

# Area 39

## Western Area of Missouri

### GSR Orientation

January 2023



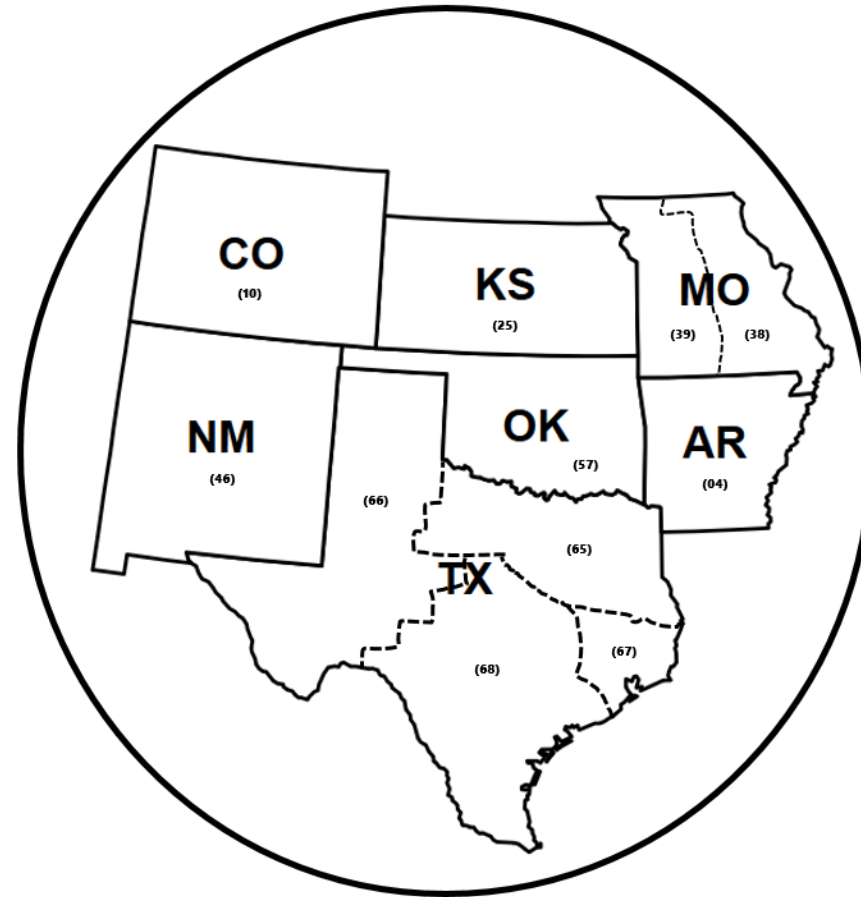
# Area 39 Trusted Servants – Panel 73\*

- Delegate: Debbie H.
- Alternate Delegate: Greg G.
- Chair: Jon M.
- Alternate Chair: Brian H.
- Secretary: Cliff P.
- Alternate Secretary: Trinity C.
- Treasurer: Tony B.
- Alternate Treasurer: Alex B.
- Archivist: Cheri J.

