



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 5 – each AA group should have one primary purpose: to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Fifth Tradition

*Each group has but one primary purpose
...to carry its message to the alcoholic
who still suffers.*

No matter how different our own personal concerns, we are all bound together by one common **RESPONSIBILITY**...
to carry the message
to the suffering alcoholic.



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

TRADITION OF THE MONTH

Principle:
Singleness of Purpose

Idea:
Carrying the Message



TRADITION 5 – cont.

It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away. This Tradition delineates pretty clearly our individual primary purpose, as well as the group's. Each of us is but a small part of the whole, but by joining A.A.'s primary purpose to our own, we become something bigger than our individual selves.

“Just as firmly bound by obligations are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic, who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us in the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.”

12 Steps and 12 Traditions, pgs 151-152





MAY 2025



The AA Group

**To be an effective Group
Representative, it would help
to be clear on what exactly is
an AA Group...**





Mindset

Primary Purpose of the Groups and its Members

- By the end of this hour, you'll have more insight on how AA's Resources and Literature reveal the vision Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith had when they handed over the future of Alcoholics Anonymous over to the AA Groups.
- These are not new ideas, but they could be new to you, from the perspective of being a General Service Representative
- Together, we continue to learn about how to be effective as members and how to enjoy the experience of being in service in Alcoholics Anonymous



What does 'Home Group' mean to you?



Carrying the
Message

Group Service
Representatives

Informed

Regular
Business
Meetings

RESOURCES on aa.org

Alcoholics Anonymous[®]

[Find A.A. Near You](#) [Make a Contribution](#) [Online Bookstore](#) [English](#) [I am...](#) [About A.A.](#) [Inside A.A.](#) [Resources](#) [Daily Reflections](#)

The A.A. Group

What is an A.A. group?

Any gathering of two or more alcoholics who wish to recover and have no other affiliation may call themselves an A.A. group. Membership at the group level is open to all who have a desire to recover from alcoholism. There are no dues, fees, requirements or restrictions of any kind. There's no formal application to join a group.

What's the purpose of A.A. groups? All groups exist to help those who suffer from the disease of alcoholism.



MORE ABOUT GROUPS >



General Service Representative Kit

U.S. and Canada

G.S.O. GROUP INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

GROUP ID #: _____

DATE: _____

AREA #: _____

DISTRICT #: _____

If you need help locating your area and district number, you can contact your area registrar on your area's website. [List of area websites](#)

OLD INFORMATION

NEW INFORMATION

GROUP NAME: _____

Type/Format: In-person ☐ Virtual ☐

GROUP MEETING LOCATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: _____

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ALTERNATE G.S.R.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

GROUP NAME: _____

Type/Format: In-person ☐ Virtual ☐

GROUP MEETING LOCATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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EMAIL: _____

ALTERNATE G.S.R.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

New G.S.R.'s will automatically receive a digital G.S.R. Kit. If you require a print version, please check: ☐

Area registrars develop and maintain records of all groups in their area through Fellowship Connection, a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and G.S.O.

G.S.O. only uses the G.S.R.'s information for communication purposes and to help foster connection within the General Service Structure. <https://www.aa.org/your-group-linked-aa-whole>

A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or person (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

RETURN FORM TO

GSO Postal Mail

General Service Office

Grand Central Station

P.O. Box 459

New York, NY 10163

GSO Email

memberservices@aa.org

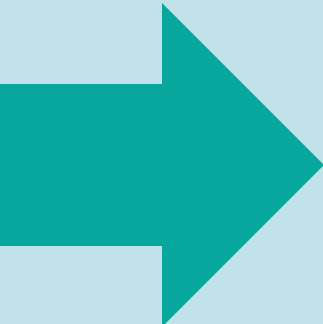
Locally

Email your Area Registrar

[List of Area Websites on aa.org](#)

Rev. 12/21

F-28



GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.) KIT

Please visit <https://www.aa.org/participating-in-aa>

Memo to you, the new G.S.R. (F-57)

List of Kit Contents (this page) (GSRLIST)

BOOKS: (Available Online)

[The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service](#) (BM-31)

[2024 General Service Conference Final Report](#) (M-23)

SERVICE MATERIAL:

[A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services Flyer](#) (F-236)

[Conference-Approved Literature](#) (F-29)

[The General Service Conference Structure \(U.S. and Canada\)](#) (F-116)

[Regional Map of U.S. and Canada](#) (F-118)

[Services Provided by G.S.O.](#) (F-176)

[Concepts Checklist](#) (SMF-91)

[Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine](#) (SMF-131)

[Safety and A.A. – Our Common Welfare](#) (SMF-209)

[Self-Support Packet](#) (F-19)

FORMS:

[A.A. Group Information Change Form](#) (F-28)

PAMPHLETS:

[G.S.R.: General Service Representative](#) (P-19)

[Circles of Love and Service](#) (P-45)

[The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins](#) (P-16)

[Twelve Traditions Illustrated](#) (P-43)

[The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated](#) (P-8)

[Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print](#) (P-52)

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST: (Please contact the Group Services desk for the latest version)

List of Service Material (F-33)

G.S.O. Staff Assignments (F-15)

Group Services Staff Assignment

groupservices@aa.org

212-870-3287

A.A.W.S. encourages ordering of literature and other items via your local groups, Intergroups and Central Offices.

