

General Service Representative Handbook

Western Washington Area 72



This document is meant to be a guide only. Most of the information contained herein may be found, in greater detail, in the A.A. Service Manual, the Handbook for the Western Washington Area Committee, and the other A.A. literature. In no manner whatsoever is this document intended to supersede the above-mentioned references or any A.A. General Service Conference approved literature.

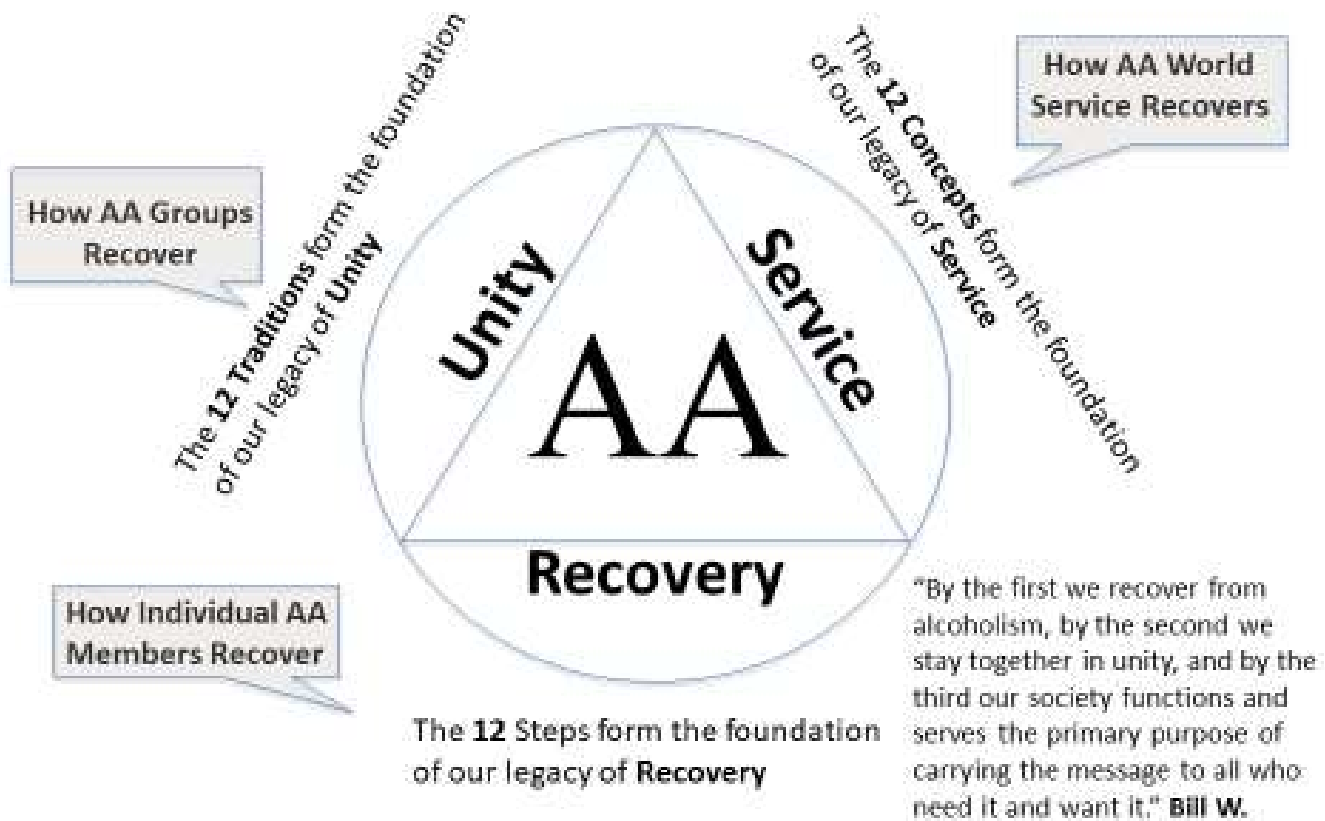
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SECTION I - Introduction

Alcoholics Anonymous' Three Legacies



Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective of our whole Fellowship.

WELCOME TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GSR Preamble

While A.A. does not have an official GSR preamble, the following, which was written around 1974-75, and was printed in the Aug-Sept 1989 issue of Box 459, is suggested in the request as the GSR preamble:

“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our Fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.”

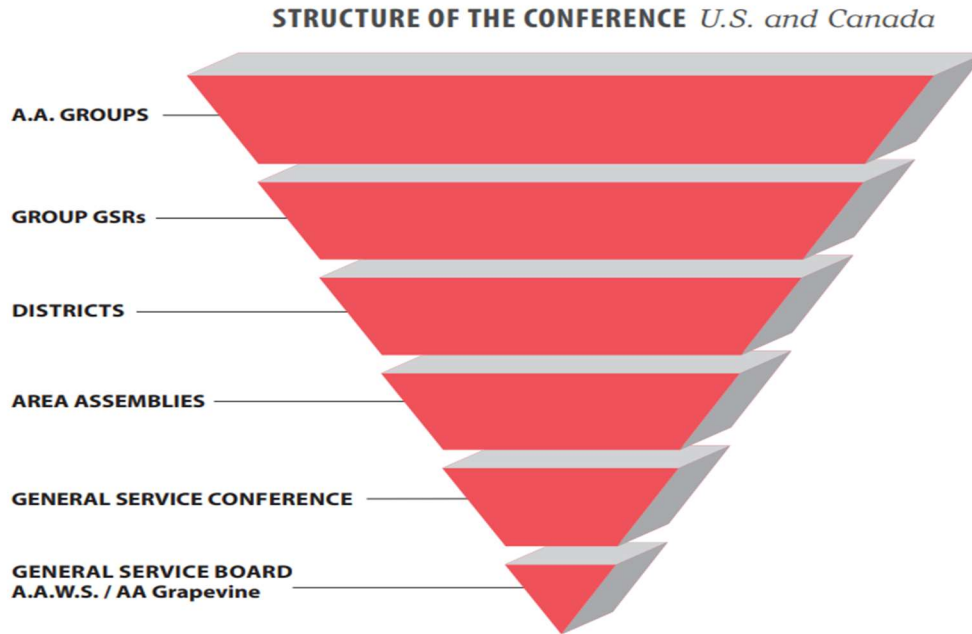
GENERAL SERVICE

The Twelve Traditions make clear the principle that A.A., as such, should never be organized, that there are no bosses and no government in A.A. Yet at the same time, the Traditions recognize the need for some kind of organization to carry the message in ways that are impossible for the local Groups – such as publication of uniform literature, helping new Groups get started, communicating with outside entities, professionals and organizations, and carrying the message in other languages and to other countries. The General Service Conference structure is the framework in which these ‘general services’ are carried out. It is the service structure that takes the place of government in A.A. and ensures that the full voice of A.A. will always be heard.

The General Service Representative’s (GSR) job is to link their Group with A.A. as a whole. The GSR represents their Group Conscience, reporting the Group’s thoughts to the District Committee Member (DCM) who works on such issues at the Area Committee and to the Area Delegate who passes them on to the Conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible for bringing Conference Actions that affect A.A. unity, health, and growth back to the Group. Only when the GSR keeps the Group informed, and communicates the Group Conscience, can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole.

As a GSR, you are your A.A. Group’s link with Western Washington Area general service, the General Service Office (GSO), and the General Service Conference.

