



**Area 64 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous®**

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?!

Summary of Area Service

Common Terms

Wait, what does that mean?!?!?

GSC – General Service Conference

- Yearly conference where elected Delegates from 93 Delegate Areas in U.S. & Canada meet and vote on agenda items submitted by the Fellowship (A.A. World Service Manual, S56-S60).

GSO – General Service Office

- Physical office in New York City serving all A.A. groups in the U.S. & Canada as well as offering services to A.A. overseas, specifically to those groups who do not have a service structure (A.A. World Service Manual, S81-S88).

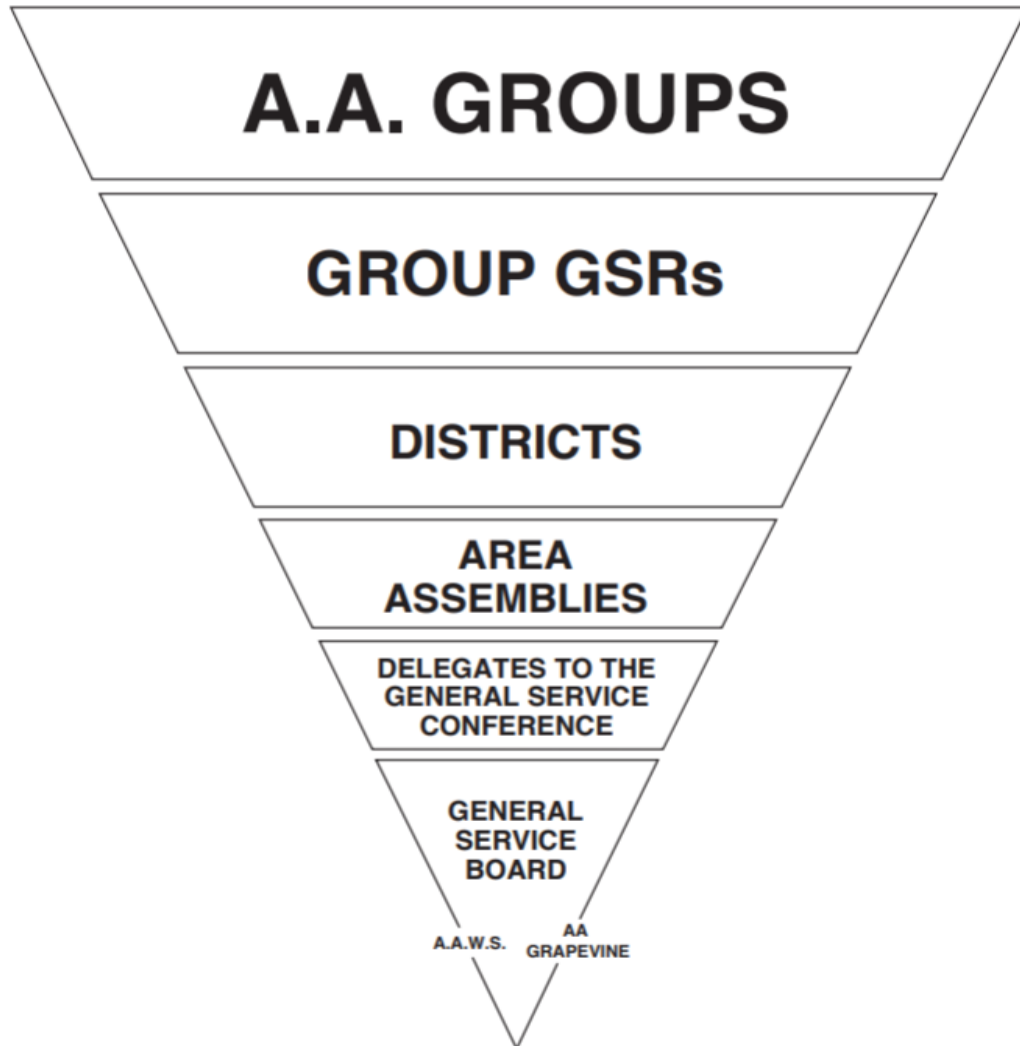
DCM – District Committee Member

- “The district committee member (D.C.M.) is an essential link between the group G.S.R. and the area delegate to the General Service Conference. As leader of the district committee, made up of all G.S.R.s in the district, the D.C.M. is exposed to the group conscience of that district. As a member of the area committee, he or she is able to pass on the district’s thinking to the delegate and the committee (A.A. World Service Manual, S31-S35).”

