

East Valley Intergroup Inventory - 2024

Q&A responses from EVI Groups

Names of homegroups and individuals have been removed to respect anonymity.

1. Are we doing all we can to make East Valley Intergroup attractive to groups?

Yes (14)

- Overall yes. Unity committee seems to be very active. No Booze News is good at communicating EVI activities and services
- For the most part, yes. It may be beneficial to control speaking time from group as it relates to rebuttal time on motions
- Yes. As evidenced by the work being done by the Unity Committee
- Yes. But needs chips at the office
- Yes. Good outreach
- Yes. However the website needs improvement
- Yes. It was noted that the unity committee is important, and the group was happy to hear it is active. Events are important. Transparency is also appreciated.

No (5)

- No. See traditions 2 and 9 (long form)
- No. The issue of taking the government money has divided us and not attractive to AA as a whole
- No. We are not perfect

Other (6)

- Can do more
- More can always be done. Unity is low right now, and that is a direct result of some decisions made at the intergroup steering committee level
- Better awareness of what EVI is and does. Not a lot of people know what EVI exists to do.
- The EVI Group rep needs to take back to the group EVI publications such as "Meeting in a pocket", meeting lists, and all event flyers
- The renewed actions of the Unity Committee to visit all the groups is a nice start. More interaction between EVI and the groups beyond what our representative can report would be beneficial we think
- This is such an open-ended question how to respond to that? EVI is serving the purpose of our intergroup. Steering Committee provides information, facilitate business meetings, and make themselves accessible to us, and answer questions to the best of their ability.

Blank response (1)

2. Is EVI attracting groups from different geographic areas? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?

Yes (6)

- Our group believes EVI is doing a good job of getting EVI reps

No (1)

- No, you have a certain geographic area to cover as your territory. I don't get the question

Other (12)

- A spanish liaison would help
- Don't know, but Zoom meetings here helped
- Minority involvement seems low
- I think if we continue to reach out to groups that are not a part of EVI is a good idea
- Attracting groups thru No Booze News to join EVI zoom business meetings - Unity may do this too
- Don't know. Even though meetings are held in Tempe not much activity from East/South side of area
- We don't feel that we have the resources or data to answer this questions but based on the recent interest in our

finding a "more centrally located" meeting location it seems that a good geographic representation is being attained

- As well as can - Zoom makes that possible
- That is difficult to say because we have not been provided a standard to which to measure against. We would have to assess every group or meeting that takes place in the East Valley to better answer that. I don't think that attracting groups from different geographic areas is the main purpose of EVI.
- Our area of service is large, too large honestly. Others should be encouraged to form their own central office to better suit their group and local needs (Casa Grande, Globe, etc) Also not a good cross section. Its mostly the same people monthly.
- Hybrid meeting format does support greater participation from groups that may not be centrally located. Again, the Unity committee is doing the work to reach out to "dark" groups
- We would need to know how many groups are dark and is EVI sending representatives to them -- before our opinion could determine our answer

Blank response (6)

3. Does turnover seem excessive for committee members and new EVI reps? If so, why? What can we as an Intergroup do?

Yes (5)

- Committee members – yes. Not sure of Reps
- High turnover due to a few members controlling EVI
- We believe there has been high turnover due to frustration over the ERC

No (4)

- No, they stick with us. Turnover is not excessive.
- There isn't enough turnover, having someone represent the group for years and years in a row is not healthy. Jumping from one steering committee position to another is not healthy either
- A lot of groups have the same Reps for years (no one steps up in small groups)

Other (10)