AN UPSIDE-DOWN ORGANIZATION



- **Group:** The communication process focuses on the Group, which lets its Group Conscience be known to its elected GSR.
- **Districts:** Groups are geographically organized into Districts. The GSRs of these Groups select District Committee Members (DCMs), who become part of the Area Committee.
- **Area:** Area 72 is comprised of 44 Districts (one virtual district and three linguistic districts) and covers the Western portion of Washington state. The Cascade mountains west to the Puget Sound and from the Canadian to Oregon borders. The Area Delegate is elected at the annual Area Assembly on even numbered years and attends the annual General Service Conference meeting in New York.
- **Conference:** The U.S./Canada Conference is divided into 93 Areas. Membership in the Conference consists of Area Delegates, Trustees, Directors of A.A. World Services and the Grapevine, and A.A. staff members of the General Service Office and the Grapevine.
- **The General Service Board** is made up of 21 Trustees. It reports to the Fellowship through quarterly reports and also in the Final Conference Report. The board's two operating corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., report to the Fellowship in the same way.

The GSR makes sure the Group's wishes are heard and considered at the District and Area and that they are part of the Delegate's thinking at the Conference.

SECTION II – The Home Group

THE GROUP

The fundamental unit in Alcoholics Anonymous is the Group. The Long Form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six, Concept 12 describe what an A.A. Group is:

- *Any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves and AA group provided that as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.*
- *If the members are all alcoholics and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction and meet all the other aspects defining an AA group, they may call themselves an AA group.*
- *The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Thus group membership requires no formal application. Just as we are members of AA if we say we are, so are we members of a group if we say we are – and we keep coming back.*

The Group affords individual A.A.s the ability to consider and create a Group Conscience on issues that affect the Group, District, Area, and the Fellowship as a whole. *The pamphlet The A.A. Group provides extensive information on group organization and opportunities for service.*

GSR DUTIES

In broad terms, the GSR is responsible for:

- Linking their Group with AA as a whole.
- Representing the voice of the Group's Conscience.
- Reporting their Group's Conscience to the DCM and the Delegate.
- Bringing the Area and District meeting topics, as well as the General Service Conference Advisory Actions, back to their Group.

ACCOMPLISHING GSR DUTIES

The relationship of a GSR with the Group is very important.

- Becoming acquainted with home Group members and their ideas.
- May facilitate your Group's business meeting (based on group conscience).
- Give regular reports on service activities and issues discussed at the District and Area meetings.
- Encourage and help organize a group inventory (annually or based on group conscience).
 - *A good starting format for this inventory may be found in the pamphlet The A.A. Group.*
- It's helpful to review Box 459, General Service Office's quarterly newsletter, found on aa.org.
- The GSR also works with the Group to develop practical plans for Group support of GSO, Area and District committees, and local central offices or intergroups.
- A GSR should learn everything they can about the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts and be familiar with The A.A. Service Manual and other A.A. service materials*.
 - *Attending a Service Manual or Concept Study is encouraged.*
- Make sure your Group elects an Alternate GSR and you include that Alternate in District and Area meetings.

MEETINGS TO ACHIEVE GSR DUTIES

Key meetings to attend to achieve the duties and responsibilities of the GSR.

- Attending, or facilitating, your Group's Business Meeting.
- Making sure your Group is registered with General Service Office (and meeting information up to date).
- Attending your District's monthly District Meeting to represent your Group and act as a member of the district.

- Attending an Area 72 Pre-Conference Assembly (held annually to prepare the Delegate for the General Service Conference) and Delegate conference report back.
- Attending an Area 72 regional Pre-Assembly (held annually as preparation for the Assembly).
- Attending the Area 72 Annual Assembly to represent your Group and act as a member of the Area.
- Bringing information, flyers, announcements, etc. back to your Group from these events.

**Read The A.A. Service Manual and the pamphlet GSR: Perhaps the most important job in A.A. for further information on GSR job description and duties.*

ALTERNATE GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The alternate GSR is elected by a group to serve on those occasions when the GSR is not available and is usually elected to the same two-year term as the GSR. This is especially important should the GSR, who has a vote, be unable to attend a district meeting or area assembly. The alternate might also be asked to step in to give reports to the group.

Some alternate GSRs are interested in more opportunities to serve. They might attend district meetings and area assemblies along with GSRs (although an alternate may vote only when the GSR is not present). Alternate GSRs may also get more involved in general service by attending and volunteering at workshops and other service events in the district and area.

SPONSORSHIP IN SERVICE

A service sponsor is an alcoholic who has made some progress in recovery and performance in service, who shares this experience with another alcoholic who is just starting this journey (or possibly with someone that has been around a while). A service sponsor is someone knowledgeable in A.A. history and who has a strong background in the general service structure. A service sponsor's duty is helping their service sponsee learn about A.A. service, the traditions, the concepts, and help the service sponsee think through critical issues affecting their Group.

A new GSR should have a service sponsor whom they can speak with about any of their service-related activities, interests, and challenges.

Responsibility Statement:

I am responsible when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.

SECTION III – The District

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

Areas are divided into Districts, groups are organized into districts, generally collections of groups located near one another (*AA service manual*). Western Washington Area 72 is currently divided into forty-four (44) districts. There are four non-geographic districts, which include three linguistic districts and one virtual district.

GSRs are members of their local District. District Meetings are usually held once a month. Typically, the meetings are attended by the District Committee Member (and alt DCM), GSRs (and their alternates), District Standing Committee Chairpersons and sometimes an Intergroup or Central Office representative. Although each District determines the format for the order of business autonomously a meeting generally includes:

- Reports to the GSRs from the DCM
- Reports from the Groups via the GSRs
- Discussion of Group problems or challenges
- Discussion of the agenda of the previous or upcoming Assembly
- Discussions of special events such as workshops, Pre-Assemblies, Pre-Conferences and Delegate's Reports that the District may be organizing for the general fellowship
- Reports from District Standing Committees

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (DCM)

Each district elects a DCM who conducts the District meetings and is a member of the Area Committee. The role of the DCM is to facilitate District meetings, and encourage as many Groups as possible to be an active part of A.A. as a whole, through representation and participation. Also, they assist the efforts of the GSRs, schedule Pre-Assemblies, Pre-Conferences and Delegate's Reports jointly with surrounding district's DCMs. The other major role of the DCM is representing the conscience of the Groups in the district as a voting member of the Area Committee and attending Quarterly Area Committee meetings in January, April and July. Many districts assign additional duties to the DCM and the Alternate DCM. DCMs are typically elected by the GSRs in a District for a two-year term beginning in January of the odd year, though many Districts elect their DCMs in the fall of the even year.

