



**C.N.I.A GSR SCHOOL  
CALIFORNIA NORTHERN INTERIOR AREA 07  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – GENERAL SERVICE**

## **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 that 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 the group can reach an informed group conscience. 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 and A.A. as a whole.

**A BRIEF TRAINING PROGRAM FOR GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES**

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## **WELCOME TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE!**

As an elected General Service Representative (GSR) you now represent the voice of your A.A. Group's Conscience to the A.A. General Service Conference held in New York each April.

Through your elected District Committee Member (DCM) and the California Northern Interior Area Delegate, you will become the two-way link between your Group and the world of A.A. as a whole. As such, you and your fellow GSRs all over the world have become the key to the Unity of A. A.

In order to more fully forge the two-way link between your Group and the General Service Office (GSO) and the Conference, you will become active in building a strong service structure. You will learn more about General Service, which is based on:

### **THE THREE LEGACIES**

1. RECOVERY, as outlined in the Twelve Steps
  2. UNITY, as outlined in the Twelve Traditions
  3. SERVICE, as outlined in the all-important A.A. Service Manual and The Twelve Concepts for World Service. Service includes anything to help Alcoholics – Clean-up, pour coffee, serve our Home Group and 12th-Step calls. "General Service" applies to all kinds of activities within the conference structure, carried on by Area Committees, Assemblies, Delegates, Trustees and G.S.O staff. Usually, the service affects the Fellowship as a whole.
- You will take care to protect the rights of individual A.A.s to have their opinions acknowledged and heard no matter how much in the minority those opinions may be.
  - You will have your name listed in the Western United States A.A. Directory as the official contact for your Group.
  - You will have the opportunity to give back to A.A. a little of what you have so gratefully received from A.A.; not only your daily sobriety but also the new way of living life and the new circle of friends you have.
  - By your active presence in General Service you will be helping insure that A.A. will still be here for the future generations of suffering drunks praying for a way out. You are now engaged in Twelfth Step work in one of its very best meanings.

### **ABOUT THIS MANUAL**

Here, we will cover four aspects of General Service.

- The geographic division of the U.S. and Canada into service regions.
- The broad structure of General Service.
- What is expected of you as General Service Representatives (GSR).
- Some ideas on how to carry out the duties as a GSR more effectively.

## A.A. WORLDWIDE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide organization. There are General Service Conferences in many countries, each of which is autonomous. No attempt is made to have the General Service Office (USA and Canada) in New York be the "world capital" of A.A. 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 a much longer period of time. Every two years a World Service conference is held with two Trustee Delegates from the United States and Canada attending. This Conference serves as the way that Alcoholics Anonymous establishes and maintains its worldwide communications links.

## THE "REGIONS"

The map (see page 18) shows the U.S. and Canada divided into eight "Regions":

Two in Canada:

Eastern Canada  
Western Canada and

Six in the United States:

Northeast;  
Southeast (including Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Virgin Islands);  
East Central;  
West Central;  
Southwest;  
Pacific, (including Alaska and Hawaii)

California and our Service Area within the state are part of the Pacific Region.

## REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Each Region nominates a slate of qualified candidates from which a "Regional Trustee" is elected (see Service Manual) who serves a four year term on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thus, the Pacific Region (covering nine Western States) has a single Trustee. The terms of the Trustees are staggered and balanced geographically so that two Trustees are elected each year which provides both continuity and a smooth flow of rotation (see Service Manual for the rotation schedule).

## THE "AREAS"

Most General Service "Areas" follow the broad geographical division of a state or province. Due to the size and population of California, the State is divided into six Areas (See attached maps on pages 19 and 20):

- California Northern Coastal
- California Northern Interior
- California Southern
- California Mid-Southern
- San Diego/Imperial
- Central California

## THE AREA DELEGATE

Each General Service Area elects a "Delegate" to represent them at the annual General Service Conference in New York where the broad issues of A.A. as a whole are addressed. There are a total of 93 Delegates (Areas) throughout the U.S. and Canada. They are elected for a two year term with about half elected each year to provide both continuity and rotation as with the Trustees (see Service Manual for the election schedule for Delegates). Remember that the General Service Conference only deals in issues affecting A.A. in the U.S. and Canada.

## AREA STRUCTURE

Each Area acts as a unit at "Area Assemblies" held periodically throughout the year to conduct such business as it may affect the entire Area, including:

- to inform the Delegate of the sense of the Area
- to receive from the Delegate, the Advisory Actions of the Conference
- to conduct workshops dealing with various aspects of "carrying the service message".

## THE "DISTRICTS"

However, the Area gatherings are usually too large and with preset agendas so that specific "Group" problems cannot usually be addressed efficiently. So, the Area is further subdivided into "Districts," ideally comprised of six to twenty Groups. Our California Northern Interior Area (CNIA) is currently divided into twenty-eight Districts (see attached map of CNIA Districts on page 20).

