



CONCEPTS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA LTD
AREA 20 SERVICE LETTER

FALL 2025 VOL. XLIX NO.3

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In the Spirit of Rotation....



Greetings Area 20,

The last several years of editing the Concepts have been a true labor of love. I have always enjoyed non-fiction writing, and at one point last year, was editing four different newsletters for various outside interests. In 2026, I will be down to 2 newsletters. And yes, they were all quarterly on the same deadline schedule.

In the spirit of rotation, I am stepping down from being the news gatherer and supplying Beth articles to format. She has been formatting and putting the seasonal touches on our quarterly newsletter. The editor and co-editors roles have evolved as we no longer send the newsletter through the US Mail and deal with 'return to sender' and updates, now it is just e-mailing bounce backs. It is a challenge to develop or request articles that are current and worth reading and writing. There are so many media sources clamoring for attention and I am glad I was able to be part of this Area 20 newsletter tradition.

December 2025 will be our last effort. Communication at all levels is so important, perhaps the next editors will develop a new system/format. One of my professional journals is no longer being written at all, because the data showed only 10% of issues emailed were being opened. Now they send a daily digest, short and sweet.

In Service,

Susan H.



As an editor of the Area 20 Concepts Newsletter, I have always strived to improve your reading experience. As with most projects like this, I learn as I go, adapting to use the technology better. In this case, I have been using mainly Google Slides to create the content and then save all as a .pdf for publication. Typically, I depend on Susan to give me a direction for a theme, then embellish from there. The file I was creating/submitting was quite large in size, likely due to my creative efforts and trying to establish content that was aesthetically pleasing. At the same time, I was noticing less content from the Area Chairs, Delegates, and so on, which led to me digging out more event info (more flyers), images, etc. via the Area 20 and local District websites, which likely also contributed to the file size issue. 😊

My recent efforts have focused on consolidating local events, workshops, and service opportunities onto one or two pages, a change that will make our newsletter more organized and efficient for you. I have enjoyed redeveloping such topics as Young People's Groups, digging up AA history, and other content! Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about publication and to be of service.

Beth Z.

312-303-0539

bethz1299@gmail.com

**Please direct all
communications to:**

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

July 29, 2025

To: GSRs, DCMs, Trustees, Non-trustee Directors, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts, GSO and Grapevine Employees

Dear A.A. Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all who attended and supported the International Convention which took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, earlier this month. More than 34,000 members and guests from over 90 countries were present to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Fellowship. It truly was an extraordinary gathering of love and service! Being with tens of thousands of A.A. members from around the world was a powerful reminder of the depth and reach of our Fellowship—and the joy that comes from sharing our sobriety one day at a time.

In my last communication, I mentioned that operations on the 8th and 11th floors at the General Service Office will be consolidated to the 11th floor only. This will not only realize a savings in occupancy costs but also allow for better collaboration and effectiveness among all departments and services we provide. This consolidation will require modifications to our 11th floor office space to accommodate our Publishing and Communication Services Departments, which currently are on the 8th floor.

Over the last several months, we have spent considerable time and effort planning for the retrofit of our space. In order to keep associated costs and disruption to services to a minimum, the office will be operating remotely beginning Monday, August 11, and will do so for the duration of the project, which is expected to be about 10-12 weeks. Please know that our mail and shipping operation and our phones will be operational throughout. Unfortunately, visiting the office during this time will not be possible, but GSO tours will resume when the project is completed. For updates during this period, please check aa.org, aagrapevine.org, the Meeting Guide App, as well as the Grapevine and La Vina apps.

We recognize that many of you may be planning visits to GSO, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We look forward to welcoming you back to a refreshed and revitalized GSO this fall. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this project.

With gratitude for your continued service to Alcoholics Anonymous,



Bob W.

General Manager, G.S.O.

THERE IS NO
COFFEE



Upcoming Events, Fellowship and Service Opportunities

September 13, 2025

NIA 20 Fall Election Assembly

Lord of Life Church, 40W605 IL-38,
Elburn, IL
Doors open 8 am, meeting 9 am - 4 pm
To register via Zoom, click [here](#).

September 20, 2025

2025 Kankakee Mini-Conference

There is a Solution

Life Compass Church,
175 S. Wall St, Kankakee, IL

Tickets \$15
Doors 8:30 am
Conference 9:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Lunch Provided 12 to 1 p.m.
Access the flyer [here](#).