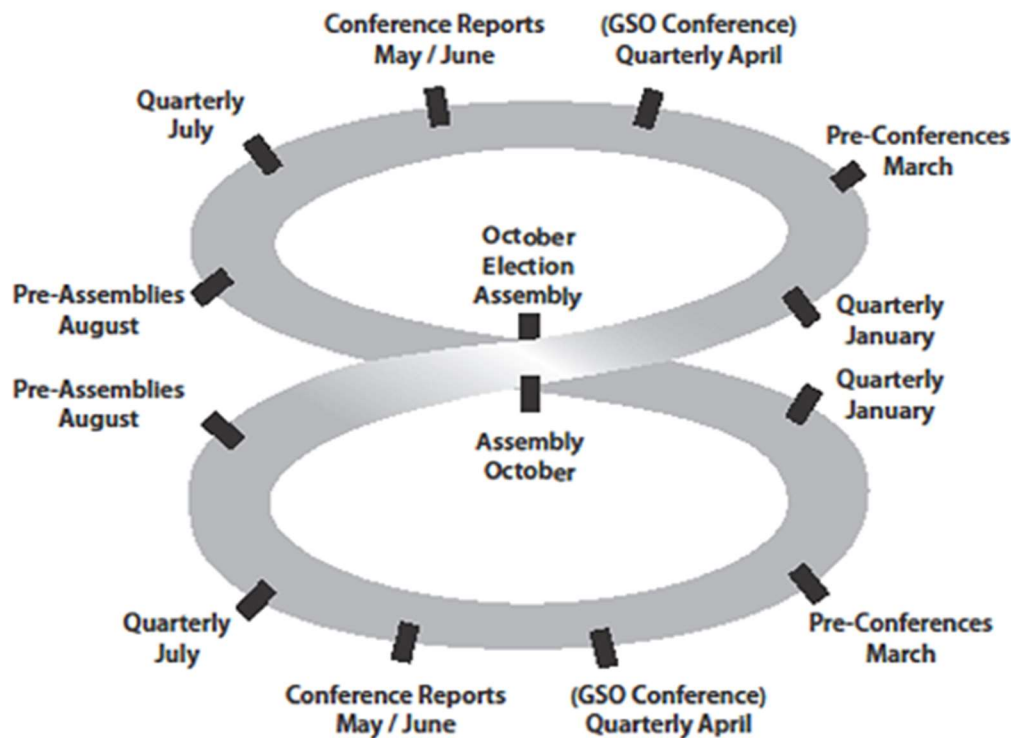
Please see The A.A. Service Manual for a more complete description of DCMs and their duties.

SECTION IV – The Area and Area Events

THE AREA

Most general service Areas follow the broad geographical division of a state or Province. Due to the size and/or population of some states, they are divided into two or more Areas. Washington is divided into two: Western Washington Area 72 and Washington State East Area 92. Our Western Washington Area 72 includes all of Washington State west of the Cascades. The US and Canada are currently made up of 93 Areas.

2 YEAR ROTATING CALENDAR OF AREA 72 BUSINESS MEETINGS



Calendar of Events for the 2023 Year can be found on the area72aa.org website.

THE AREA COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The Area Committee is comprised of Area Elected and Appointed officers, DCMs, Alternate DCMs and Past Delegates. The Area Committee meets three times per year at their Quarterly Meetings (held in January, April and July of each year) at which GSRs are welcome to attend. Voting members of the Area Committee include Elected and Appointed officers and DCMs. Past Delegates are ex-officio non-voting members.

The Area Committee is tasked with creating the agenda for the Annual Assembly (held in October of each year), coordinating the outreach activities of its special committees, reviewing the work of the Area's archives, newsletter, website and other Area housekeeping matters on an ongoing basis.

Events may be held in-person, on a virtual platform, or hybrid. It's up to the hosting group or district(s) to determine the meeting location and platform. Panel 71 quickly responded to the changing needs of our Area due to the pandemic. Based on Area motions, we invested in hybrid equipment and created a Technology Steering Committee to meet the technical needs of Area, including but not limited to making Area business meetings hybrid, managing the area email/cloud storage system, online meeting platforms, and assisting with technology education/workshops.

Area 72 is not formally a hybrid Area. Some facilities may not have the capability for hybrid technical requirements. For example, rural districts might not have the appropriate WIFI, room needed, etc. It's important all Districts are given the same opportunity to host Area related events regardless of location. That being said hosting committees generally look for facilities that can accommodate hybrid requirements.

The agenda for an Area Quarterly typically includes:

- Presentations and/or reports by Area Officers or Standing Committee Chairpersons
- Discussion and sharing by DCMs regarding current District events and issues
- Deliberation and review of discussion topics and motions
- An Area Committee inventory is also conducted at an Area Quarterly once per rotation

PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES

A Pre-Conference is a meeting of GSRs, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate held in March or early April. The purpose is for the Delegate to communicate with the GSRs (and through them the Group) about the agenda items which will be addressed at the General Service Conference (held in April). This way the GSRs can inform the Delegate about their Groups on the agenda items so that the Delegate has a sense of our Area while attending the General Service Conference. Several Districts in a geographic region of the Area generally share the responsibility of organizing and hosting these gatherings (for geographic ease).

DELEGATE REPORT BACK

The Delegate gives a General Service Conference report back to Groups. Delegate's reports are gatherings usually held starting in May. The dates of these gatherings are frequently agreed on at the April Quarterly and several Districts join in hosting the Delegate's presentation in-person, on a virtual platform, or hybrid. All A.A. members are welcome and encouraged to attend a Delegate's Report.

PRE-ASSEMBLIES

Pre-Assemblies are held in August prior to the annual Western Washington Area Assembly. The purpose of a pre-assembly is to prepare GSRs (and through them their Groups) for the Annual Assembly. Generally, several adjoining districts will share the responsibility of organizing and hosting these gatherings. Pre-Assemblies are attended by the Area Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson and the GRSs of the hosting Districts. You can often find other appointed and elected trusted servants at the pre-assembly meetings. The GSRs are provided background information and answers to questions regarding the motions and discussion topics on the Assembly agenda. The GSRs then carry all the information back to their Groups for full discussion. Through thorough discussion, the Group comes to an informed Group Conscience which the GSR carries to the Annual Area Assembly.

AREA ASSEMBLY

The Annual Area Assembly is a large event attended by all GSRs in the Area, the Area Committee, and many guests and volunteers. Our Area Assembly is a three-day event. Friday's program usually includes workshops and panel discussions, a GSR orientation, a GSR sharing session, and a Past Delegates panel. Area business begins Saturday morning and typically includes: Area Elected and Appointed trusted servant's reports, a GSR sharing session, discussion of motions or discussion topics on the agenda, and a DCM sharing session. In even years, elections are conducted concurrently with Area business. On non-election years, our Area sometimes has a Saturday evening speaker. The Assembly weekend concludes on Sunday with a spiritual breakfast and speaker meeting.

Copies of the minutes of each Assembly (and Quarterly) are distributed to DCMs for distribution to their GSRs. These minutes are also included in the Area Newsletter and posted on the Area 72, area72aa.org, website.

AREA BUDGET PROCESS

Western Washington Area 72 - Current Budget Process

1. A proposed annual budget is created by the Treasurer using the following guidelines:
 - ⇒ Forecast contributions based on previous years trends.
 - ⇒ Review of area motions to ensure that activities directed by the Area are accounted for in the budget.
 - ⇒ Consultation with existing Committee Chairs on financial needs for the year.
 - ⇒ Review of previous year's expenditures to determine requirements, and current pricing with assistance and guidance from the Area Alt. Treasurer.
 - ⇒ The Treasurer may solicit input, review and proposed changes from the Area Finance Committee, past Area Treasurers, outside accountants, etc., for assistance in the creation of the final proposed budget.
2. The proposed budget is presented, discussed and is ultimately approved via group conscience at the January Quarterly by the Area DCMs and voting Committee members.
3. Budget limits by Committee are disseminated to Committee Chairs to communicate annual spending limits.
4. Transactions are entered and reviewed by Area Trusted Servants. The Treasurer records incoming contributions and receipts of funds, the Alt. Treasurer records expenses and disbursements.
 - ⇒ Based on actual results – incoming and outgoing – the Treasurer and Alt Treasurer may determine the need to adjust budget limits accordingly.
 - ⇒ If the budget needs to be adjusted, then it is brought forth to Committee at the next Quarterly and reported upon.
5. At every Quarterly the Treasurer and Alt. Treasurer report on actual results, and provide guidance on remaining year, including any adjustments determined.
6. The DCMs and voting members approve the budget report via group conscience at each Quarterly.
7. Annually, the Treasurer determines excess funds, Working Reserve needs. These calculations are reviewed and agreed upon by the Treasurer, Alt Treasurer and Finance Committee.
8. Excess funds are contributed to GSO and are reported in the January quarterly and are approved via group conscience as part of the Treasurers Report.