This organizational structure may seem complicated and overly structured at first. It is really in accord with our principle of "least possible organization". It has been tested over time as providing the most balanced way to arrive at the only recognized authority in A.A., expressed in an Informed Group Conscience which must be communicated to others when they deal with issues affecting A.A. as a whole. Perhaps this will become a bit clearer if we start at the top of the A.A. structure.

## THE GROUP

The fundamental unit in Alcoholics Anonymous is the Group. We will work our way down from there (see the chart of the structure on page 17). Hopefully, internal matters within any Group are resolved at the business meeting of that Group in accordance with Tradition Two:

- involving as many members of the Group as possible
- expressing the widest range of points of view on the subject
- and allowing enough time for the members to take all the information into consideration before any final decision is made on an issue.

One way or another, all "healthy" Groups seem to have learned that this is the best way in the long run.

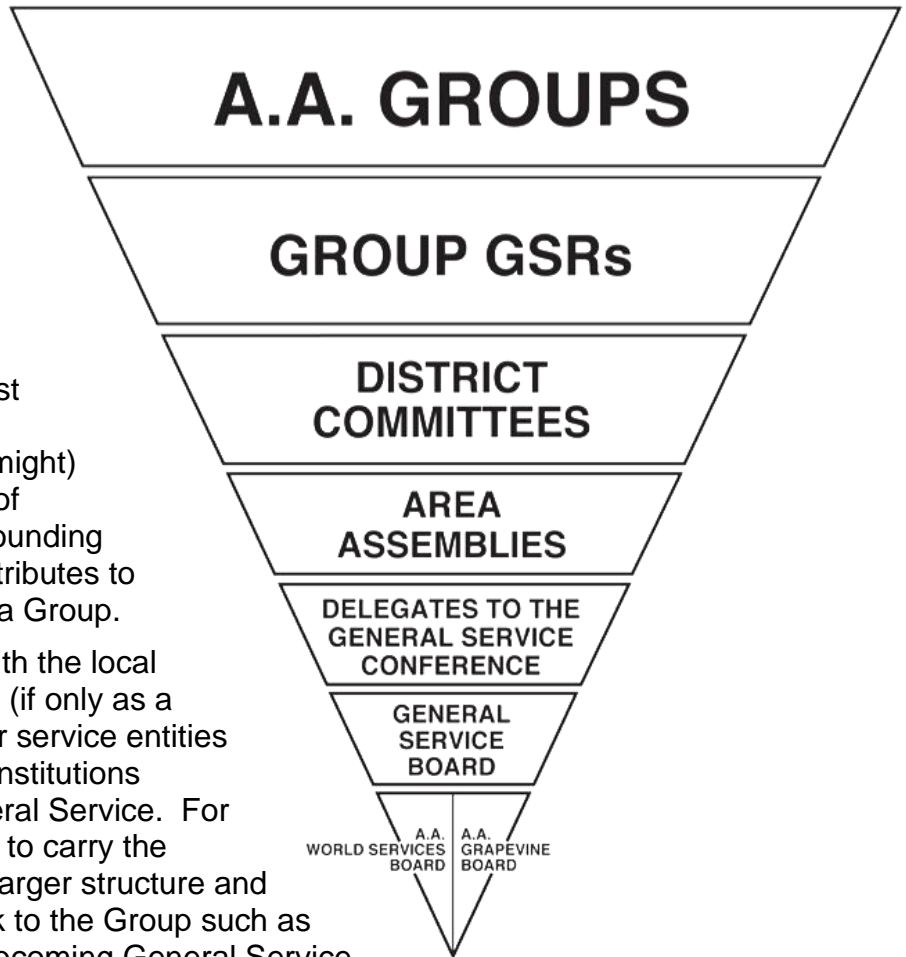
## SUMMARY OF THE STRUCTURE

Therefore, the structure, from the TOP DOWN is:

### OTHER ENTITIES SERVING A.A.

This is fine as far as it goes but no Group can really exist in total isolation in their communities (try though it might) and usually has some sort of contact with the larger surrounding community of A.A. that contributes to the overall maintenance of a Group.

This cooperation may be with the local Intergroup or Central Office (if only as a source of literature) or other service entities such as the Hospitals and Institutions Committee as well as General Service. For the latter, a GSR is needed to carry the Group's conscience to the larger structure and likewise to take issues back to the Group such as those pending before the upcoming General Service Conference.



