Commonalities of Wildly Successful Groups

This was first presented by Brook S., then the Alternate Delegate, at an Area Assembly in 2012. Brook looked at the 'Groups at Work' section of the Service Manual and listed what that section suggested for groups to follow in their meetings. He then found 2 groups in his area that had started within the previous 2 years, had grown in membership, and were retaining newcomers, that is, 'successful groups.' He found that these groups had the following practices in common. Later, he looked for the same kind of groups outside his original area and found the same pattern. After he presented his findings, he received feedback from GRs that took these practices back to their groups and implemented them. They found that their groups started growing. [All page numbers refer to Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work, 2014-2017, (P-24)]

1. The Groups follow suggested meeting format (10-22).

2. They welcome Newcomers (9, 10-11, 21, 37, 41).

3. They mention Sponsorship as part of the readings (48-49).

4. They conduct Business Meetings and/or Group Conscience Meetings (51-53).

5. They located next to a successful AA meeting when they started (30).

6. They have MANY service positions (39, 46-48).

7. The meeting uses a discussion meeting format with a STRONG CAL focus – the topic is accompanied with a reading from CAL (43-45).

8. The Group conducts a Group Inventory Annually (45, 53).

9. The Group encourages Sponsorship (48-49).

10. The Group does public outreach (45, 50).

11. The Group conducts a Business Meeting every 4 to 6 weeks (51-53).

12. The Group handles announcements according to the Suggested Meeting Format (21).

13. The Group uses a bank account for its finances, receives a financial report at the business meetings and gives to the links of service (56-58, 58-59).

14. The Group has a supply of literature on hand – both books and pamphlets. They give away the group's copy of The Forum (61-62).

15. The GR attends District Meetings and Assemblies (65-66).