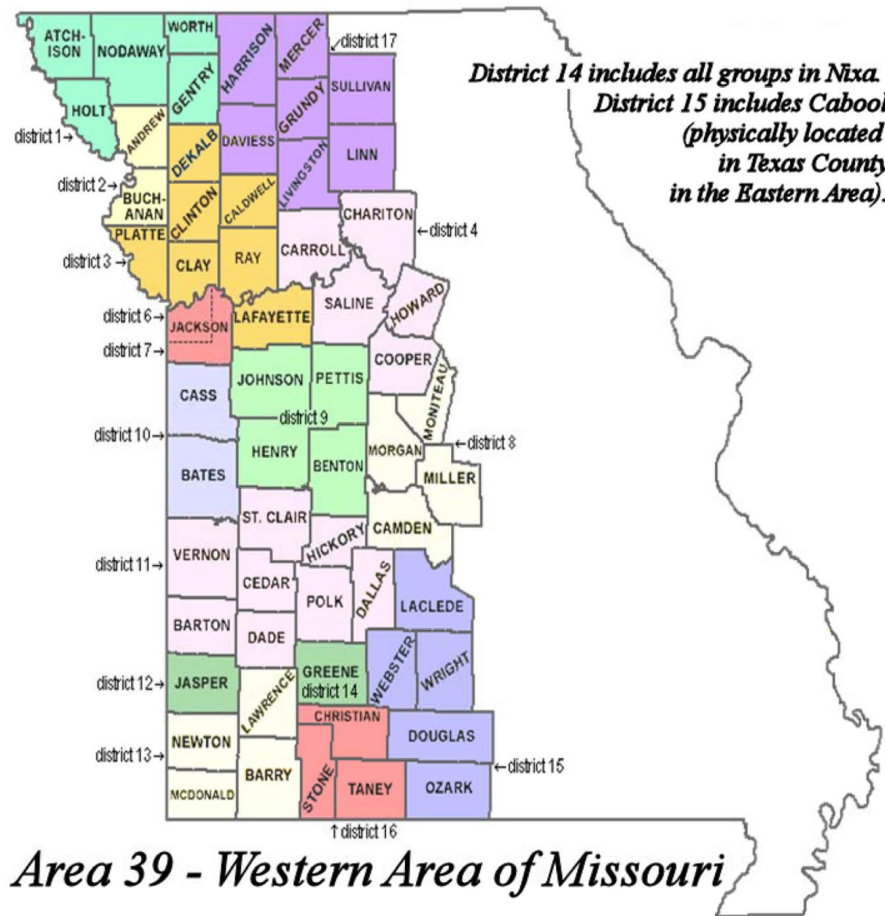
*\*The first General Service Conference (Panel 1) was in 1951. Subtract 1950 from the current year to find the Panel that starts that year. Area 39 rotates to a new panel of trusted servants in odd-numbered years.*



# We are one of 11 Areas in the Southwest Region

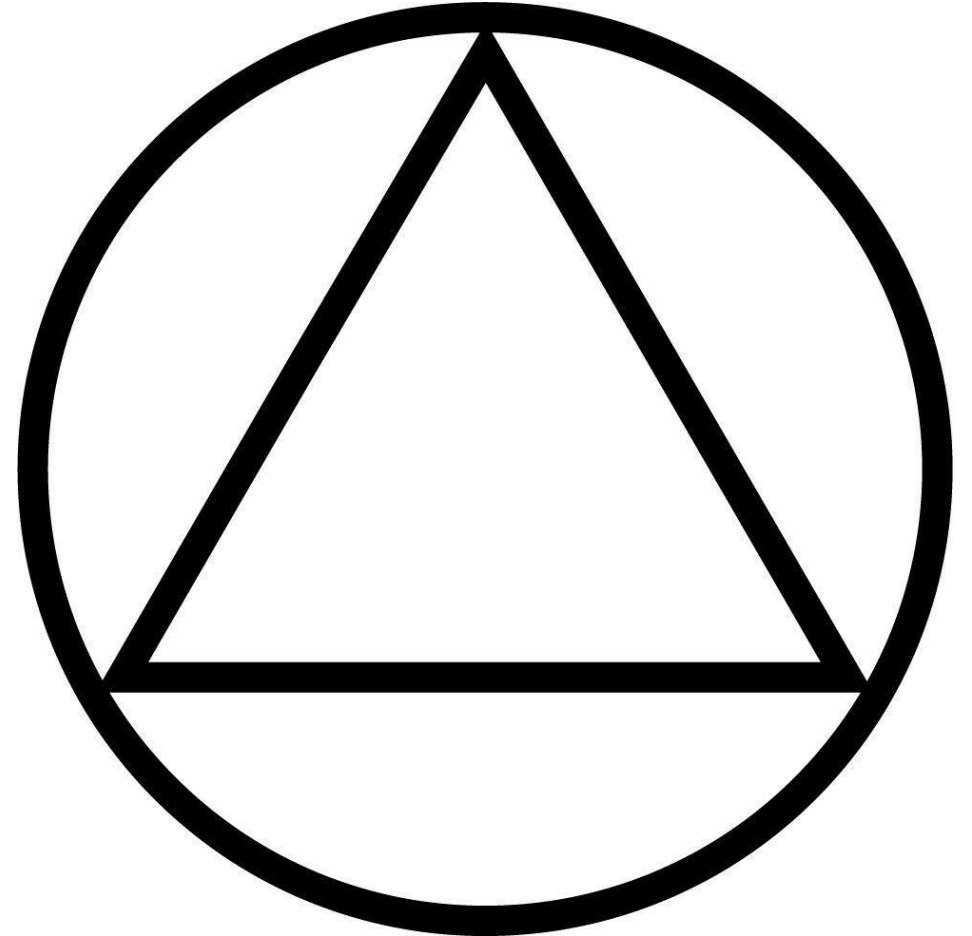


There are 17 districts in Area 39:  
16 geographic districts & 1 linguistic district