## THE DISTRICT MEETINGS

As has been mentioned, a District is usually composed of six to twenty A.A. Groups which conducts a District meeting (of all GSRs in the District) that is usually held once a month. A typical meeting includes:

- reports to the GSRs from the District Committee Member,
- reports from the Groups via the GSR,
- discussion of the business of the previous or upcoming Assembly,
- discussions of special events such as a "Workshop" that the District may be organizing for the general fellowship,
- perhaps a presentation of some aspect of Service.
- format for the conduct of business is determined autonomously by each District.

## THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Each district elects a "District Committee Member" (or DCM) who both conducts the District meetings and (at least in CNIA) represents the conscience of the District as a voting member of the Area Committee (see below). The primary purpose of the DCM is to stimulate as many Groups as possible to be an active part of A.A. as a whole through representation and participation.

## AREA BUSINESS, AN OVERVIEW

In CNIA, while all A.A. members are encouraged to attend and become familiar with the issues discussed at the "Area Assemblies," only the GSRs, DCMs, and Area Officers are voting members. As has been mentioned, the main activities at the Assemblies center on the Delegate, the Conference and workshops.

Currently, CNIA holds four Assemblies a year.

The Area Officers and the DCMs meet - in off-months, when there is no Assembly - as an Area Committee. Only the Officers and DCMs are voting members here. The Committee:

- discusses problems arising in a District that might affect the Area,
- contributes to the planning of Area business discussing and voting on which items should be brought before the Assembly for action at the Area level,
- and to take care of the routine interim affairs of the Area.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Fall (October or [usually] November) Assembly in each odd numbered year, an Election Assembly is held to choose the Trusted Servants for the Area who serve a two year term starting the following January.

The following Officers are elected at this time, with their duties briefly described.

- Chairperson, whose responsibility is to schedule the business agenda for the Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings and to conduct these meetings.
- Alternate Chairperson who works with the Chair and takes over the duties of the Chair when they are unable to serve, prepares the non-business portion of the Assemblies, and coordinates activities with the host district.
- Recording Secretary whose job it is to record the minutes of both the Assemblies and Area Committee meetings and to see that they are distributed to all interested parties by being printed in our newsletter, Area Accents.
- Area Registrar who keeps track of all listed Groups and their respective contacts in the Area, keeps the list updated and provides current mailing lists to the newsletter editor.
- Treasurer, who records and reports all Group contributions and other sources of revenue as well as all disbursements of funds and participates heavily in the preparation of the annual budget for the Area.
- Delegate and Alternate Delegate who are mainly concerned with maintaining the two-way communication between the Area and GSO as well as ancillary duties such as participating in workshops or working with P.I./C.P.C. Committees.

There are also other standing committee chairs, the candidates for which are proposed by the Area Officers or DCMs - final appointment is made by the Area Chair, usually in consultation with the Area Officers. These are the Area Accents Publisher, Archivist, Bridging the Gap, Grapevine, Literature, Verbal Translation and Written Translation.

Other positions such as the E-Services Committee, Finance Committee, and miscellaneous ad-hoc committees are also appointed by the Area Chair.

Appointed Chairs do not have voting rights unless they already hold a voting position such as DCM or GSR (depending upon specific actions of the Area Assembly, these positions only receive minimal financial support for expenses incurred).

## THE GSRs' VOICE AND VOTE AT AREA MEETINGS

At the Assemblies the GSRs are both voting members and collectively form a majority of voting members and as such should make every effort to attend the Assemblies. All CNIA matters that either have an effect on the Area's finances or a direct impact on all the Groups, whether raised on the floor of an Assembly or coming out of the Area Committee process, are presented and ratified, rejected or revised by the Assembly.

We become informed about what is going on by attending these meetings and discussing issues with others who are in a good position to have experience and information to share on most issues.

In this way the Assemblies meet their purpose in strengthening A.A. as a whole in carrying our message in the best way possible for our Area. Again, participation by the GSR is the key link in the vital chain in the necessary two way communication between the members of their Group and the larger structure of A.A.

At the Area Committee Meetings, only the DCMs and Area Officers have a vote. GSRs are welcome to attend and strongly encouraged to do so.

## THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The culmination of much of this activity occurs in April of each year when the Delegate we elect to represent our Area attends the week long General Service Conference in New York.

The voting members of the Conference are comprised of:

- the 93 Area Delegates (who form a voting majority),
- the 21 Trustees of the General Service Board,
- the staff of the General Service Office and Grapevine,
- the Directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. and
- The Directors of the A.A. Grapevine Inc.

The policy of A.A. is decided at this meeting. The Delegates take to the Conference the consensus of the Groups in their Area as expressed (at the Assemblies) by the GSR's responses to the policies and issues to be discussed and acted upon.

This should clarify some of the names, nature and relationships among the structural entities of General Service in CNIA.

