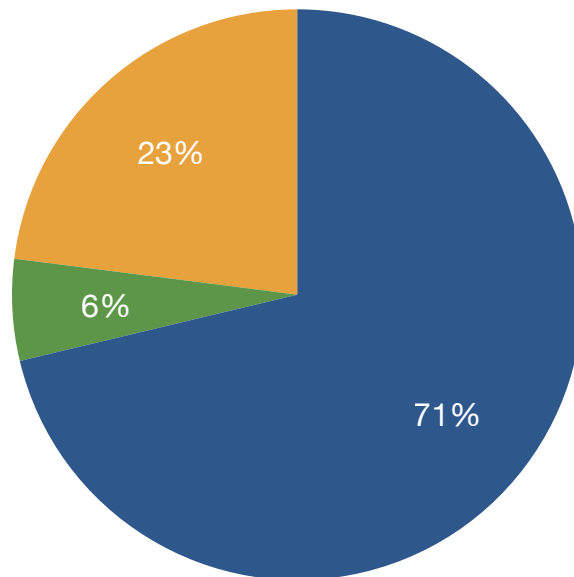
More explanation of TEMPORARY sponsorship.

the board as you walk in through the front door-the regular times are liked

4. Does Unity AA effectively carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to detox and treatment centers?

Yes: 62  
 No: 5  
 I Don't Know: 20

● Yes ● No ● I Dont Know



Continue having several scheduled commitments at various hospitals and treatment organizations. We need to check into the jails again, and see if access can be granted. Especially KCRC in west bottoms and JCDC downtown

The T&C opportunities that we sign up for do not have an end date. I've been signed up for one weekend a month at a treatment center for over a year, but when my co-chair stopped attending, I stopped going as well, for fear of my safety. I have safety concerns at at least one facility

It would be helpful to have the current list of meeting leaders for T&C listed in the meeting binder or bulletin board. I've been to advent a few times and I was the only one (and not an assigned leader)

I enjoyed going once a month to Avent. Fallen out of practice with that.

Not sure how to approach this. I've never been to a detox or treatment program.

Might consider listing out the different treatment opportunities on the board in the corner if it's not already listed.

I have reached out to t&c a few wanting help carry the message. No has got back with me.

Have more opportunities

More targeted T&C recruitment, advertising T&C opportunities differently (maybe having a direct signup in classroom A?)

I've never been to a T&C so I can't say.

COVID-19 changed things, but Unity does take meetings to T/C.

I believe we could do better.

I would like to see us take meetings to more centers. But somehow, I don't think So many people are into the service work. I'm not sure how to promote it it better though. I don't think it's a failing on the trusted servant's part. Perhaps we need some brainstorming on the attraction of it.

Would appreciate some trainings for facilitating these meetings. If the leader of the meeting isn't strong, the group can quickly become lots of crosstalk and more like a support group where everyone comments on a person's share.

We do a great job at carrying the message!

Not nearly enough people volunteering to go.

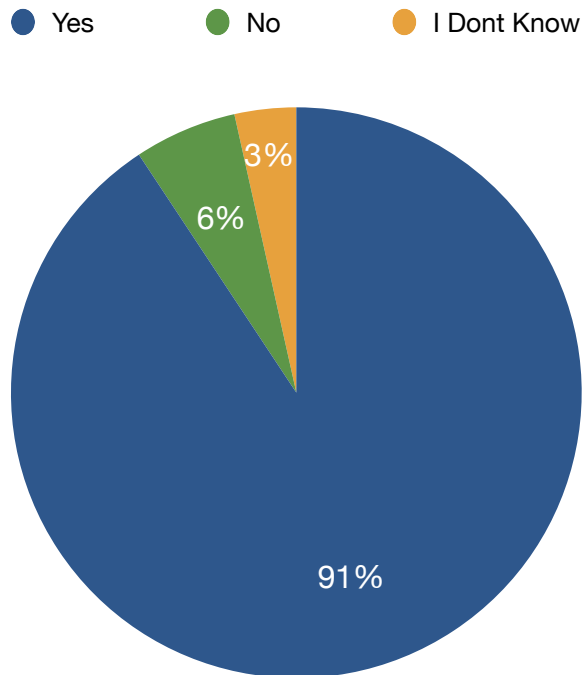
Be more welcoming to groups brought in, at least to say we are glad they are with us.

