



A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future;
to place our common welfare first;
to keep our Fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.



Area 50, Panel 74 Presents...

G.S.R. Resources



Virtual Coffee Hour





TRADITION 8 – Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

LONG FORM: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

**TRADITION
OF THE MONTH**

**Principle:
Non-Professional**





TRADITION 8 – cont.

**“FREELY YE
HAVE
RECEIVED,
FREELY GIVE”**

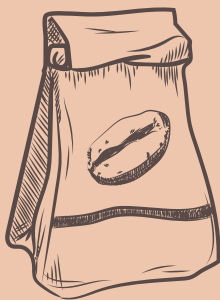
Our Twelfth Step is never paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire.

–12 and 12, pg. 171

We must always remember that we cannot do the work of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic if we don't have people in our various service centers assisting us in the logistics of US carrying out our primary purpose.

We see that our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. Primarily these folks are not doing Twelfth Step work. They are just making more and better Twelfth Step work possible.

–Take the 12, Tradition Study



AUGUST 2025



**NYSIW &
ELECTIONS**



Mindset

Working Together

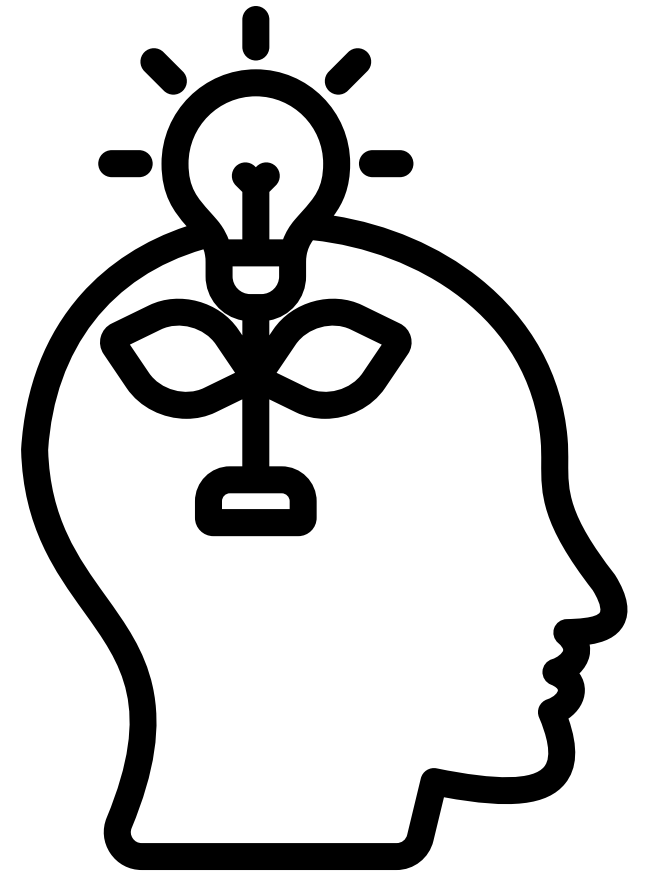
Gratitude for AA

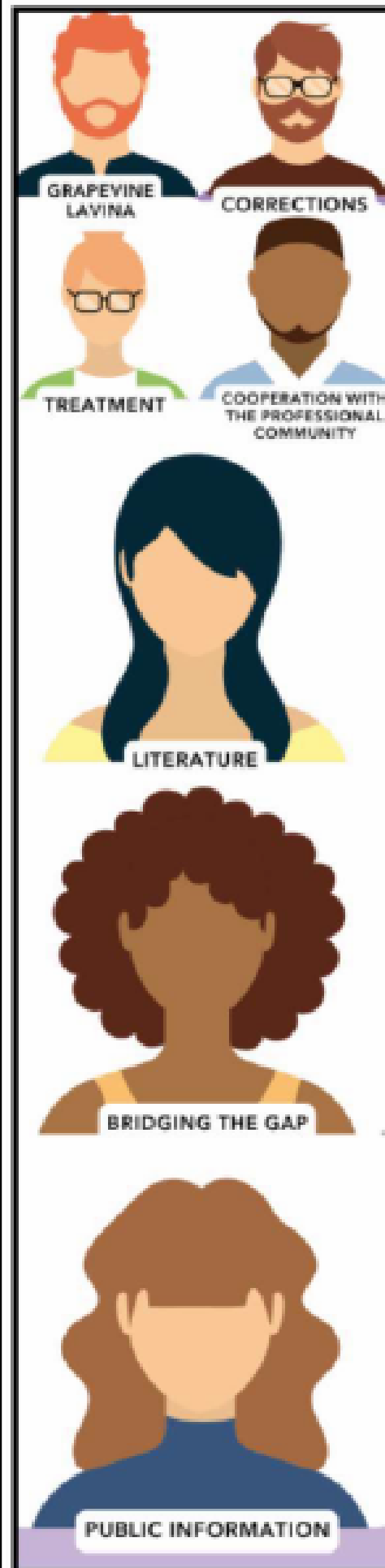
Spirit of Rotation

Opportunities

How to Elect someone

Preparation





46th Annual New York State Informational Workshop August 8-10, 2025 Mirror Lake Retreat, Milan NY

THE NEW YORK STATE
INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP
IS AN EDUCATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE
THROUGH OUR GENERAL
SERVICE COMMITTEES.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO
ALL WHO WISH TO LEARN
ABOUT CARRYING THE A.A.
MESSAGE, THROUGH
THEIR HOME GROUPS,
DISTRICTS, AND AREA
GENERAL COMMITTEES.

We meet annually with the four General Service
Areas of New York State , to share our
experiences with the most effective ways to do
our 12th step work.

If you serve on a committee, or would like to, this
event will be of great interest to you.

Questions? Please email nysiwregistration@nenyaa.org

More information at nysiw.org

