

June 13, 2020

## Information AA Day

Good morning everyone. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group in District \_\_, and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honour to serve as your \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you to the Info AA day for inviting me here. I'm grateful to have been invited to share on our General Service Structure. So let's get started.

**Next**

- In A.A.'s Legacy of Service Bill W. writes: "carrying the message - is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives". A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. **Next**
- A.A. has been called an upside-down organization because by looking at our service structure the A.A. group or meeting is on top and "headquarters", or the General Service board, and the corporate boards are on the bottom. **Next**
- Here we see the upside down triangle with the groups or meetings on top. Several Groups form a District. Several Districts and the Groups they serve form an Area. The Area elects a Delegate to represent them at the annual General Service Conference. The General Service Conference makes recommendations to the General Service Board. There are also 2 corporate entities, AA World Services, and Grapevine. **Next**
- The Twelve Traditions tell us we should never be organized, yet recognize the need for some kind of organization to carry the message in ways that Groups can't on their own. **Next**
- The General Service structure is how this is carried out through our collective Group conscience. This is done with the publication of literature, public information, helping new groups get started,

our international magazine Grapevine and la Vina, and carrying the message in other languages. **Next**

- **Communication begins through an informed group conscience which the General Service Representative carries to the District and Area, and the General Service Conference through the Delegate. **Next****
- Collective Group conscience starts at the Group business meeting. **Next** The General Service Representative represents their Group at District meetings, **Next** and Area Assemblies. **Next**
- The pamphlet the AA Group is a great source of information about the function of a Group. **Next**
- The General Service Representative is elected by the Group, has a vote at District and Area elections, and is a contact for the District, Area, and the General Service Office. **Next**
- The GSR pamphlet contains much information for General Service Representatives, or future GSR's. **Next**
- Several Groups form a District. The District can perform tasks that groups cannot do on their own. Some Districts organize Round Ups, Conferences, and information days like this one today.
- The General Service Representatives select a District Committee who becomes part of the Area Committee and the Assembly. **Next**
- Back to the upside down triangle. Several groups form a District. The GSR's select a District Committee Member **NEXT** who is part of the Area Committee and represents the District at Area Assemblies. **Next**
- The DCM is an Essential link between the groups through the GSR and the Area and the General Service Conference through the delegate **Next**
- The DCM pamphlet has more information about the District Committee Member. **Next**

- The Conference is divided into 93 Areas made up of States or Provinces, part of a State or Province, or more than one State or Province.
- The Groups and Districts in this zone are in Area 83 Eastern Ontario International. We say “International” because one of our Districts is located in upstate New York. **Next**
- The Area Committee is the steering Committee of the Assembly consisting of Area Officers, Subcommittee chairs, District Committee Members, and the Immediate Past Delegate. **Next**
- The Area Assembly consists of GSRs and the Area Committee.
- The Delegate is elected to represent the Area at the annual General Service Conference.
- The Area coordinates service activities throughout the area through cooperation with the Districts, and assists the General Service Office when requested
- The Area holds an important middle position in the Conference structure through the elected Delegate; on one hand it participates in AA as whole worldwide, while on the other, through the DCMs and GSRs, it is close to the local scene. **Next**
- A collection of Areas forms a region.
- There are 2 Regions in Canada, and 6 in the US.
- Each Region elects a Trustee for a total of 8 Regional Trustee. **Next**
- Here’s a map showing the 8 regions.
- Area 83 is part of the Eastern Canadian Region
- Every 2 years the General Service Office hosts an Eastern Canadian regional Forum
- Forums are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff to stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. **Next**

- At the annual General Service Conference matters of importance to the fellowship are first considered and discussed by one of the standing Conference Committees, then brought to the full Conference in the form of Committee recommendations. All Conference members then have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the recommendations before they are voted on. Committee recommendations that are approved become Conference advisory actions.
- If the committee recommends an item to the Conference it is discussed by the Conference members and voted on. If passed the recommendation becomes a Conference advisory action.

Next

- The standing committees do most of the ground work and make recommendations to the conference.
- The service manual recognizes the importance of the committees

Next

- 93 Delegates make up 69% of the General Service Conference. Trustees, Directors, GSO Staff, and Grapevine Staff make up 31%.
- The Delegates carry the collective conscience of the groups in their Area and have approximately 2/3 of the votes. Next
- This is a breakdown of the General Service Conference structure. Each Delegate is assigned to 1 or 2 of the Conference Committees shown on the left. The Trustees Committees make up the rest of the General Service Conference. Rob will tell us more about his Conference experience later today. Next
- The actual General Service Conference goes for about a week in April, the work of the Conference Committees continues throughout the year.
- The General Service Board receives advisory actions or advice from the Conference. Remembering that the Delegates make up 2/3 of the conference and represent the fellowship, these advisory actions are implemented by the general service board.

Next

- There are 21 members on the general service board. 14 are class B Trustees (alcoholic) and 7 class A Trustees non-alcoholic. Class b are boozers, and class a are amateurs. **Next**
- The general service board makes up our 2 corporate boards. AA World Services and the A.A. Grapevine Board. **Next**
- There are 9 directors on the AA world services board. 2 General Service Trustees, 2 Regional Trustees, 3 Non-trustee Directors, a GSO General Manager and a GSO Staff Coordinator **Next**
- AAWS is responsible for group services and publishing.
- Holds copyright on our literature.
- And Protects the integrity of our literature, with 8 meetings annually. **Next**
- There are four standing committees.
  - 1) Services (they consider the needs of all service assignments, are responsible for the publication and distribution of Advisory Actions of the GSC, and are also responsible for the AA website)
  - 2) Publishing (addresses reprints, foreign literature and publication concerns, distribution of literature, translation of material, and responsible for publishing policies) **Next**
  - 3) Nominating (searches for qualified AA members to be considered as future AAWS directors and general service trustees)
  - 4) Finance (responsible for salary and budget, audit review and retirement, oversight review of GSB finance, makes recommendations to the Trustee Finance and Budgetary committee)
- When required ad hoc committees can be formed
- Our current Eastern Canadian regional Trustee Jan L, sits on the AAWS Publishing Committee and is Chair of the Nominating Committee. She is also Chair for the Trustees Committee of International Conventions/Regional Forums and sits on the Trustees Committees for Corrections and Nominating. She is an amazingly dedicated trusted servant and all round very busy woman! **Next**
- There are also 9 directors on the grapevine board

- 2 General Service Trustees
- 2 Regional Trustees
- 1 Class A Trustee
- 3 Non-trustee Directors
- and 1 Executive Editor. **Next**
- The board meets quarterly to consider such matters as circulation, finance and publishing operations for the Grapevine and La Vina
- They meet an additional 4 times a year as a planning committee for the entire operation
- Grapevine is supported by revenues from the purchase of subscriptions and other publications – they do not solicit nor accept direct contributions. If you would like to support Grapevine and la Vina, please purchase their products. **Next**

Most of the information that has been presented comes from the A.A. Service Manual. If you have an opportunity to crack open this often intimidating piece of literature, I would strongly encourage you to read the Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill. W. I have found these 70 or so pages to be filled with amazing insights and wise guidance. It is available on aa.org.