

Brief Glossary of A.A. Service Terms

Area	A geographic division within a state or province. A delegate to the General Service Conference is elected from each delegate area every two years. Normally there is one area to a state or province, except in heavily A.A.-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. Maryland is comprised of two Areas: Area 13-Washington, D.C. and two counties in Maryland, and Area 29 – All of Maryland except Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties which are in Area 13.
Area Assembly	A bi-monthly meeting of GSRs and Area Committee members to discuss area operations and Twelfth Step work, as well as matters affecting A.A. as a whole. Bi-annually, in October of odd years, this assembly will elect Area Officers including a Delegate to the General Service Conference.
Area Committee	A committee made up of District Committee Members (elected by the GSRs in their respective District), Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs, and the MGS Board of Directors.
Area Mini Conference	This is an annual event in which topics of interest to trusted servants in Area 29 are presented and discussed. Most generally, the topics are relevant to what is being discussed at A.A.'s annual General Service Conference.
Bridging the Gap	A.A. members volunteer to serve as temporary contacts to introduce newcomers to A.A., thereby “bridging the gap” between treatment or correctional facilities and the rooms of A.A. Bridging the Gap may also encompass presentations by A.A. members to alcoholism professionals, patients/clients and/or inmates on “what A.A. is and what it is not”.
Class A Trustee (non-alcoholic)	These trustees are members of the general public. They are non-alcoholic friends of A.A. and have often worked in cooperation with A.A. for years. They are selected for a variety of reasons including business skills, professional standing, and the specific profession in which they work. They provide a critical link between A.A. and the world of their profession, helping to ensure A.A.'s ability to cooperate and to carry its message into those professions in the hope that they will, in turn, offer it to the still suffering alcoholics with whom they come in contact.
Class B Trustee (alcoholic)	These trustees are selected for their particular business or other skills. They, like the Regional and At-Large Trustees, serve a 4-year term on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
Committee System	A means by which a considerable amount of work can be accomplished by a deliberative body, such as the General Service Conference. The committee most closely associated with the request/concern first reviews the issues, and then their recommendation for action is brought before the larger body (the Conference). The Conference, upon hearing their recommendation, then decides whether to approve it, modify it, or not act on it. A committee may also decide action is not needed on an item sent to them, or they may refer it to another committee/board they believe to be more appropriate for the item. Many areas, such as Area 29, also use the committee system to good effect.
Conference Advisory Actions	Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations of the Conference committees, or floor actions, that have been approved by the Conference body as a whole with substantial unanimity (2/3 vote of the Conference body). A sample list of these actions can be found in the A.A. Service Manual (2018-2020) on page S59-S60.

Conference Additional Committee Considerations	These are additional items considered by the Conference committees that have not been raised to the level of policy requiring a vote. These items will be passed on to the General Service Board for possible implementation after the Conference. Some examples of an Additional Committee Consideration might be: suggestions for changes to Conference committee kits and workbooks, suggestions for fellowship sharing on important topics, suggestions for consideration of changes to the website, etc.
Conference Approved	Literature, pamphlets, books, videos, and films that have been approved by the General Service Conference.
Corrections	Corrections Committee focuses on carrying the message behind the walls of correctional facilities, and works hard to develop good working relationships with professionals in the corrections field.
Delegate	The trusted servant elected every other year to represent the Area at the annual General Service Conference meeting in New York, and to bring back a report of the results of that meeting. Additionally, the Delegate is the primary communication channel between the Area and the rest of the A.A. service structure in the U.S and Canada.
District	A division within the Area that is represented by a District Committee Member. These divisions can be along county lines, zip code areas, natural divisions such as rivers, or any other boundary that seems to be appropriate. In some areas, where there is a large contingent of members who speak a particular non-English language, districts can be formed using language as a basis. Generally, the request to form a new district is reviewed and approved by the Area Assembly.
District Meetings	The service meetings attended and coordinated by the District Committee Member, District Committee Chairs, and the G.S.R.'s for the groups within the district.
General Service Conference	An annual gathering of delegates - one from each of the general service areas in the US & Canada - to conduct the business of AA in the US and Canada. In addition to these delegates, the Members of the General Service Board, G.S.O. staff members, and non-trustee Directors of A.A.W.S., Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. are also voting members of the Conference. This event lasts one full week in April or May and provides guidance to the G.S.O. and to the service boards (A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine).
General Service	Originally, the services performed by A.A.'s General Service Office in New York City. Today it means the work of anyone in the General Service Structure - GSR, DCM, Committee Chairs, Area Officers, Delegates, etc.
Grapevine	The A.A. Grapevine is the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is one of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board and is responsible for Grapevine operations and finances.
International Convention	A convention of A.A. members held every 5 years to celebrate A.A.'s continuing progress. This convention does not conduct any official business. It is held in cities in the U.S. & Canada based on bids provided to the General Service Board; and rotates based on the bidding process, which also involves the General Service Conference.
	A grouping of several areas or provinces from which a Regional Trustee is

