

GSR News

Coffee Hour Recap

January 2023

*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*



Districts-What are they, where are they, what do they do?

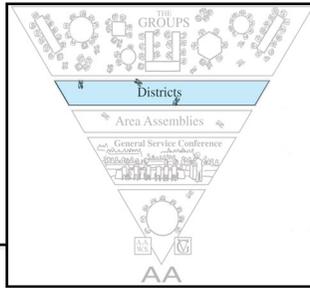
One question I hear a lot is “What is the difference between Area and

Intergroup?

A lot of information can be found in the General Service Manual. Here is an excerpt:

WORKING WITH LOCAL INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICES

Traditionally, general service committees and intergroup/central offices perform different functions. Intergroup/central offices provide local services, while general service committees maintain the link between A.A. groups and the General Service Board by means of the Conference. (Some parts of the U.S./Canada structure may not have an intergroup/central office.)

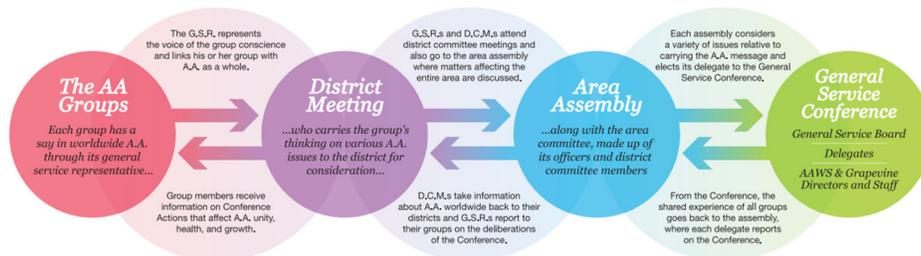


While the Area can be thought of as an geographical area, the Intergroup can be thought of as a physical location. Both require active trusted servants who may engage in service like Public Information or Treatment, but the primary function of the Area is to elect a delegate to the General Service Conference. Area activities focus on maintaining the link between the AA groups and AA

as a whole. The graphic below is from the pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” which explains in detail how this flow of information works.

We have learned how the Area is divided into districts with a representative called a District Committee member (DCM). Your DCM is a valuable resource as well as the voice of your district at the District Committee meeting.

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” —Tradition Two



Upcoming Topics

- **Area Committees** What are they and how can you or your group get involved?
- **The 7th Tradition** Where does the money come from for service and who decides how it is spent?

Special points of interest:

- Districts
- Intergroups
- Preparing our Delegate for the General Service Conference
- **Next Coffee Hour**

March 6, 7 pm

819 8956 5200

Password: service

Resources:

- Area50WNY.org
- AA.org
- *Service Manual*
- *Buffalo Intergroup*
BuffaloAAAny.org
- *Gen-Wyoming*
genesee-wyomingcountyaa.org
- *Niagara Falls Intergroup*
niagarafallsnyaameetings.com
- *NY-PENN Intergroup*

Next General Assembly:

Saturday April 1st,

10 am– 2 pm

Hosted by NY-PENN

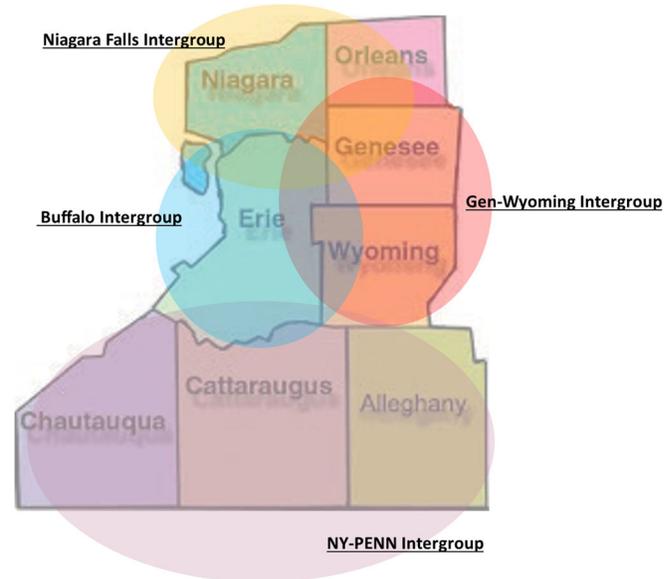
Location to be announced

So, what is an Intergroup? Is it the same as a Central Office?

The terms Intergroup and Central Office are used interchangeably. Again, an excerpt from the A.A. Service Manual in Appendix S:

“A central or intergroup office is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community—just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. An intergroup/central office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups—functions that are best handled by a centralized office—and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Area 50 has four Intergroups or Central Offices which provide office facilities, meeting lists, points of contact and literature to the local communities. They are the Buffalo Central Office, Gen-Wyoming Intergroup, Niagara Falls and NY-PEN Intergroup. These Intergroups have Committees of trusted servants made up of Central Committee Representatives who serve in a similar capacity to the GSR.



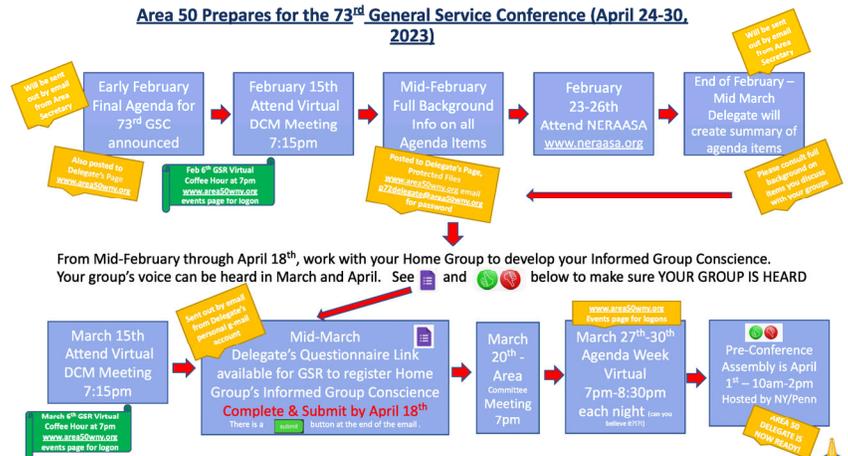
Your group may have a GSR and Central Committee Rep, one or the other or neither. As the A.A. Service manual tells us, it is in AA’s best interest if the Area and Central Committees work in cooperation with each other and some Areas have liaisons to the Central Committee and vice versa.

Preparing for the General Service Conference

Area 50 Prepares for the 73rd General Service Conference (April 24-30, 2023)

Area 50 will be sending our delegate, Denise M. to the Annual Service Conference in New York City next month. This is our chance to send our group conscience on many agenda items which affect AA as a whole.

These agenda items have been finalized and if you need a copy please email me at p72GSREducation@Atra50WNY.org.



Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “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 overintegration. 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 unasked 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.”

Your DCM may already have given you a copy and Denise and our alternate delegate Steve are busy developing a questionnaire to help you collect your group's conscience.

Please make sure to attend your District's meeting and our next Virtual Coffee Hour for guidance on informing your home group.

CONTACT ME:

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