GSR – General Service Representative

- “The general service representative has the job of linking his or her group with A.A. as a whole. The G.S.R. represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group’s thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegate, who passes them on to the Conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the G.S.R. responsible for bringing back to the group Conference Actions that affect A.A. unity, health, and growth. Only when a G.S.R. keeps the group informed, and communicates the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole (A.A. World Service Manual, S25-30).”

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE

We should never be organized, but...

- Upside-Down Organization or Triangle
 - Concept 1 – Groups have ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services.
 - Concept 2 – Voice and conscience is heard through the Conference
- Communication is Key
 - Communication must work both ways
- Conference Charter
 - Document that outlines “the body of principles and relationships through which A.A. services function as a whole.”
- Spirit of Rotation
 - Humility

WHY DO WE NEED A CONFERENCE?

"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.

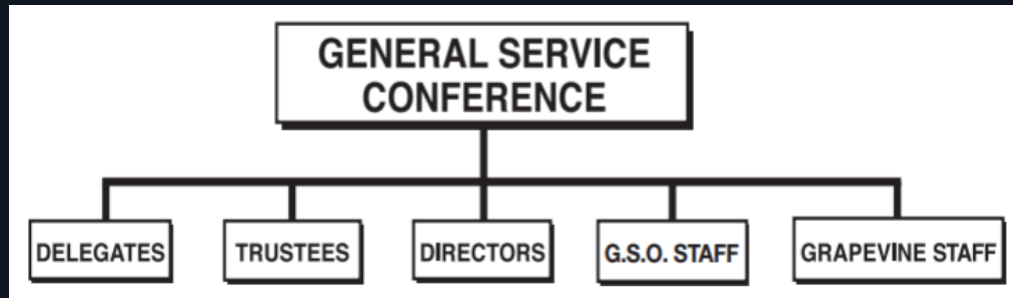
We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration 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 unmasked 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.

— Bernard B. Smith, past chair of the Board of Trustees, 1954

General Service Conference (GSC)

"While the General Service Conference operates all year round, the annual meeting, held in New York City, usually in April, is the culmination of the year's activities, the time when the collective group conscience of U.S./Canada A.A. comes together to take actions that will guide the groups in the years to come (S56)."



Who goes?



Delegates, Trustees, Directors, G.S.O. Staff, & Grapevine Staff

What happens?



Roll call, keynote address, business sessions including committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and new trustee elections. The last two days are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

What are Agenda Items?



Topics up for discussion at the annual GSC meeting. A final list of agenda items is released in Feb. of each year with LOTS of background material for each item.

What are Advisory Actions?



Advisory Actions are committee recommendations or floor actions that have been approved by the Conference body.