I myself like working with others-a plight of ACA AA Alanon-like a friendlier deal

In other meetings the meeting leader announces the next TC meeting and asks for volunteers. They don't move forward with the meeting until they have 2-3. For as large as a group we have, we don't do much T & C

5. Does Unity AA provide a safe, attractive, and accessible meeting space both in person and on Zoom?

Yes: 78  
 No: 5  
 I Don't Know: 3



The chair committee could be doing a better job

Replace the chairs

The lady that brings her dog to the group be let's the lease out to let her dog greet others during the meeting(extends to 10-12 feet). I also witnessed the dog attack a tiny dog walking outside in front of unity. This dog, I'm told does not have papers to be an emotional support animal and it has gone too far - makes me uncomfortable.

No issues

Make sure there are 12 and 12s, Living Sober books, and coins in the Heritage Room. Make the Business Meeting downstairs in an accessible room.

Nothing that hasn't been said before, but in-person handicap accessibility is tricky at best! I have felt very welcomed from the jump there and have met a lot of nice folks.

Only thing I can think is not all the zoom meetings have leaders and I've shown up to many and just no one is there. If we cannot fill the leader spots, it might be nice to have a meeting leader script accessible on the website for anyone who might need to fill in on the spot

I don't know how safe or attractive, because that can differ for each person. Step 13 is still a thing, so IMHO, as long as we have alcoholics in the rooms we will always have challenges.

May need to pare down zoom schedule. Meetings without leaders and meetings without regular attendees.

There is occasionally some unsafe sexual predatory behavior exhibited by certain male members. I have had 3 sponsees who received unwanted propositions during meetings at Unity. People need to be held accountable. During and after the pandemic things shifted pretty hard to where you come into a meeting and you're like who's that? Who's that person sponsor? They are out of line. I know I needed to communicate this earlier than later how unsafe I feel in meetings and now in our gang.

Too often women and newcomers are preyed upon by men. It sometimes is not a safe environment to be vulnerable. Women have been followed to their cars by men.

Lots of homeless and unstable people

Could be better with trans people

I have no idea about zoom, this yes answer is only for the church



The Unity meeting I regularly attend is safe, attractive, and accessible. I have attended meetings at Unity that I would not characterize that way; there have been loud and aggressive drunks, attendees who would have physically fought had not another attendee intervened, offensive and off-topic shares...you know, an AA meeting. I would be interested in learning more about to help anyone who feels unsafe at meetings - I think its important for those of us with some time to do what we can to help anyone that is struggling at meetings. Sometimes I don't know what to do in those situations. What I was taught was to get comfortable being uncomfortable, but that's not always reasonable.

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Floors are shitty most times.

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Heritage Room is welcome addition, no stairs. However, only Certified Service Dogs should be allowed, Not Emotional Support Animals. I am very tired of Freda.

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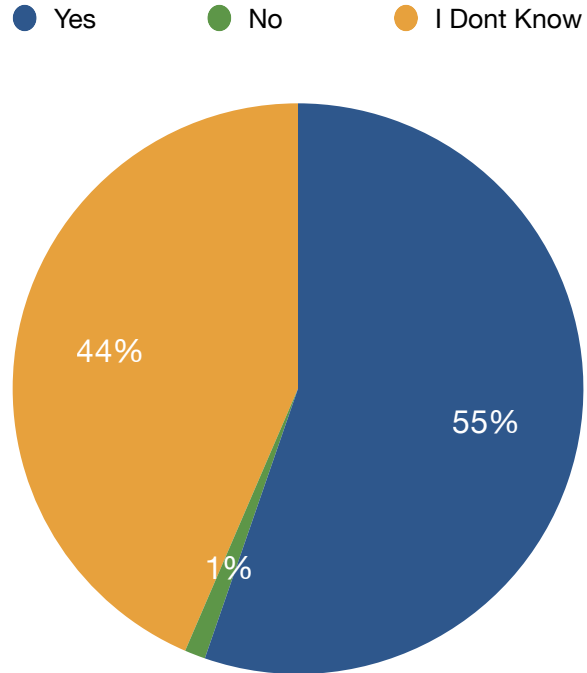
some persons were threatening me for quite a minute. I told some others in the club whatever that deal is. Calling it Gay Soul and taking advantage (serious) of person that had a doctor donovan soul-still continues though asked to leave Unity.

