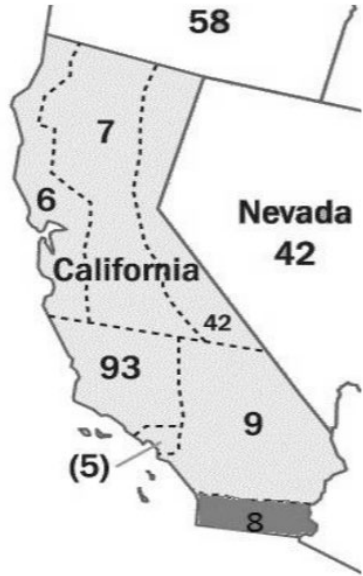


Area 8

How We Serve
the AA Fellowship



71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE A.A. in a Time of Change



Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question:

“Is this service really needed?”

If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our **mission** to those who need and seek A.A.

So, how did this all get started?



The most **vital**, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole, namely: the General Service Office, A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., and our board of trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide **unity** and much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to this cluster of **life-giving activities**.

1935 – Dr. Bob has his last drink; AA is born

1938 – The Alcoholic Foundation is established, a trusteeship for AA

1940 – First world service office for AA

1944 – *The AA Grapevine* established

1950 – Dr. Bob dies

1951 – First GSC meets beginning 5yr experiment

1955 – Bill hands over the 3 Legacies of Recovery, Unity & Service to the movement



Trustees

The 1st Board of Trustees:

Non-Alcoholic:

- Dick Richardson
- Frank Amos
- Dr. Strong

Alcoholic:

- Dr. Bob
- NY AA Member

Its right around this time that the idea of the conference was born



Almost brings a tear to my eye



General Service Conference U.S./Canada

1959 – AA Publishing Inc., becomes AA World Service, Inc.

1962 – The “12 Concepts for World Service” are published

1966 – 2/3 majority of alcoholics on the GSB

1969 – First World Service Meeting w/ delegates from 14 countries

1971 – Bill dies
1988 – Lois dies

2001 – 4th Edition of BB is published

2020 – In the face of a global health crisis, the first ever all-virtual GSC is held. AA proves its resilience and grit.



And that, ladies & Gentlemen, is when the crazies officially took control of the asylum

Well this ought to be a hoot!

CLASS A



(7 NONALCOHOLICS)