Digital Kit List

Rev. 11/24

New GSR's will automatically receive a digital GSR Kit. If you require a print version, please check: ☐

Group Handbook

U.S. and Canada

G.S.O. NEW GROUP LISTING FORM

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or person (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

Virtual Groups are encouraged to check with their Area Registrar regarding their preferred Area and District. [List of Area Websites on aa.org](#)

AREA #: _____ DISTRICT #: _____ GROUP START DATE: _____

GROUP NAME: _____ NUMBER OF MEMBERS: _____

GROUP MEETING LOCATION (ADDRESS OPTIONAL): _____

If your Virtual group does not have a specific City/Town or State/Province the Primary Contact's City/Town and State/Province will be used.

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE/PROVINCE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

Communication is sent in one of the languages below

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ☐ SPANISH ☐ FRENCH ☐

Type/Format: In-person (including hybrid) ☐ Virtual (including phone) ☐

Does your group meet in a hospital, treatment center or detox center setting? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, is it open to A.A. members outside the center? Yes ☐ No ☐

Note: Contact information provided is used by G.S.O. and AA Grapevine for purposes of A.A. service communications and is shared with your Area Committee.

PRIMARY CONTACT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/TOWN: _____

STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.) – Your Group's Link to A.A. as a whole https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-19_gsr.pdf

"The G.S.R.s of the U.S. and Canada are the very foundation of our general service structure. Through the G.S.R., you can make your group's voice heard at district meetings, at area assemblies, and eventually at the General Service Conference.

GSR ☐ Alt. GSR ☐ Mail Contact ☐

To opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook please check: ☐

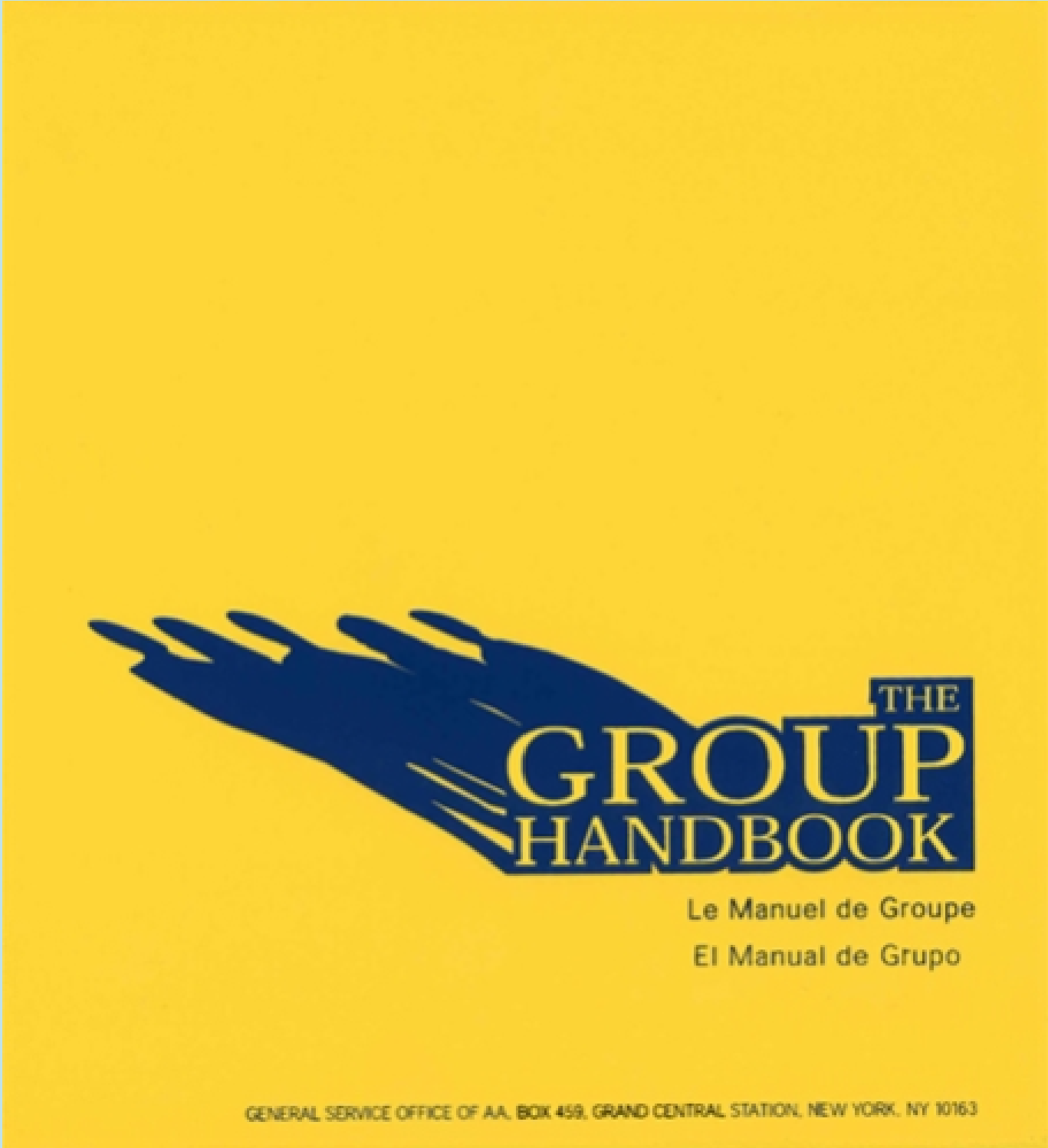
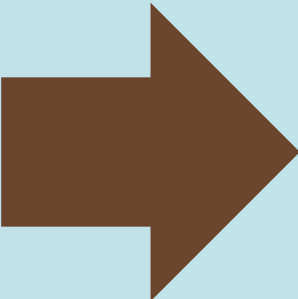
- Digital Group Handbook: <https://www.aa.org/contents-group-handbook-list>
- To sign up for digital delivery of Box 4-5-9 at no charge visit: <https://www.aa.org/box-459>