## DUTIES OF THE GSR

Now, let's focus on the duties of a GSR in a bit more detail. The GSR has the job of:

- linking their Group with A.A. as a whole,
- acting as the voice of their Group's conscience
- reporting it to the DCM and the Delegate, who pass this on to the Conference and the rest of A.A.
- bringing the Area and District suggestions and the Conference actions back to their Group.

In this sense, the Conference can feel it is acting for A.A. as a whole only to the extent that the GSR keeps the Group informed and can gather and communicate the Group conscience.

In general, there are three areas in which the GSRs have their major responsibilities, each of which involves a two-way relationship with the Group, the District and the General Service Area.

## YOUR HOME GROUP

The relationship of the GSR with their Group is probably the most important and hopefully the most fluid and open one. The best way to start to become effective is to attend the meetings of your "Home Group" on a regular basis which gets you acquainted with the members of the Group and their ideas and also gives you some credibility when you make suggestions or reports.

People in General Service - particularly the GSRs - are generally known as the Custodian of Our Traditions. If your Group has a Steering Committee, the GSR should be an active part of it, giving regular reports to your Group on service activities and brief reports on important issues discussed at the District or Area meetings.

Just as a personal inventory helps us to maintain a healthy sobriety by revealing our strengths and weaknesses, so an annual "Group Inventory" can flag areas that may need some focused Group attention. A good starting format for this may be found in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group."

The General Service Office has a publication, Box 4-5-9, which is produced quarterly and contains many articles of general interest to the entire fellowship. Since the GSR is the listed mail contact for the Group at GSO, they automatically receive a copy which should be read and then shared with your Group.

For the nominal cost of \$6.00 per year, a Group may receive ten copies of each issue. Often just a simple exposure to the availability of this "newfound hidden source" is enough to get a Group interested in subscribing and can be a valuable resource for discussion and tied into the GSR's report.

Only by attending our Group meetings regularly can we stay informed of our Group affairs. Other areas in which the GSR can be of service to the Group include our Group's finances. It is suggested that a Group retain a "prudent reserve" of money to cover potential extraordinary cost that may be incurred. This reserve is retained after the Group's expenses have been paid (which may include supporting the GSR in his/her expenses directly related to the position).

## DISTRICT MEETINGS

There are really very few completely new and original problems that develop in Groups so our continuity of experience is extremely valuable. The GSRs can share with their fellow GSRs at the District meetings how they dealt with such matters and with what success, so their experience may be helpful to another Group.

At the District meetings, agenda items that require action at the next Area Assembly can be discussed. This is a middle ground where such discussion makes us better informed and able to take back to our Group any business where a Group conscience is needed. We can then take this back to the Assembly to make our voices heard.

## AREA MEETINGS

By attending Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings we become familiar with things happening in the larger world of A.A. in our Area through the reports given by our Area Officers and the various Districts. It is quite likely that we will hear some ideas that can be used to better our own District or Group.

It is a good idea to always take a note pad or notebook to these meetings (Group, District and Area) and use it. Our memories become more selective but less vivid than our imaginations so we need to work from a more reliable source. Also, the discipline involved in taking notes make us pay more attention to what is going on. This is a skill that takes some practice to develop.

Serving on different committees at all levels of A.A. will teach you a great deal more about the workings of A.A. All phases of A.A. are based on experience which is our best teacher.

## INVOLVEMENT IN GENERAL SERVICE

Regarding the relationship of the GSR to General Service. The Service Manual states:

"... general services grew to fill a need beyond the reach of the individual, Group, and Intergroup. Today, the term general services is applied to all kinds of activities within the Conference structure, carried on by Area Committees, Delegates, Trustees, and GSO staff. Usually the services affect the Fellowship as a whole. Almost always, they are part of A.A.'s distinctive unity, which allows the movement to function so well"

"Originally, the services were performed by A.A.'s General Service Office. Today, it means the work of anyone in the general service structure--GSR, committee member, Delegate, etc.".

Some suggestions and comments about taking part in our personal and group sobriety:

You will find it advantageous to attend all training sessions, workshops, seminars, etc., to get new ideas or knowledge or clarification of a principle. These include (whenever possible):

- other District and Area Workshops
- local "Unity Days" type events
- Regional Service Assemblies
- Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) (annual)
- Regional Forums (biennial)

Also, since rotation is an essential part of service it is important to have an alternate GSR to learn something about the job before they assume the responsibility that goes with it. Having someone in the wings who is prepared will give you the freedom to go into and experience other levels of service without feeling that your job is unfinished because there is no one to take your place. Again, participation is the key that enables you to:

- become a part of, instead of apart from,
- to learn more and feel better about ourselves,
- to take on a job and do it to the best of our ability,
- to become responsible and reliable which is a large part of what recovery is about.

## THE ELECTION ASSEMBLY

In November of each odd numbered year we hold an election Assembly to choose our Trusted Servants in CNIA, who serve a two year term starting the following January. This is possibly one of the most important things that you will participate in as a GSR and one of the reasons to take your own two year commitment very seriously.