Region ~ North East Region	elected to serve on the General Service Board. There are eight regions - six in the U.S. and 2 in Canada. Maryland is part of the North East Region, which includes Connecticut (A11), Delaware (A12), Washington, D.C. (A13), Maine (A28), Maryland (A29), E. Massachusetts (A30), W. Massachusetts (A31), New Hampshire (43), Northern New Jersey (A44), Southern New Jersey (A45), Central New York (A47), NENY (A48), South East New York – SENY (A49), Western New York (Area 50), Eastern Pennsylvania (A59), Western Pennsylvania (A60), Rhode Island (A61), Vermont (A70)
Regional (Class B) Trustee	A person (most often a Past Delegate) who has been elected to serve as a Trustee on A.A.'s General Service Board. Each of the 8 regions in the U.S. & Canada has a Regional Trustee. Class B Trustees provide a regional perspective while serving A.A. as a whole.
Sharing Session	A meeting of a group, district, area, or conference in which everyone is invited to contribute ideas and comments on matters affecting A.A.
Service Sponsor	A Service Sponsor is someone who has served Alcoholics Anonymous beyond the group level and is willing to share their service experience, strength and hope. It is helpful if a Service Sponsor has a working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts as well as the A.A. Service Manual.

A.A. Acronyms

A.A.W.S.	Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., one of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board; oversees the operations of the General Service Office and serves as the publishing company for Conference-approved and service literature.
B.T.G.	Bridging The Gap. This activity attempts to establish temporary contacts or sponsors for newcomers being released from treatment or correctional facilities.
C.A.R.C.	Conference Agenda Review Committees – Each of these committees is made up of from 4-10 districts. Members from these districts meet to discuss and report on pre-selected topics from the Agenda of the General Service Conference.
C.P.C.	Cooperation with the Professional Community – This committee builds a working relationship with the many professional persons who may come into contact with the drinking alcoholic, and may be able to refer them to A.A. One focus of this committee is to be "friendly with our friends" and perhaps do through cooperation that which we could not do separately.
D.C.M.	District Committee Member - An experienced G.S.R. elected by other G.S.R.s to lead the groups of their district in district committee meetings and to coordinate service activities in the district. The D.C.M is a member of the Area Committee. The D.C.M. attends all Area meetings and their district's Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARCs).
G.S.B.	General Service Board. The legal entity that oversees the operation of A.A.'s publishing arms (AAWS & A.A. Grapevine), as well as the General Service Office in New York City

G.S.C.	General Service Conference. The annual Conference, held in New York, during which the policies of A.A. as a whole are discussed and formed. Maryland General Service, Area 29, sends one elected representative (Delegate) to this conference.
G.S.O.	General Service Office. The office, in New York city, that acts as the headquarters for A.A.'s worldwide communication.
G.S.R.	General Service Representative. This person provides the critical link between the A.A. group and the rest of the A.A. fellowship. In Area 29, the G.S.R. typically attends 5 Area Assemblies, the Area Mini Conference, and monthly district meetings. Many G.S.R.s also attend the North East Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA) and the bi-annual North East Regional Forum (NERF)
GvR	Grapevine Representative. Often a service position within an A.A. group. This person works to ensure that group members know about the A.A. Grapevine magazine (A.A.'s meeting in print)
I.G.L.C.	Intergroup Liaison Committee. This Committee of the Area serves as a resource conduit between the area general service structure, the General Service Office, and the Intergroups in the area.
N.E.R.A.A.S.A.	North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly A regional event where all members of the Fellowship can discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.
N.E.R.D.	North East Regional Delegate/North East Regional Delegate reunion. Delegates to the General Service Conference in the Northeast Region are fondly referred to as "NERDs". There is also an annual reunion of NERDs called "NERD" where past delegates, seated delegates and alternate delegates get together to share experience, strength and hope.
N.E.R.F.	North East Regional Forum – Regional Forums are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, the A.A. Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure.
N.E.R.T.	North East Regional Trustee – A member of the General Service Board of Trustees from the Northeast Region. Coordinates and provides information to the Northeast Regional Delegates (NERDs)
P.I.	Public Information. This is the activity of carrying the A.A. message through the use of the media, such as newspapers, television, radio, films, etc. It is through this activity that A.A. informs the world at large about the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.