

The background of the slide features a low-angle photograph of several tall skyscrapers with glass facades, reaching towards a clear blue sky. The buildings are partially obscured by the text boxes.

G.S.R. GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

MAY BE THE MOST
IMPORTANT JOB
IN A.A.

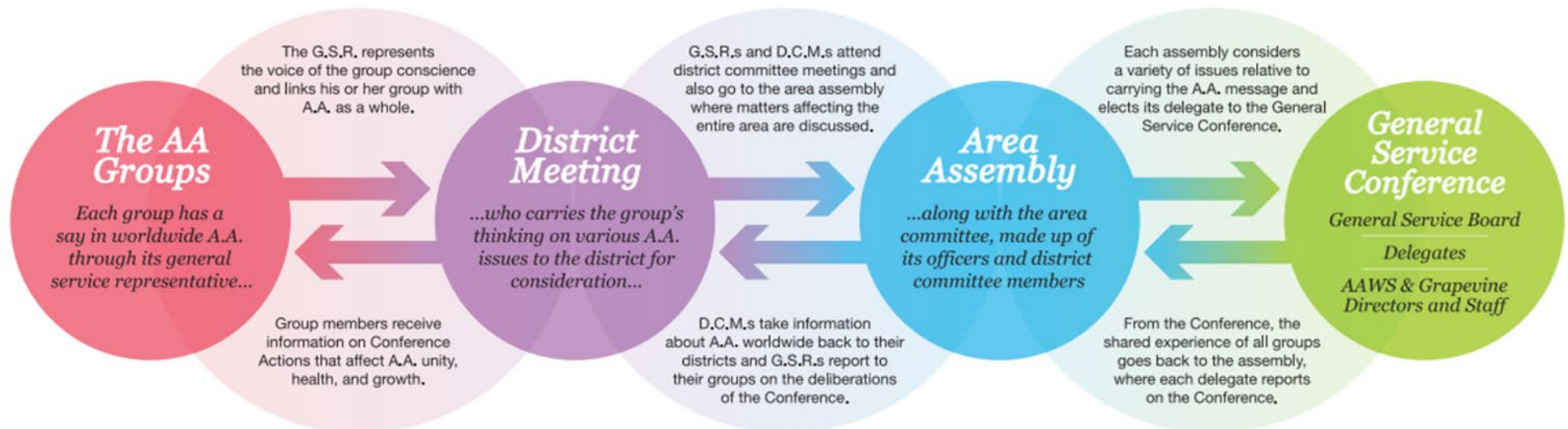
G.S.R.
Resources-

Linking your Home
Group to A.A. as a
Whole

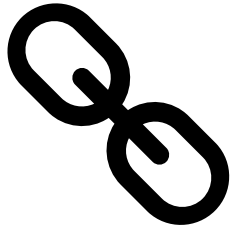
Area 50 WNY

How Does the GSR serve as the link between the Home Group and A.A. as a whole?

“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



Linking the group to A.A.