The Area budget, contributions by group, and financial reports can be requested from the Area Treasurer or Alt. Treasurer and found on the Area 72 website.

****This is only a reference summary of the budget process. Reach out to the Area Treasurer or Alt. Treasurer for more information or questions.***

AREA DECISION MAKING PROCESS – Process, Discussion Topics, Motions

Western Washington Area 72 uses both discussion topics and motions as decision making vehicles. The purpose of a motion is to formalize a decision, via vote, to which the Area is then bound. The purpose of a discussion topic is to allow the Area (Groups, GSRs, DCMs, Appointed and Elected Servants) time to fully reflect on and explore an issue so that the right motion, if any, is developed. Most Area decision making focuses on issues which are internal to WWA72. For example, funding for services, A.A. events we support, expansion of services, or requests from our Area to the General Service Conference. At times a request will come to our Area from the General Service Conference by way of our Delegate.

Process

- Our Area Process includes three Quarterly Area Committee Meetings and one Annual Area Assembly Meeting. Discussion topics and motions can originate with any Group, member, GSR, DCM, or Area officer.

- Discussion topics and motions are presented and reviewed at any or all of the Area Quarterlies, and may subsequently be added to the Annual Assembly Agenda.
- Final decision making about motions and Area actions occurs at the Assembly with GSRs DCMs, and Elected and Appointed officers participating. This process provides time for deliberation and review at the home Group level, which is essential to forming a healthy Group and Area Conscious.

A scenario:

- A GSR brings a discussion topic or motion to their District
- The DCM subsequently brings the issue to the next Area Quarterly
- The Area Committee, at the Quarterly, reviews the issue and arrives at one of several responses:
 - The issue may be voted to be placed on the Assembly Agenda
 - Tabled to the next Area Quarterly for continued review and discovery
 - Referred to an Ad-Hoc Committee for review and recommendation making
 - Removed with no action (this would be the case if the issue had a clear and evident conflict with a concept (please read the 12 concepts for world service) or tradition, for example)

Please note: discussion topics and motions passed at the Area Quarterly are placed on the Area Assembly Agenda; they are not finalized at Quarterlies. Final decision making (Group Conscious) takes place at the Assembly.

In any of the above scenarios it is the DCM's responsibility to fully inform their District's GSRs of all that transpired at the Quarterly meeting regarding the discussion topic or motion, and it is the GSR's responsibility to subsequently inform their Group.

By following this Quarterly process, the Groups and GSRs stay continually informed and included in the Area's discussion. If a discussion topic or motion is later acted upon at the Assembly, the Group is already cognizant of the issue and their GSR is able to fully participate in helping reach an informed Group Conscious.

Motions

A motion is a formal proposition to the Area for consideration on a specific topic. The result of a motion is either to be passed or failed.

Discussion Topics

A discussion topic brought to a Quarterly or Assembly does not require a vote by the body. Instead, it is a chance for sharing thoughts and ideas on the issue, examine root causes and consider alternative possible solutions. The results of that conversation are then shared back with Groups. If there are strong feelings, the discussion topic may continue and if action is required it may evolve into a motion. During recent rotations we have seen several motions at the Area Assembly which were crafted during the discussion topic process.

It has been our experience that when a discussion topic evolves into a motion, that motion is highly informed by both Groups and the Area Committee. In this way our Group Conscious is part of creating the motion itself.

Lastly, discussion topics sometimes require no action and instead provide an opportunity for our Area to communicate and learn from each other.

Example:

*Motion – “We move that Area 72 take **x** and **y** actions”*

*Discussion Topic – “It seems that there is a problem with **z**, which **x** and **y** could be possible solutions to. Is **z** really a problem? Is there a component of **z** which we are unaware of? Are **x** and **y** the only solutions? If not, what else is there?”*

Using discussion topics prior to formalizing motions, we are able, if needed, to create thoughtful and conscientious motions, which include feedback from Groups during the Quarterly cycle.

Floor Motions

A floor motion is a motion presented at the Assembly which was not been seen at the Area Quarterlies. We allow floor motions in Area 72, however they should be restrained to emergency actions only. The primary reason for this restraint is that floor motions are requests for decision making on matters which were not taken to the Groups, and thus they cannot result in an informed Group Conscious.

AREA BUSINESS: VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting members of the Area Assembly are GSRs, DCMs, Area Appointed and Elected officers. Area Past Delegates are members of the Area Committee but do not vote. With one exception, proxy votes are not allowed at our Area Assemblies. Your Group must have a representative present to vote. The only exception is for Groups that are located inside correctional facilities (prisons). Those Groups, if registered, may appoint a proxy to carry their votes.

Motions generally require a 2/3 majority (substantial unanimity) to pass.

The Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral process, which Area 72 uses primarily for the election of officers. A description and diagram can be found in Chapter One of The A.A. Service Manual.

AREA TRUSTED SERVANTS

AREA ELECTED OFFICERS

Panel 73 (2023 & 2024)



Area Delegate: Crystal S. (delegate@area72aa.org)

Provides leadership to the Area by being involved in Area functions to the fullest extent possible, and by keeping an open line of communication between the General Service Office (GSO) and the Groups. Distributes Conference agenda items to Groups for their discussion and input, holds regional Pre-Conferences, and then carries our Area's collective conscience to the General Service Conference in April of each year. Returns from the Conference and reports back to the Groups. For a complete listing of Delegate's duties, please refer to The A.A. Service Manual, Chapter Six.

Alternate Area Delegate: Courtney S. (altdelegate@area72aa.org)

Receives all correspondence from the General Service Office on the Conference that is sent to the Delegate so he/she can be informed in the event it becomes necessary to assume the Delegate's duties. Coordinates with the Delegate on Area issues. Is available to chair or work on special projects as needed or requested by the Area.

Area Chair: Lupita Y.M. (chair@area72aa.org)

Assumes a leadership role within the Area by organizing, setting the agenda, and chairing three Western Washington Area 72 Quarterly business meetings in addition to the Western Washington Area 72 Assembly. Also chairs the meeting for the selection of Appointed trusted servants. Keeps Alternate Chairperson informed. Receives District minutes and corresponds with the Districts regarding their problems and concerns. A further description of duties is outlined in The A.A. Service Manual, Chapter Five.

Alternate Area Chair: eddy M-M. (altchair@area72aa.org)

Communicates with the Chairperson on information pertinent to the Area. Facilitates the DCM sharing and report session at Area Quarterly meetings and the Western Washington Area 72 Assembly. Acts as liaison between the Area Committee and the Host Committee for the Western Washington Area 72 Assembly. Participates in Host Committee meetings and the planning of the Assembly agenda. Coordinates and plans the Assembly workshops and facilitates the Assembly sharing sessions.

Area Treasurer: Derek S. (treasurer@area72aa.org)

Is the guardian of Tradition Seven. Informs the Area of financial matters. Has the ability to project increased costs of the Area, what is possible as far as future spending, and cost comparisons with past spending. Surveys and points out all money-related issues as they arise. Receives and records contributions from Groups by District. Is available to participate in service functions to discuss our Seventh Tradition, explain our regular contribution plan and to provide information on Area finances. The Area Treasurer coordinates with the Alternate Treasurer.

Alternate Area Treasurer: Lisa S. (alttreasurer@area72aa.org)

Writes all checks approved by the Western Washington Area 72 Assembly. Is responsible for balancing the Area checkbook and bank balance. Lists check register, expenses and credit lines on a quarterly basis. Coordinates with the Treasurer in encouraging contributions at the Group level. Keeps abreast of the financial needs of the Area and the financial problems of the Groups. Is available to participate in service functions to discuss our Seventh Tradition, explain our regular contribution plan and to provide information on Area finances. Serves as the Area Finance Committee chairperson.