RETURN FORM TO		
GSO Postal Mail General Service Office Grand Central Station P.O. Box 459 New York, NY 10163	GSO Email memberservices@aa.org	Locally Email your Area Registrar List of Area Websites on aa.org

Rev. 03/22

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Group Handbook

CONTENTS OF GROUP HANDBOOK

Please visit <https://www.aa.org/participating-in-aa>

[Letter to Group](#) (F-212)

List of Kit Contents (this page) (F-119)

BOOKS:

[The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service](#) (BM-31)

[General Service Conference Final Report](#) (M-23)

VIDEOS

[Your General Service Office \(GSO\), the Grapevine and the General Service Structure](#) (DV-07)

A.A. GUIDELINES:

[Full Set of A.A. Guidelines](#) (MG-20)

SERVICE MATERIAL:

[Is Your Group Linked to A.A. as a Whole?](#) (F-104)

[Conference-Approved Literature](#) (F-29)

[The General Service Conference Structure \(U.S. and Canada\)](#) (F-116)

[Regional Map of U.S. and Canada](#) (F-118)

[Services Provided by G.S.O.](#) (F-176)

[The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous](#) (F-121)

[The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous – Short Form](#) (F-122)

[The Twelve Concepts for World Service – Short Form](#) (F-114)

Self-Support Packet: (F-19)

PAMPHLETS:

[The A.A. Group... Where it all Begins](#) (P-16)

[Circles of Love and Service](#) (P-45)

[A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous](#) (P-42)

[The Twelve Traditions Illustrated](#) (P-43)

[Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print](#) (P-52)

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Group Services Staff Assignment

groupservices@aa.org

212-870-3287

A.A.W.S. encourages ordering of literature and other items via your local groups, Intergroups and Central Offices.

Alcoholics
Anonymous®
www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all
communications to:
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

Most of us cannot recover unless there is a group. As Bill said, "Realization dawns on each member that he is but a small part of a great whole... He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not."

– "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, page 12

Dear A.A. Group Members:

This handbook is for the Group to use in support of our primary purpose – to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Your friends at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) are dedicated to assisting you through services we provide for all A.A. groups in the United States and Canada.

Over many years, we have gathered shared experience for the benefit of groups like yours. The most reliable experience can be found in A.A. Conference-approved literature, such as "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, the basic guide for unity within a group.

We know that you have fine resources in the trusted servants of your Area and Central or Intergroup Office. The Group pamphlet describes how to connect your group to experienced local members, such as the District Committee Member (D.C.M.), Area officers, and your local A.A. office.

We at G.S.O. are here as an additional resource. You may contact us via email through our website, www.aa.org by navigating to the "Inside A.A." tab, then "The General Service Office" tab and then scroll down to "contact us." You can also use the mailing address indicated on this letter if you need to send a post mail communication. In addition to The Group Handbook, you can find more group resources on "The A.A. Group" webpage, on aa.org. There are even further helpful resources available to you on our updated website aa.org and we encourage you to explore information on topics such as service committees, A.A. history, anonymity, Regional Forums, Archives, Box 459, and access to information about all A.A.W.S. Literature via the online bookstore. Groups also use our "Make a Contribution" link to help facilitate their participation in A.A.'s Seventh Tradition contribution to the General Service Board for services provided by the General Service Office.

