

AREA15  
DISTRICT 8  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

**NEW GSR PACKET**



**Welcome to General Service!**



## WELCOME TO GENERAL SERVICE AT DISTRICT 8

Your Group has selected you to serve as their General Service Representative (GSR) in District 8. The GSR is considered to be the most important position in AA because you are the voice of your group's conscience. You will be receiving a packet from the General Service Office (GSO) with information to assist you in fulfilling your duties and to further clarify your responsibilities.

District 8 (Palm Beach County) is divided into sub-districts based on location. Locate on the District map where your group is located. The corresponding number on the District map is your sub-district. Groups from the same sub-district will sit together during the District 8 business meeting. Look for your sub-district number on the tables and find a seat. A District Committee Member (DCM) and/or Alternate District Committee Member (ACM) serves each sub-district.

**It is highly suggested you find a Service Sponsor.** Just like your Sponsor, a Service Sponsor is someone with experience in General Service to contact for guidance and experience. Until you have a Service Sponsor, the District Committee Member (DCM) and/or Alternate District Committee Member (ACM) for your sub-district will be able to assist you with any questions or concerns that may arise. Your DCM is also available to attend your home group's business meeting.

The District 8 monthly meetings are held at the Triangle Club on the second Sunday of each month, providing there are no conflicting dates with Area Assemblies or holidays. There is a sharing information session at 4:00pm for all GSRs, DCMs, and other members of AA. This is followed at 4:40 PM by the monthly business meeting. This meeting will end no later than 6:30 PM.

The Area 15 General Service Quarterlies are held every three months at various locations throughout South Florida. These meetings link all of the Area 15 Districts (see map on page 10) together to discuss carrying the message and to share the business and experiences of South Florida AA and AA as a whole. GSRs are invited to attend Area 15 Quarterlies to share their group's conscience and voice. (See **ABOUT THE QUARTERLY**)

Like our Legacies of "Unity" and "Recovery", the "Service" part of our Three Legacies requires time, patience, and tolerance. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and seek experience. Remember, you can attend GSR Orientation as many times as you want and ask any new questions that may arise. We are here to serve you and each of us has experienced what you are experiencing. You are not alone!

### **GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)**

The GSR is the vital link between his/her group and AA as a whole, representing the voice of their group's conscience. Term of office: 2 years. Suggested length of sobriety: 2-

3 years.

### **GSR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO...**

- Attend District 8 meetings and bring information back to their homegroups.
- Attend Area 15 Quarterlies and Assemblies and bring information back to their homegroups.
- Bring their group's informed group conscience to District and Area (voice and vote).
- Serve as the mail contact with the General Service Office and serve as their group's contact person listed in the A.A. directories.
- Supply their DCMs with up-to-date group information, which is sent to GSO for inclusion in the directories and for GSO mailings.
- Build a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
- Participate in district and area service functions and help with planning for District and Area service events. Following these events, make reports to their groups for the benefit of those who could not attend.

### **ALTERNATE GSR:**

An alternate general service representative should be elected at the same time as the GSR in case the GSR is unable to attend all district and area meetings. Alternates should be encouraged to assist, participate, and share in the responsibilities of the GSR, attending district and area meetings when feasible, depending on local needs.

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## HOW IT WORKS (At District 8)

Rarely have we seen ...

AA has seen people leave before the miracle happens. So it is true of General Service. Service work requires time, patience and love. In District 8, we try to make it as easy as possible to understand General Service. Try to remember the old joke in service "Once you truly understand what you're doing, it's time to rotate to the next position." In District 8, as in Area 15, we use the "A.A. Service Manual" as our guideline for our general business structure. We also combine some of the basic parliamentary procedures outlined by "Robert's Rules of Order" (by Major Henry M. Robert), as an orderly method to run meetings smoothly and fairly.

Each month you will receive an emailed District 8 Agenda with the previous month's minutes and reports. Also any upcoming submitted motions, flyers, or information sheets for the good of A.A. will be included. Please review the material and bring a copy of the agenda and motions with you to the next District 8 meeting, they will not be supplied at the meeting.