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I have heard that someone that attends regularly has harmed others. That seems dangerous to do nothing about (of if something is being done I m not aware of it)

6. Does Unity AA participate in the larger service structure of AA so that Unity AA's voice is represented (i.e. financial contributions to the service structure, send representatives to attend area and district meetings)?

Yes: 47  
 No: 1  
 I Don't Know: 37



We could not improve here. We have the world's best GSR

No issues

I don't know, but I'd like to know!

I didn't know anything about the Concepts, the third side of triangle; It's the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Concepts have much to do with Service, so there is room for improvement.

That is why I plan to attend the business meetings.

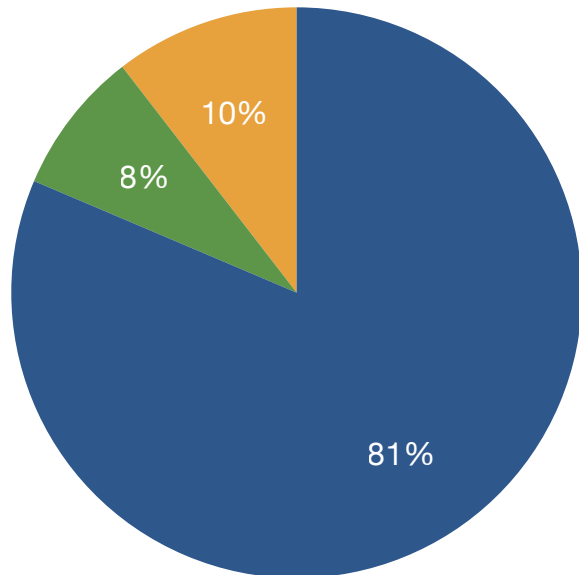
I don't know much about the larger service structure or why it is important.

Yes, we contribute to all entities. We have representation at District and Area, which is great!

● Yes ● No ● I Dont Know

7. Does Unity AA attract alcoholics from diverse backgrounds?

Yes: 70  
 No: 7  
 I Don't Know: 9



I can't speak to others' experiences. I hope those of diverse backgrounds feel safe and welcome, but I do know of a few instances where fellows haven't felt welcome by another individual, and as a result stop showing up. As an example, I have been present when someone was being totally disruptive only when a particular person was leading. The feeling I get is that, in these cases, these individuals have not felt welcome because of their sexual orientation. This is by no means widespread, but I do find it very troubling when I see it.

We could let AA. Members/newcomers know via posting on our website that Unity AA is accepting of ALL race, creed,color and sexual orientation.

No issues

I think we do pretty good for a group our size in terms of welcoming folks and encouraging them to return.

Perhaps go to Research Hospital or Truman Hospital for TC.

This is a key reason that I attend unity.

Many meetings are all white

Groups are groups. Unity is a mostly white Liberal group who doesn't like the views other than White Liberal views that go along with today's ever changing Woke progressive movements

Better with trans people

Unity caters to affluent white liberals. But most would be shocked to hear that. It's just a product of the neighborhood it is in. You can't do much to advertise to other groups of people other than carry the message

I think Unity does a great job of being welcoming to the newcomer. There are things we can do to make the fellowship more welcoming such as make an effort to be inclusive of new people from backgrounds different than our own and be thoughtful when distributing information about fellowship opportunities that are open to all. Socially, Unity has a lot in common with high school, and finding one's way in a large group where people already have their friends and favorites can be complex. All us alcoholics are sensitive, so I think we can be more thoughtful and purposeful about this particular issue.

Yes! Every walk of life!

Also attracts people with other addictions which makes the meetings confusing and sometimes less safe of an environment.

of course homelessness is a part of the system deal and that doesn't mean weapons or death threats! I don't talk to everybody in AA anymore

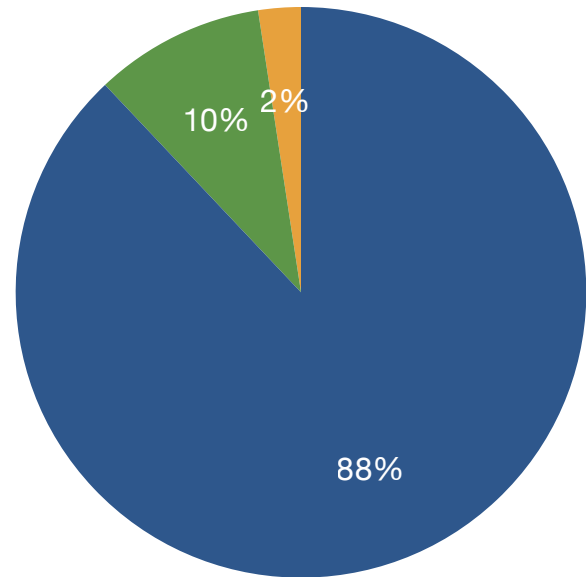
I believe it is one of the most diverse groups in the city. That was my attraction to Unity