Can serve *TWO* consecutive *THREE*-year terms

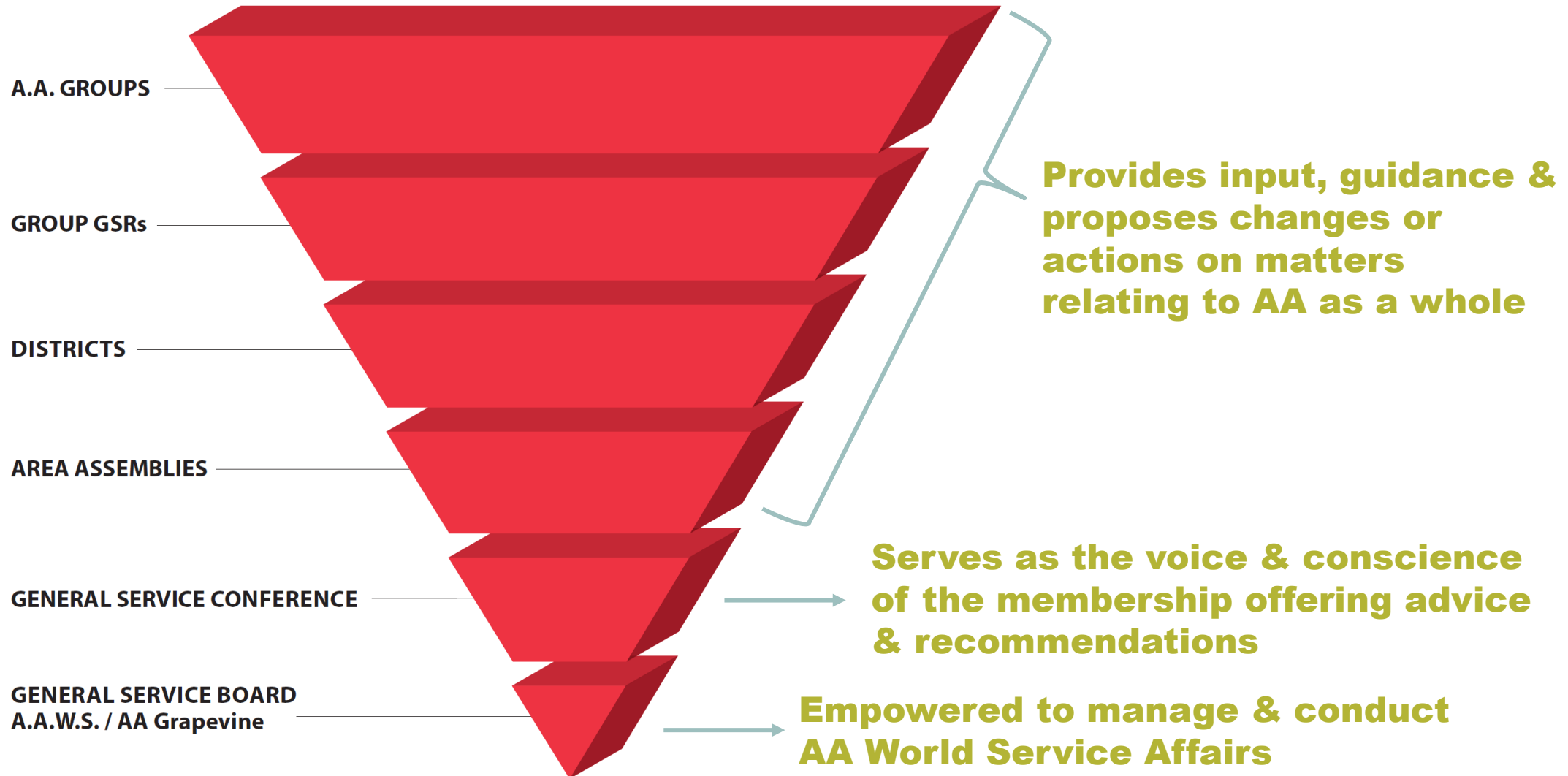
CLASS B