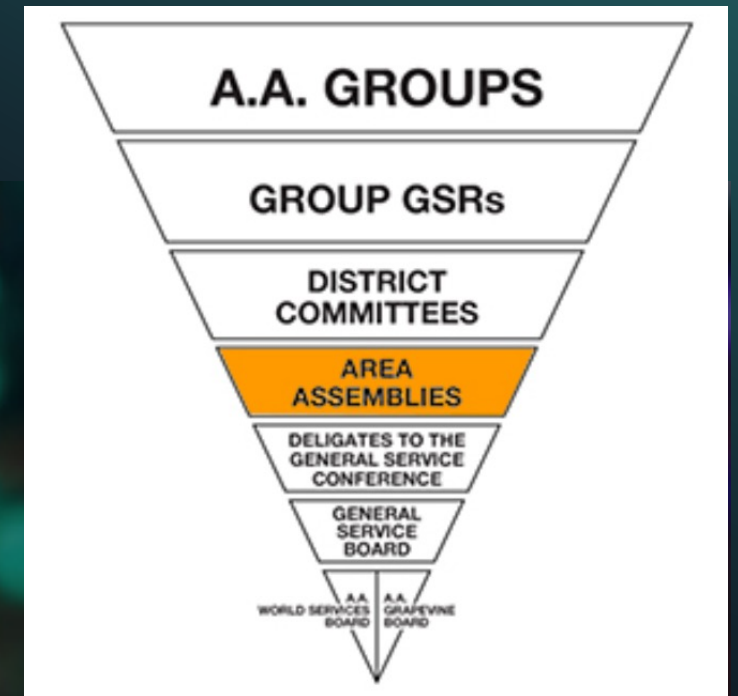
AREA ASSEMBLIES

Originally set up to elect a delegate every other year.

Now used for

- Electing a Delegate, other Area Officers, Standing Committee Chairs
- GSC business
- Area problems & solutions
- Financial issues
- Sharing sessions
- Standing Committee work
- Workshops

AREA 64 ASSEMBLY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE MANUAL



DELEGATE'S ROLE



DCM's Role

Two-Way
Communication



Attends all
district
meetings &
Area
Assemblies

Keeps G.S.R.s informed
about Conference
activities

Receives
group reports
through
G.S.R.s &
frequent
contact with
groups.

Brings Traditions
problems to the
attention of the
delegate.

Helps the
Conference
delegate
cover the
area

Makes sure that G.S.R.s are acquainted with The A.A. Service Manual, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the G.S.O. bulletin Box 4-5-9, workbooks and guidelines from G.S.O., and any other service material.

Regularly
talks to
groups on
responsibilitie
s of general
service work

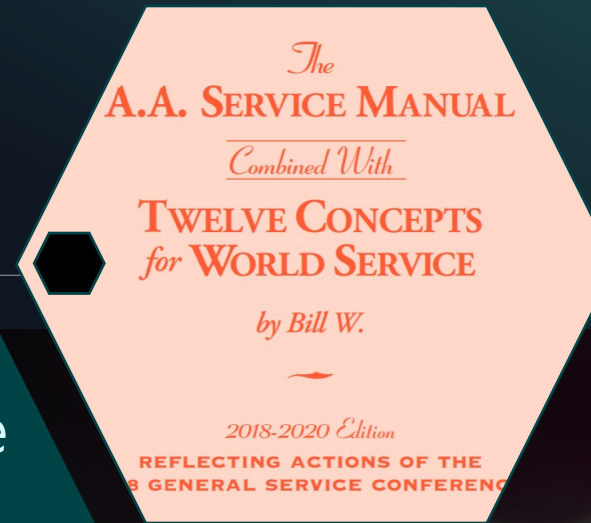
G.S.R.'s Role

Link to A.A. as a whole...

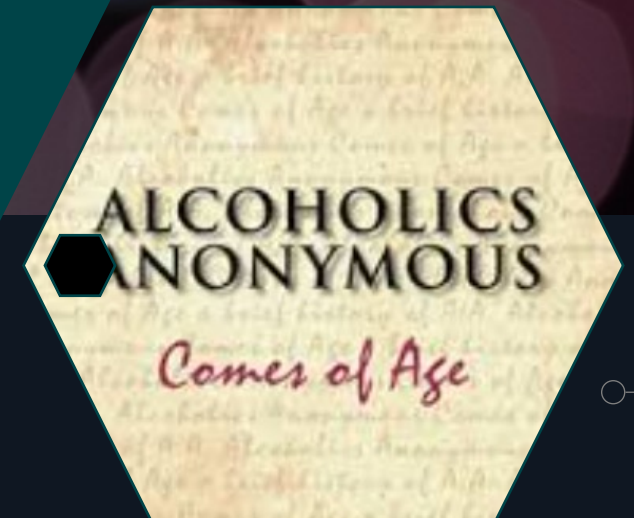


Become knowledgeable on Traditions, Concepts, World Service Manual, etc.