- So-So
- Probably about average fallout
- I get a sense at intergroup meetings that there is not a strong fellowship or shared goal. It is very different from the vibe about 10 years ago when I was involved. DO more at the intergroup meeting to foster fellowship. Coffee, snacks, encourage people to mingle prior to the meeting
- The meeting is too long, drawn-out, filled with too much minutia!!! You have it on a FRIDAY NIGHT! Change the night and you may get people to come and stick around.
- Service is service - sponsorship should push this. One year commitment is typical - it's not easy to get a volunteer!
- It's difficult for us to assess turnover in reps, but perhaps regardless of the rate it might be useful to have an orientation packet for new reps which include names and contact info for leadership, brief committee description, basic calendar of EVI events, etc
- I don't think it's what EVI can do but the attitude of some reps. It's unattractive.
- I believe that just like everything AA as it relates to Arizona, we have a diverse group of members who stay with us for a season, and others that don't for varying reasons.
- Difficult to know for sure. My sense is that recent change of officers has resulted in some decrease in participation, largely due to disagreements about the way things have been handled by the previous officers. Momentum does seem to be shifting back to be more positive with greater transparency in the way motions are brought to the floor and votes taken. I think transparency and following proper procedures is key to keeping membership up.
- We think the group does the best it can given what they have to work with

Blank response (7)

4. Do most homegroups have an Intergroup Representative? Is Group Representative participation increasing or decreasing?

Positive response (10)

- Strong participation - Zoom helps
- We think it is slowly rising
- Yes. Unity committee reaching "dark" groups has increased rep attendance
- Yes, in the Sun Lakes Area (3)
- Maybe by name but not coming. I think it's improving
- Increasing
- I think it has increased since I have been involved
- Yes. One year commitment

Negative response (4)

- Decreasing
- Our group has one, but we know that many do not. There are 3 meetings at the same church where we meet and the other 2 meetings do not have a rep.
- Most homegroups don't have a Rep or participate. Participation seems to be around the same it always has been
- Not sure. EVI reps turn over every year due to dissatisfaction

Other (6)

- I can only speak for my homegroup, we have a rep at all times, but participation is hard. When I was IGR it's a hard meeting to sit through an hour plus of minutia and 30 min of business and by that time everyone is wiped out and wants to leave
- Not sure of other groups but we have one
- EVI business meeting attendance vs number of groups needs to be tracked as a percentage. Seven months will give a trend
- We believe EVI leadership is best equipped to answer this
- I would say most Home Groups do have an EVI rep, but not many attend regularly.
- The Unity Committee should answer this question. Do we even track this?

Blank response (6)

5. Do we emphasize the importance of Intergroup participation? How effectively? How can we do better?

Yes (6)

- Yes! Outreach and general enthusiasm

No (6)

- No. Feels divisive. Go back to AA principles
- Not well. Can EVI develop a statement of value that includes the work being done in the community, office accessibility, webpage, etc that can be shared in No Booze News and that reps can have at the top of each agenda that they bring back to the group
- No. We believe EVI needs to establish an outreach program and have EVI officers attend meetings that do not have reps
- Not at the group level

Other (10)

- This is reliant on the group EVI rep. Encourage EVI reps to share enthusiastically info with their groups
- Just keep doing Unity
- Turn over board
- Thru our EVI rep
- On a rep level yes, but not all reps bring the importance back to the group. Maybe EVI circle rep going to each in their area? Even if there is a rep.
- Will EVI be there for the next generation of alcoholics? Why should a group join? Intergroup rep publications need to get back to the groups. Unity?
- Many of us attend meetings of different groups and have observed that some place more importance on their relationship with EVI than others. Perhaps more aggressive promotion of the No Booze News would be one way to get the EVI "story" out more effectively
- Who is "we"? EVI? EVI has a voice that is heard at businesses meetings and through the website and monthly publication "No Booze News". It's not really the job of EVI as I see it to promote this. EVI serves the greater

membership of AA in the East Valley and it is up to the groups and meetings to participate and promote service and unity. There is a Unity committee within EVI but I can't remember the last time a Unity committee member offered to visit our group and inform us of what EVI is or what it does. Regarding our website - when a visitor lands on the home page there isn't really anything there about what the mission statement or purpose is of EVI. It seems to me the landing Home page should be an overview of what EVI is, its purpose, and who it serves. Then visitors can select from the tabs for other areas of interest.