AREA APPOINTED TRUSTED SERVANTS

Panel 73 (2023 & 2024)



Accessibility Committee Chair: Thomas L. (accessibility@area72aa.org)

Chairs the Area Accessibilities Committee. Schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings with Districts to share experience in this service area. Addresses accessibilities needs and issues for Western Washington Area 72, and coordinates services as outlined in the Area Accessibilities Committee guidelines.

Archives Committee Chair: Michaela N. (archiveschair@area72aa.org)

Chairs quarterly Archives Standing Committee meetings and chairs monthly Archives Steering Committee meetings. Facilitates repository site-selection decisions and produces articles for the Area Newsletter.

Area Archivist: Maryland N. (archivist@area72aa.org)

Maintains and schedules a portable display of historical materials which is to be made available to A.A. service functions. Works closely with the Area Archives Steering Committee to collect, organize, store, maintain, and display historical files and materials pertinent to the Area and to A.A. in general. The Archivist relies upon the advice and counsel of the Steering Committee in carrying out the duties of the Archivist, which include management of the archives repository. (The Area Archivist is selected by the Archives Steering Committee)

Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair: Carlos E. (cpc@area72aa.org)

Follows the guidelines as outlined in the Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook from G.S.O. Schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings with the Districts to share experience in this service area. Coordinates efforts to provide information to the professional community and to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession regarding where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.

Correctional Facilities Committee Chair: Andrew M. (corrections@area72aa.org)

Follows the guidelines as outlined in the Correctional Facilities Workbook from G.S.O. Acts in an advisory capacity to the District corrections chairpersons and DCMs on corrections work. Schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings with the Districts to share information on A.A. meetings in correctional facilities. Appoints and oversees the "Corrections Bridge Program" Coordinator. Seeks to understand facility regulations and explains them to those who will be in direct contact with the Groups. Coordinates Grapevine subscriptions to correctional facilities in the Area.

Grapevine & Literature Chair: Javier F. (gvlit@area72aa.org)

Follows the guidelines as outlined in the Grapevine Workbook and in the Literature Committee Guidelines from G.S.O. Exists primarily to educate the fellowship about A.A. literature, related service material, and how to obtain it. Maintains a comprehensive literature display consisting of items from A.A.W.S., G.S.O., A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and other A.A. materials. Is available to take this display to various service workshops, Quarterlies and the Area Assembly. Gives informed talk on A.A. literature when asked, encourages Groups to have Grapevine Representatives (GVR) and stresses the Grapevine as a valuable tool for Groups and individual members. Holds four Area-wide Grapevine and Literature quarterly meetings per year.

Language Chair: Jennifer C. (languagechair@area72aa.org)

Participates and cooperates with the Area Accessibility Committee. This committee will handle all interpretation and translation needs for Western Washington Area. Along with funding to attend Area Quarterlies and the Assembly, this position has additional funds to provide interpretation for Area events. Guidelines for this Committee can be found in the document; Language Committee Guidelines at the back of this handbook.

Newsletter Editor: Seonaidh D. (newsletter@area72aa.org)

Publishes, on a monthly basis, a newsletter that serves as our principal communication tool within the Area. May appoint a working committee to assist in the format, content and distribution of the newsletter. Receives, formats and edits news received from the Area and prepares for bulk mailing. Selects a local printer for the newsletter. Maintains a current address list of all subscribers, GSRs and other trusted servants for newsletter distribution.

Provides Spanish-language editions of the Area newsletter for those months that contain Area Quarterly and Assembly minutes.

Public Information Chair: Kari K. (pi@area72aa.org)

Studies and follows the A.A. Guidelines for Public Information, the P.I. Workbook and all A.A. literature pertinent to Public Information work. Attends and co-presides with the host District P.I. chairperson at four quarterly meetings per year. Reports anonymity breaks that may occur to the Area Delegate and encourages District P.I. chairpersons to do the same.

Registrar: Don N. (registrar@area72aa.org)

The Registrar position is to help facilitate communication between Groups, the Area Committee and the General Service Office by maintaining an accurate roster of all GSRs and Area Committee members.

Secretary: Jerry (secretary@area72aa.org)

Assists Area Chairperson in preparing agendas and meeting notices of Area meetings and distributes to the Area Committee. Attends Area Quarterly meetings and Assemblies and records the proceedings for the minutes, using notes, digital recorders and written reports. Emails minutes to the DCMs, Area Elected and Appointed officers and others on the mailing list. (The Area Secretary for is appointed by the Area Chair.)

Sound System Operator: Patrick P. (soundsystem@area72aa.org)

Transports and operates Area sound equipment at the following Western Washington Area 72 events only: Pre-Conferences, Delegate's Reports, Pre-Assemblies, Area 72 quarterlies (3), and Area 72 Assembly.

Treatment Facilities Committee Chair: Joyce F. (treatment@area72aa.org)

Uses the guidelines as outlined in the Treatment Facilities Workbook from G.S.O. Schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings with District chairpersons in the Area. Also encourages participation in "Bridging the Gap" program and keeps a list of temporary contacts for individuals preparing to leave treatment facilities. Coordinates Grapevine subscriptions to the Districts for treatment facilities.

Web Servant: Jacob E. (webmaster@area72aa.org)

Serves on the Area Website Steering Committee with the Public Information Chair and three volunteers. Is responsible for the input of content and maintenance of the Area website and Area email system. (Area Website is www.area72aa.org)

Web Committee Chair: Dimitiri H. (webchair@area72aa.org)

Chairs quarterly Area Web Standing Committee meetings. Follows the A.A. Guidelines for the Internet and all A.A. literature pertinent to our online presence. Encourages Web related workshops, individually or in conjunction with other committees. Reports online anonymity breaks that may occur to the Area Delegate and Area P.I. Chair and encourages District Webservants to do the same.

Young Person Chair: Seth G. (ypchair@area72aa.org) Schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings a year with YP

District Chairpersons and DCMs. Facilitates communication between Districts and between Districts and Area.

Maintains an updated list of District Chairpersons for communication purposes. Communicates with the Area Committee the needs of the Districts and groups regarding service opportunities for young AA members.

Collaborates with all Area Committees where there is a need for young person participation (high school panels, juvenile corrections facilities, youth treatment centers, etc.). Provides a single point of contact at the Area level for Districts or groups that have service needs relating to young people. Gives written and verbal reports to the Newsletter, Quarterlies and Assemblies. Attends all Area 72 Quarterlies and the Assembly.

SECTION V – Beyond the Area

THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life. “We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

Each General Service Area elects a Delegate to serve them at the annual General Service Conference in New York, usually in April, where the broad issues of A.A. as a whole are addressed. There are a total of 93 Delegates, one for each Area, throughout the US and Canada. The Delegates are elected for a two-year term with about one half elected each year to provide both continuity and rotation. Our Area 72 Delegate serves in odd numbered panels.

The voting members of the Conference are:

- The 93 Area Delegates
- The 21 Trustees of the General Service Board,
- The staffs of the General Service Office and Grapevine
- The Directors of AA World Services, Inc.
- The Directors of the AA Grapevine, Inc.

The 93 Area Delegates constitute more than two thirds of the voting members of the Conference.