If you have been actively participating as outlined above during your term you will develop some perspective to enable you to make decisions about who, of those standing for a given office, would best serve the Area in that capacity, who has demonstrated that they do what they say they will do on a consistent basis and by doing their best have set examples for you.

Our Area uses the basic format of the "Third Legacy Procedure" (See Service Manual) for the election process. However, we do have some modifications that have been adopted by our Area. These procedures, the duties for each office to be filled and who may stand for office are reviewed and discussed for some time before the actual election so there is ample time to become informed and share in the excitement of an election rather than being perplexed and surprised at the election Assembly - especially if it "goes to the hat" to be decided.

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now, if you start doing all the things indicated above you'll be active and find yourself attending many meetings. Some of these may seem boring to you. This is not unusual. The main reason for this is that you are a "Newcomer" in a whole different sense. (Remember how strange and confusing some of those first A.A. meetings that you attended seemed?) Keep this in mind and it may make it easier.

You may not know any of the people there or not understand what is being discussed, possibly just as it was at your first meeting. But similarly, everyone there also was once a newcomer and knows what it feels like. Talk to people. Ask questions. Find out how to get information.

You'll find that people involved in service are a friendly bunch and love to take time to share and explain this part of recovery with new people. Service work takes every bit as much energy as learning and working the Steps and is probably more difficult to explain and share with the general member. Only when we have all told enough people not currently in service what it is really all about (participating in an informed Group conscience, the only recognized authority in A.A.) will this dimension be a normal part of recovery for all of us.

It will seem frustrating at times because you may think that nobody in the Group is listening or cares about what you have to say. Then, sometime you will find yourself amazed by being asked a question relating to something you thought was dead and buried months ago. Or your Group asks you to deal with a question in terms of how it relates to the A.A. Traditions. Those times are part of what makes it all rewarding in the end.

So keep coming back and ask questions until you feel you have or know how to get an answer.

## REPORTS TO THOSE YOU SERVE

When giving reports, at your Group or District it's probably best to be brief.

Things you might present to the District include:

- who the Group secretary is,
- who the alternate GSR is,
- what the average attendance is at the various Group meetings,
- how your Group divides its funds for contributions,
- any problems the Group may be facing (e.g. having to move, court referrals, dual problem members, insurance or bank problems),
- announce any upcoming events and highlight the business portion of the meeting.
- In return:
- try to report back on things that you think the Group can relate to or is interested or involved in,
- if there is an issue coming up that will require your vote, try to explain it as simply, fully and fairly as possible so that they can arrive at an informed Group conscience,
- when reporting to your Group, again keep it brief,
- with a bit of practice, you can probably work in a piece of information that will provoke a question and get the discussion started.

You may not personally agree with your Group's conscience but if you have done your job correctly and discussed it enough, you will have no problem in abiding by it and can rightly feel good about that.

Probably the most important thing that we can do as a GSR is become an informed one. This serves both us personally and A.A. as a whole. The more you know, the more you can share from personal experience and the more credible your opinion will become.

## SOME VITAL AIDS

Some of the reading material seems tough at first but study it, discuss it, see how it relates to other parts of the program and it will surprise you someday when it comes alive and becomes a part of you and your message. All the literature is important but that most directly related to service includes:

- The A.A. Service Manual & Twelve Concepts for World Service, (booklet)
- The A.A. Group (pamphlet),
- A.A. Comes of Age (book),
- A.A. Tradition - How It Developed (pamphlet),
- Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix (pamphlet),
- Circles of Love and Service (pamphlet),
- Inside A.A. (pamphlet),
- The GSR May Be the Most Important Job in A.A. (pamphlet)

Using these you will get both a good overview of the service picture and enough detail to deal in specifics.

Bill W. tells us what makes us a good leader in the Service Manual:

"Our leaders do not drive by mandate - they lead by example...Good service leaders ... are

at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety.

Leadership starts with informed Group members and GSRs who become DCMs, Area Officers, Delegates and Trustees.

In order to fulfill the responsibility that our Group has given us we must become as knowledgeable as possible. If we are willing to learn and keep an open mind, we soon find that we are the ones who benefit.

We find that no one need have difficulty with the three legacies. WILLINGNESS, HONESTY AND OPEN MINDEDNESS are the essentials of RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE. These are indispensable.

## GLOSSARY OF COMMON AA 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, usually maintained by a committee. Committee functions might include collection, indexing, storing and exhibiting original and reproduced national, international and local A.A. material such as newspaper and magazine articles, tape recordings of important A.A. functions, oral histories of older members, Group and District histories, etc..