For online registration, please
follow this QR link. For mail in
registration, please fill out the
form on the back of this flyer.



New York State Informational Workshop – hosted by NENY Area 48
August 8-10, 2025 – Mirror Lake Retreat – Milan, NY

Friday, August 8, 2025		Saturday, August 9, 2025		Sunday, August 10, 2025	
3:30-4:30	Afternoon AA Meeting (Pavillion)	7:00-8:00	Early Bird AA Meeting (Pavillion)	7:00-8:00	Early Bird AA Meeting (Pavillion)
5:00-5:15	Welcome (Hybrid)	8:00-9:00	Breakfast (ticket required)	8:00-9:00	Breakfast (ticket required)
5:15-6:00	Accessibility/ Inclusivity (Hybrid) Andy–Area 48–Lead Chrissy O.-Area 48 Diane – Area 48 Richard L.-Area 47	9:00-9:55	Literature Lindsay B.– Area 48 - Lead Allen V. – Area 48 Sean C – Area 47 Brian C. – Area 49	9:00-9:55	Archives Mark Q. – Area 48 – Lead Kevin M. - Area 47 Marty – Area 49
6:00-7:15	Dinner (ticket required)	10:00-10:50	Hybrid/Website/Technology Vo N.– Area 48 – Lead Ed Mc.– Area 48 Kate F. – Area 49 Nancy P.– Area 50	10:00	Delegate's Panel Bill W.-Area 48-Lead, Lorraine C., Area 47, Guy K, Area 48 Nissa A., Area 49 Steve J., Area 50
7:30-8:30	Treatment/ Bridging the Gap Scott Scott – Area 48 – Lead Rob Mc. – Area 49 Nancy S.-Area 49 Vanessa R.– Area 50	11:00-11:55	Corrections/Bridging the Gap Theresa M.– Area 48 – Lead Dana N.– Area 48 Sue W.-Area 48 Ashley O. – Area 49 Tony M.– Area 50	10:45	Closing Remarks
8:30	Bonfire	12 noon	Lunch – ticket required	11:00	End of Workshop
		1:00-1:55	Coop/Professional Community Sally K., Area 48 - Lead Howard W.– Area 48 Annabel B. – Area 49 Ryan L.-Area 50		
		2:00-2:55	Public Information Marcia N.– Area 48 – Lead Sean C. – Area 47 Kevin F. – Area 49 Steve J. – Area 50		
		3:00-3:55	Area Chair Panel - Dolores K., Area 48 - Lead Melissa B., Chair – Area 47, Raj B., Chair – Area 49, Amy H., Chair., Area 50		
		4:00-5:00	Grapevine/LaVina Michelle – Area 48 – Lead Cathy P. – Area 48, Chris C. – Area 47, Eric O. – Area 49		
		6:00	Dinner (ticket required)		
		7:30-8:30	Keynote Speaker – (Hybrid) Karina C. – GSO, Group Services Coordinator, IGCO Liaison		
8/5/25		8:30	Bonfire, S'mores, and Fellowship		