On the Agenda page, the outlined box in the middle is the Agenda and the order the meeting will run. On the outer perimeter are the officers and committee chairs names and contact information.

District 8 follows the following time table:

- 3pm - Committee Meetings (main room)
- 4pm - DCM / GSR Sharing (main room).
- 4pm - New GSR / Alt. GSR Orientation (Serenity room)
- 4:40pm - District 8 Business Meeting

The District 8 Business meeting is a **Closed Meeting**, only members of Alcoholics Anonymous may attend.

All GSR's have a voice and a vote at District meetings. Alternate GSR's can vote only if their group's GSR is not present at the District meeting.

You are encouraged to ask questions and share your experience and concerns during the business meeting. All comments are to be made from the microphones so that everyone can hear what is being shared. In service, we express that "**Everything needs to be said, but everyone does not need to say it.**" We want you to "find your voice" in Service. Almost everyone feels nervous at the microphone. Remember, A.A. as a whole and those to come are counting on you. There are no wrong questions, please speak up and share!

### **BASIC DEFINITIONS:**

**Body:** The voting members in attendance at a meeting.

**Chairperson:** The presiding officer who maintains order and flow of the meeting.

**Call the Question:** When a member comes to the microphone and says, "Call the Question!"

they are informally calling for a vote on a motion.

**Floor:** A person is said to “have the floor” when it is their turn to speak. The person will speak at the microphone at all times.

**Meeting:** An official gathering of members in one area to transact business for a period during which there is no interruption longer than a recess.

**Minority Opinion:** After a vote, a member can share an opinion for the non-prevailing side of the motion. (See Concept 5 in Service Manual)

**Motion:** A motion is a formal recommendation put by a member to a body for discussion and consideration.

**Postpone:** To set aside (by motion) an item for a specific period of time.

**Second a Motion:** A voting member will come to the microphone and second a motion after the motion maker reads the motion. This does not indicate agreement with the motion, just that the motion be discussed.

**Table:** To lay an item aside (by motion) for an indefinite period of time. A tabled motion requires a new motion to untable the previously tabled motion.

**Standing Committee:** Standing Committees are permanent with elected chairs.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Temporary committees are appointed by the Chair to explore a specific and limited agenda.

## **COMMON TERMS AND ACRONYMS:**

**Alternate Committee Member (ACM)** – Fills in for the DCM at District and Area functions when the DCM is not available. Assists the DCM.

**Area or Delegate Area** – An Area is a geographic division made up of Districts and represented by a Delegate. We are in Area 15. Area 15 consists of South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands.

**District Committee Member (DCM)** – An experienced GSR elected by the trusted servants of the District 8, DCMs represent the Groups of a Subdistrict of District 8 at District 8 meetings and Area Assemblies.

**Delegate** – An elected official of the Area elected every other year to represent the Area at the annual General Service Conference in NY.

**District** – A subdivision within an Area. We are District 8. Our District is divided further into Subdistricts.

**General Service Board (GSB)** – 21 Trustees who oversee two non-profit corporations: A.A. World Services (“AAWS”) and A.A. Grapevine.

**General Service Conference (GSC)** – An annual meeting of 93 Delegates from Areas within the US and Canada, plus the Trustees and GSO Representatives.

**General Service Office (GSO)** – A.A. headquarters in New York City.

**General Service Officers** – Elected and appointed Officials of the Area and/or District.

**General Service Representative (GSR)** – An individual elected by an A.A. Group to be the voice of their Group in the Area and District.

**Quarterly Area Assembly** – A weekend-long Assembly of GSRs, DCMs, ACMs, District and Area Officers and Committee Chairs taking in January, April, July, and October to hear Area reports and vote on Area business.

**Service Sponsor** – Sponsee’s guide to Service at the District level.

**Third Legacy Procedure** – Election procedure for General Service Officers. See page S21 of the A.A. Service Manual for details.