- Emphasizing the importance of participation and actually welcoming it are two different things. Making decisions without the groups approval (ERC) is wrong. Then to stand by it after the majority of groups didn't want it, causing further disunity and less participation.
- The intention is certainly there, but I think people are hesitant to be of service because they may be unsure of their skills for different positions and what kind of support might be available. It would help to have some kind of succession planning guidelines so that current officers and positions are looking for their replacement if/when they leave. An explicit list of "next up" for each position would be helpful.

Blank response (4)

6. Do we take the time to explain to all groups the essential services that we provide through East Valley Intergroup and the benefits of participating in these services?

Yes (9)

- Yes. Unity and PICPC do attempt
- I think you are trying to spread the word to all groups
- Yes. To an extent

No (9)

- No. Once again EVI should have outreach programs
- Not really. Intergroup appears to be an extra, unnecessary layer
- No. More should be done to communicate all the good stuff EVI is doing
- No. Not really informed by the EVI rep about services and how to participate
- I have not seen a list of "benefits" or services

Other (4)

- Our group is informed by the EVI rep
- It's there if people want to look for it, but I don't think there is much promotion of what EVI does (perhaps on purpose?). In particular, we could do a lot more about communicating the impact of EVI through outreach and sponsorship, which is our primary purpose.
- I would begin by reviewing our website. The landing page doesn't state our mission, purpose or what AA is and isn't, and why the EVI exists and to whom, it provides service.
- Could do more

Blank response (4)

7. Are all AA's allowed to speak at Intergroup meetings? Is minority opinion being heard?

Yes (21)

- Yes. But it is unfortunate how hostile some meetings are
- Yes. The chairs over the past years have followed the concepts
- Yes. Attendees are given appropriate opportunity to speak and communicate views and perspectives
- Yes. Most of the time. Minority opinion is heard and has changed hearts and minds
- Yes. There is always some dissent about even simple topics, but their voices are heard.
- I believe anyone who wants to be heard is heard.

No (3)

- No and No
- Not consistently
- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC
- Could do more

Blank response (2)

8. Does East Valley Intergroup observe the spirit of rotation?

Yes (19)

- Yes. Many
- Yes. But as stated in questions, need to attract volunteers
- Yes. But a lot do not want to step up
- Yes. But again, an explicit success plan (see above) would be helpful
- I believe so
- I think so
- Officers do. Reps in our area do.

No (1)

- No. Office manager needs to rotate

Other (2)

- It's been my experience that EVI meets the spirit of rotation for all positions that are voluntary. To be clear the Office manager is not a volunteer and was hired by past committee members – the paid position is not covered under the spirit of rotation that our voluntary positions fall under.
- Everyone rotates except the office manager. Suggest a term limit of service for office manager like GSO.

Blank response (4)

9. Do we have unity at our monthly Intergroup Meetings?

Yes (6)

- Yes. Now that ERC is over. However, services have not participated in Unity Day. Where is the Unity in that?
- Yes. Primary purpose is primary

No (8)

- No, not really
- Not always. Should focus more on our primary purpose vs.. “not accepting money from district” or publish a lot of financial info.
- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC.

Other (7)

- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not to throw stones, but one or two groups seem to have bleeding deacons
- Recently unity has been more evident at monthly meetings. Several months ago this was not the case and in fact we believe lack of unity at meetings was the key impetus for a Group Inventory
- It's getting better but I believe the damage from ERC debacle has been done
- I'm not sure that we do. I believe that as in all things human, even among our fellowship, there sometimes appears to be agendas driven by ego on behalf of a minority of the groups represented by strong forceful well-spoken members that may come across as authoritarian, well versed in all things AA, but with undertones of control and lacking humility. Having said that there is not much we can do except to ensure that all who want to speak are heard and given access to voice their concerns or opinions
- Unfortunately, the last year was fraught with an unusual amount of disunity, particularly over the ERC issue. It seems there was a lot of distrust of the Steering Committee's decision to pursue the ERC, and that exploded into even more issues around governance in general. Again, transparency and adherence to procedures would be helpful in addressing these issues and provide greater unity.