(14 ALCOHOLICS)

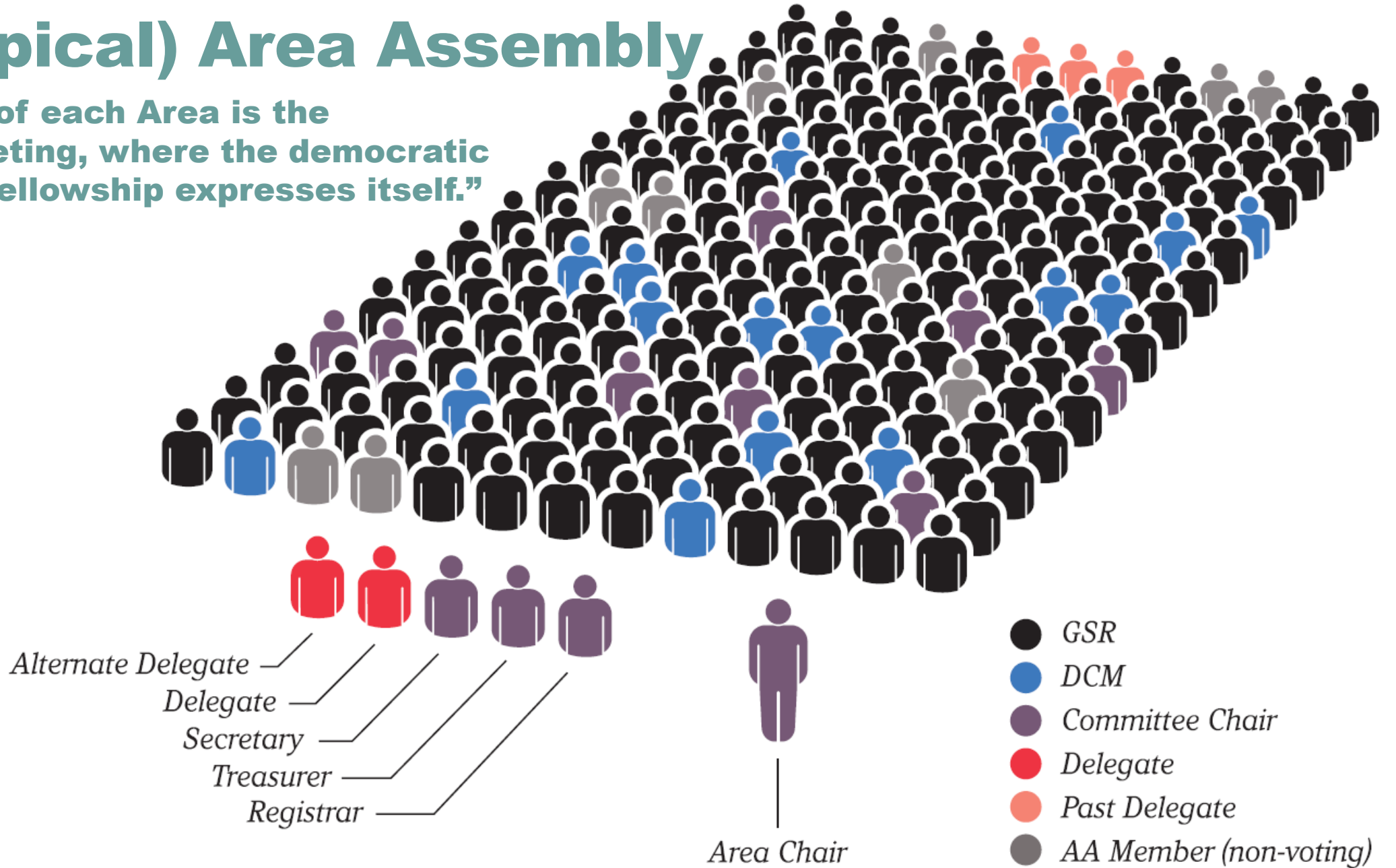
Can serve *FOUR* consecutive *ONE*-year terms