**Trustees** – The Board of Trustees consists of 21 men and women: 14 alcoholic (Class B) and 7 non-alcoholic (Class A) Trustees.

**Voting:** Majority Vote – 51%. Substantial Unanimity – 2/3 of the vote.

See page S21 in the A.A. Service Manual for additional terms and acronyms used in A.A.

## **ABOUT THE QUARTERLY**

District 8 is a part of Area 15 which consists of South Florida, The Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten, and Cayman Islands. A "Quarterly" is a meeting of all the Districts in Area 15. These meetings are held once every three months, usually in January, April, July, and October. They are hosted by a different district each quarter and may be located in any city in Area 15. (See Area 15 Map)

Your group conscience is carried to the Area General Service Committee by you and your DCM. You have a voice and a vote at all Assemblies.

Each April, following the Area 15 business meeting there will be an Area 15 Assembly to prepare the Area 15 Delegate to carry the collective conscience of Area 15 to the General Service Conference in New York.

In October of each even year, following the Area 15 business meeting, there will be an Election Assembly to elect Area 15 trusted servants for the next two years. Each two-year service term is called a Panel.

It's important that you register at each Quarterly **before** Registration closes on Saturday (Usually 8:30 PM). This helps to ensure an accurate number of seats for our District servants at the Sunday Business Meeting and Assembly. You must be in your seat at the meeting by 9:00 AM to be counted in the district vote count.

As the GSR for your group, attending the quarterlies offers the opportunity to meet with other GSRs to share ideas and experiences. The workshops during the quarterly will help you further your understanding of AA traditions and concepts.

The Service Manual suggests that a group supports their GSR in attending Quarterlies, including financial support, in the spirit of being self-supporting. Some groups pay the entire cost for their GSR to attend. Others pay only a part, usually one night's hotel room and a banquet ticket.

Some of us combine our one night's hotel room with another GSR or DCM and share the room so both people can stay the entire weekend. This "buddy system" also works well with ride sharing to and from Area Quarterlies. In addition, there is a District 8 Room and Ride Coordinator to help facilitate the attendance of District 8 trusted servants.

The important thing is that your group be aware of their responsibility and the benefit to them if you attend the Quarterlies so that the informed Group Conscience prevails.

If your group is new, or uninformed about these matters, you might suggest that your DCM be invited to attend a business meeting and answer their questions.

**The schedule for the Quarterly usually looks something like this:**

**FRIDAY NIGHT:**

- Registration is open from 4-8 PM.
- Speaker meeting (8:30 PM)
- Late-night discussion meetings (English and Spanish)

**SATURDAY:**

- Registration is open 7 AM - 8:30 PM
- Workshops on the Service Manual, Traditions, and Concepts
- Workshops/sharing sessions for GSRs and DCMs
- Area Committee meetings
- Banquet (Ticket required)
- Speaker meeting (Free)
- Late-night discussion meetings (English and Spanish)

**SUNDAY MORNING:**

- Registration 7:30 AM - 9 AM
- Business meeting for South Florida Area.
- April (each year): Agenda Review
- October (even years): Elections for next panel

It is highly recommended that GSR's and Alternate GSR's who are attending the Area Quarterly attend the following panels/meetings on Saturday:

- 1) Concepts Workshop 8:00am - 9:00am (See schedule below)
- 2) Traditions Workshop 11:00am - 12:00pm (noon) (See schedule below)
- 3) GSR Sharing 2:00pm - 3:50pm
- 4) Service Manual Workshop 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
*(April it is replaced with Agenda Review. On even year Octobers, it is replaced with Third Legacy Procedure Review)*
- 5) What's On Your Mind Meeting 5:00pm - 6:00pm

**Concepts and Traditions Workshops are on a rotating schedule:**

January: Concepts & Traditions # 1-3  
April: Concepts & Traditions # 4-6  
July: Concepts & Traditions # 7-9  
October: Concepts & Traditions # 10-12



## What Makes an A.A. "Leader"?

(From Bill W.'s article in the April 1959 Grapevine)

Somewhere in our literature, there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example". In effect, we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."