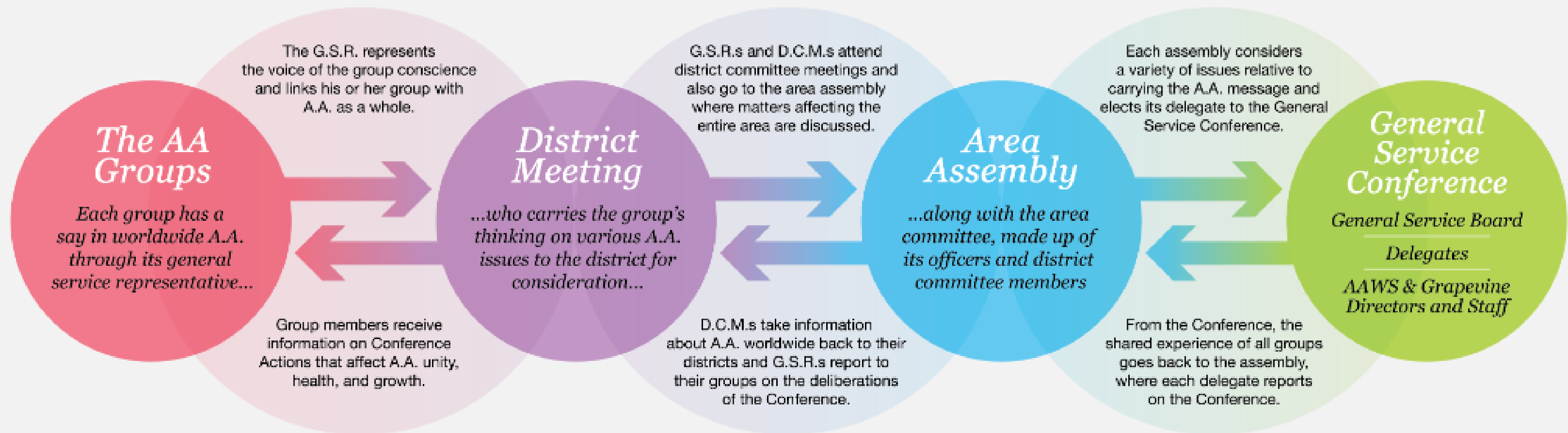
Everyone at G.S.O. joins in sending gratitude and love to each group member.

In fellowship,

Your friends at G.S.O.

The AA Group: The Final Voice

How A.A. Service is Organized



Is your Group Linked to AA as a Whole?

This pamphlet is like
our Owner's Manual.

It teaches us the what,
the how and the why.

The A.A. Group
...where it all begins

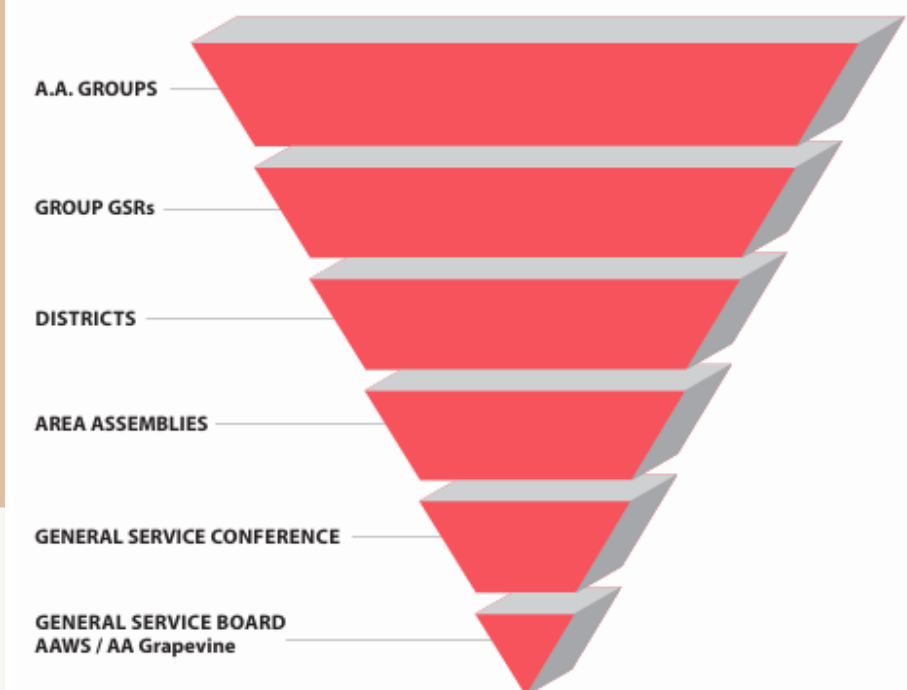


How a group functions.
How to get started.

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



Structure of the Conference *U.S. and Canada*





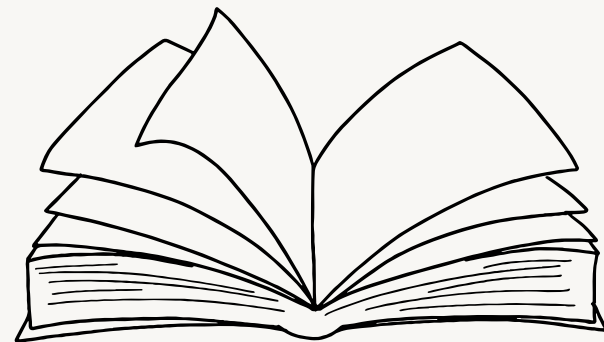
AA's Single Purpose

Page 7 of the pamphlet

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary pupose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

It is the responsibility of the AA groups to help alcoholics achieve and maintain sobriety through teaching and practice of the principles of AA.

Groups go to the sick and suffering (OUTREACH) and welcome them into meetings we host (INREACH).





Meeting or Group?

Page 12

Difference between a meeting and a group...

Meeting - what happens between The Preamble and a Closing Prayer.