The General Service Structure

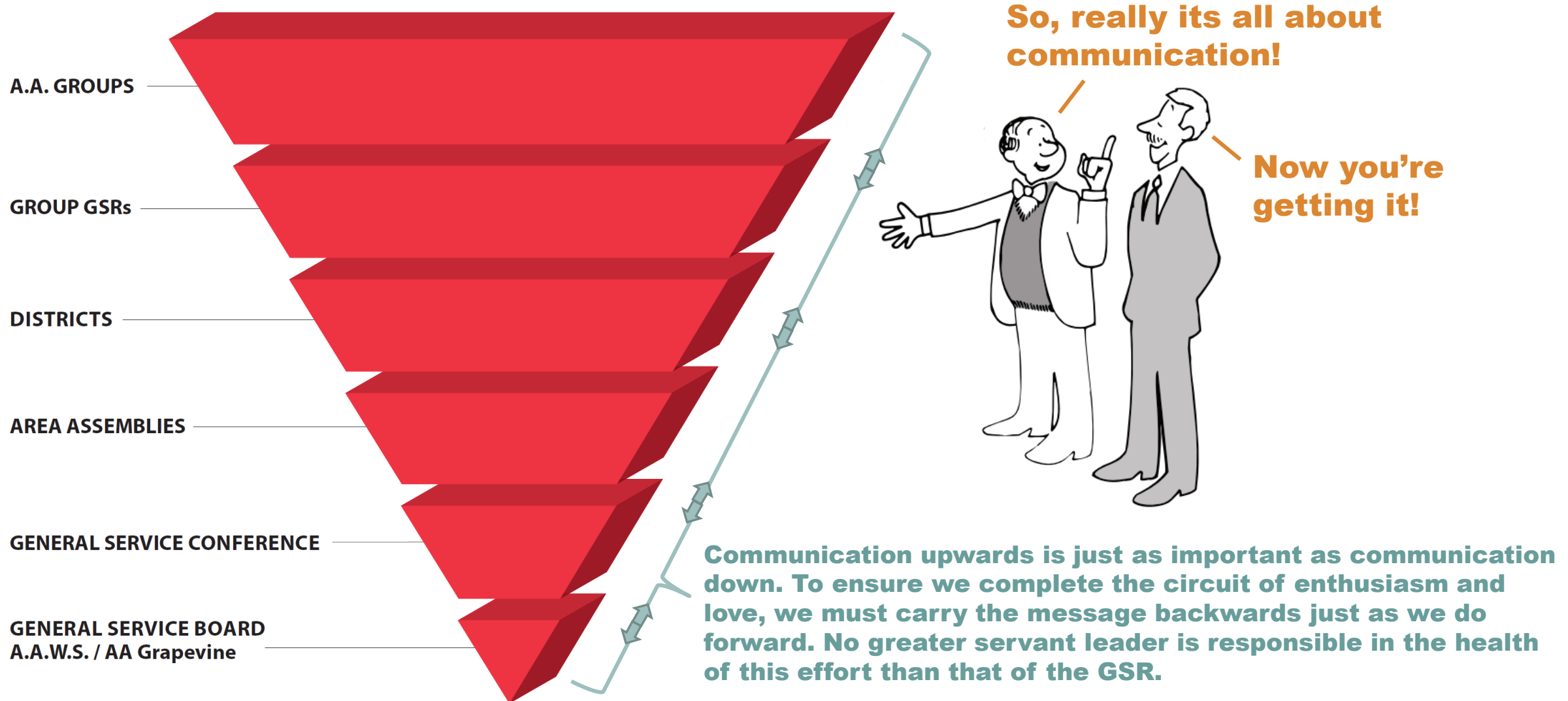


The (Typical) Area Assembly

“At the heart of each Area is the assembly meeting, where the democratic voice of our Fellowship expresses itself.”