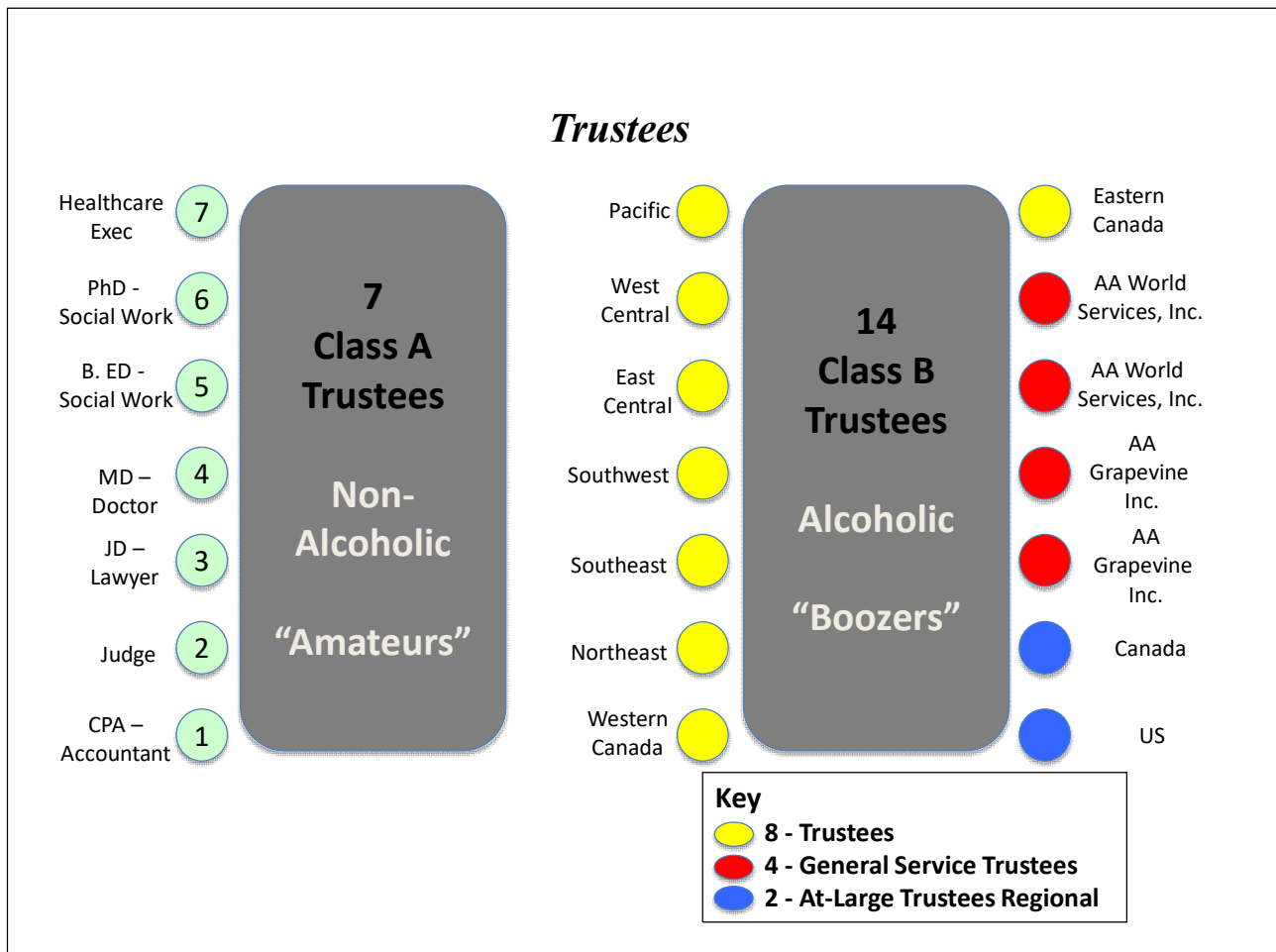
THE REGIONS

The Areas in the United States and Canada are sorted into eight Regions. Our Area 72 is in the Pacific Region. The Pacific Region includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. There are 15 Areas in the Pacific Region. A map showing the Regions can also be found in the A.A. Service Manual.



THE REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Each Region has its own Trustee, called a Regional Trustee, who serves a four-year term on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are twenty-one non-paid Trustees on the General Service Board all of whom perform tremendous amounts of service for Alcoholics Anonymous. These Trustees are elected or approved by the General Service Conference. Seven are non-alcoholic, called Class A Trustees, and fourteen are alcoholic, called Class B Trustees. Eight of these fourteen Class B trustees are the Regional Trustees.



OTHER SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES

PACIFIC REGIONAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY (PRAASA)

PRAASA is held annually, the first weekend of March. The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, Groups and Areas of the Pacific Region and to encourage the exchange of ideas and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA Recovery, Unity and Service. It consists of two days of presentations concerning our Three Legacies and matters of the full agenda for the upcoming General Service Conference. A different Area hosts this assembly each year. Our Area Delegate attends PRAASA each year and all other members are welcome.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE – PNC

In February of 1948, Bill W. was in Seattle, WA, and spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of AA's and their families. Following the meeting, Bill and some other members from Seattle were driving to Vancouver B.C. when Bill elaborated on his plan for a world conference.

The First Pacific Northwest Conference (PNC) convened in Vancouver, BC, Canada Area 79 in May of 1948. The oldest continuing conference in AA still provides an opportunity for AA's from all over the Pacific Northwest to gather together and share, learn, reach out and have fun. The conference typically includes speakers, panels, workshop, and please join us in any of our fellowship events. It is also referred to as a mini PRAASA.

REGIONAL FORUMS

Regional Forums originated in 1975. They are weekend sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication between A.A. members and representatives of the General Service Board, GSO staff and Grapevine staff. A Regional Forum is held every other year in a particular Region, on a rotating basis. There is no registration fee for a Regional Forum. Many Areas, Districts, or Groups cover or defray the transportation and hotel room expenses of the trusted servants representing them at a Forum; however, anyone may attend. Regional Forums provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas.

AA WORLDWIDE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide organization. There are General Service Offices in many countries, each of which is autonomous. Our General Service Office for the United States and Canada is located in New York City. No attempt is made to have this office be the world capital of AA. Rather, the New York office is available to share experience, strength and hope with offices in other countries, mainly because it has been in existence the longest. Every two years, a World Service meeting is held with the Trustee-At-large each from the United States and Canada attending as our delegates. This meeting serves as the way that Alcoholics Anonymous establishes and maintains its worldwide communication links.

After the Conference, reporting to Groups, Districts and the Area back home is a big part of the Delegate's job. They are provided with the "early bird" edition of "Box 459", a printed bulletin that summarizes outstanding Conference actions, to assist them with their reports. The "Final Conference Report" comes off the press during the summer/fall and provides a complete record of reports, discussions, workshops and actions. It is not a verbatim account, but no significant aspect of the Conference is omitted. Delegates continue to receive information regarding GSO, Grapevine and General Service Board activities throughout the year and regularly report to the Area on pertinent issues.

SECTION VI – Additional Considerations

ROTATION

In most Groups, the GSR is elected to a two-year term, which usually runs concurrent with the Area rotation. DCMs and Area officers likewise serve two-year terms. Rotation is frequently referred to as "anonymity in action" because it is one vital method we have of avoiding power, prestige and personal recognition from distorting our best intentions.

COMMITMENT AND PRINCIPLES

As members of the general service structure, principles that we must now demonstrate as a trusted servant include willingness, self-sacrifice, honesty, consideration of others, thoughtfulness, love, tolerance and, most of all, basic etiquette.