Therefore, a leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel: but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own - well, he really isn't a leader at all.

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take; the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress is what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us all-or-nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take.

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never to fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

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- **We strongly suggest that everyone read Concept 9**

## How to Make a GSR Report

It's important to get your Group used to hearing a GSR report. We suggest that you report briefly during the Secretary's Report when there is a call for A.A. related announcements.

Break down the information you get from the monthly General Service District Meetings and Quarterly Area Assemblies into short bullet points. Commonly, you will only need to report one or two of these bullet points each week.

During the Group's regular business meeting, give a more in-depth report. If there are important and/or lengthy items that require an informed group conscience, such as getting the conscience of the Group on Conference Agenda Items for your Delegate and the General Service Conference, you may want to hold a separate business meeting to discuss them and vote. If so, it is best to plan for and announce this business meeting, as well as the topic to be discussed, at least 1-2 weeks beforehand so members can think about them and plan to attend.

The suggestions above are guidelines to help you be successful. Use the approach that best suits you and your Group's needs.

### District 8 Standing Committees:

Archives

Corrections

Grapevine

Literature

Accessibilities

Treatment

Website

Current Practices

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)

Remote Communities

### District 8 Liaisons

North Palm Beach County Intergroup Liaison

Room & Ride

South Palm Beach County Intergroup

Traditions & Concepts

### A.A. Website Addresses

**District 8:** [district8area15aa.org](http://district8area15aa.org)

Login: [district8aa](http://district8aa)

Password: [district8](http://district8)

**Area 15:** [area15AA.org](http://area15AA.org)

Login: [area15aa](http://area15aa)

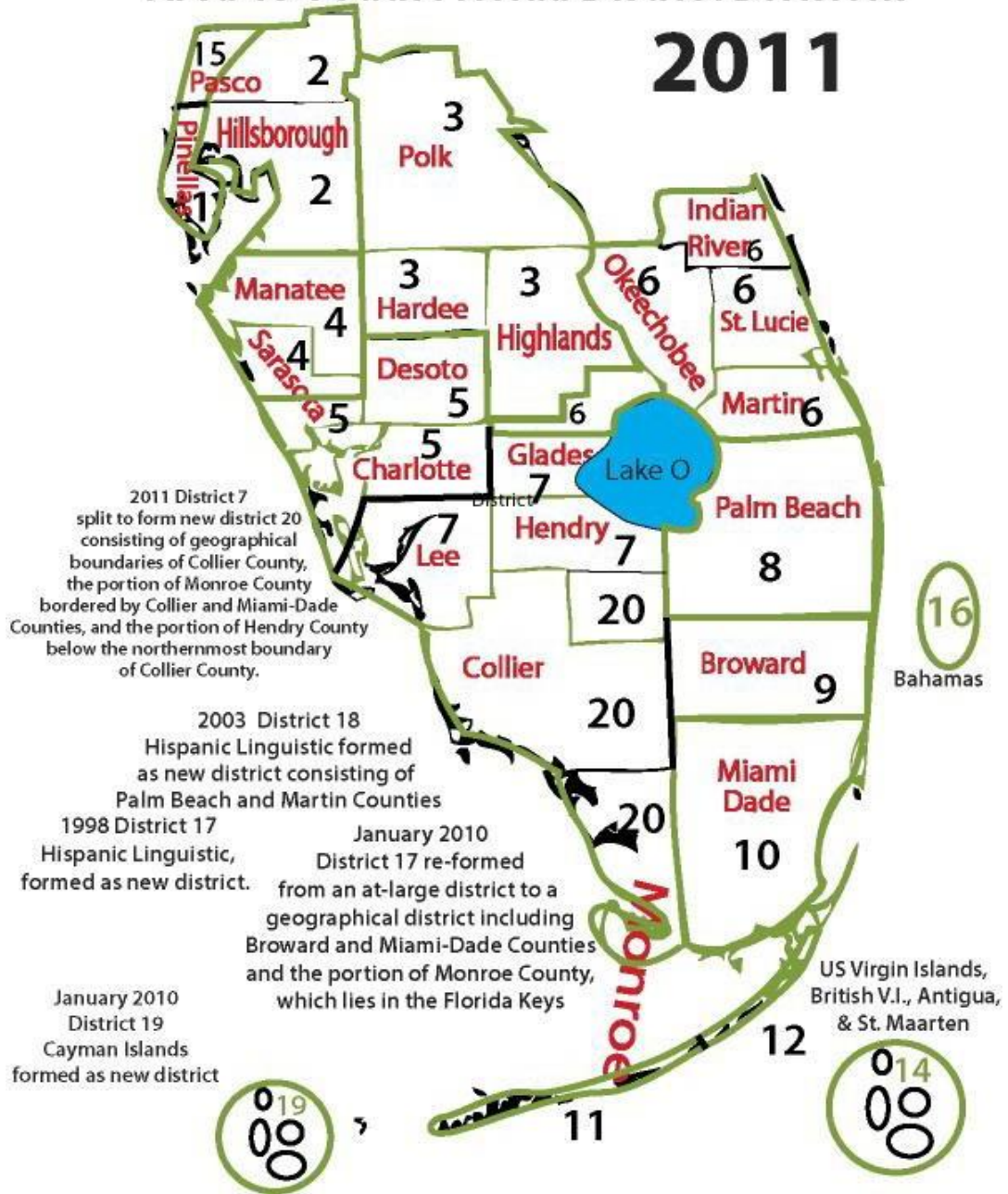
Password: [area15](http://area15)