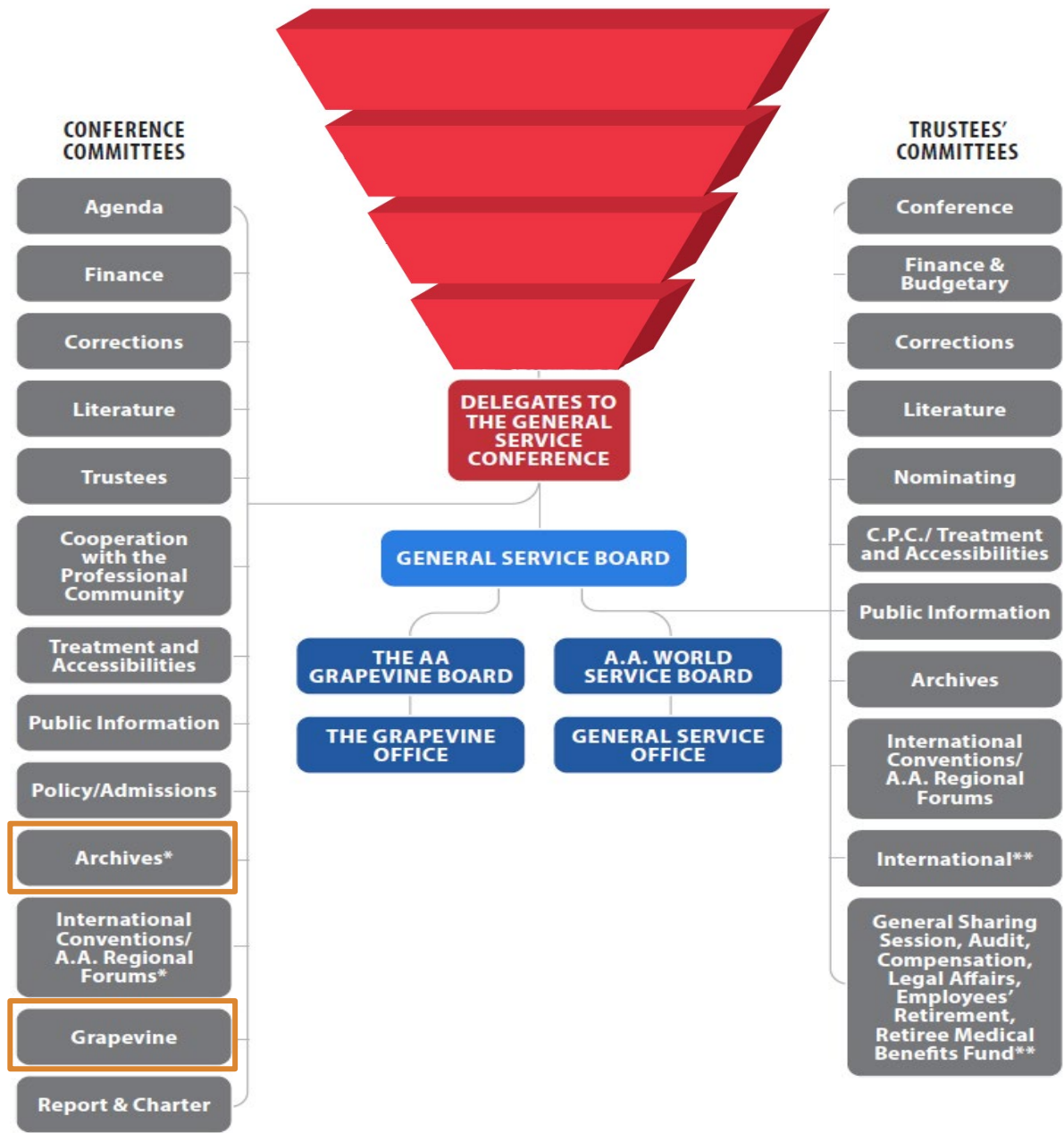
The General Service Structure



So, what does a delegate do while at the conference?

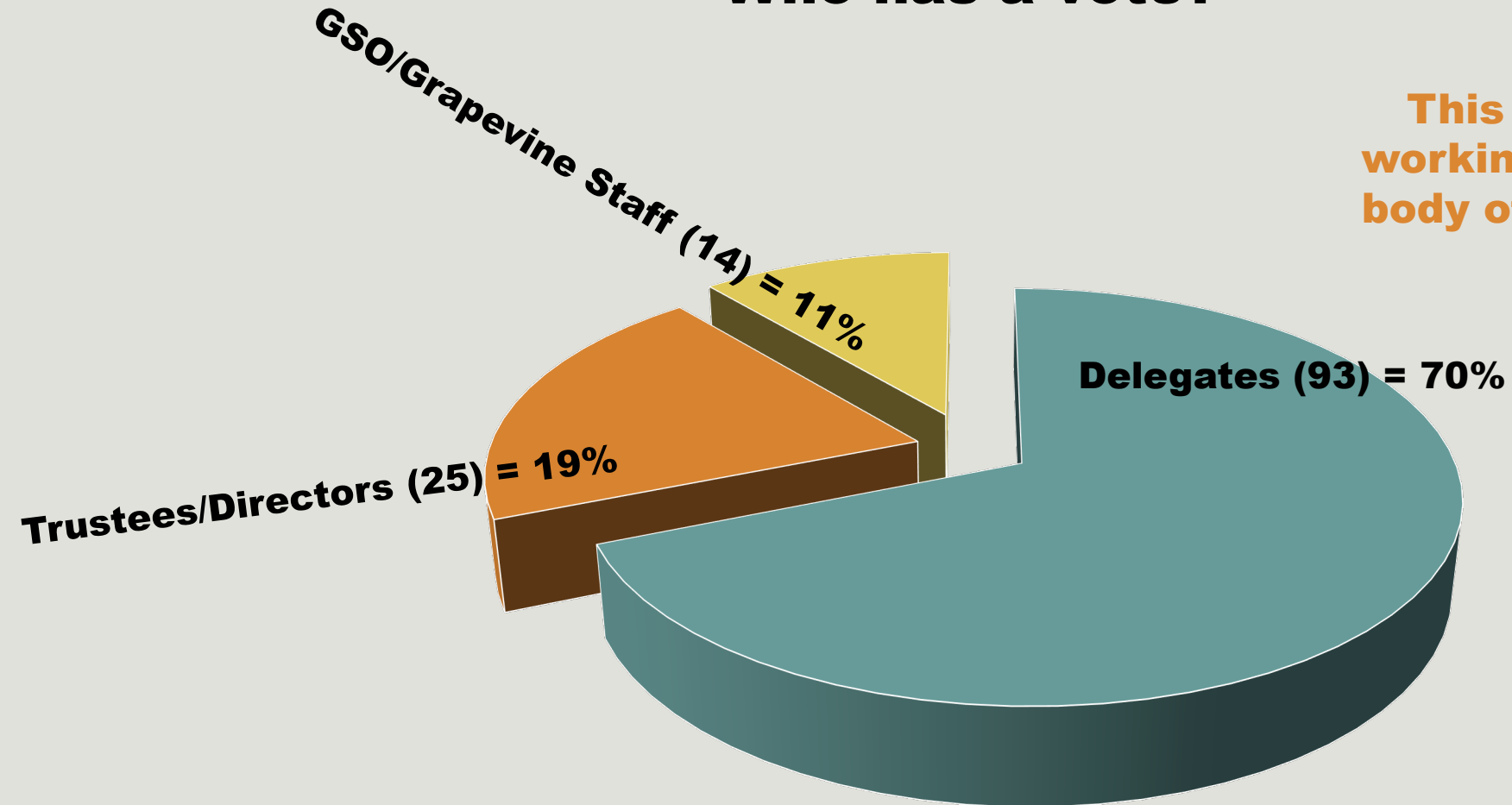


I got lucky, I get to serve on two committee's. In fact, I'm the Alternate Chair of both