Blank response (5)

10. Is the location of the monthly Intergroup meeting attractive and accessible to all?

Yes (15)

- Yes. Zoom is good.
- Yes. If not in person, via Zoom
- For the most part, yes

- Good for me. By Freeway on Friday evening
- Works for us.

No (2)

- NO!! Location is fine. MEETING DAY IS HORRIBLE!! Get it off of Fridays and you may have more WILLING participation from people.
- No. But it is cost effective

Other (7)

- With the add of Zoom, yes. But without Zoom, No
- The location seems appropriately centered. On that note it would be nice to have a map of the geographic area that the EVI represents on the website. Also, would be great to have a map of the districts, and the area that our intergroup resides in along with the listing of names and contacts of AA members how serve ins positions of representation for all committee, and service positions. Last initials can be used of course.
- It is fine for me, but it is not in the center of our area.
- I think some people think it is not centrally located but the Zoom helps a great deal
- Unknown. But EVI business meeting has zoom - glad that was not voted out.
- It seems a location closer to Gilbert would be more central, but recent research has indicated that the current location offers space and resources currently not available elsewhere
- It's a little to the west, but it's fine.

Blank response (2)

11. Do you feel that participation in East Valley Intergroup is all-inclusive?

Yes (18)

- Yes. Anyone can volunteer with their group
- Yes. We need to see sponsors bring their sponsees to witness the EVI business meeting and visit the office.
- Yes, I do. I have not felt unwelcome at any meetings
- Yes. All are welcome
- Yes. I have not observed anyone feeling left out or ignored

No (3)

- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC.

Other (2)

- People are available
- As far as I can tell

Blank response (3)

12. What more can East Valley Intergroup do to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community – the physicians, Faith Leaders, court officials, educators, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?

Other (20)

- PICPC is working on it
- As a group, we may not be aware of all PICPC benefits due to not having a Rep
- Leave AA pamphlets at GP office
- At this time, we need to fix "us" first
- Holiday commercials
- Maybe create a booklet to pass out to the above mentioned
- Work together with Area H&I committee and put together focus groups to surgically go after and methodically address each segment of the community with Area's help
- We were not sure we could answer this question. We do know that there is a pretty effective PICPC for the area
- Fund the PICPC initiative for digital marketing campaigns for Nov & Dec 2024
- Need someone smarter than our group conscience for this
- PICPC doing a great job

- The PICPC committee
- PI is doing a great job
- Could improve PICPC by having more volunteers
- This can be better answered we think after the new PICPC presentation is rolled out
- More involvement committee and more events
- Connect with sober living / halfway houses .. There seem to be hundreds of them
- EVI has a fantastic committee that does that work. PI/CPC has been working effectively to accomplish these goals for many years. More emphasis on group participation in this little gem of an outreach would be helpful.
- That's PICPC job. Let PICPC do it. More workshops
- Give each EVI rep a set # of AA packets. EVI reps will take those back to their groups to distribute to each profession -- that group will track where packets were given

Blank response (6)

13. Is East Valley Intergroup using the money donated by groups appropriately and effectively? If not, why? What would you like to see Intergroup do with the Seventh Tradition donations?

Yes (13)

- We believe that money has been used effectively
- I have no complaints
- Very appropriately and effectively. Office Manager is VERY frugal!
- I think EVI is quite responsible with the funds. Treasurer reports, while not always perfect, generally hit the mark and provide accountability. I have no concerns about the way EVI spends money.
- Yes. Budget is transparent
- Yes. We need to remember that we have elected service representatives who along with the office manager and regular business meetings provide a treasurer's report. All major monetary decisions are brought to the monthly business meeting and discussed and voted on. Seventh tradition donations should continue to be used to facilitate the daily operations of our intergroup in a fiscally responsible manner.