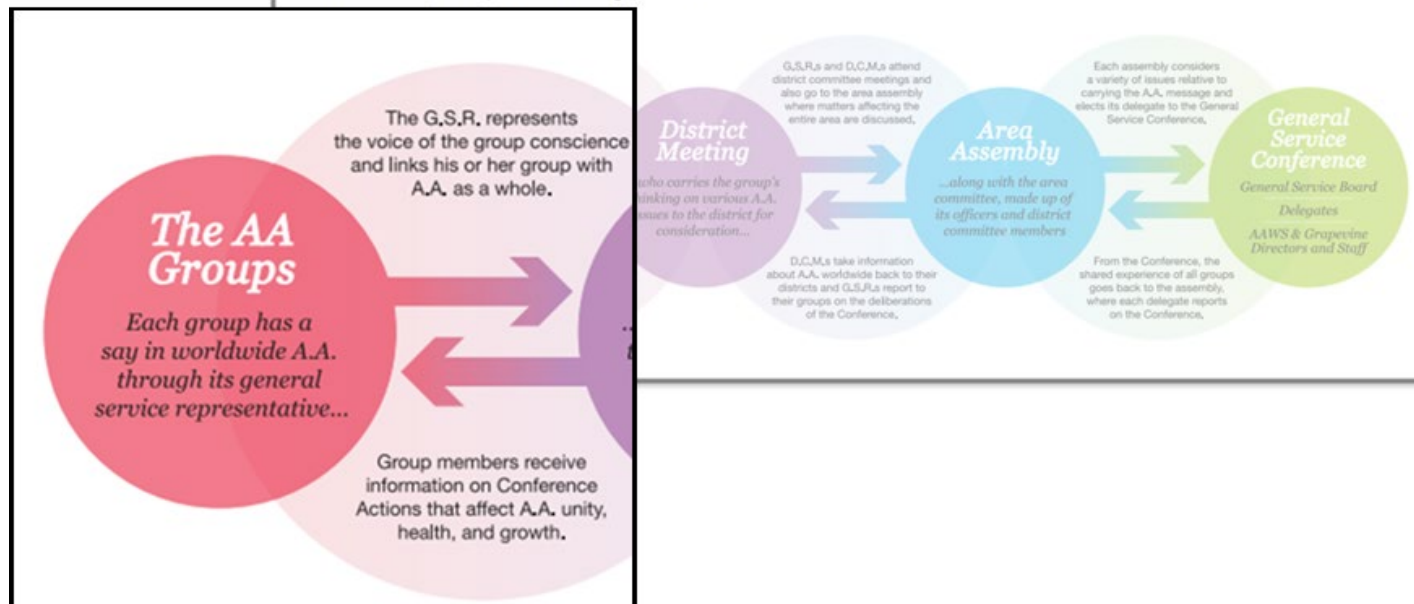
Reporting to your home group



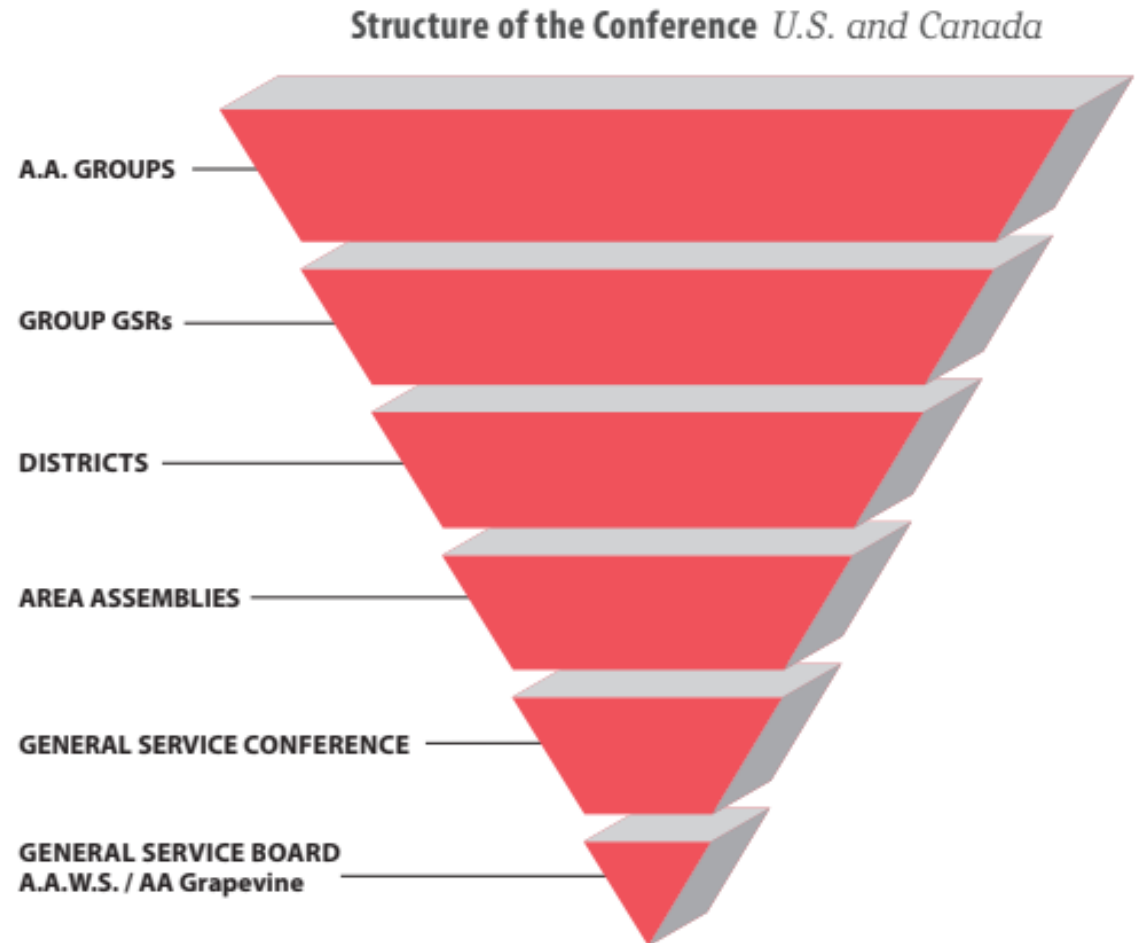
The group conscience



"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



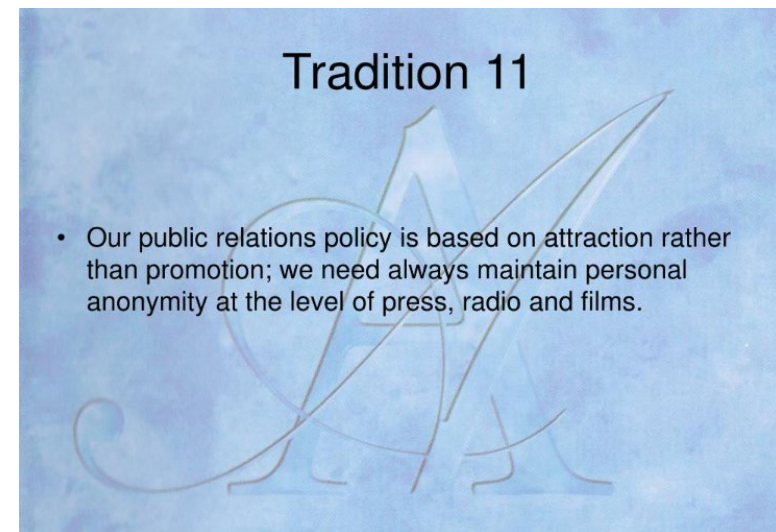
Is your
group linked?



Ways to connect? You can utilize-

AA.org Resources:

The Alternate GSR:



Reporting to your Home Group

THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
combined with
**TWELVE CONCEPTS
FOR WORLD SERVICE**
by Bill W.

G.S.R.
General Service
Representative

Your group's link
to A.A. as a whole

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

box 459
News and Notes from the General Service Office of AA®
Vol. 69, No. 4 / Winter 2023

Introducing the New 'Jacketless' Big Book:
A Solution to Better Serve the Fellowship and Carry the Message

First printed in 1934, *Alcoholics Anonymous*—known as the Big Book—has carried the A.A. message of recovery for 89 years. Translated into 72 languages, and reaching the Big Book continues to reach millions of people in approximately 180 countries, helping suffering alcoholics around the world.

With recent and ongoing supply chain disruptions that have resulted in printing and delivery delays of A.A. literature, the Publishing Department at GSO looked for ways to decrease the manufacturing time of hardcover books and review booklets. Our solution is the new 'jacketless' Big Book, which will be available to order in 2023.

The jacketless cover format, known as "paper over board" hardcover, has a printed cover treatment in which the dust jacket cover image is printed on the book itself, thus eliminating the considerable production time needed for sourcing materials and adding a separate paper jacket. A jacketless Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (Book B-2) is also in the works and promises to reduce delivery time.