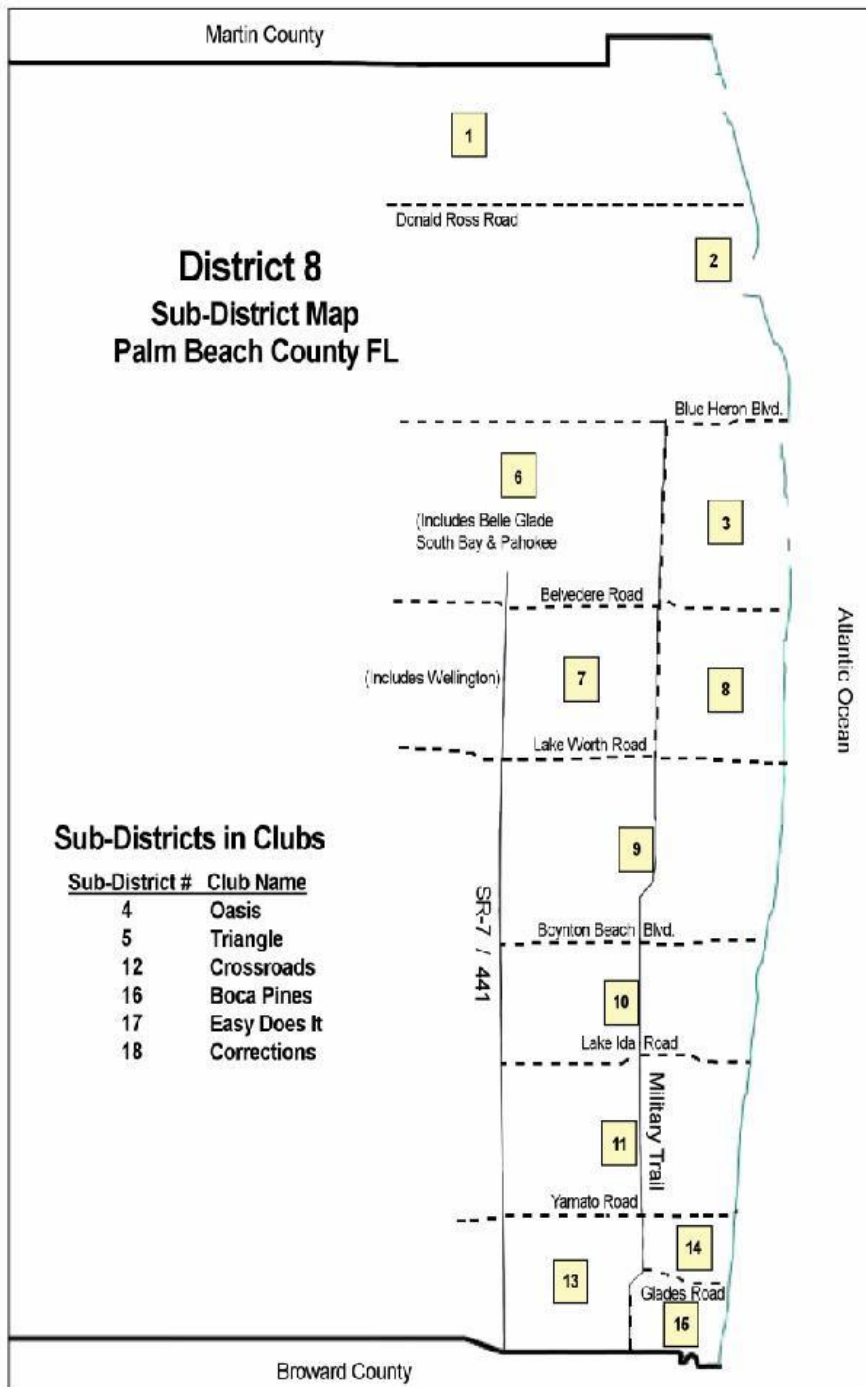
**Grapevine:** [AAgrapevine.org](http://AAgrapevine.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** [AA.org](http://AA.org)