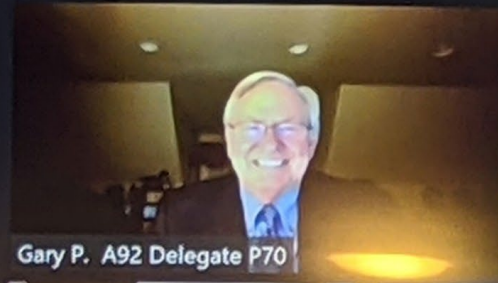
Who makes up the Conference? Who has a vote?

This year we'll be working with a voting body of 132 members

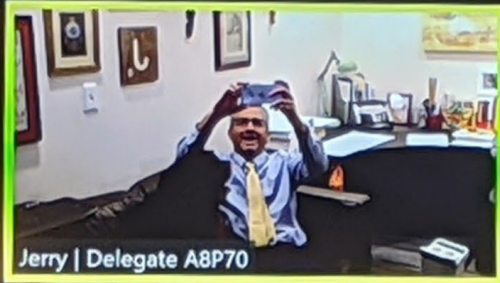


With over 2/3 majority, the groups are in charge

Pacific Regional Delegates



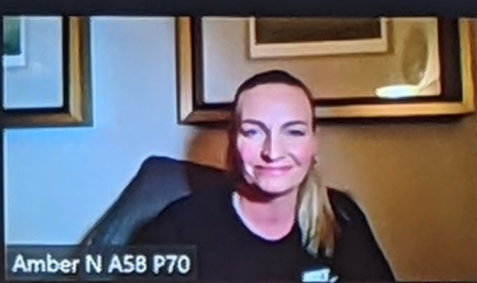
Gary P. A92 Delegate P70



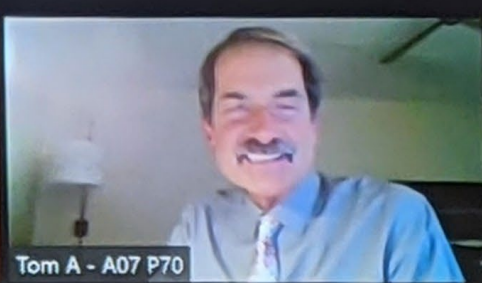
Jerry | Delegate A8P70



Kathi



Amber N A58 P70



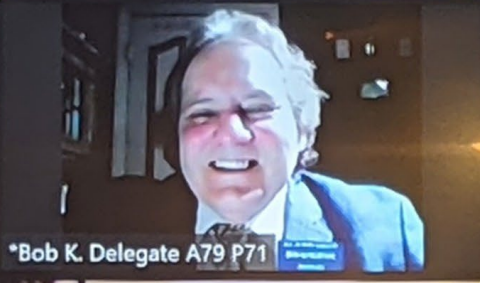
Tom A - A07 P70



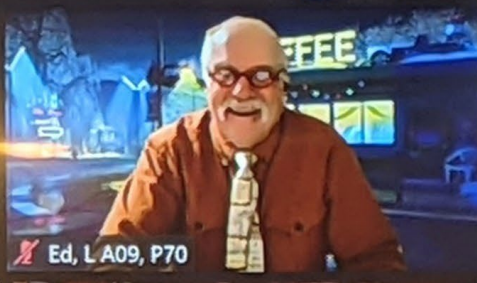
Thad N. A18 P70 Delegate



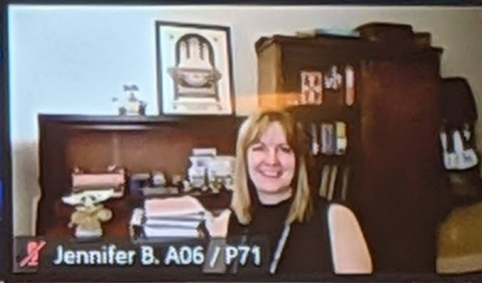
Kevin F. Delegate A3



Bob K. Delegate A79 P71



Ed, L A09, P70



Jennifer B. A06 / P71



Cheri S, Area 02 Alaska, Deleg...