Working Together to Achieve a Common Goal

The purpose of the 2025 New York State Informational Workshop is to share information about our Area Committee work with our area counterparts across the state. Committee Chairs, Area Chairs, and Delegates from Areas 47, 48, 49, and 50 come together for a weekend of panels, presentations, meetings and fellowship.



It's exciting and informative!

www.nysiw.org

Committment



Courage to Change the Things I Can

- **The Expedition:** The quote comes from Murray's account of the first Scottish expedition to the Kumaon Himalayas, where they attempted to climb nine mountains and successfully summited five.
- **The Hesitancy:** Murray and his team initially faced numerous challenges, including a lack of resources and planning, which led to hesitation and doubt.
- **The Commitment:** They decided to move forward, booking passage to Bombay, which symbolized their commitment despite the remaining uncertainties.
- **Providence:** According to Murray, after making the commitment, they experienced unexpected support, including assistance from people they hadn't anticipated.
- **The Magic:** The quote highlights the idea that taking a bold step, even with perceived limitations, can unlock unforeseen opportunities and resources.



This may sound too simple, but is great in consequence.

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy,
the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness.

Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation),
there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which
kills countless ideas and splendid plans:

*That the moment one definitely commits oneself,
then providence moves too.*

A whole stream of events issues from the decision,
raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen
incidents, meetings and material assistance,
which no man could have dreamt
would have come his way.

william hutchinson murray

Adapted excerpt from, *The Scottish Himalaya Expedition* (1951) by the
Scottish author and mountain climber, William Hutchinson Murray (18 March
1913 – 19 March 1996).

Committment to Carrying the Message of AA

Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 5 - Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 1 - The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of the Fellowship.



Spirit of Rotation

Webster's definition of Rotation:

- The circular motion of an object around its center
- Return or succession in a series

In the context of AA:

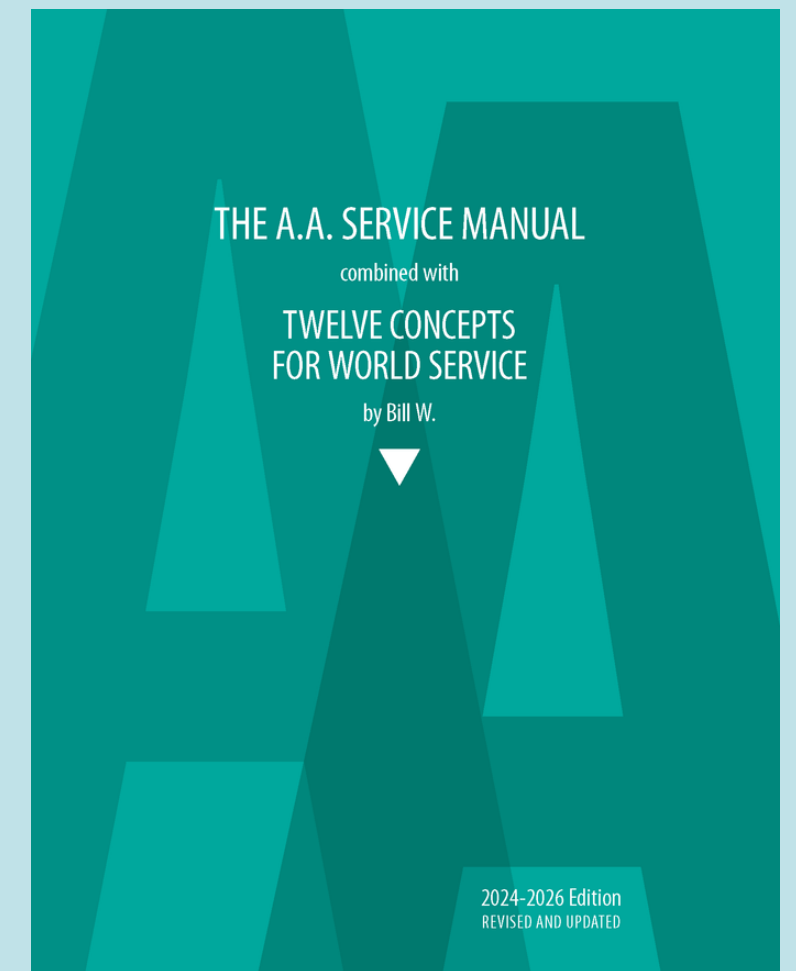
- Rotation ensures that leadership roles are regularly passed on, fostering a dynamic and constantly evolving fellowship.
- Rotation is the main method we have to prevent power, prestige and personal recognition from distorting our best intentions. –Frank R, past delegate from Maine





Spirit of Rotation

- The spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for AA through changing leadership. –pg 91, General Service Manual
- Appendix E: **The Principle of Rotation** –pg 111, General Service Manual
 - “References the AA Group (pamphlet): Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in AA, are passed around for all to share.”
- ‘Rotation’ appears 33 times in the General Service Manual





GSR's and Elections

Questions to ask yourself:

Are you qualified?

Are you willing and available?

What has AA provided for you?

What has AA asked of you?



GSR's and Elections

**Positions being voted on at the
next General Service Assembly on 9/13/25**

Delegate
Alt. Delegate
Chair
Alt. Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Accessibilities Chair
Archives Chair
CPC
Corrections
Finance
Grapevine
PIC
Treatment
GSA Education
GSR Orientation
Registrar
Webchair
Area 50 Intergroup Liaison

All GSR's are eligible to stand for these positions.

If interested in learning more, ask someone who is involved!

Be prepared to give a brief verbal summary of your experience in AA service work (sometimes called a service resume) to the body of the Assembly.

Area 50 Handbook

Third Legacy Procedure

Suggested *Third Legacy Procedure* format for General Service Area 50 Assembly Elections:

1. Election for the position of Area 50 Delegate is held first, followed in order by Alternate Delegate; Area Chairperson; Alternate Chair; Area Treasurer; Area Secretary, Area Service Committee Chairs, GSA Education Chair, GSR Orientation Chair, Registrar, Webchair and Area 50 Intergroup Liaison.
2. A past delegate serves as chair of the elections. At the outset, the Election Chair reads aloud to the Assembly body a brief description of duties and responsibilities of each position.
3. Using the current Area 50 roster, the Chairperson calls out the names of those who are eligible to stand for election to an Area 50 position. The list includes all Area Officers, Area Service Committee Chairs and their Alternates, DCMs, GSA Education Chair, GSR Orientation Chair, Registrar, Webchair, Area 50 Intergroup Liaison and their Alternates and GSRs. All past Area 50 Area Committee Members are also eligible to stand.
4. Each eligible individual who is present, states each position that he or she intends to stand for election.
5. An individual cannot stand for election to a position in which he or she has previously served a full two-year term.
6. The Delegate cannot stand for election to any Area voting positions after rotation out as Delegate.
7. Names on the roster that are not called out by the Chair of the Assembly include liaisons and contacts from other service entities (GSO, Central Office/Intergroups; etc.).
8. All past members of the Area 50 Area Committee are eligible to stand for elected positions at the Assembly (noting the exceptions in 5 & 6 above).
9. If no current or former member of the Area 50 Area Committee stands for a position, the chair may then ask if there are any other eligible individuals present who wish to stand for the position.
10. The names of those willing to stand are listed on the projection screen or blackboard.
11. Candidates are requested to give a brief verbal summary of their experience in AA service work (sometimes called a service resume) to the body.