No (4)

- Not at all.
- No. Using money to make money.
- I don't feel EVI has been responsible with their funds, to the point I have been against donating to EVI in the past. Radio Ads, point of sale systems, non-transparent raises, and taking the tax break money have not been sound responsible decision with the group's money
- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC and questions about the insurance coverage

Other (7)

- What came of the ERC funds?
- Trust our trusted servants
- More large speaker meetings without door fees
- That's questionable
- Too many Zooms donations
- We review the treasurer's report every month, so we should know rather quickly if we were going off the rails
- Could use some more funding to make special events better and better alcathons

Blank response (2)

14. Does East Valley Intergroup do anything that misrepresents the conscience of the groups?

Yes (7)

- Yes. See tradition 2 as it relates to decisions made by EVI steering committee
- Yes. Voted for PPP without groups consent. See question #1
- Yes. Accept outside funding
- Yes!
- Yes. The request for government ERC money was out of line and outside of the group conscience. Still have yet to even admit it was wrong let alone make amends.

- Lots of conflict over ERC. Seems the policies, procedure sand bylaws don't match or don't match with actions
- Listed above: radio advertisements, point of sale system, office managers approving their own raises, and accepting the tax money!

No (18)

- No evidence of this
- No, steering committee minutes are published
- Not of which I am aware
- Not in my opinion, but this is of course subjective
- Not that we have found
- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC

Blank response (1)

15. Does anything East Valley Intergroup does affiliate, endorse, or bind the group, actual or implied, to any related facility or outside enterprise?

Yes (2)

- Yes - affiliate
- Taking money from any outside entity creates a conflict of interest and questions our commitment to being "fully self supporting thru our own contributions"

No (22)

- Not of which I am aware
- Not aware of any
- Do not know. Probably not.
- No, just self-serving
- Our majority opinion said No to this question due to the debacle over the ERC.
- I don't think so
- We don't think so
- Again, I have not observed anything like that, and overall EVI seems to operate quite independently.

Blank response (2)

16. Does East Valley Intergroup do anything that publicly states an opinion or takes sides on any issues or controversies that are outside of AA?

Yes (1)

- Yes. PPP – see #14

No (20)

- Not that we have seen
- Not that I've seen
- No but we are human and when Reps attack there is defense ad that seems to include opinions and taking sides
- Not of which I'm aware
- We are not aware of any instances
- Unaware
- I have never observed any impropriety or controversy on issues outside of AA. Never heard a word about politics, or government, or religion, in any meeting. And that is really saying something in this day and age.

Blank response (5)

17. What more can East Valley Intergroup do to help groups carry the message?

Other (15)

- More transparency as it relates to budget and finances. Practicing the traditions.
- We're doing good
- Provide scholarships to functions
- The EVI responsibility is to the groups could be accomplished more democratically

- Clean house
- Holiday radio ads
- Better prepare intergroup reps on what to bring back to the groups. Is there a way to call out at the end of the meeting the key points that Reps should bring to their business meetings to include items to be voted on.
- Outreach program and update website
- Have the free pamphlets PDF copies on the EVI website so anyone can print it out and give it out
- more liaison activity and visits to groups without a rep
- Better communication to younger members. Maybe a young adult group?
- I don't know. It's sad the lack of effort
- I benchmarked EVI vs 3 other intergroups: Cleveland, Akron, NY. Some interesting findings:
 - a. They all sell coins
 - b. Cleveland and Akron also sell non-AA approved literature and other items (mugs, gifts..)
 - c. All the intergroups have online ordering of books, coins, etc and SHIP them
 - d. One of them (Akron) has a "treatment" committee
 - e. Hours are all 9-5... one is open Saturday mornings
 - f. NY Intergroup has a "Bill W. Fundraiser dinner" ... tickets are \$225 per person
- Another thought.. move EVI office to location where meetings could be held ... traffic is very slow at our current location. ie GIT, Pigeon Coop??
- I did want to mention that I've volunteered at EVI office for about 7 years. I believe the Office Manager does a really, really good job.
- I think EVI needs an IT Advisor on the Steering Committee
- EVI can come together in harmony remembering we have but one purpose: to carry the AA message to alcoholics. Just my opinion but it seems to me the acrimony and hurt feelings of years past were due to some egos and agendas not adhering to our primary purpose.
- Encourage more groups to get involved. Be more transparent
- Keep promoting the value of service for ALL AA members. It is part of the program after all.