October 18, 2025

District 42 and 20 Hosts

Big Book Conference 2025

A Vision for You

Lord of Life Church,
40W605 IL-38, Elburn, IL
Doors open 8 am
Meeting 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

General Admission \$15

Optional Lunch Purchase \$15
(Gluten free and Vegetarian available)

More event info [here](#).

November 14 - 16, 2025

District 40 Hosts

51st Illinois State Conference

90 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg
1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL

All Event Info, click [here](#).

Registration, click [here](#).

Schedule Information, click [here](#).

December 13, 2025

NIA 20 Winter Assembly

SAVE THE DATE!

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hosted by District 43, Location TBD

Upcoming Events, Fellowship and Service, Cont.

February 6 - 8, 2026

ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS - ISCYPAA XLIII

Hosted by Prairypaa (Chicago Suburbs)

Chicago Marriott Naperville, 1801 N Naper Blvd., Naperville, IL

Area wide:

Legacy of Service: AA Service Manual & Concepts Study:

2nd Thursday, 7:30-8:30 pm

Hosted by District 11

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 819 5925 862, Passcode: 639187

District 40: Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Warrenville

GSR Meeting: 4th Friday, 7 p.m.

6:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 715 North Carlton Street,
Wheaton, IL

District 41: Addison, Bensenville, Elmhurst, Lombard, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park

GSR & Committee Meeting: 3rd Thursday, 7 pm

Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, Calvin Hall, 367 Spring Rd, Elmhurst,

District 42: Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale,
Oakbrook, Westmont, Willowbrook

District 42 Monthly Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7 pm

WSAC, 17 Quincy St., Westmont, IL

District 43: Bolingbrook, Lisle, Naperville

District 43 Business Meeting: 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 965 6659 0236, Passcode: 932879

For a listing of all Area 20 District Meetings: <https://aa-nia.org/meetings/>

Reflections on the 2025 AA International Convention

I had an incredible time at the AA International Convention. We arrived late Thursday evening after an Amtrak train ride from Seattle. When we arrived at the hotel, we were handed the key cards to a room on the 12th floor. God is always reminding us that we are right where we are supposed to be. On Friday Vancouver BC was beautiful and energizing; the perfect place where the mountains and the ocean meet. I got a cup of coffee and selected something to attend; there were many things to do! Although everything filled quickly when the door opened, once you were in your seat it was worth the effort.

The weather was great throughout the weekend and nighttime walks back to the hotels down the center of the streets were fun, we eventually got back on the sidewalk, we do “work the program.” I met my friend’s sponsorship line of sober women and had dinner with them at a nice restaurant. I was able to lose myself in the archives that are usually located at GSO. I could have spent all day there. I took the Conference souvenir book home with me, and it helps keeps the energy of that weekend fresh. It is still available for sale at aa.org for \$18.00.

What stands out the most for me is the inability to label what I felt on Friday night while sitting in that crowd of at least 35,000 people. I remember catching a glimpse of the Delta Police Pipe Band as they entered the stadium right after the Flag Ceremony. I immediately teared up because I knew I was experiencing something I would never be able to reinvent or explain to someone. The entire evening was like that, with each speaker and even a lone guitarist performing Hallelujah, the emotional and immense spiritual energy was everywhere.

I encourage everyone to go in 2030, even if it is just for part of the four-day event, Friday night was my favorite part. Lucky for us who live in Illinois, the next International will be in St. Louis. So, mark your calendars, you will not want to miss this!



My Top 10 list of Impressions of the International Convention 2025

10. Vancouver, Canada is an incredibly beautiful town to have the convention.
9. Amazed at the availability of meetings and events that are of interest to ALL people.
8. Friends of Bill from 189 countries, plus, gathered to celebrate 90 years of AA.
7. Incredibly moving flag ceremony and meetings at the Convention Center where ALL people were invited to meet.
6. ALL the helpful volunteers and people who live in the city.
5. The Language of the Heart being shared among ALL the people especially the people of 50 or more years of sobriety.
4. The 12 steps were read at the closing ceremony in 12 different languages.
3. Getting emotional at the end of the closing ceremony when everyone who wanted to, recited the serenity prayer.
2. A greater sense of belonging just from being there and being a part of the event.
1. I'm looking forward to going to the next celebration in St. Louis, MO, 2030 if my higher power has it planned for me!