12. Voting members of our Area 50 Assembly (refer to the previous section titled Eligibility to Vote) then write their choice of candidate on paper ballots (with varying colors for each ballot) and non-voting assistants collect the ballot.

13. The past delegates count the votes and the result is announced.

14. When seeking candidates for elected positions beyond the boundaries of Area 50 such as Northeast Regional Trustee or other Trustee or Director positions the Chair announces an opening and asks if *anyone* is willing to stand for that position. Note these positions can be announced at any Assembly or ACM and are not part of the Area 50 Third Legacy Procedure.

AA's Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure. It is considered unique to AA and, at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgement of the majority. In practice, however, it has been highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The "railroading" of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, because voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well-qualified but without popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

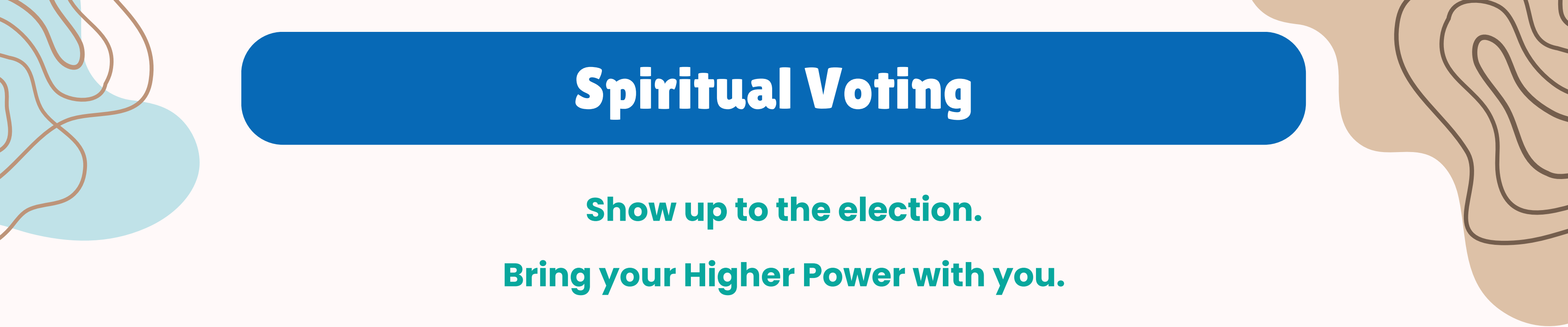
Third Legacy Procedure is as follows:

1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members of the board area cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
2. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
3. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
5. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. If this motion is defeated, the choice is made by lot - "going to the hat" - immediately. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
6. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, balloting usually involves only the top two or three candidates.
7. Lots are then drawn and the first one "out of the hat" is elected.

Tradition Four

- Group Autonomy: AA groups operate on the principle of self-governance, meaning they have the right to manage their own affairs without outside interference.
- Electing Servants: This autonomy includes the right to elect their own officers or "trusted servants" for limited periods of service. These positions can include chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and representatives to larger service bodies.
- Decision-making through Group Conscience: Decisions within an AA group, including elections, are ideally made through the process of "group conscience." This involves discussion, voting, and striving for substantial unanimity.
- One Vote Per Member: In matters of group conscience, each AA member typically has one vote.

In essence, "AA right to elect" refers to the democratic process by which individual AA groups choose their leadership and make decisions that affect their local functioning, always striving to align with the core principles of AA as a whole.



Spiritual Voting

Show up to the election.

Bring your Higher Power with you.

Ask yourself before voting...

Is this person qualified?