Blank response (10)

18. Provide feedback on Special Events

Event	Pros / Compliments	Cons / Areas for Improvement
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All healthy functions • They are all handled well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend more
New Year's Eve Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Good • Great • Hopping! • Love it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs younger attendance to stay up to midnight • Everyone leaves early • Need a new DJ • Unnecessary / money maker • Music wasn't great
Unity Day / Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good organization • Great • Great function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough participation from committee • Not well attended, needs to be more "fun" • More participation from services • Needs more involvement. • Poorly attended • Push the importance of each group's participation. Last year, many tables were empty
Bowlathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good (2) • Yes • Money maker • Good event, lots of fellowship • People seemed to enjoy the day • Okay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should just do bowling. • Lack of unity with so many things to do • Not well attended
Thanksgiving Alcathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes (2) • Good (2) • Great • None of our group attended, but we heard good things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide water. Need re-stocking of plates and utensils • Unnecessary • It is what it is

Event	Pros / Praise	Cons / Areas for Improvement
Monthly Speaker Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes (2) • Good participation • Great • Really good with good speakers • This event seems to be working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs more non-host group involvement • Most of the people that come are from the host group • Unnecessary / money maker
Additional Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter • Overall there is a lack of attention to events. Reps don't take/post fliers or announce events. Need fliers on the website so people can look them up • Financial decisions due to ERC • In general, we believe that EVI has done a good job with regard to Special Events. The Monthly Speaker Meetings, Sponsorship Workshops and Thanksgiving Alcahion are initiatives that have been especially useful. Costs for attendance at some of the social events (New Year's Eve, Bowlathon, etc) have understandably increased and may prohibit some from attending. Perhaps lower cost options should be brainstormed. • Maybe a BBQ/park day with softball teams, 3-legged race, potato sack race, horseshoes • Group would like to see more free options. Cost prohibits a lot of people. 	

19. Does anyone have any questions, comments, or concerns to add for consideration?

- All financial decisions such as ERC need to be brought to the groups for approval prior to committing funds. Our group is still upset over the way EVI handled the ERC.
- The groups could be more cohesive and supporting of the EVI office, volunteers and staff. And vice versa
- Maybe have "this day in the history of AA" article in the No Booze News
- Messaging is good
- More transparency would lessen the lack of trust building within EVI and its relationship to the individual groups it represents. Respecting the spirit of 2nd Tradition in that "we are but trusted servants, we do not govern" and all decisions made at the intergroup level should be a reflection of the conscience of the groups it represents in line with the concepts and traditions. It may be beneficial for EVI to consider Traditions and Concepts workshops
- Maybe a volunteer committee to brainstorm ways to increase involvement in events
- Sponsor a workshop like SRI, attract people and groups that way. Real workshops on ALL the steps, on sponsorship, on chairing meetings.
- Doing job well done
- I have been concerned with the sometimes-hostile tone that some group members use to speak to or question our voluntary service members who provide their time and resources away from family and work, to be of maximum service to God and to others. We are a voluntary organization, and we do our best given our circumstances. I have noticed an undertone of accusatory questions, and approaches in some business meetings that do not represent the principles behind each of our steps. An approach of "what can I bring to the situation, instead of what can I get from the situation", might be more helpful. Instead of critiquing and finger pointing, the spirit of service and rolling up our sleeves would be more helpful. It would be a good idea to possibly read them before each meeting begins:

Honesty – Hope – Faith – Courage – Integrity – Willingness
Humility - Brotherly Love - Justice – Perseverance – Spirituality - Service