Sometimes look around. Mostly all white. We do well at different social economic classes

● Yes ● No ● I Dont Know

8. Does Unity AA communicate its activities and service opportunities effectively?

Yes: 73  
No: 8  
I Don't Know: 2



Zoom meetings don't always receive the same announcements

Keep it up to date on our website.

No issues

See suggestion for different ideas for T&C leader recruitment

Information concerning activities such as picnics and other group events are not posted on the website. For example, this group inventory as Aug 16th cannot be accessed thru the website.

If I read the announcements or go to the Our Gang Facebook page I find out about things.

The Zoom platform doesn't always have the updated information, and not everyone has Facebook to join the AA group there.

It would be helpful to have an event calendar on the website. I have signed up for onions and tomatoes at the Labor Day picnic. I do not remember the date and time. I will make it to a meeting prior to the picnic to get the info. It would've been helpful for that info to be on the website. Additionally, I would be more involved and attend more activities and make T and C a higher priority with the info posted.

Yes. Kind of.would be better to elaborate a little more about service opportunities and providing contact info for the person in charge of providing materials for leading meetings for example.

It would be nice to have the site updated more

I assume so - I am not part of Our Gang, so I don't know if I am missing information that is distributed on there. There are announcements in meetings about what picnics are planned and directions to look at the website for T & C.

Sometimes too much time spent on this stuff to detriment of meeting/sharing time.

Unity in general, and the steering committee in particular, does communicate well. On occasion, however, the 'trusted servants' behave as if their titles give them authority over others in the group. Unfortunately, the most extreme example of this occurred in March of 2020, when Covid was having its impact on all communities everywhere. At no point would it have been more valuable for our unique community to lean on the long-established tradition regarding ultimate Authority accessed exclusively via a group conscience. Instead, the steering committee assumed absolute power over the group and removed access for everyone to all AA meetings at Unity. As few as six people agreed on a decision that had immediate impact on potentially hundreds of recovering alcoholics. Eventually, some progress was made toward reducing the possibility that the second tradition could ever be similarly violated again, but this offense has yet to be publicly reconciled. The group could realize some improvement if a full rendering of the clandestine vote that occurred on March 17, 2020 were made available to the entire group by the members who participated in it and have full knowledge of it. This is one Unity AA activity that has never been effectively communicated. In the context of a group inventory, this is a valuable fact-finding and fact-facing opportunity.

like more local hospitals-always has patients that need other to bring a meeting and uplifting spirit to hospitals group houses also short and long term

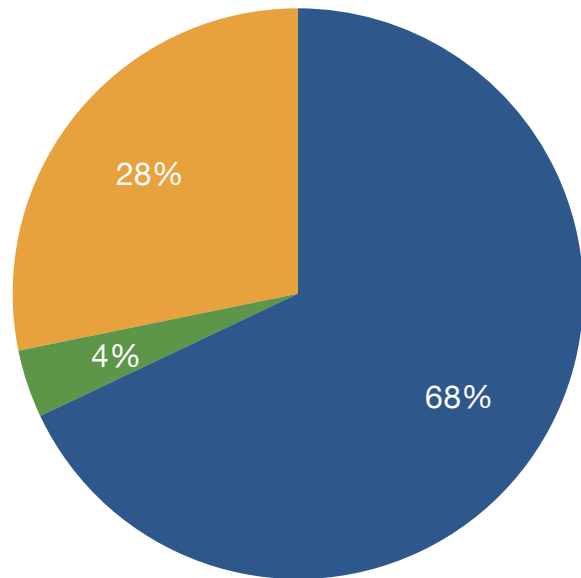
9. Does Unity retain its members?

● Yes ● No ● I Dont Know

Yes: 53

No: 3

I Don't Know: 22



I think by its very nature, any AA group could not have a perfect retention rate. But I have not heard of more than a couple of cases of someone leaving because of issues at Unity specifically.

Sobriety is a gift and not everyone gets it.