The new format was the result of efforts by David R., publishing director, and Ed Nyland, nonalcoholic senior print production manager, to seek industry best practices to contain costs and bring A.A. literature to market faster.

"We started bouncing some ideas around with our print representative about their capabilities," Ed says. "The printed covers also stemmed from that—just as one of our orders for the B-1 (the hardcover Big Book's item number) was on press, and our rep made some prototype mock-ups for me. I liked what I saw." With the enthusiastic support of the A.A. board, and cross-department collaboration at GSO, including Publishing, Staff Services, Member Services, Finance, and Archives, the new format was adopted.

"We really welcome the new jacketless Big Book as an attractive and practical option that will allow us to get the book printed and into the hands of those who most need it," says Deborah K., chair of the A.A. Board. She added that the sample she brought to the annual Intergroup/Central Office/Worldwide Seminar received a positive response.

GSO General Manager Bob W. applauded the efforts to meet the current challenges with innovative solutions. "I'm grateful for this thoughtful process and the collaboration of the Publishing Department, GSO staff, and A.A. board to continue to bring this essential A.A. literature to our Fellowship in a cost-effective and timely manner."

Available in 2023: the new jacketless Big Book

As always, we encourage ordering the Big Book and all A.A. literature from local distribution sources—groups, districts, areas, and intergroups and central offices—as they play a vital role in local Twelfth Step activities. The new jacketless Big Book will be available in 2023 at the website, www.onlineliterature.aa.org.

Stay tuned for an announcement on www.aa.org.

Tips:

- ✓ Be brief
- ✓ Be informed
- ✓ Report can be oral or written

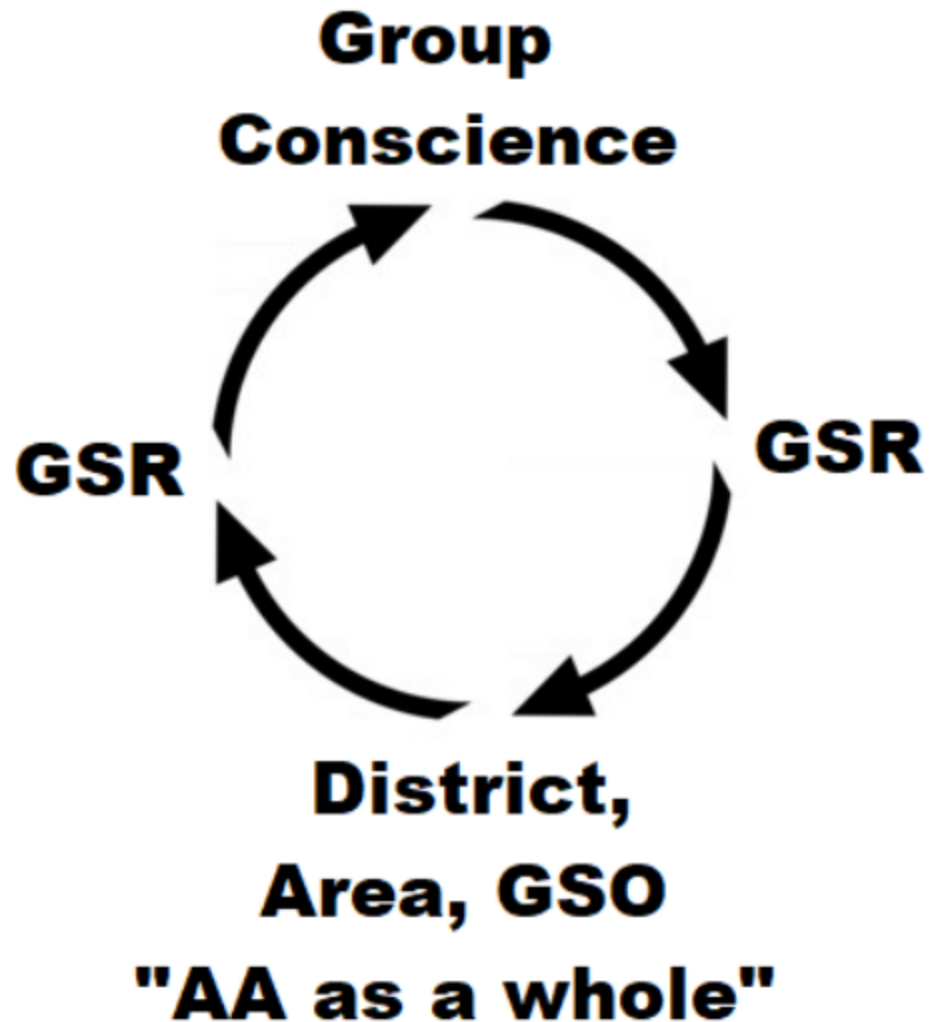
Sources of information:

- ✓ GSO Quarterly Report - Box 459
- ✓ Reports from your Delegate and District
- ✓ “What’s New” button at AA.org and Meeting Guide App
- ✓ Meeting Lists or Newsletter from Central Office

Things to include:

- ✓ Things the group can relate to or is interested in
- ✓ Updates on literature and service material
- ✓ Issues that may require a group conscience

The Group Conscience



Just as it is important for a GSR to express it's group's conscience at the District and Area level, it is equally as important to return information back to the group, thus allowing the group to become informed

Group Conscience vs. Informed Group Conscience

Group Conscience - the collective conscience of group members

Informed Group Conscience implies pertinent information has been studied, and all views have been heard before the group votes

“Bill, haven’t you often said right here in this meeting that sometimes the good is the enemy of the best?”

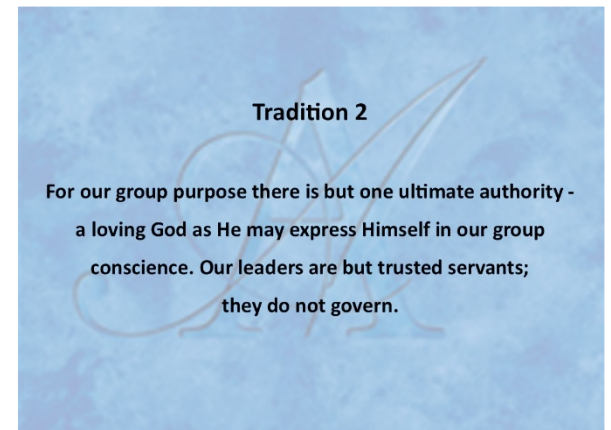
-Twelve & Twelve pg 136

Just as in our own individual recoveries, sometimes the decision we choose isn’t always the “right” one. But, if that decision was made after consulting other alcoholics and ultimately with God, even if it wasn’t “right”, that decision is ultimately the best.

Same goes for the informed group conscience.

“...proven fact that the conscience of the group, when properly informed of the facts and issues and principles involved, was often wiser than any leader, self appointed or not.”

- AA Comes of Age pg 99, on Tradition Two



Sharing your group's conscience



Anytown Group

With your District
– by attending
your district
meeting



Countywide Districts

With your Area –
by attending the
General Service
Assembly



Your Area

With A.A. as a
whole- by filling
out the Delegate's
Questionnaire



*General Service Conference
U.S./Canada*