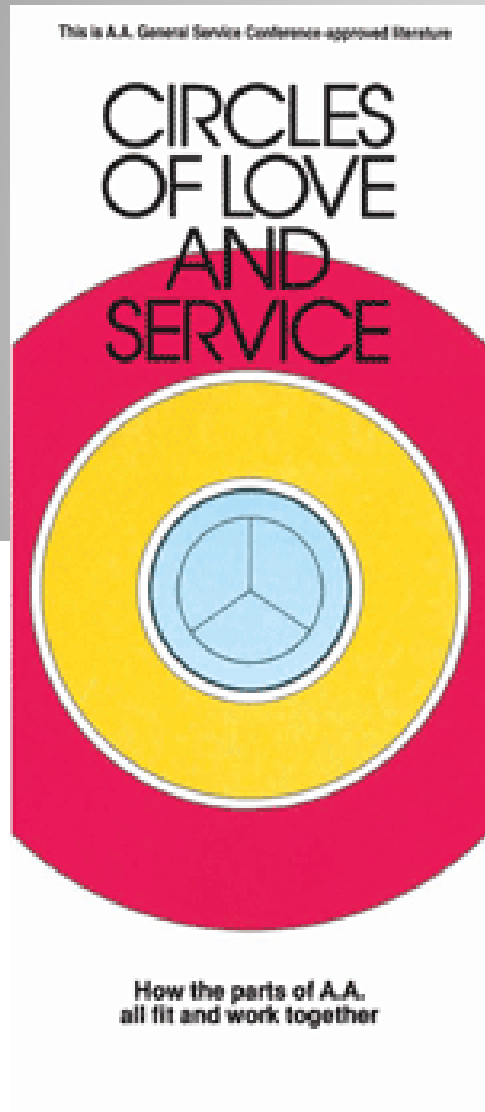


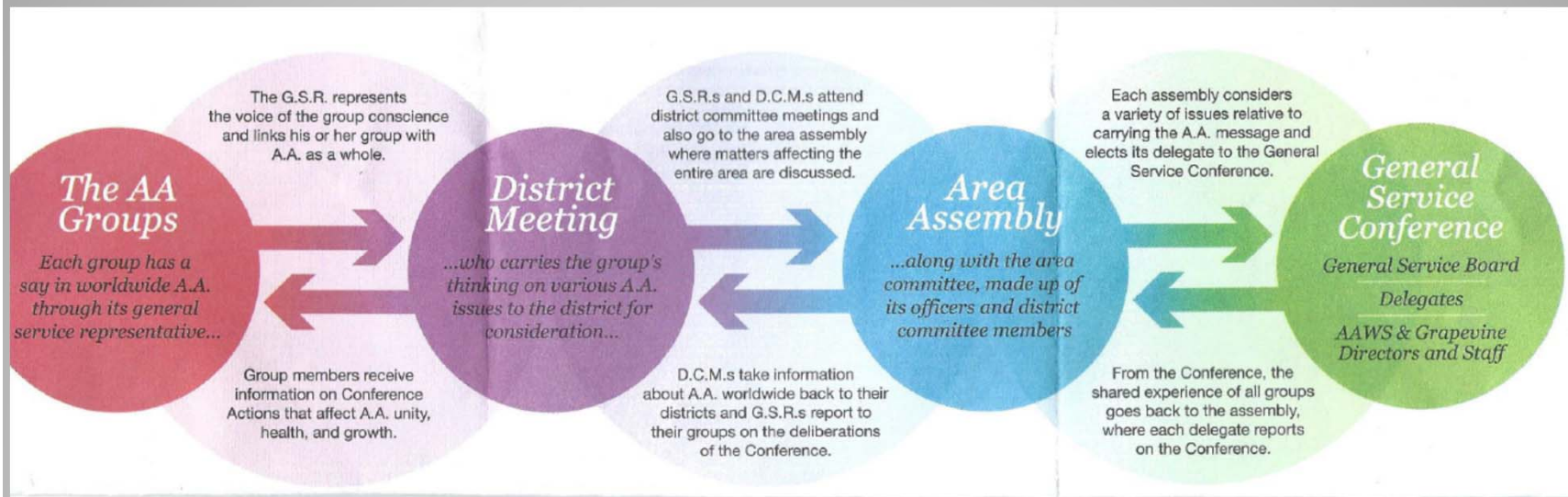
The A.A. group... where A.A.'s service structure begins





**How the parts of AA all fit
and work together to
help the alcoholic who
still suffers.**

Tradition Two



For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express Himself in our groups conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept One

