

GLOSSARY OF GENERAL SERVICE TERMS

A.A.W.S. — Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., one of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board; oversees the operations of the General Service Office and serves as the publishing company for Conference-approved and service literature.

Additional Committee Consideration — An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.

Advisory Action — Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of the recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.

Alternate — A service worker who, at group, district, or area level, assists, supports, and participates in service responsibilities, and stands ready to step into the service position if the person occupying it is no longer able to serve.

Appointed committee member — An A.A. member who serves on a specific trustees' committee (for example, public information or correctional facilities) because of his or her knowledge and experience in the field.

Area — A geographical division within a state or province. A Conference delegate comes from an area. Normally there is one area to a state or province, except in heavily A.A.-populated places, where there may be two, three, or more areas in a state or province. Some areas include portions of more than one state or province.

Area Assembly — A meeting of G.S.R.s and committee members to discuss area affairs and, every other year, to elect a delegate and committee officers.

Area Committee — A committee made up of district committee members (elected by the G.S.R.s in each district) and area committee officers. The area committee generally serves as a "steering committee" for the area.

Conference — The General Service Conference; this can mean either the structure involving committee members, G.S.R.s and delegates in an area, or the annual meeting of Conference delegates each April in New York.

Conference-approved literature, videos, and films — Pamphlets, books, videos, and films, produced under the auspices of various Conference and trustees' committees, which the appropriate Conference committees have reviewed and recommended to the Conference for its approval, and which have been approved by the Conference.

C.P.C. — Cooperation with the professional community. C.P.C. committees at the district, area, trustee, and Conference level help carry the message to professionals who work with alcoholics.

The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service — Both titles in a single booklet. The manual opens with a history of A.A. services; explains the Conference structure and its year-round importance; includes the Conference Charter and General Service Board Bylaws. The Concepts — principles of service that have emerged from A.A.'s service accomplishments and mistakes since its beginning — are set forth by Bill W.

Delegate — The A.A. member elected every other year to represent the area at the annual Conference meeting in New York and to bring back to the area the results of that meeting.

Director — A person who serves on the corporate board of directors of either A.A.W.S. or Grapevine. Nontrustee directors are A.A. members selected for business or professional experience that relates to the activities of the corporation. The directorate of both corporate boards also includes trustees and A.A. staff.

District — A division within an area, represented by committee member(s).

D.C.M. — District committee member. An experienced G.S.R. elected by other G.S.R.s to represent the groups of their district in area committee meetings and to coordinate service activities in the district.

District meetings — Meetings of the D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s of groups in a district.

General services — Movement-wide services, performed by anyone in the general service structure (G.S.R., D.C.M., delegate, etc.).

G.S.O. — The General Service Office, which provides services to groups in the U.S. and Canada and publishes A.A. literature.

G.S.R. — General service representative. The group contact with the General Service Office; voting member of the area assembly.

Grapevine (GV) — The international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous is available online and in print. AA Grapevine, Inc. is one of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board and is responsible for Grapevine operations and finances.

GVR — Grapevine representative: the group or district contact with the Grapevine office.

La Viña — Bimonthly Spanish-language magazine published by AA Grapevine.

Panel — A panel is a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the Area's delegate will first serve. The two-year cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well.

P.I. — Public information. P.I. committees at the district, area, trustee, and Conference level help carry the message by working with the media.

Region — A grouping of several areas from which a regional trustee comes to the board of trustees. There are six regions in the U.S., two in Canada.

RLV — La Viña representative; the group or district contact with the Grapevine office.

Rotation — The spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership.

Sharing session — A group, district, area, or Conference meeting in which everyone is invited to contribute ideas and comments on A.A. matters, and during which no actions are taken.

Third Legacy — A.A.'s Third Legacy is Service, the sum total of all A.A. services, from a Twelfth Step call to coast-to-coast and worldwide service activities. The first two Legacies are Recovery and Unity.

Trustee — A member of A.A.'s General Service Board. Fourteen trustees are A.A. members (Class B); seven are nonalcoholic (Class A).

Reprinted from A.A Service Manual pp. S19-S21, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.