**Area:** A geographical division within a State or Province. Normally there is one Area for each state or province except where there may be a highly populated State or Province where there may be more than one Area. California is divided into six Areas.

**Area Committee:** A committee within an Area that is made up of one or more District Committee Members (DCMs) from each District within the Area. The Area Committee is a vital A.A. service link in that it functions as a research, study and advisory group to the Area Assembly.

**Area Assembly:** A periodic meeting of the (Group) General Service Representatives (GSRs), the District Committee Members (DCMs) and Area Officers. From among the members of the Assembly, they elect their Area Officers and the Area Delegate to the General Service Conference in New York. The Assembly is a basic unit of the General Service structure and conducts or helps coordinate most of the A.A. business for the Area.

**Box 4-5-9:** A quarterly publication of the General Service Office, the title of which is also the New York mailing address of GSO (Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163). The masthead of this informative mini-magazine often 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 of GSO about A.A.; committee reports from Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment Centers, Institutions, Finance, etc.; vignettes and anecdotes from A.A. people, history and events; as well as much other information of interest to the dedicated member. Many fruitful ideas for GSRs' reports to the Group can be derived from the pages of Box 4-5-9.

**Conference:** The meeting held each April in New York of the elected Area Delegates, the Board of Trustees and the GSO Staff. This meeting keeps the individual A.A. member and GSO 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 Delegate' Committees (such as PI, CPC, Treatment Facilities, Finance); the Delegate from, and back to, the Area; the GSR from and back to the Area; the individual A.A. member through the GSR. In the Conference, each Area has one representative Delegate who confers with ninety-two other Delegates, twenty-one Trustees (14 alcoholic and 7 non-alcoholic), and the directors and staff of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

**Delegate:** An A.A. member of the Area Assembly who is elected by the GSRs, DCMs, and Officers of an Area to represent them at the Conference. It is through the Delegate that the A.A. Group passes along their informed Group Conscience to the Conference and receives back the results of the Conference. Each Area is designated either as an "even" Panel or an "odd" Panel. The Delegates from an "even" Panel take office in January of an even numbered year, while those from an "odd" Panel start in an odd numbered year. This way, A.A. is assured of continuity at the Conference, while providing for the necessary rotation. Of the six Areas in California, ours (CNIA), the Mid Southern, and the San Diego/Imperial Areas elect their Delegate to start their term in even numbered years. The Central, Southern and Northern Coastal Areas are "odd" Panels.

**District:** A geographic sub-division within a General Service Area created in order to come closer to the individual A.A. Group. It is here that each Group in the District sends its elected General Service Representative (GSR) to carry their Group Conscience forward on the chain to the Conference and to receive back important information from A.A. as a whole.

**District Committee Members (DCM):** A Group General Service Representative who has been elected by his fellow GSRs within a District to represent them on the Area Committee. The DCM is also responsible for coordinating and assisting the efforts of the other GSRs in his District.

**General Service Representative (GSR):** An A.A. member who is elected by the members of a Group to represent that Group's opinion in discussions at the District and Area levels. He/she 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. They are further responsible for seeing that the best possible A.A. representatives are chosen to serve the whole fellowship by voting for the DCMs, Area Officers and the Delegate to the Conference.

**Region:** A grouping of several Areas 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 handed down to us from the founders of A.A. Our Third Legacy is SERVICE, the sum total of all A.A. services, from the twelfth step call to A.A.'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, dissatisfied minorities. See "What Is the Conference?" in the Service Manual.

**Trustee:** The usual term for a member of A.A.'s General Service Board of Trustees. Currently, the Board is made up of twenty-one Trustees, including the Regional Trustees. Seven are "Class A" Trustees (non-alcoholic) and fourteen are "Class B" (alcoholic).

**Twelve Concepts:** As the Twelve Steps are to personal RECOVERY and 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 AA Service Manual introduced by the following statement.)

"The Concepts carefully delineate those important traditions, customs, relationships and legal arrangements that weld the General Service Board into a working harmony with the primary committees and with its corporate arms of active service - A.A. World Services, Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. This is the substance of the structural framework that governs the internal working situation of A.A.'s World Headquarters."

## OFTEN USED ACRONYMS IN AA

**AAWS** Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. -- the corporation which oversees the General Service Office and publishes A.A.'s books and pamphlets.

**ACM** Area Committee Meeting

**CCA** The Central California Area of AA General Service

**CNCA** The California Northern Coastal Area of AA General Service.

**CNIA** The California Northern Interior Area of AA General Service (our Area).

**CPC** Cooperation with the Professional Community (often combined with PI).

**DCM** The District Committee Member, the link between the GSRs and the Area Comm.

**GSB** The General Service Board of A.A.

**GSC** General Service Conference

**GSO** The General Service Office in New York.

**GSR** The General Service Representative for an A.A. group.

**GvR** The AA Grapevine Representative for a group or district.

**H&I** The Hospital and Institutions Committee of the NCCAA.

**LCM** A Local Committee Member, a district representative for a portion of the groups in a **district**. (Does not serve on the Area Committee.)