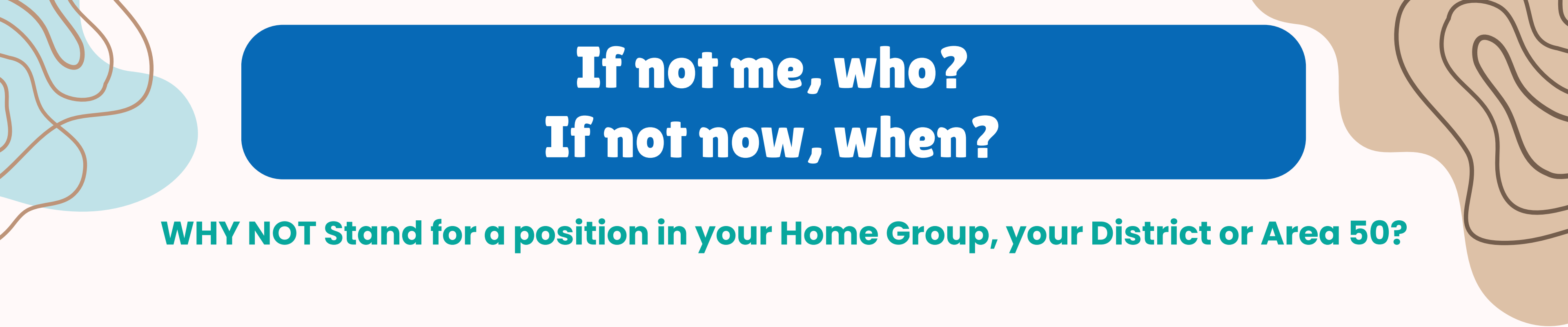
Do you know that they can satisfy the duties of the position?

Do they represent AA with tact?

Are they willing and able?

Did you vote with your home group's best interest at heart?

Did you vote based on principles or did you vote based on personalities?



If not me, who? If not now, when?

WHY NOT Stand for a position in your Home Group, your District or Area 50?

fear of commitment

****Showing up for AA is how we show gratitude for AA – being of service to keep the program strong and to make sure it's available to newcomers the way it was available to us when we needed it.**

fear of failure

****Resources galore. If you ask for help and ask questions, you will get support and answers.**

Kits & Workbooks available from aa.org plus attending District Meetings

service is not meant to be convenient, it's meant to keep you sober

QUOTES

Regardless of who wins, an election should be a time for optimism and fresh approaches. - Gary Johnson

Voting is a civic sacrament. -Rev. Theodore Hesburgh

The ballot is stronger than the bullet. -Abraham Lincoln

Good citizens who fail to vote are responsible for electing bad officials. -George Jean Nathan

Voting does what spiritual practices do: connect you with your true self, your community, and the One. -Mary Ann Brussat

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things that I can and the wisdom to know the difference. -Reinhold Niebuhr