Group - what happens between a Closing Prayer and the Preamble.

Being IN AA vs being AROUND AA.





A Group

Connected to AA as a whole?

Active GSR?

Active Alternate GSR?

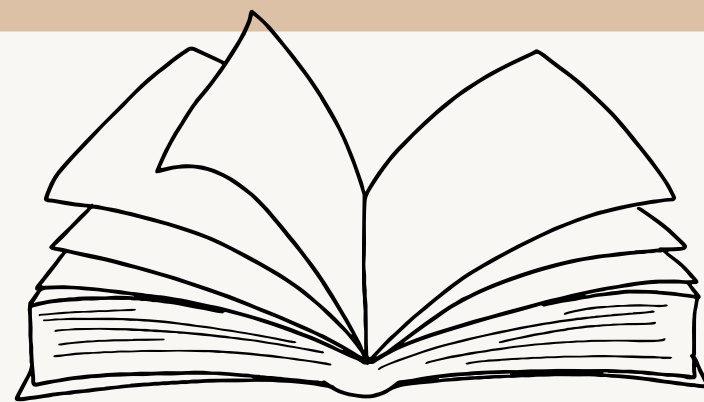
Active Central Office or Intergroup Rep?

Supplying anyone to do service at the District?

Any kind of Cooperation with the Professional Community service?

Public Information work?

Anniversaries or Fellowship to show newcomers the fun of sobriety?



WHAT IS AN OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING?

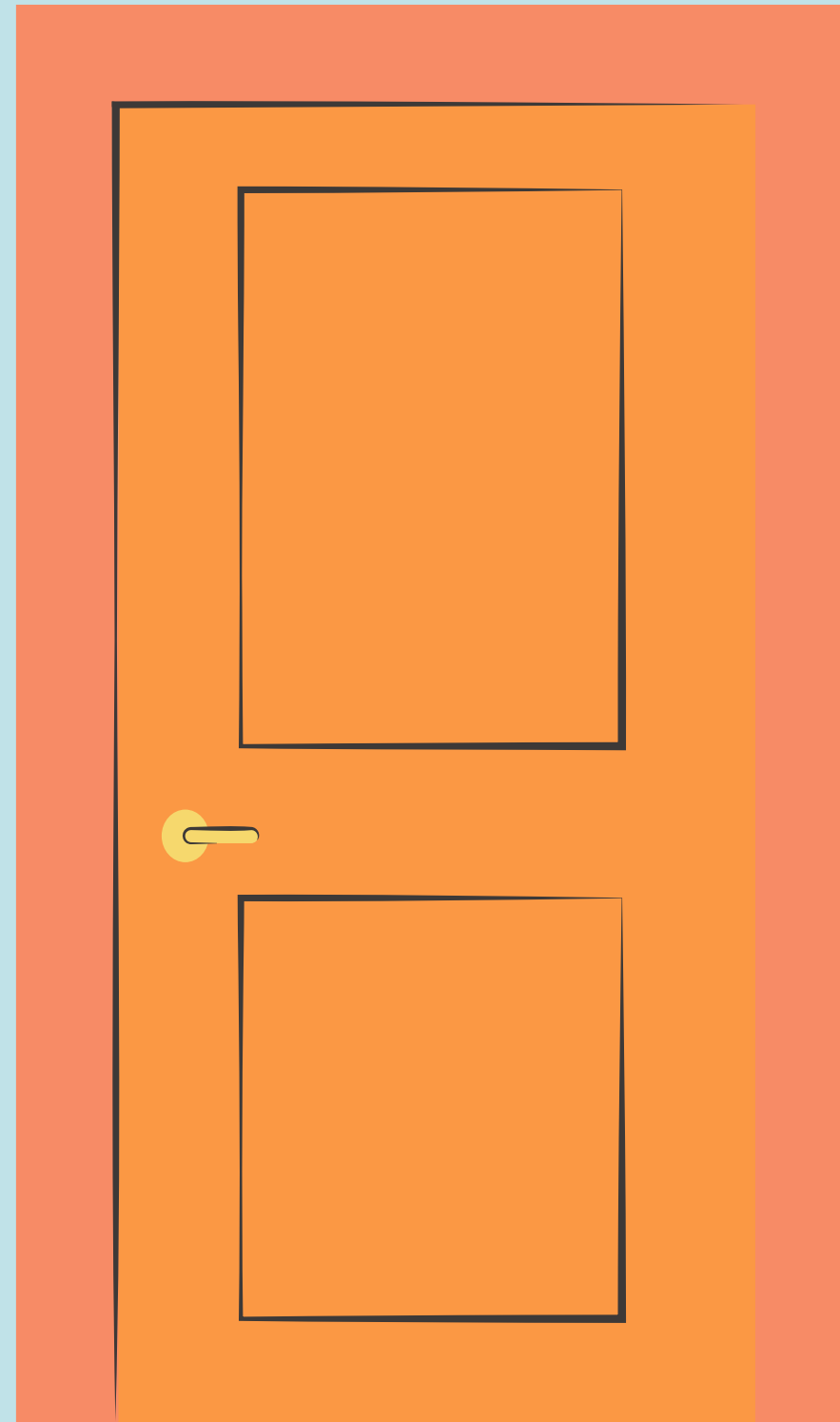
OPEN:

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
ANYONE INTERESTED IN
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS'
RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM

"OBSERVING" MEANS NOT
PARTICIPATING

OUR SHOWCASE TO THE WORLD

GOOD FOR PROFESSIONALS,
FAMILY MEMBERS, SOMEONE
UNDECIDED IF THEY'RE READY
TO STOP DRINKING



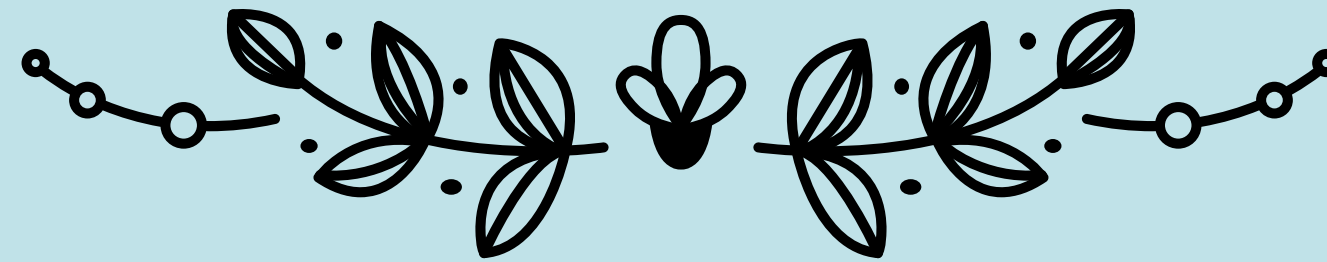
PAGE 13

CLOSED:

AA MEMBERS

PEOPLE WITH A DRINKING
PROBLEM AND A DESIRE TO
STOP DRINKING

AUTONOMY



PAGE 14

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

(TO NAME A FEW)

(TAKEN FROM THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
WEBSITE AND THE AA GROUP PAMPHLET):

- 12 STEPS
- ACCEPTANCE
- ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE
- COMPLACENCY
- FEAR
- FORGIVENESS
- HUMILITY

CHOOSE THE ONES THAT BEST
SUIT YOUR HOME GROUP !
(AS PER THE GROUP CONSCIENCE)



HOME GROUP

pg 15-16



TRADITIONALLY, MOST AA MEMBERS THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE FOUND IT IMPORTANT TO BELONG TO ONE GROUP THAT THEY CALL THEIR "HOME GROUP"

IS IT OK TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE HOME GROUP?



SUGGESTED AA MEETING PROCEDURES (pg 15):

**Have a good structure but
not too much structure, but
enough for your group and
the size of your group.**

**Maybe it means written
guidelines and bylaws**

**If you need help, reach out
to other groups and look at
what they're doing that's
working well**

More Guidance

PAGE 16

SELF-SUPPORTING

PAGE 28

ROTATION OF POSITIONS

PAGES 25-27

COMMITTEES / SERVICE REPS

PAGE 31

SAFETY

PAGE 29

GROUP INVENTORY

PAGE 33

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

PAGE 34

**HOW DEISIONS AFFECTING
AA ARE MADE**

PAGE 39

WHAT AA DOES NOT DO

Dr. Bob & Bill Wilson



When we go to treatment centers or prisons, are we sharing about the importance of a home group, and not just emphasizing going to a lot of meetings?

Paradigm Shift

The A.A. Group's Relations With Others In The Community

Tradition Eleven: *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.*

How Service Committee Representatives Serve A.A.

A.A. service committees, composed mainly of representatives or liaisons from area groups, shoulder major responsibility for carrying the A.A. message into the community and around the world (see *The A.A. Service Manual*). Each of these committees may serve as a resource for the community through our Sixth Tradition of cooperation but not affiliation.

To assist service committees in their local efforts, their counterparts at A.A. World Services — the trustees' and General Service Conference committees — offer suggested guidelines to local committees when asked, with the help of the General Service Office.

Corrections Committee Liaison

Group corrections representatives take part in local intergroup (central office), district or area corrections committee meetings. They keep their home groups informed about local Twelfth Step activities in nearby institutions and encourage group members to participate.

Corrections representatives, known in some areas as hospitals and institutions (H&I) representatives, take A.A. meetings into prisons and jails, where allowed by the correctional facility, to help alcoholic inmates recover and prepare for sober, fulfilling lives after release. As part of the temporary contact program known in some areas as Bridging the Gap, they may also serve as correspondents and as A.A. contacts when the inmates are released. The pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" and the Corrections Workbook can be of help to A.A.s in corrections service work.

Treatment Committee Liaison

Some groups have treatment representatives who serve as the group liaison with the local intergroup

(central office), district or area treatment committee. They share this vital service work with home group members and encourage them to join in this responsibility.

Members of the treatment committee, known in some areas as hospitals and institutions (H&I) representatives, work to help hospital and treatment center staffs better understand A.A., and to take the A.A. tools of recovery to alcoholics in treatment. As part of the Bridging the Gap program (Temporary Contact), treatment committee members also may act as contacts when alcoholic patients are discharged.

The pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Settings" and the Treatment Workbook can be of help to A.A.s in treatment service work.

Public Information Committee Liaison

Group public information (P.I.) representatives usually work with the local intergroup (central office), district or area P.I. committee to carry the A.A. message locally. They periodically inform their home groups of local activity and may arrange for group volunteers to participate in P.I. programs requested by schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies and other organizations interested in the A.A. approach to recovery from alcoholism.

Most groups realize that alcoholics can't come to A.A. for help unless they know where we are. Using many suggested methods ranging from personal contact to public service announcements on radio and TV, groups and their members reach out, working within the framework of Tradition Eleven. Sometimes a small sign saying "A.A. meeting tonight" outside the meeting-place door points the way. And from A.A.'s earliest days, radio announcements and small newspaper announcements of A.A. meetings have been used to attract alcoholics in need of help.

The Public Information Workbook offers suggested guidelines in furthering this vital group-service activity.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Liaison

Group cooperation with the professional community (C.P.C.) representatives, usually working with their local intergroup (central office), district or area C.P.C. committees, focus on cooperation but not affiliation with professionals in the community — educators, physicians, the clergy, court officials and others who often are in contact with active alcohol-

ics. They keep their home groups informed of area C.P.C. activities and, when appropriate, arrange for group volunteers to join together in carrying the A.A. message at professional meetings, seminars, and more. (In some groups, the functions of the C.P.C. and public information representatives are combined.)

The C.P.C. Workbook and the pamphlets "If You Are a Professional, Alcoholics Anonymous Wants to Work with You," "Members of the Clergy Ask About A.A." and other pertinent literature can be of assistance to C.P.C. representatives in reaching out to professionals.

Accessibilities Committee Liaison

The accessibilities representative may coordinate any needed assistance to those alcoholics who face additional personal barriers to accessing the A.A. message within their home group. Many accessibilities representatives find it beneficial to communicate with their intergroup (central office) when trying to reach those facing such challenges. Some areas or districts have accessibilities committees, as well.

For some A.A. members, a six-inch step can be an insurmountable obstacle. A locked access door, a blocked ramp or parking problem can make it impossible to get to a meeting. Some members are ill, homebound or living in retirement or convalescent homes, others have hearing or vision loss, learning, reading or information-processing challenges, and still others are elderly, use wheelchairs or canes, or have other mobility concerns. Literature may be hard to understand. Childcare issues may make it impossible to attend regular meetings. Remote geography or cultural differences may hinder contact with other members.

Accessibility issues apply to all alcoholics who have difficulties participating in Alcoholics Anonymous, whether those difficulties are mental, physical, geographic, cultural, ethnic, spiritual or emotional.

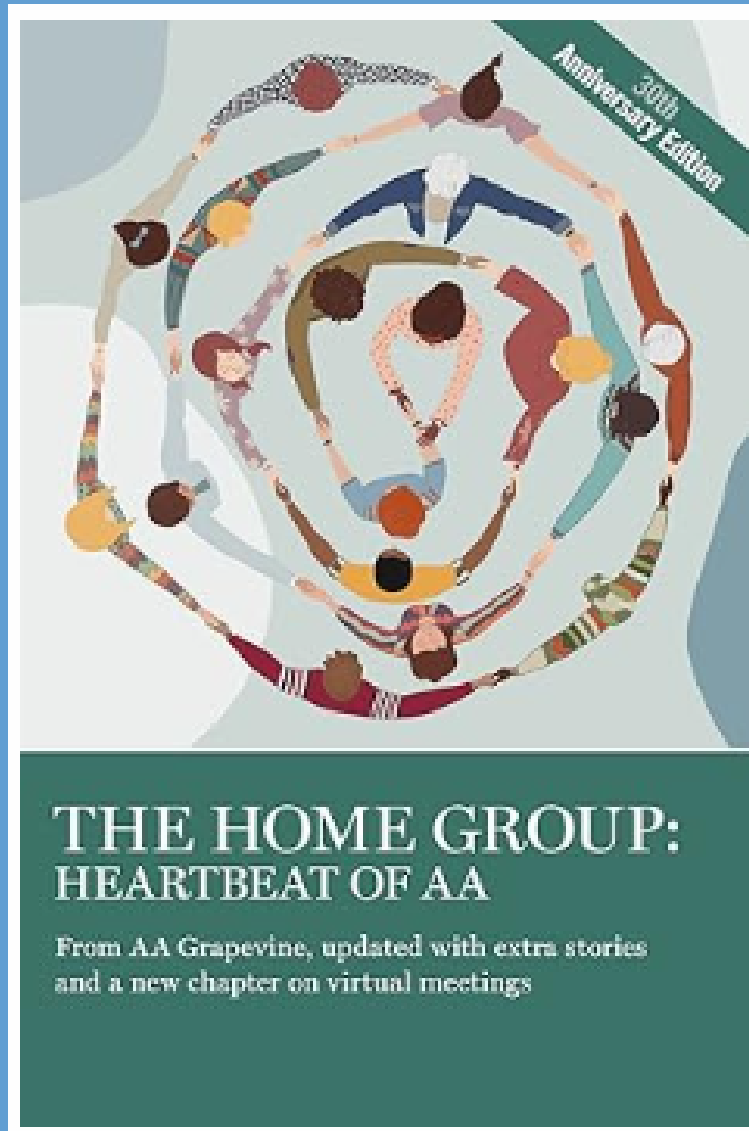
A wide variety of accessibilities material is available that can help in this effort, including literature in braille, American Sign Language (ASL), and easy-to-read pamphlets in English, as well as in other languages, in regular and large print. The service piece "Serving All Alcoholics" and the A.A. Guidelines "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" and "Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic Who Is Deaf" can provide direction and guidance for those interested in making the Alcoholics Anonymous message and participation in our program of recovery available to everyone who reaches out for it.