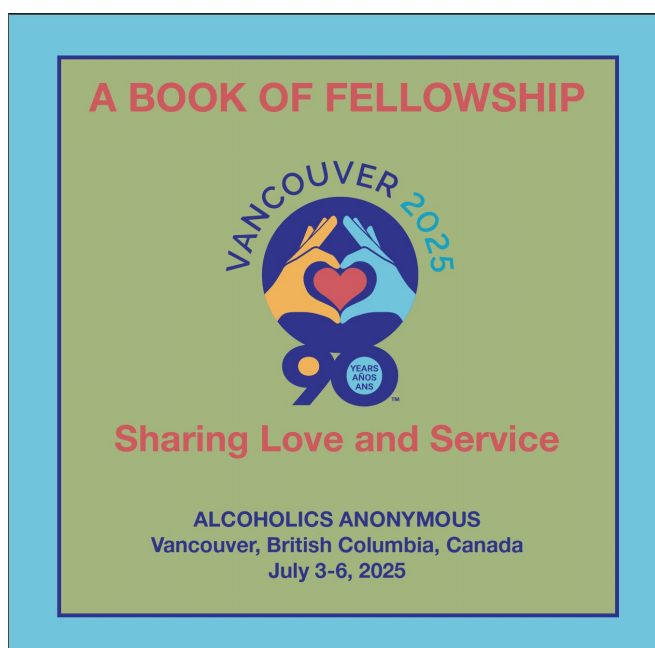
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 3–6, 2025 | Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 21, 2025

With great joy we are making this stunning new book available to the widest audience of our Fellowship, while quantities last.

A BOOK OF FELLOWSHIP: 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service



A gorgeously produced collectible art book, the official 2025 International Convention Souvenir Book, **A BOOK OF FELLOWSHIP: 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service** is a lavishly illustrated celebration of our Fellowship, its vibrant history, and “everything that is A.A.” around the world today.

In these full-color pages, you’ll read the inspiring stories of Bill W., Dr. Bob, and the early A.A.s who one by one and then together in fellowship spread the word of Alcoholics Anonymous, one alcoholic to another, in ever-widening circles. And how this sharing of love and service continues today.

A treasure trove of rare archival and never-before-published new material, this volume brings to vivid life in words and pictures the message of Recovery, Service and Unity that lies at the very heart of our program.

384 pages; 8" x 8" hardcover Includes:

- full color throughout
- and a spectacular "gate fold-out" celebrating 50 years of the GSO Archives!
- **ITEM B-86; \$18 USD**

To go to the A.A.W.S. web store, click [here](#).

As always, we encourage ordering all our items of literature from local groups, districts, areas, Intergroups and Central Offices, as they play a vital role in local Twelfth Step activities.

David R.
Publishing Director

The collage features several images related to the Vancouver 2025 World Aquatics Championships. At the top left is a large circular wall display with the Vancouver 2025 logo and the text "Language of the Heart" in three languages. To its right is a collection of various pins and badges, including one that says "ONE SHOW AT A TIME". Below these is a large indoor arena filled with spectators. To the right of the arena is a map of the Vancouver Convention Centre East building. Below the map is a large crowd of people sitting on the floor of an arena. In the center is a blue t-shirt with the text "He gets a thrill out of skipping in front of fast-moving vehicles." To the right of the t-shirt is a cartoon character in a yellow raincoat. At the bottom is a wide-angle view of the Vancouver city skyline and mountains.

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.

Boże, daj mi pogodę
ducha, abym godził się z
tym, czego nie mogę
zmienić, odwagę, abym
zmieniał to, co mogę
zmienić i mądrość, abym
odróżniał jedno od
drugiego. (Polish)

神よ、私に、変えら
れないものを受け
入れる平静さと、変
えられるものを変え
る勇氣と、その違い
を知る知恵を与えて
ください。
(Japanese)

אלוהים, תן לי את השלווה שאני
יכול לשנות, את האומץ לשנות את
הדברים שאני יכול לשנות, ואת
החוכמה להבחין בין הדברים
(Hebrew)

God, geef mij de sereniteit
die ik niet kan veranderen,
de moed om de dingen te
veranderen die ik kan
veranderen, en de wijsheid
om het verschil te kennen
(Dutch)

Zot, më jep qetësinë për
të pranuar gjërat që nuk
mund t'i ndryshoj, guximin
për të ndryshuar gjërat që
mundem dhe mençurinë
për të dalluar ndryshimin.
(Albanian)