**LVR** La Viña Representative

**MSCA** The Mid Southern California Area of AA General Service.

**NCCAA** Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (also NCC).

**PI** Public Information (often combined with CPC).

**PRAASA** The Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (an annual meeting of the 15 Areas located within the 9 Western States of the Pacific Region).

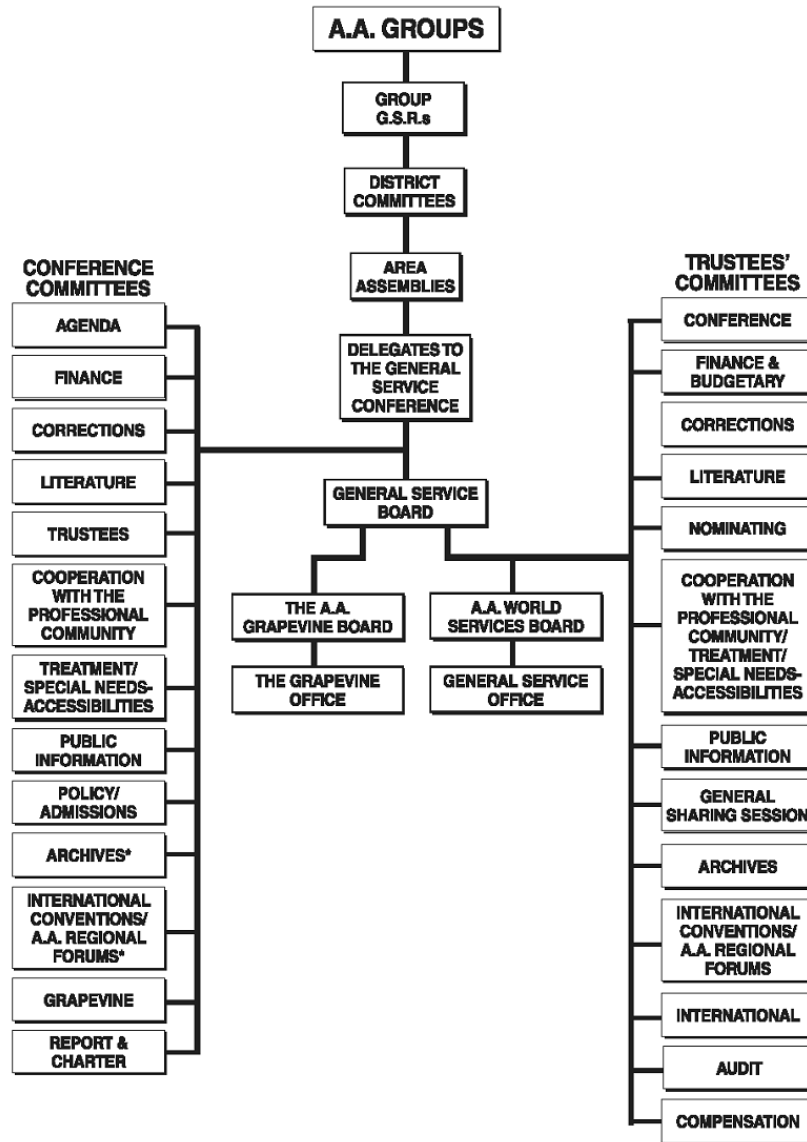
**SCAA** The Southern California Area Assembly of AA General Service.

**SDIA** The San Diego Imperial Area of AA General Service.

**TF/CF** Treatment Facilities and Correctional Facilities respectively.

Service Material from the General Service Office

## THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE (U.S. AND CANADA)



\*Secondary committee.