- Do we show up, on time, when we say we will?
- Do we mark our A.A. commitments on the calendar and then work around them, or do we attend only if it doesn't interfere with our own pleasure?
- When we are unable to make an event that the GSR should attend, do we arrange for our alternate to be there?
- Do we keep our alternates well informed and involved?
- Do we attend as many service activities as possible in order to become better informed, or do we do the least possible required?
- Are we able to offer criticism lovingly and based on the application of our three legacies, or do we let personalities get in the way?

THE INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE

Concept XII, Warranty Four:

“That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity.”

“Here on the one hand we erect a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle further guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision ...”

The Group Conscience strives for unanimity through enlightenment, spirituality, and the practice of our principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions through full discussion. On sensitive issues, the Group works slowly, discouraging formal motions until the Group has a clear sense of its views. Placing principles before personalities, the Group is wary of dominant opinions. The Group Conscience is the aggregate of experience a Group develops after applying the Traditions and Concepts to a question. The difference between a Group Conscience and a majority vote or Group opinion is that one or more of the elements described above are missing.

LOCAL INTERGROUPS AND CENTRAL OFFICES

Intergroups and Central Offices provide services for local A.A. Groups and members and are supported by the Groups in the communities they serve. If the Group does not have an Intergroup or Central Office Liaison, the GSR should consider keeping in touch with their local Intergroup/Central Office.

These offices provide such services as:

- Receiving, arranging, and following up Twelfth Step calls.
- Answering inquiries about AA.
- Establishing local Public Information committees.
- Maintaining information about local hospitals and recovery facilities for alcoholics.
- Publishing local AA meeting lists.
- Providing a newsletter.
- Ordering, selling and distributing AA Conference-approved literature.

SECTION VII – Tips and Tools

REFERENCE TOOLS FOR THE G.S.R

The GSR Kit is Available on AA.org [here](#).

- The A.A. Service Manual Combined With The Twelve Concepts for World Service (booklet)
- The A.A. Group (pamphlet)
- A.A. Comes of Age (book)
- A.A. Tradition - How it Developed (pamphlet)
- Supporting The A.A. Support System (pamphlet)
- Circles of love and Service (pamphlet)
- Inside A.A. (pamphlet)
- The GSR May Be The Most Important Job In A.A. (pamphlet)
- The Twelve Concepts For World Service Illustrated (pamphlet)
- The "White Sheet," What A.A. Does and Does Not Do (one page flyer)
- A.A. Literature Catalog
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (book)

USEFULL LINKS

- **Click this link** to see [information for new trusted servants](#) . Although it is possible to update contact information directly with GSO through the GSO records department, our best practice is engage the area registrar to update those records.
- **Click these links** to get digital versions of available committee workbooks and kits from GSO (aa.org):
 - [Archives Workbook](#)
 - [Corrections Workbook ... Corrections Kit](#)
 - [Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook ... CPC Kit](#)
 - Literature Workbook and Kit ... (these items are not identified online at [aa.org](#); but, they are listed here to let you know that effort was made to find them)
 - [Public Information Workbook ... PI Kit](#)
 - [Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook ... SN/Accessibilities Kit](#)
 - [Treatment Workbook ... Treatment Kit](#)

Note 1: The [AA Service Committees](#) page enables interested members to obtain specific, additional, resources for various kinds of AA service work.

Note 2: Printing a single copy of these items is permitted in accordance with the AA World Services, Inc [FAIR USE POLICY](#)

- Click the following link to get a digital copy of the [current literature catalog](#).

TIPS / SUGGESTIONS FOR A GSR at the HOME GROUP MEETING

- Attend your Home Group regularly
- Guardian of the Traditions – know where to find the answers

- Share information from GSO, such as Box 459, etc.
- Give regular reports to the groups regarding the district, the area (ex: newsletter) and GSO.
- Explain issues to be voted upon and find out how the group wants you to vote on matters of importance to all AA.
- Be the group contact for the area committee and GSO and AA directories, etc.
- Insure your group is offering all the sobriety tools available, including conference -approved pamphlets and books.
- Seventh Tradition – be able to talk about the 7th tradition and what contributions are used for.
- Be familiar with the AA Service Manual, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Circles of Love and Service, and The AA Home Group pamphlet.
- Supply the DCM with up to date group information
- Write down questions and comments from group members and bring to district meetings and area assembly meetings.

***If you are unfamiliar with the above information reach out to your DCM, Alt DCM or any Area Trusted Servant.*

TIPS / SUGGESTIONS FOR A GSR at the DISTRICT MEETING

- Bring up issues or concerns from your group for discussion with other GSRs.
- Bring with you and give GSR report.
- Take notes!
- Take information back to your group – nobody else will.
- Know what your DCMs responsibilities are.
- Call DCM to put items on the agenda for district meeting – when you have something.
- Bring group conscience to district meeting.
- Give everyone your attention.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ATTEND THE DISTRICT MEETING:

Before the meeting begins

- Have reports available to you for reference during the meeting. This may be an electronic version or hard copy. (Meeting agenda, Treasurer, DCM, committee etc.)
- Distribute or receive any flyers for upcoming evenings in your District/Area.
- Sit with someone new or reach out to another GSR you see on the virtual meeting. Make a friend.

During the District meeting

- The agenda that is either mailed or e-mailed with the minutes from the previous meeting to all GSRs and interested parties.
- The majority of the District meeting consists of verbal and written reports from the various trusted servants.
- Give your GSR report. (See an example – it's just an example you do what feels good to you.)
- Hi-light or **make notes** during each report as to what you think your group will find important.
- Also, make a note of what positions are open and add them to your announcements to read.
- Take notes on what is said during open forum to add to your GSR report.
- Take notes on all motions under new and old business.
- Pay close attention to any motions that are sent backs to the groups to vote on.
- At the next District meeting you will need to vote the conscious of your group.

After the Meeting

- Remember to network with other GSRs and committee members.
- Follow up and ask questions.

- Go back to your Group and update the flyers or other event information you may have received at the District Meeting. Provide to your group copies for distribution either electronically and/or hardcopy.

REPORTING BACK TO YOUR HOME GROUP

- Your report should consist of highlights from each report presented at the previous District meeting:
 - Topics under open forum,
 - Treasurer Reports (keep it simple)
 - Any motions voted on at the District,
 - Any new motions to be voted on by the group, and anything else that you think is noteworthy.
- Make sure that any motions to be voted on by the group are brought up under new business at the group's business meeting or during regular meeting for those that have no business meeting.
- When these motions are brought up at the next District, vote the group's conscious.
- **Some meetings do not have a Business meeting and you can asked to give the GSR report during the meeting, keep notes brief to avoid taking up too much meeting time, have all reports available for any member to read.**

HOW TO MAKE A GSR REPORT:

Home Group

It's important to get your group used to hearing a GSR report. Ask your group how they would like the information presented. Some groups prefer a short presentation with high level information and others prefer a detailed report from the District meeting.

It can be helpful to use the District meeting agenda as a starting point for your GSR report. Take the District agenda and update to meet the needs of your group.

When giving your report:

- Be prepared! Don't wing it.
- Be positive!!!!
- Ask for feedback from the Group.
- We suggest that you make District and Group Event announcements at your meetings when there is a call for AA related announcements.
- During the Group's regular business meeting, break down the information into short bullet points.
- Your report should consist of highlights from each report presented at the previous District meeting:
 - Topics under open forum,
 - Treasurer Reports (keep it simple),
 - Any motions voted on at the District,
 - Any new motions to be voted on by the group, and
 - Anything else that you think is noteworthy.
- If an informed group conscience is needed so that you can vote on behalf of your group, then you will need to give more in-depth information.
- Suggested you have more detailed reports you may have collected at the District meeting that available if someone would like to review them at the business meeting.
- Email out a more detailed report if the Group prefers the information in this format.