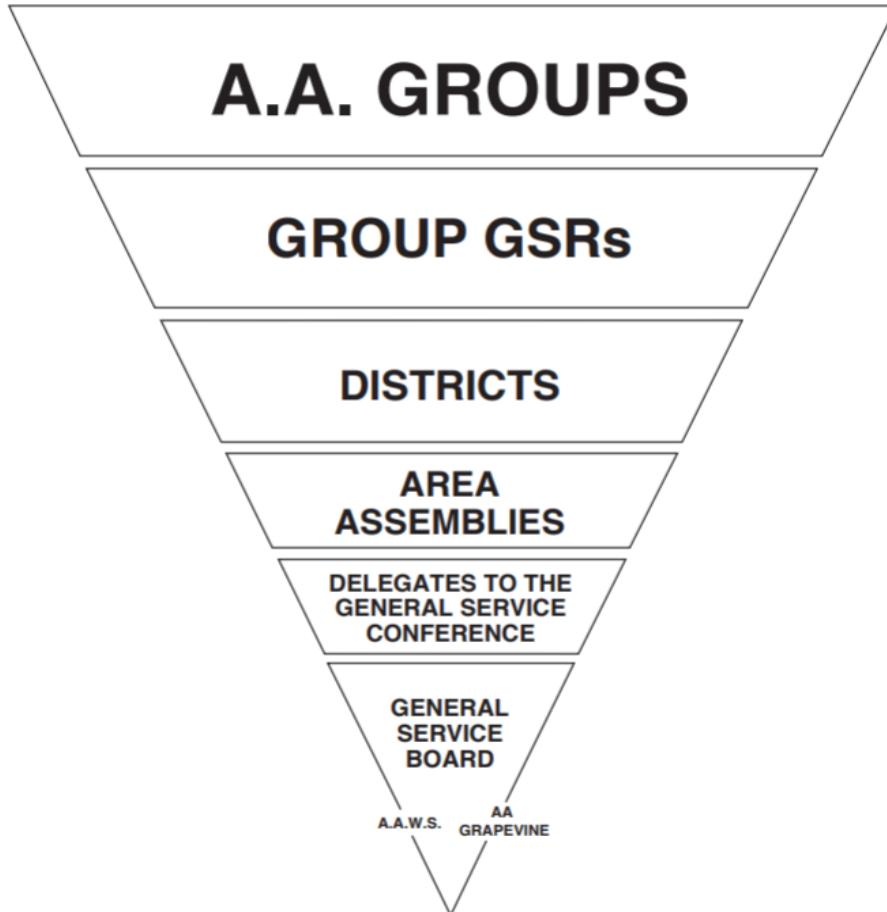
Attend district & Area and relay information to their group



Supply DCM with group reports & problems



STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



SUMMARY

So, what are we doing here?

- Without you we have no contact with groups, the “bosses” in A.A.
- G.S.R.’s play an integral role in who represents their districts with the election of their D.C.M.’s. Outgoing D.C.M.’s and Area Officers (if previously served as D.C.M.) are eligible to stand as Delegate. The election of a Delegate is crucial for who represents our Area.
- Strong communication and knowledge of our 36 principles is key in order to keep A.A. for the next generation.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

www.aa.org
www.area64assembly.org

Area 64 Assembly of Alcoholics
Anonymous Service Manual

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions

The A.A. Service Manual Combined
With Twelve Concepts for World
Service

Pamphlets: The A.A. Group
The A.A. Tradition – How it
Developed
The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
The Twelve Concepts Illustrated

Traditions Checklist from the A.A.
Grapevine
Concepts Checklist from the A.A.
Grapevine