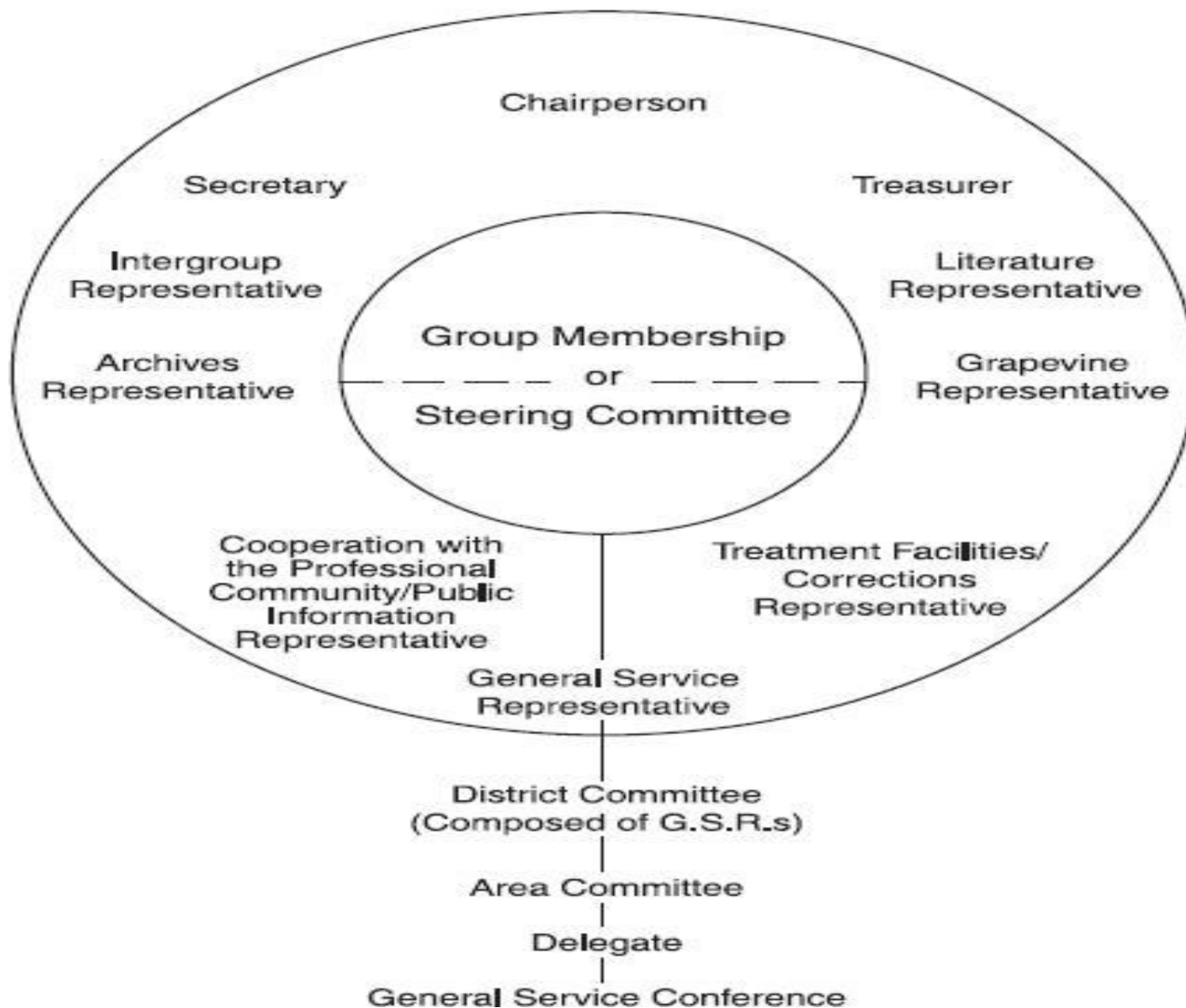
The final **responsibility** and ultimate **authority** for AA world services should always reside in the **collective conscience** of our whole Fellowship.



The A.A. group... ...where A.A.'s service structure begins

- An A.A. *meeting*...
 - ...is a gathering of A.A.'s at a specified time and place
 - ...is generally concerned with A.A.'s program of recovery
- An A.A. *group*...
 - ...is a *spiritual entity* that exists outside walls of the meeting room
 - Members have frequent contact with other members
 - Members perform service work together
 - ...is founded upon the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group



District

- A division within the Area, represented by GSRs and District Committee Members.

