

“Membership Questionnaire”  
Part One: Open-ended Questions  
Scott Leiter, Community Relations

My first project was to send out a questionnaire to each current member. I received 117 questionnaires back, representing about one third of the members. Thank you!

A number of members and the leadership of the Alliance have been waiting to get the results of this questionnaire, as it pertains to planning, committee offerings and activities. By the time you read this some changes will already be in effect. We can already see decisions being made based on the feedback. For instance, a decision has been made to separate the annual Forum event and the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration into two separate events.

In this article I quote a small sample of your feedback in response to the “open-ended questions” side of the questionnaire. Feedback from the program specific, “grid” side, of the questionnaire can be found on the website. All feedback, except a small amount of information withheld to protect anonymity, is available on the website. To get to the Community Relations web page go to: <http://www.nwaps.org> and click “about the Alliance” and then “board and committees” and then “community relations.”

Or, if you happen to be reading this on your computer, just click:  
<http://www.nwaps.org/pages/about/board/community.php>

**Q1. Where are you in your professional life ... and how long have you been a member of the Alliance?**

Of the respondents: 95 are currently in private practice, 6 in agencies, 4 retired, 4 in grad school, and 2 non-clinicians. 17 have been in private practice for more than 20 years. Seven are candidates in psychoanalytic training; eight are psychoanalysts.

Length of membership in the Alliance ranged from “just joined” to “founders.” There was a relatively even distribution across the years. 20 have been members for more than 16 years, most of those have been members since the start. Two are founders.

**Q2. What do you like most about the Alliance? (107 of 117 answered)**

I believe in its mission  
Sense of community  
Diversity and inclusiveness of psychoanalytic orientations  
Professional development opportunities (workshops, classes, etc.)  
That it crosses institute affiliations  
Inclusion of artistic pursuits  
The evolving nature of the Alliance

Every program got at least two mentions. The Clinic without Walls (x13), Forum Newsletter (x6), Forum Event (x6), and Special Events (x4) were most frequently cited.

**Q3. What do you like least about the Alliance?** (66 of 117 answered)

Going too far a field from its mission  
Sometimes things can get too amorphous and not have analytic depth  
Not as many truly interactive presentations/dialogues between members as I'd like  
It saddens me when I hear people feel that diversity of opinion is sometimes unwelcome  
It can feel a little like a closed club – perhaps because I am not as active a member  
I do not know how to become involved  
The arts focus  
It could reach out more to membership, like this survey!

Program specific comments were moved to the analysis of programs.

**Q4. What changes would you make to existing offerings?** (47 of 117 answered)

Offer more interactive opportunities between members  
Years ago, under earlier leadership, a number of eminent analysts – Mitchell, Greenberg among others came for a weekend, i.e. Fri. eve / Sat. all day  
More classes and seminars  
Need more cutting edge theory  
More cross-disciplinary events  
Restore library as a resource

I'm sorry to see the clinic go – It was a fabulous service to the community & newer career professionals.

**Q5. What Ideas do you have for new offerings?** (43 of 117 answered)

I am hoping we will get good specific requests from younger clinicians  
... and offerings from senior clinicians  
Analytic concepts with conflicting perspectives  
More opportunities for special topic seminars (4-6 sessions)  
Establishing ongoing case consultation & reading groups.  
Book study groups  
Certificate Program in psychoanalytic psychotherapy that embraces all forms of psychoanalytic theory and practice  
May want to create another “Master Clinician Series”  
For specific topic requests (see website)

**Q6. What would inspire/encourage you to participate more in the Alliance?**  
(64 of 117 answered)

If I had more hours in the day, more days in the week! ...  
I already participate at a high level  
I like having the choice whether to be involved or not and still be a member.

Being invited [to participate.] ... was certainly encouraging  
More gatherings that are purely social/networking, rather than clinical  
More advanced psychoanalytic dialogue  
More synthesis of various factions  
Less politicization – respect for wider range of views  
How does one get on a given committee? Are there calls for participants on committees in news letters? Who chooses chair? Is there a vote or does control remain with those who seize it? Maybe this could be outlined someplace?

**Q7. Please give us any other ideas or feedback you have. (25 of 117 answered)**

As you can see I'm pretty satisfied  
I think the Alliance has been a great organization; a service to the community  
Just maintaining current structure & programs is plenty  
What is great is that we have a number of Psychoanalytic organizations in Seattle  
And, The Alliance is one of the most important, filling niches that others don't

I believe the Alliance is good and could be better  
The only thing I would encourage is more ecumenical projects & workshops  
There needs to be more structured "social time" / "get to know people time" at events  
Congratulations of doing this survey!

**Q8. In 2009 we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alliance at the Forum Conference on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. How would you like to see us celebrate this event? (48 of 117 answered)**

Let's hear from some founders. They're still around.  
I always think a retrospective is a wonderful organizational idea –  
It let's newer folks see how the organization has evolved  
Honor those who have worked so hard to make the Alliance successful  
A "where are we and where are we going;" the future of psychoanalysis  
Do only a little looking back and more looking forward  
Honor core contributors & bring in a new vision  
P.A.R.T.Y.!? ... Champagne? ... Without alcohol! (3 different responses)  
Diner & dancing, with Jeanne Castle teaching us the Tango!

Again, I encourage everyone to look at the full list of feedback on the web:  
<http://www.nwaps.org/pages/about/board/community.php>

Thanks, Scott Leiter