हे ईश्वर, मुझे वह
शांति प्रदान करें जिसे
मैं बदल नहीं सकता,
उन चीजों को बदलने
का साहस प्रदान करें
जिन्हें मैं बदल सकता
हूँ, तथा अंतर को
समझने की बुद्धि
प्रदान करें। (Hindi)

Gott, gib mir die
Gelassenheit, die ich nicht
ändern kann, den Mut, Dinge
zu ändern, die ich ändern
kann, und die Weisheit, das
eine vom anderen zu
unterscheiden. (German)

Боже, дай мені спокій,
який я не можу змінити,
мужність змінити те, що
я можу, і мудрість, щоб
розпізнати різницю.
(Ukrainian)

Θεέ μου, δώσε μου
τη γαλήνη που δεν
μπορώ να αλλάξω,
το θάρρος να
αλλάξω αυτά που
μπορώ και τη
σοφία να ξέρω τη
διαφορά (Greek)

Dios, concédeme la
serenidad que no puedo
cambiar, el coraje para
cambiar las cosas que
puedo y la sabiduría para
reconocer la diferencia.
(Spanish)

E te Atua, homai ki ahau te
rangimarie e kore e taea e
au te whakarereke, te maia
ki te whakarereke i nga mea
ka taea e au, me te mohio ki
te mohio ki te rereke. (Māori)

Chúa ơi, xin ban cho con sự thanh thản mà con
không thể thay đổi, lòng can đảm để thay đổi những
điều con có thể, và sự khôn ngoan để biết được sự
khác biệt (Vietnamese)

Concept X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

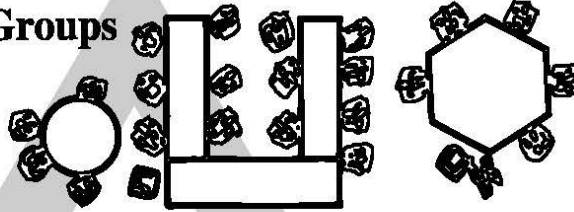
Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level, each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it. This requires that authority must be *delegated* at every level — and that the responsibility and authority of every entity are well defined and clearly understood.

As we have seen (Concept I) “final responsibility and ultimate authority” reside with the A.A. groups, and they *delegate* this authority to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, *delegates* to the General Service Board the authority to manage A.A.’s affairs (Concept VI) in its behalf. The board is in authority over its subsidiary operating corporations — A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. — but it *delegates* to the directors of those corporations the authority necessary to run these service entities. The directors are in authority over the executives of the corporations, but delegate to these officers the authority needed to carry out their administrative responsibilities. And finally, the executives *delegate* to the GSO and Grapevine staff members and other employees the *authority* necessary to carry out their important service jobs.

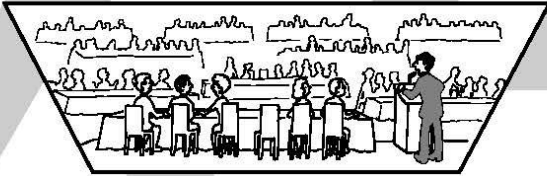


**A.A. World
Services, Inc.**

the Groups



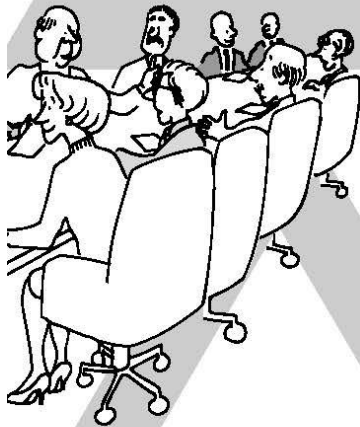
General Service Conference



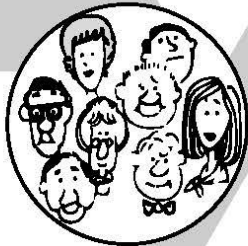
Responsibility

Authority

Service



General
Service
Board



Grapevine
Corporate Board

"It is perfectly clear," says Bill, "that when *delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with.*" Otherwise, he warns, "those charged with operating responsibly will be demoralized." For example, the General Service Board owns the two operating corporations and its authority over them is absolute. "Nevertheless, so long as things go well, it is highly important that the trustees do not unnecessarily interfere with or usurp the operating authority of these entities."

"To sum up: Let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and to discharge their clear responsibilities."