District Committee Member (DCM)

Also known as a District Chair. An experienced GSR or committee member elected by other GSRs to represent the groups of their district in DCM committee meetings and to coordinate service activities in the district.

AREA

An area is a geographical division within a state or province. A Delegate to the General Service Conference is elected from an area assembly. Normally there is one area to a state or province, except in heavily AA-populated places, where there may be two, three, or more areas in a state or province. Some areas include portions of more than one state or province.

Delegate

The man or woman elected every other year to represent the area at the annual Conference meeting in New York and to bring back the results of that meeting to the area.

Pre-Conference Process

- January 14th - Preliminary Agenda
- February 15th - Final Agenda & Background Material
- Distribution
 - DCM
 - Committee Chairs
 - Anyone interested...
- Pre-Conference Assembly & Workshop - April 8, 2017
 - Committee meetings
 - General Session

What is a Group informed Conscious

- The *competitive way* permits the person with the loudest voice to push his ideas across, take a vote and come up with a 'majority' decision.
- In the *cooperative way*, group members come together in mutual trust to arrive at a group decision, not one individual's personal triumph.
- This reminds us that Concept One states "The final responsibility for AA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship."
- Tradition Two: "*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.*"

Suggested Steps to Achieving an Informed Group Conscience

- **GATHER KNOWLEDGE:** The GSR or other chairperson of the group informs himself/herself about the topic to be discussed. Then:
 - **PRESENT TOPIC/ISSUE:**
 - **SHARING:**
 - **CONSENSUS:**
 - **RECAP:**

The Minority Opinion

- In Alcoholics Anonymous, once a vote has been taken on a motion, the minority parties ALWAYS have the opportunity to speak from the floor. If someone in the majority (the winning side) would like to change their vote after the minority has spoken, it becomes a motion to reconsider which needs to have a second. It is then open to further discussion (if the original motion was open to discussion) before a new vote on the original motion is taken. It is not amendable and requires the same type of vote (majority or 2/3) as the original motion.

Concept Two

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in world affairs.

- ✓ In 1948 Dr. Bob suffers from a fatal illness
 - Becomes clear that Bill and Bob will not be around forever
 - November 16th, 1950
- ✓ April 1951 - First General Service Conference
 - 5 year experiment
 - 1955 Bill turns the Fellowship over to the groups
 - The A.A. Groups now fulfill the role that the co-founders did

Who Makes Up the Conference?

- 93 Delegates
- 21 Trustees
 - 8 Regional
 - 2 At Large
 - 4 General Service
 - 7 Non-Alcoholic
- 2 A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Directors
- 16 G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff

- Total - 134

General Service Board

- ✓ There are 21 Trustees
 - Fourteen Alcoholic (Class B)
 - 8 Regional
 - 2 At-Large
 - 4 General Service
 - 2 from A.A.W.S.
 - 2 from the Grapevine Board
 - Seven Non-Alcoholic (Class A)
- ✓ Trustees comprise the General Service Board
- ✓ G.S.B. owns A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine
- ✓ G.S.B. operates the General Service Office

General Service Office

Staff Positions

- Conference Coordinator
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Group Services
- International
- Literature
- Nominating
- Public Information
- Regional Forums
- Staff Coordinator
- Treatment Facilities

General Service Office

Services include:

- Group services
- International
- Loners & Internationalists
- Public Information
- Anonymity breaks
- Cooperation w/Professional community
- Self-support
- Alcoholics Anonymous website
- Files
- Group records
- Help for groups in treatment and correctional facilities
- Regional Forums
- Area, state and provincial conventions

Committee System

Conference Committees

- Agenda
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine
- Literature
- Policy and Admissions
- Public Information
- Report and Charter
- Treatment and Accessibilities
- Trustees
- Archives
- International Conventions and Regional Forums

Role of the delegate

- Responsibility to serve the US/Canada Conference as a whole.
- Voting member of Conference, brings to its deliberations the experiences and viewpoints of their own area.
- After hearing all points of view and becoming fully informed during the conference, they vote in the best interests of A.A. as a whole.
- Concept three – Right of decision.

Reporting on the Conference

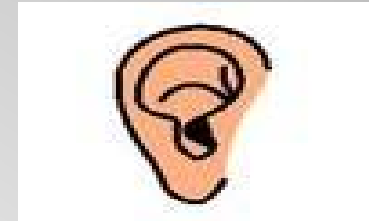
To be available to attend and present -

- Area
- Districts
- Groups

What I Saw



What I Heard



What I Felt



Thank you for allowing me
to serve you at the GSC

Questions