Geene D. - Area 72 AA P71



Sheryl T. A69 P71



Lauren



Julie C - A42 P71 Nevada, Del...



Kunane D., A17 P71 Delega...



Karla Y. A93 P71 Delegate



Tech 12 - Matt

**Before we dive into the work,
are there any questions?**

Agenda

- A. +Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.
- B. +Review the 2019 January Conference Call participant survey results.
- C. +Discuss 2020 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
- D. +Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.
- E. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2022 General Service Conference.
- F. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
- G. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
- H. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2020 Evaluation Summary.
- I. Review 2021 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee.
- J. Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on General Service Conference agenda items.

Item-E Some suggested themes (45 in total!):

- Inclusion – The Spiritual Essence of A.A.
- Going beyond fear
- Anonymity in a virtual world
- Remaining unified as A.A. changes

Some exciting topics of discussion:

- Item-J:

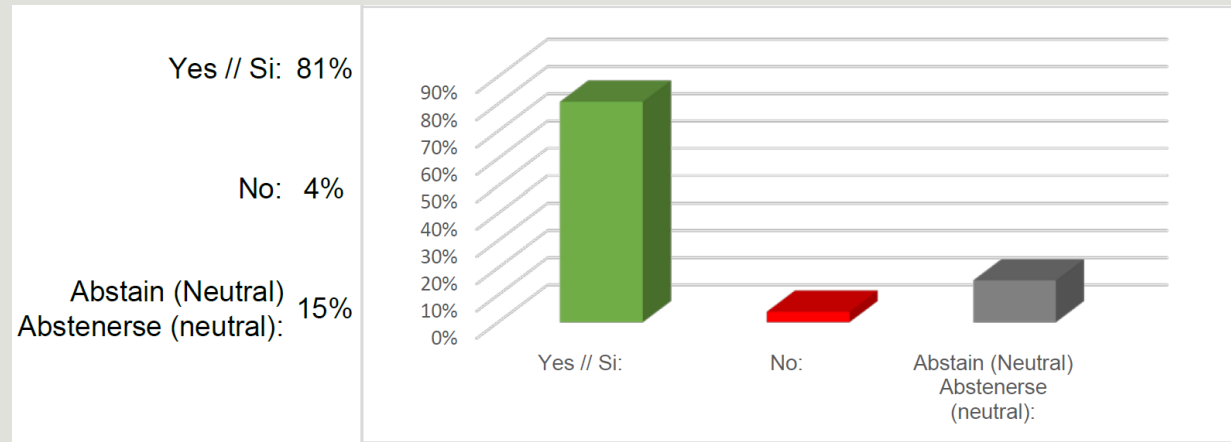
Consider the implementation of new opportunities for A.A. members to submit input on the General Service Conference agenda items prior to the full Conference convening.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. +Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
- B. +Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
- C. +Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."

From our discussion last year:

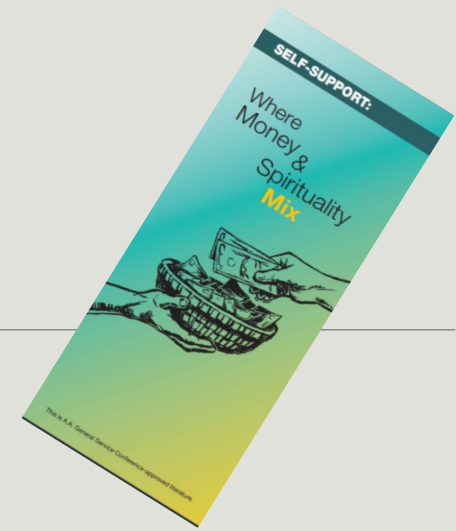
Does your group agree with the request to create a pamphlet for the Mental Health Professional?



Corrections

- A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as “inmate” and “offender” with less stigmatizing language.
- B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.**
- C. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Finance



- A. The pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”
 - 1. +Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
 - 2. Discuss mechanization of group contributions.**
- B. +Review Self-Support Packet.
- C. Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group.”
- D. Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less.”
- E. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- F. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
- G. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
- H. Review the “Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report.”