Sample GSR Report (just a suggestion)

My name is _____ and I'm an alcoholic. I am honored to serve as your GSR. A GSR is a "General Service Representative" and is the link between an individual AA group and AA as a whole. It is my responsibility to bring you news and issues that concern AA as a whole, and to bring this group's vote and opinions on issues being decided by the whole of AA.

The District Meeting Occurred on _____ at _____ (location).

Items of interest Discussed: _____

Items needing Group Conscious: _____

Upcoming Events: _____

Other information: _____

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Sample Report to at the District Meeting (just a suggestion)

My name is _____ My home group _____ and I'm an alcoholic.

Service positions filled within the Group: (Report openings or if they are all filled)
_____ + _____.

Group Contributions: (Report if you have made any distributions to intergroup, district, area or world)?
_____.

Upcoming Group Events: _____.

Other Information: (Concerns or things that are going really great) _____.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

GROUP CONSCIENCE PROCESS

(Written from the perspective of the person chairing the meeting)

Before you start:

Thoroughly explain the voting process: who may vote, how the vote will be cast etc...

Then:

Present the issue

When presenting an issue or topic its recommended to remain neutral.

Sometimes the issue will be presented by the maker of the topic or by the DCM there is no rule.

Then:

Allow time for discussion (Listen to hear if you are having a balance of pros and cons)

Listen – when you start hearing people repeating the same information ask the following question “Does anyone have any new information?”

Next:

Call for a Vote.

For something to pass substantial unanimity is sought (typically this is two-thirds)

If your group conscience calls for something other than substantial unanimity, then go with the group conscience.

After the Vote:

Ask for the Minority Opinion and if they would like to speak

If no one from the minority wants to speak then then vote is over.

or

If someone or multiple people speak from the minority opinion. Someone for the majority can call for a reconsideration of the vote if they have been swayed by the minority position

If a reconsideration is requested, then vote on whether to reconsider the vote. This is usually a simple majority. If passed, then the issue that had been voted on is reopened again for discussion and the voting process will start over.

BRIEF ROBERT RULES OF ORDER GUIDE

*****Remember we use these loosely! They are not to be used so rigidly we cannot communicate from the heart.***

When recognized by the chairperson:

1. Stand, clearly state your name and the Group you represent.
2. Speak as clearly and as briefly as possible your remarks must be pertinent to the business at hand or items you wish to bring to the floor.

You want to:	You say:	Second required	Debatable	Vote
Adjourn	I move we adjourn	Yes	No	Majority
Register a complaint	Point of privilege	No	No	No vote, chair decides
Table a matter	I move we table this matter	Yes	No	Majority
End a discussion or debate of a matter	I move the previous question	Yes	No	2/3
Have further study of a matter	I move we refer this to a committee	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	I move this motion be amended to read...	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce a matter of business	I move that	Yes	Yes	Majority
Object to an error in procedure	I move that the order of the day or point of order	No	No	No vote, chair decides
Request information	Point of information	No	No	No vote
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move we take from the table	Yes	No	Majority
Reconsider an item already disposed of (Maker must have been on the prevailing side on the original motion)	I move we reconsider the vote on our action relative to...	Yes	If the original motion was debatable, yes	Majority
Consider an item out of its scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and consider...	Yes	No	2/3
Delay an action indefinitely	I move to postpone indefinitely...	Yes	Yes	Majority

MOTION		Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
Committee Recommendation	Presented in the committee report.	Automaticall y seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Amending a Motion	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it. The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Tabling a Motion	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Moving to Recommit	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
Calling the Question	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
Reconsidering a Vote	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side. No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Making a Floor Action	Made without comment. Introduced any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Declining to Consider a Floor Action	Made without comment. May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO

Special thank you to District 9, 29, 44,45, and 54 in helping make the handbook more exciting with graphics that they had created.

GLOSSARY OF COMMON A.A. TERMS

- **Alternate:** A general service worker who, according to local autonomy and needs, is elected at the Group, District or Area levels to participate with, assist in and, in appropriate circumstances, assume the duties of a principal office holder, i.e., alternate GSR, alternate Delegate.
- **Archives:** A collection of A.A. memorabilia. The Archivist's functions might include collection, indexing, storing and exhibiting original and reproduced local, national and international A.A. material.
- **Area:** A geographical division within a state or Province. Normally there is one Area for each state or Province. Where there is high population, a state or Province may divide into two or more Areas.
- **Area Assembly:** A periodic meeting of the GSRs, DCMs, Area service committee chairs and Area officers. All A.A. members are encouraged to attend, but only the above listed members of the Assembly are entitled to vote. The Assembly elects the Delegate and other officers. The Assembly is a basic unit of the general service structure and conducts or helps coordinate most of the business for the Area.
- **Box 4-5-9:** A bimonthly publication of the General Service Office, the title of which is also the New York mailing address of G.S.O. (Grand Central Station, New York, NY. 10136). The masthead of this informative mini-magazine consists of the words "News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A." It includes such items of interest as: a calendar of important local, national and international events; questions and problems about A.A.; vignettes and anecdotes from A.A. people, history and events; as well as much other information of interest to the dedicated and/or curious member.
- **Conference:** Delegates, the Board of Trustees, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Directors, and the G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff make up the Conference. This meeting keeps the individual A.A. member and G.S.O. in close, supportive contact with each other through the general service chain. This chain is made up of several links: the Trustees' Committees working closely with the comparable Delegates' committees (such as P.I., C.P.C., Treatment Facilities, Finance, etc.), the Delegate from and back to the Area; and the individual A.A. member through the G.S.R. In the Conference, each Area has one representative Delegate who confers with the ninety-three other Delegates, twenty-one Trustees, G.S.O. staff members and directors from the two corporations — A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- **Delegate:** The person elected, for a two-year term, at the Area general assembly to represent the Area at the annual meeting of the General Service Conference in New York.
- **District Committee Member (D.C.M.):** The D.C.M. is primarily responsible for coordinating and assisting the efforts of the G.S.R.s in the District and being a member of the Area Committee.
- **General Service Representative (G.S.R.):** An AA member who is elected by a Group to represent that Group's conscience in discussions at the District and Area levels. The G.S.R. also keeps the Group as fully informed as possible of important decisions, discussions and events occurring within A.A. at the District, Area, Regional, national and international levels.
- **Region:** A grouping of several states or Provinces from which a Regional Trustee is elected to the Board of Trustees. There are eight Regions in the conference — six in the United States and two in Canada.
- **Third Legacy:** Recovery and unity are our first two legacies. Our Third Legacy is Service: the sum total of all AA services, from the twelfth step call to AA's coast-to-coast and worldwide activities.
- **Third Legacy Procedure:** A voting procedure, unique to A.A, designed to help reduce some of the negative aspects of elections — such as personality clashes, ego battles and dissatisfied minorities. See "What is 'Third Legacy Procedure?'" in The A.A. Service Manual.
- **Trustee:** The usual term, or name, for a member of A.A.'s General Service Board of Trustees. Currently the board is made up of twenty-one trustees including eight Regional Trustees.
- **Twelve Concepts:** As the Twelve Traditions are to the preservation and unity of Alcoholics Anonymous; so are the Twelve Concepts to General Service. They are a set of principles and practices intended to preserve service to A.A. and the still suffering alcoholic. They also protect the structure by which such service is made possible. (See The Twelve Concepts for World Service in the back portion of The A.A. Service Manual.)
- **Warranties:** The Twelfth Concept of World Service consists of The Six Warranties that are also Article 12 of the Conference Charter. Some consider these Warranties to be the A.A. Bill of Rights