

APPENDIX E -- District 9 Gratitude Dinner

1. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Gratitude Dinner is to bring A.A. members together so that they may show their gratitude by sending the financial proceeds of the dinner to General Services in New York to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide.

Additionally, the committee undertakes both to encourage involvement in service at the district level and to demonstrate our gratitude to a Higher Power and to Alcoholics Anonymous for our sobriety.

2. Composition and Procedure

The General Service District 9 Gratitude Dinner Committee shall be comprised of all A.A. members who wish to participate. The Chairperson of the Committee is elected by District 9 General Service in January [See Appendix C.]. Chairperson then selects three trusted servants of General Service to serve as a Co- Chairperson, a Secretary and a Program Chairperson. The Dinner has it's own checking account with one or more signatures of Treasurer, or District Officer on checks to dispense funds. Balance received is passed on as 'start-up' for coming year.

It is recommended that the site selected be brought before the District for final approval to be decided by majority vote, taking into consideration cost of facility, size, and day of week.

Gratitude Dinner Chairperson will call an initial meeting, the Secretary will take names and telephone numbers of volunteers to work or to serve as a dinner committee chair for one of the various committees as follows:.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Accessibilities | l. Dinner service |
| b. Beverage | m. Food Preparation |
| c. Butt Patrol | n. Group Contributions |
| d. Clean up dining room | o. Host/Hostess |
| e. Clean up kitchen | p. Parking |
| f. Clean up pots & pans | q. Publicity |
| g. Coffee preparation | r. Ready Squad |
| h. Coffee service | s. Site Selection (as needed) |
| i. Collection baskets | t. Supplies |
| j. Decorations | u. Table setup & breakdown |
| k. Desserts | v. Tickets |
| | w. Volunteer Coordination |

Now the work begins...

It is suggested at the first meeting, a theme, and ticket price will be voted on by those attending.

The Chairperson will then call another meeting for more volunteers. A copy of the final minutes for the prior year will be distributed to the current years committee chairpersons. **From the volunteers obtained at these two meetings, the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson will then designate those persons who will serve as chairs of the various committees.** The chairs of these committees will then be given the names and the numbers of those who have signed up for their committees. They will then seek out more committee members, if needed (see guidelines for committees). **That the colors for the Gratitude dinner be selected by the decoration committee.**

The Chairperson will call additional meetings of the dinner committees to coordinate activities. These will be announced at the District 9 General Service meeting. Flyers will be distributed as well as placed in the minutes of the District meeting. The chairpersons of the various committees are expected to attend. If they cannot attend, they should inform the chairperson or co-chairperson. Hopefully a walk-through with committee chairpersons at the facility will be held to familiarize ourselves with the hall.

A budget for each committee is recommended, exercising the principle of prudence without compromising the quality of the dinner. All receipts or any expenses need to be turned into the treasurer by one week prior to the wrap-up meeting in order to be reimbursed.

All of those working on the dinner will be entitled to purchase a ticket for themselves and one for a guest if they so desire.

Each GSR whose group is registered with the district will be able to purchase four (4) tickets for their group. DCMs and ACMs are entitled to a ticket and one for a guest and in some cases, District officers may not be currently serving as DCMs, ACMs, or GSRs, so they also will be entitled to one ticket for themselves and one for a guest, so long as they are not serving on a committee and already being allotted tickets. The Broward County Intergroup Chairperson and the Broward County Institution Chairperson, respectively, may purchase up to six (6) tickets each to be distributed as he or she sees fit. The speaker, taper, and person delivering the invocation will each be given two complimentary tickets.

The number of tickets for each group may vary from year to year due to seating capacity of the facility for the dinner.

The money for the tickets will need to be collected by the chairperson of each committee in order that they may purchase their committee's tickets at a designated committee meeting (usually in September). If the chairperson hasn't collected all of the money from their committee members, the ticket chairperson should be informed so that the correct number of tickets may be set aside for purchase as soon as possible.

The GSRs will need to collect money from their groups to purchase tickets at the September General Service meeting. The ticket committee will not give out tickets unless they are paid for at that time.

If there are any additional tickets left, they will be sold at the October General Service meeting to GSRs whose groups have not purchased tickets. After those have been satisfied, GSRs whose groups would like additional tickets may purchase them. First come, first served.

Each committee has a list of guidelines and responsibilities for their respective committees. Any single individual cannot chair more than one committee.

May we then, in the spirit of love and service, thank our Higher Power for blessings received.

3 Program Committee Guidelines

a. Committee Responsibilities

Carefully review and analyze various speakers by the use of audio tapes. Choose a speaker accountable to the committee, who will fulfill the needs of the dinner itself and the meaning of gratitude. A budgeted expense of \$225.00 is recommended. This budget to be used to print programs and for speaker expenses.

It's suggested A.A. women and men be chosen to speak alternate years .