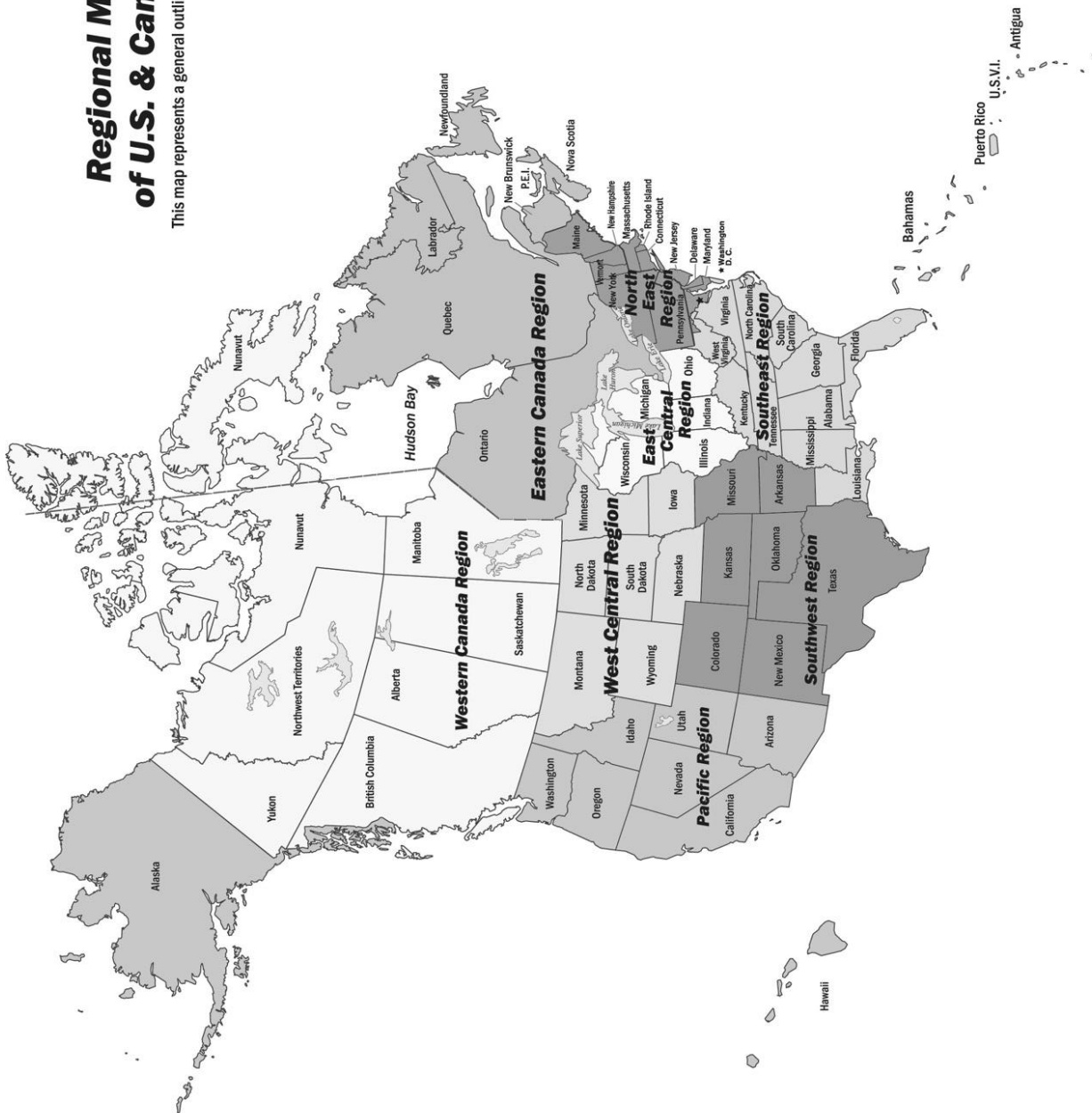
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# UNITED STATES AND CANADA REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

## Regional Map of U.S. & Canada

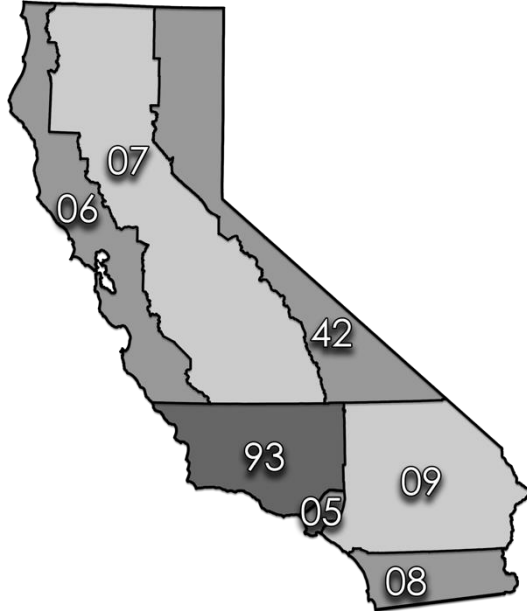
This map represents a general outline of Regions.



**This map represents a general outline of Areas**



## CALIFORNIA AREA GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES



- California Northern Coastal CNCA (06)
- California Northern Interior CNIA (07)
- California Southern SCA (05)
- California Mid-Southern MSCA (09)
- San Diego/Imperial SDIA (08)
- Central California CCA (93)
- Nevada/Eastern California (42)

## DISTRICT GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDRIES

Please note: The geographic boundary between Districts 27 and 29 is Mission Avenue, between the communities of Arden Arcade and Carmichael

Spanish Linguistic Districts  
Distritos lingüísticos hispanohablantes