AA Group Pamphlet
pages 25-27

Hank K
Panel 68 Area 50 Chair
Panel 70 Area 50 Delegate

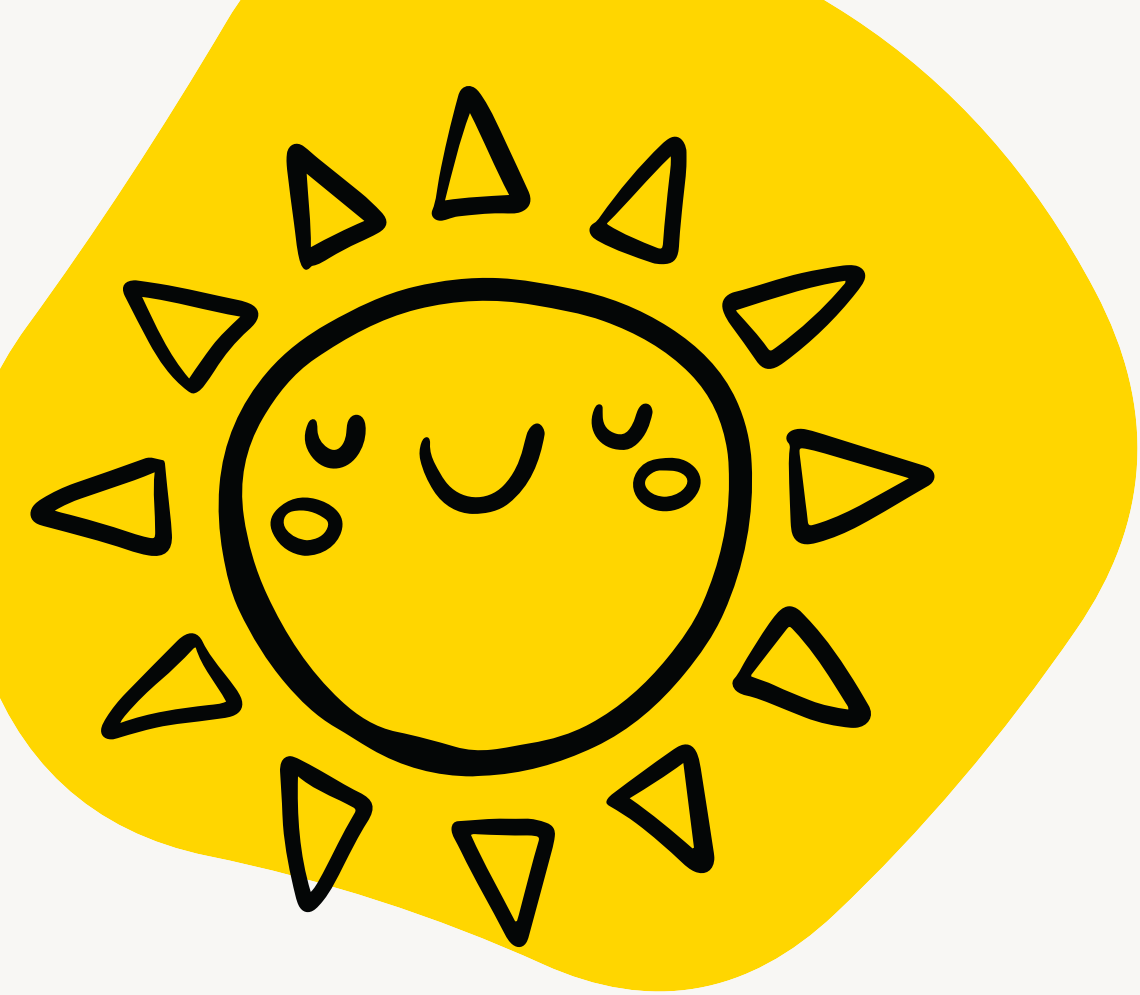


Win a Prize!



We appreciate
you being here
with us today!





Announcements!





Coming Up...!

Post Conference General Service Assembly

What:

Delegate's Report to Area 50

Topic:

What happened at the Conference?

When:

May 31, 2025
9:30a – 2p

Where:

tba – in Northtowns & Online





Coming Up...!

Lord of the Wings

Info:
BUFFYPAA

When:
June 22, 2025
12p AA & Alanon Speakers
1p Wing Competition

Where:
Ellicott Creek Park,
Tonawanda, NY – SHELTER 10





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