Policy/Admissions

- A. +Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
- B. +Review the floor action process.
- C. +Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss, and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
- D. Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference.
- E. Review the "Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material."
- F. Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies.
- G. Consider a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair.
- H. Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload.
- I. Review the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee Selection process.
- J. **Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.**

Literature

- A. +Review proposed “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format.”
- B. +Consider requests to revise the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:
 - 1. +Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
 - 2. +Revise the first 164 pages.
- C. +Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:
 - 1. +Develop a Fifth Edition.
 - 2. +Develop a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.
 - 3. +Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.
- D. +Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- E. +Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:
 - 1. +To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
 - 2. +To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”
- F. +Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet *Living Sober*.
- G. +Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”

Literature

- H. +Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
- I. +Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”:
 - 1. +Change the suggestion that sponsor, and newcomer be of the same sex.
 - 2. +Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
- J. +Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
- K. +Review recovery literature matrix (2019).
- L. +Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”

NEW ITEMS

- M. “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet:
 - 1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
 - 2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- N. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”**
- O. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- P. Review the draft of the new pamphlet on A.A.’s Three Legacies.
- Q. Review the draft of the new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.
- R. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

Literature

- S. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts illustrated.”
- T. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- U. Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.**
- V. Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.
- W. Consider the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, noting past Advisory Actions.
- X. Consider revising the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group,” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- Y. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group.”
- Z. Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
- AA. Review G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy.
 - 1. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is A.A. for You?”
 - 2. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?”
 - 3. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.”
 - 4. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “This is A.A.”
- BB. Review Matrix (2020)





Grapevine & La Vina

- A. +Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
- B. +Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
- C. +Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
- D. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.**
- E. Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble.**
- F. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later.

Public Information

- A. Review 2020 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- B. Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance.
- C. Review progress report regarding the 2021 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- D. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
 - 1. Review the 2020 Report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements."
 - 2. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
- E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts.**
- F. Review "A.A. Triennial Membership Survey" report.
- G. Discuss Public Information pamphlets.
 - 1. Consider revising the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
 - 2. Discuss trustees' Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets.
- H. Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook



Report & Charter

- A. +Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- B. +Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
- C. Review the draft of *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2021-2023 Edition.
- D. Consider a request to amend paragraph one, the *Purpose* of the current Conference Charter.
- E. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of *The Twelve Concepts for World Service*.



Treatment & Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”
- B. Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.
- C. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Trustees

- A. +Consider the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards.”
 - 1. Review memo response regarding the consideration of alternate trustees.
- B. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. East Central Regional Trustee
 - 2. Southeast Regional Trustee
 - 3. Trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- C. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- E. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- F. **Review the "Statement of Concern and Motion to Censure for Submission to the 71st General Service Conference."**

Points of consideration that inspired the letter

- ❖ Office staff morale
 - 21 out of 25 staff members accepting early retirement (VRIP) package where the offering was hopeful of supporting at most 4 to 5. This was the number stated during meeting with our Regional Trustee. However, box 459 published a sentiment that was hopeful of “perhaps 50%” which would have accounted for 12-13.
- ❖ A divided GSB recommending a controversial candidate for AAWS Director
 - Subsequent threats to the Conference Committee as they considered recommending a revised slate without the one controversial individual
 - Subsequent avoidance tactics during the conference which then caused a “special” discussion session the following day
- ❖ Mismanagement of the following matters/projects:
 - Printers Manuscript litigation
 - Funding of the 8th Floor renovation project
 - \$800K+ overbudget ERP system
 - Breakdown & over costing of consultants
 - Lack of transparency regarding Reserve Fund drawdown

Actions & resolutions since the letter was submitted

- ❖ Re. GSO & Office Staff
 - Office manager retired
 - New interim manager w/ wealth of experience in General Service
 - Massive wave of staff hiring and GSB practices of integrating staff input in Board projects
- ❖ Re. Board Nominating Policies
 - Complete review and revision to controversial language
- ❖ Final Point
 - Our letter generated 116 pages of background information which equates to a significant amount of reflection, research, consideration, discussion and presented solutions. Good. That was our most significant hope and desired outcome.

Archives

A. +Review Archives Workbook.

B. Review report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History.”

Open Mic