# Area 15 South Florida District Divisions

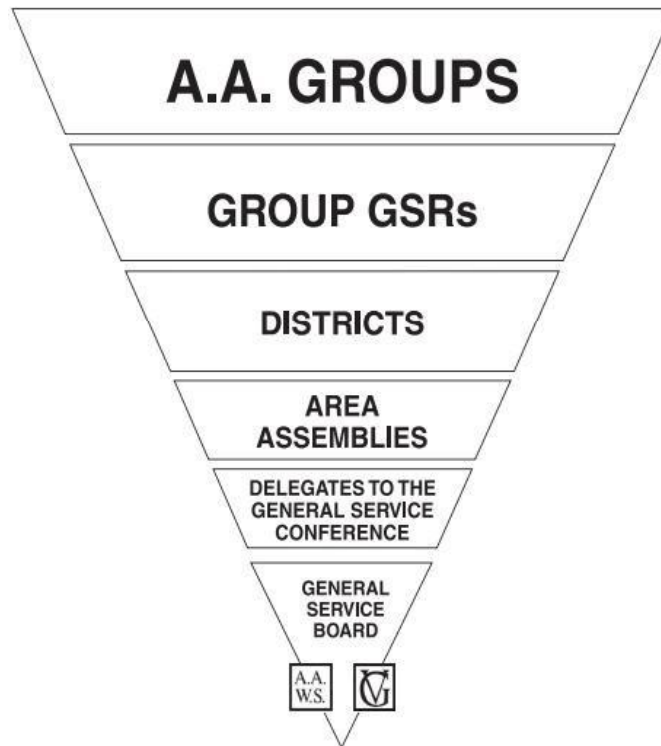
# 2011





# The Inverted Triangle

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE  
(U.S. and Canada)



The General Service organizational chart is represented by an inverted triangle. (See page S16 in the A.A. Service Manual.)

The delegation of authority starts at the top with the Groups, then to the Districts, then to the Area. The Area elects a delegate to represent the Area at the annual General Service Conference in New York City.

At the bottom of the triangle are two non-profit corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They are overseen by the General Service Board, which is comprised of 21 Trustees.