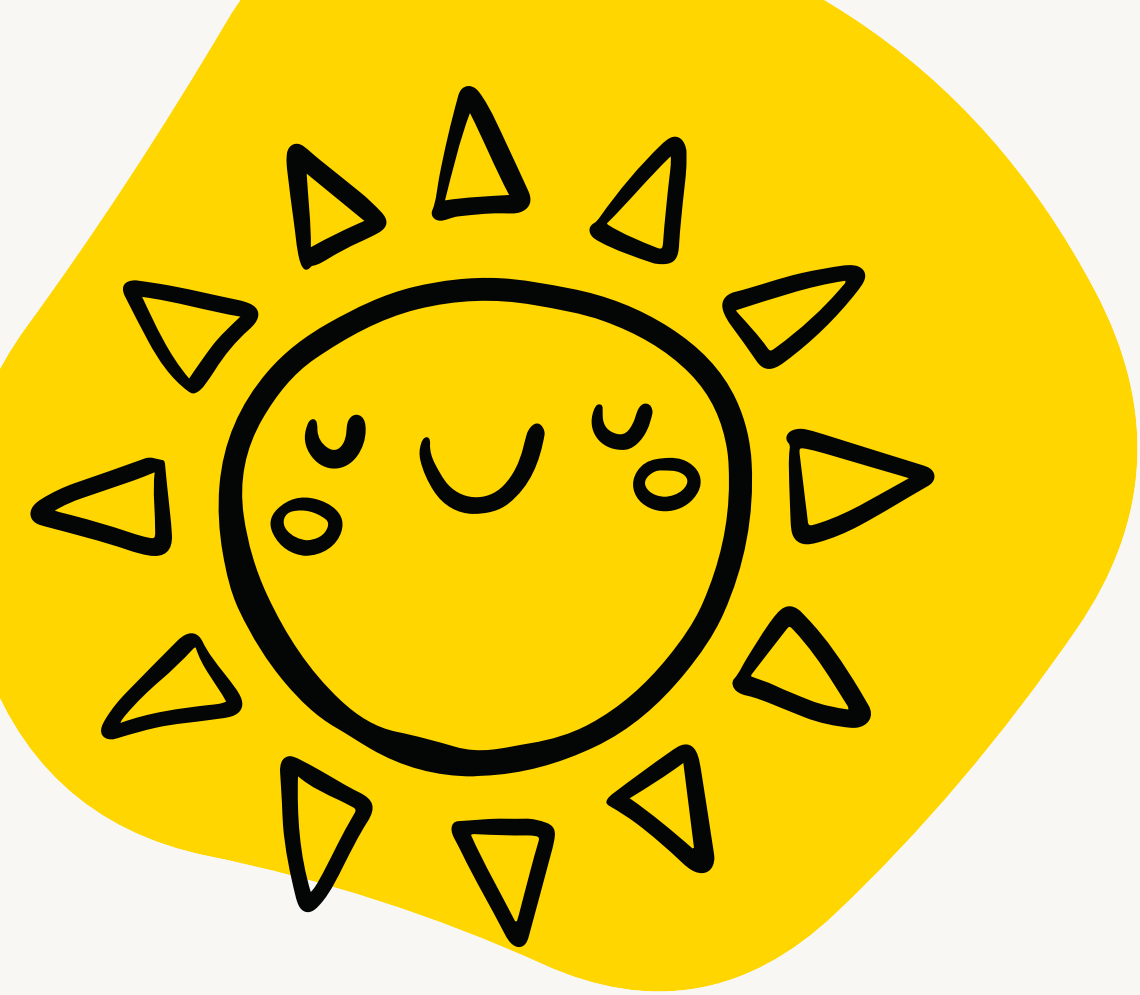
PREPARING FOR 9/13 - AREA ELECTIONS

If you plan to stand for a position:

- Be ready to verbally share your 'service resume with the body
- Get informed on the duties of the position you plan to stand for

Maintain a positive spirit during an election:

- Focus on what you can control: Recognize that you cannot control the election's outcome or others' actions.
- Actively participate in the process
- Seek out positive actions: Focus your energy on contributing positively to your community and supporting initiatives you believe in.
- Connect with supportive fellows
- Practice respectful dialogue: When engaging in discussions, focus on understanding others' viewpoints rather than trying to persuade them.
- Embrace the power of community: Connect with community organizations and initiatives that aim to make positive change and support those around you.



Announcements!





Coming Up...!

Area 50 Elections General Service Assembly

What:

Stand for Service in Area 50

Topic:

Elections for the next 2 year term

When:

September 13, 2025
9:30a – 2p

Where:

119 W Henley St, Olean, NY 14760



NY-Penn Intergroup
hosts



Area 50 General Service Elections Assembly

Doors open @ 9:30 am
Assembly begins @ 10:00
Lunch
Afternoon Program

*** Come join us ***

September 13, 2025

Basilica of St. Mary's of the Angels



119 W. Henley St., Olean
(home of Friends of Bill W., Monday night)



Visit area50wny.org for virtual information.



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.**





Thank You!

**Questions? Concerns?
Comments?
Email us!**

p74gsrorientation@area50wny.org

