

Ad-Hoc Inventory Committee

Anorexics & Bulimics Anonymous AGM March 2020 Report

It is with great pleasure I speak to the good works over the past year by the newly created Inventory ABA Committee. In Nov. 2019, the ABA Board (General Service Association) voted to conduct an ABA inventory as a tool to get to the route of our organization's financial unmanageability.

(Please see below for an explanation on what a group inventory is and more Frequently Asked Questions)

The inventory will be executed by conducting a two-fold approach:

1. A membership-wide survey
 - The survey will be located on our aba12steps.org website and will run for one month. Members, non-members, past members, newcomers, etc. are encouraged to fill out the 35-question survey which should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete
 - An email will be sent with a link to the updated contact list of group representatives
 - The survey covers all areas of the fellowship and program, governance and health of ABA. This is the perfect opportunity to give feedback directly
 - A summary of results will be posted to our website
2. Board inventory
 - The Board of Directors will then conduct its own inventory and work through a series of question. Results will be compiled, recommended to be an in-camera discussion to work through the findings to replicate the Step 5 process.

Pieces still to be considered are how the Inventory Committee will work with the Self Support Committee, how we will facilitate the Board inventory review discussion, what will be published as a result, the changes suggested from the feedback, etc. All of our committee meetings are open and feedback is always welcome.

Cool things about the Inventory Committee:

- We work entirely online in real time.
 - Check out our minutes, reports, questions aba12steps.org → Service → Boards & Committees → Inventory Committee → Google Drive folders
- We have a good cross section of membership on the committee
- We have sourced many 12-step fellowship inventories to produce one relevant to ABA
- We have consulted with long-standing membership in multiple programs on the execution and creation of the surveys
- Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend
- We are trusted servants and report to the ABA Board
- We are working directly with the General Service Representatives
- This project is born from an open-minded approach to hearing from our membership directly, supported at the Board level, in an effort to find out more about ourselves, our program, our finances

Thank you in advance for your participation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is a group inventory?

A: Good question! Step 4: *“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”* Basically, we get down to causes and conditions of the state we find ourselves in.

Read:

- - Step 4 in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous 4th edition, chapter 5, pgs. 63-71.
- - Step 4 insight cont. approved literature

(copy and paste this link ---> https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_step4.pdf)

Q: But why a group inventory?

A: *“Therefore, we started upon a personal inventory. This was Step Four. A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke. Taking a commercial inventory is a fact-finding and a fact-facing process. It is an effort to discover the truth about the stock-in-trade. One object is to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly and without regret. If the owner of the business is to be successful, he cannot fool himself about values.”* (p. 64 Big Book of AA, 4th Edition)

“Taking a periodic group inventory helps to keep your group(s) stay healthy and invigorated. Members can use the inventory to discuss what actions have been beneficial to group(s) and personal growth, and what actions need to be updated, discontinued, or improved. Discussions during or following an inventory can include ideas for new service opportunities, ideas for reaching out to potential members, and resolutions for major or minor concerns before the group’s unity is disrupted. ‘The harmony and success of each group depends on shared responsibility, a warm spirit of fellowship, and individual self-improvement.’” (AI-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work [P24], Introduction).

Q: What is the point of the membership-wide survey?

- Understand the ABA reach around the world and who we are serving
- Identify any barriers to involvement, contribution, inclusion in ABA
- Identify any issues and work toward solutions in ABA
- Identify reasons why we find ourselves in this current financial situation
- Gather information that will help guide decisions in the future at committee levels
- Offer a channel for direct feedback from members, listen, learn

Q: Are my responses anonymous?

The survey consists of under 35 questions will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

***Note:** Individuals will not be connected to any responses, all answers are anonymous.

A summary report will be created from the responses and posted online for respondents/committees/membership to view.