Further duties, select the following:

Chairperson for the meeting
Invocation (active member of AA)
Reader for the Steps
Reader for the Traditions
Dinner Coordinator (announce tables to be served)
Sobriety countdown

b. Suggested program time:

5:00PM - 6:00PM Social hour, coffee
6:00PM - 7:30PM Dinner
7:30PM - 9:00PM Meeting Program

c. Sample Program:

Welcome.	Gratitude Dinner Chairperson
Gratitude Dinner Purpose	Gratitude Dinner Co-Chair (<i>read Purpose, brief Worldwide Service announcement</i>)
Call of Recognition	District 09 Chairperson
<i>(introduce Delegate, past Delegates at the dinner, DCMs, ACMs, GSRs, and South Florida Area Officers present. Ask all to stand and be recognized as they are introduced.)</i>	
Invocation	A.A. Member
Dinner Coordination.	A.A. Member
Meeting Chairperson	Program Chairperson

12 Steps	A.A. Member
12 Traditions	A.A. Member
Sobriety Countdown	A.A. Member
Speaker	A.A. Member
Meeting Close	A.A. Member

- d. Rotation: It is recommended, that anyone participating on stage at the night of the dinner, not be on the program for two years in the spirit of rotation. The exception would be the Gratitude Dinner Chairperson, Co-Chair, and District 9 Chairperson who by virtue of their office could have participated within the 2-year rotation and are always a part of the dais. This does not exclude any participant from serving on the Program Committee or any other Gratitude Dinner committee within the 2- year rotation. It is just a way of giving others in service an opportunity to participate in the actual program before a large group.
- e. Voting: When selecting the speaker, it is recommended that a secret written ballot be used. This is to avoid any undue influence upon committee members. Majority vote chooses the speaker. In the event of a tie, two additional ballots may be taken to resolve the tie. In the event of a deadlock, follow A.A. 3rd Legacy Tradition and go to the "Hat."

Select an alternate speaker, in the event the selected speaker refuses or is unable to attend, follow voting procedure for selecting the speaker.

Provide corsage or boutonniere for speaker.

Provide complimentary Gratitude Dinner Tickets for speaker and guest. Inform speaker of selection by phone and confirm by letter including directions to dinner location.

Selection of speaker should be completed before the end of August so that adequate time is allowed to schedule the speaker.

- f. Notify the company selected to do the taping by phone and by confirming letter. Advise them when they may set up their equipment. It is suggested that complimentary Gratitude Dinner tickets be provided to the taping team within reason.
- g. Keep minutes of Program Committee meeting, noting all decisions made to be reported to the full Gratitude Dinner Committee.

A good working program committee size is 7 members including the Program Committee Chairperson. Additional voting members of the committee are: Gratitude Dinner Chairperson, Co-Chair, and Treasurer should they wish to attend and vote.

- h. Dais seating for at least twenty. (This will depend on facility set up.)

Example: Two tables of 10:

Table 1: Gratitude Dinner Chairperson and Guest
Gratitude Dinner Co-Chair and Guest
District 9 Chairperson and Guest
Program Chairperson and Guest
Speaker and Guest

Table 2: Invocation Person and Guest
Dinner Coordinator and Guest
12 Steps Reader and Guest
12 Traditions Reader and Guest
Sobriety Count Down and Guest

4. Sample "Letter to Groups:"

Dear Member of A.A.:

The purpose of the Gratitude Dinner is to bring A.A. members together so that they may show their gratitude by sending the financial proceeds of the dinner to General Services in New York to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide.

Additionally, the committee undertakes both to encourage involvement in service at the district level and to demonstrate our gratitude to a Higher Power and to Alcoholics Anonymous for our sobriety.

If your group would like to make a special group contribution to help carry A.A.'s message world-wide, please make your check payable to Broward County Gratitude Dinner and mail to :

Gratitude Dinner Treasurer
Address

PAST MOTIONS:

NOVEMBER 22, 2015:

**** Motion – That the 2015 Gratitude Dinner Committee Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary update the 21 Committee Duty Sheets to include the time each particular committee and it's volunteers should be at the venue as well as go over the existing duties and revise if necessary from**

information received from this years and prior years wrap up reports. Submitted out of Committee - Seconded and approved.

** Motion – For Special needs: To always have 2 tables, and that The room set up committee knows to have an isle big enough for wheel chairs and walkers. Along with that I would also like to mention that the Special needs Tables be called first for dinner as they were not called at this year's event. Submitted by Robin D. Seconded and approved.

** Motion - That the Gratitude Dinner establish a Supplies Committee responsible for procuring, delivering, and returning all necessary items to the District 9 warehouse, as well as receiving and accounting for all rental items. This committee is responsible for gathering and boxing all leftover items, such as salts and peppers, creamers, sugars, cups, etc. This committee is also responsible for placing all rental items in a designated location for pickup by the rental company. This committee would consist of a Chair, a Co-Chair, and four additional members. Submitted by Bart C. & Adie M. Seconded and approved.

DECEMBER 5, 2010:

** Motion that we have no saved seats except for program and special needs before 4 pm. Made by Adie M. - seconded and approved.

** Motion to raise prudent reserve to \$2500. Seconded and approved.