This is not Unity's responsibility, but the member's responsibility. People change.

I'm not sure because of some of the unsafe things going on at Unity that I mentioned previously.

Yes alcoholic, not drug addiction

I have known more deaths in this group than others.

Protect the new commers. Call out creepy behaviors

There is a constant influx and outflow of members

The Heritage room meetings take away from the long term sobriety at the regular meetings. Most Tuesday-Thursday meetings have almost no long term sobriety and I think it's bad for the newcomers and the group

I think we have a grave lack of singleness of purpose. I am a drug addict as well as an alcoholic. However, I always keep my share focused on alcoholism because the newcomer in the room may be struggling with whether or not they are in the right place. When meeting leaders refuse to identify as alcoholics and only say addict, it is confusing for the newcomer. I have witnessed this in first step meetings as well as regular ones.

Bring back the "greeter" position for meetings

I am not sure that this is something that we should consider when we evaluate the assets and shortcomings of the group. People grow and change and move and try new groups and find new homes and there is nothing wrong with that. Our group exists to help people get and stay sober, not retain members for the sake of retaining them.

As far as where we fall on the attraction rather than promotion spectrum, even the meetings within the group offer a variety -- I like that about Unity. Some meetings are wild and sweaty, some are more sedate.

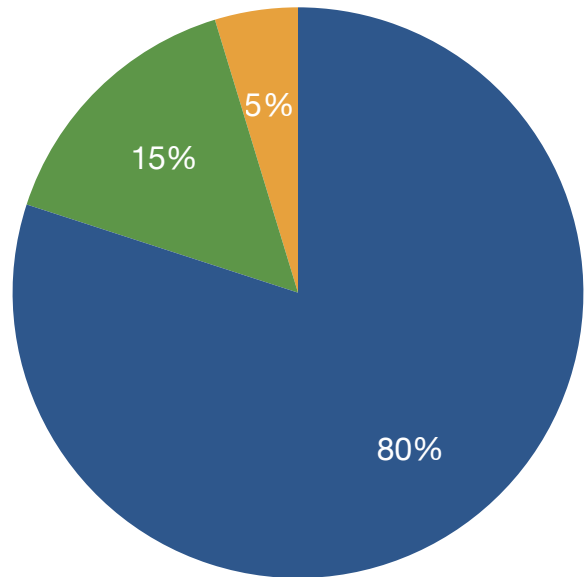
Hard to tell post-covid who comes & who is on Zoom & who is elsewhere...

There arent many members around who are still here when I came 1 years ago

● Yes ● No ● I Dont Know

10. Does Unity AA emphasize the importance of preserving anonymity both at in person meeting and on Zoom?

Yes: 68  
No: 13  
I Don't Know: 4



Maybe we could have a short meeting about the rules regarding anonymity. This could be held at the beginning of each three month leader cycle. Or it could be posted on the Unity website

No issues

I don't think it's really talked about. It sure how to open that dialogue

"What we hear here, who we see here, let it stay here, can be added to each meeting; then maybe it will stick. But again, Unity is not responsible for this, the members are.

Although, I believe there are chatty Patties. I also believe this is the same with any group.

Split the rooms,alcoholic, drug addiction

Social media guidelines? Or heavy suggestions. Stricter rules enforced by the other leaders or members of the group for unacceptable behavior within a meeting and outside a meeting. I know multiple women who feel unsafe!

By not having members call out others by name on so called private Social Media platforms for Unity only members that haven't been to a meeting in person in years.

Create a service position for someone to clean up after the meeting. People leave trash and spill drinks, trash goes unemptied, etc. It can't all be on the meeting leader to take care of that

I suppose we could remind people more that what's said in the rooms stays in the rooms.

When I have attended business meetings, I notice that we are thoughtful about this on the back end, but aside from reading the 12th tradition and saying the saying about who you see here let it stay here, culturally, as a group, I think we are pretty loose-y goose-y about it. The attitude seems to be that we give a cursory nod to anonymity for the sake of the shame-filled newcomer, but once one gets some time under their belt they don't care about anonymity anymore.

good meeting topic, seldom raised.

Suggestions: can there be a scheduled group conscience even if its only quarterly or two times a year. A business meeting is not a group conscience

Aside from the whoo you see here what etc...that's part of the boilerplate we rarely talk about respecting anonymity and regarding everything we hear in closed meetings as absolutely confidential