# The Three Legacies

- Recovery
  - The program of recovery in the Twelve Steps
- Unity
  - The suggestions for achieving unity are the Twelve Traditions
- Service
  - The Twelve Concepts for World Service are the guiding principles for working together

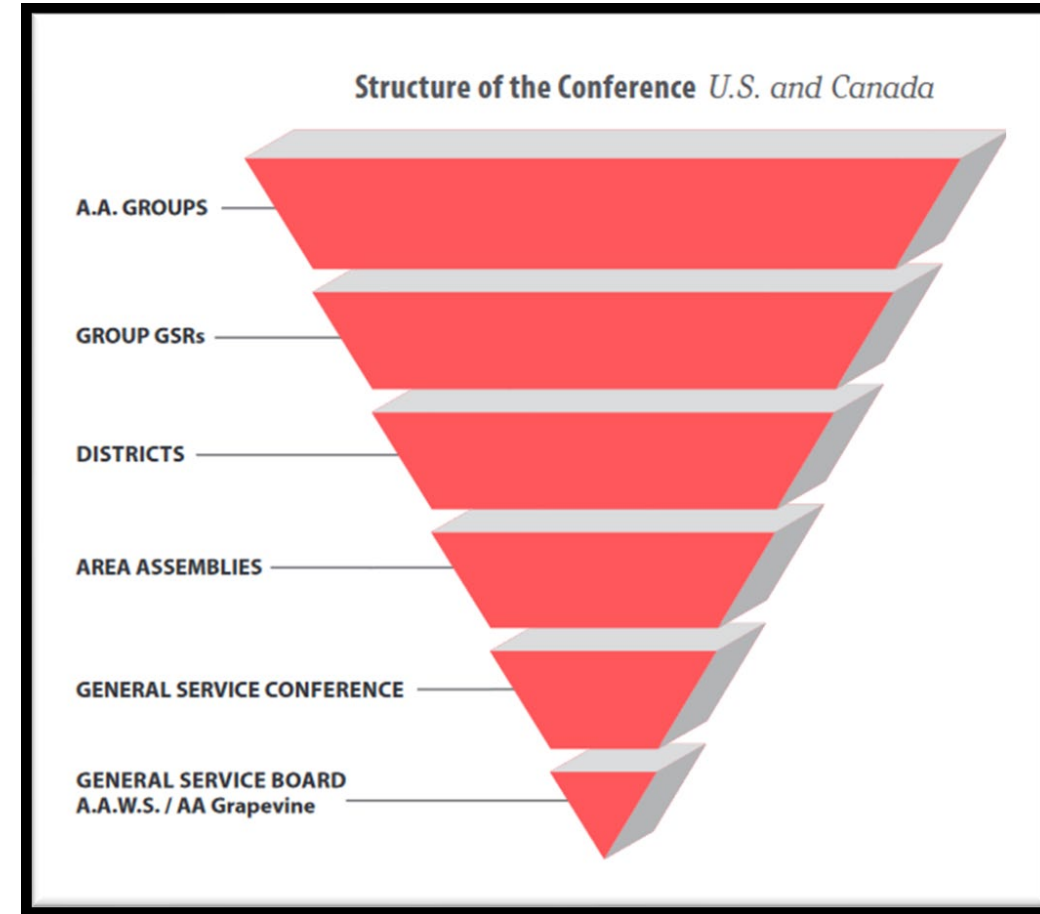


# The Service Structure

- Concept 1
  - The final responsibility & the ultimate authority for AA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.
- Concept 2
  - The groups have delegated much of their responsibility and authority to the General Service Board

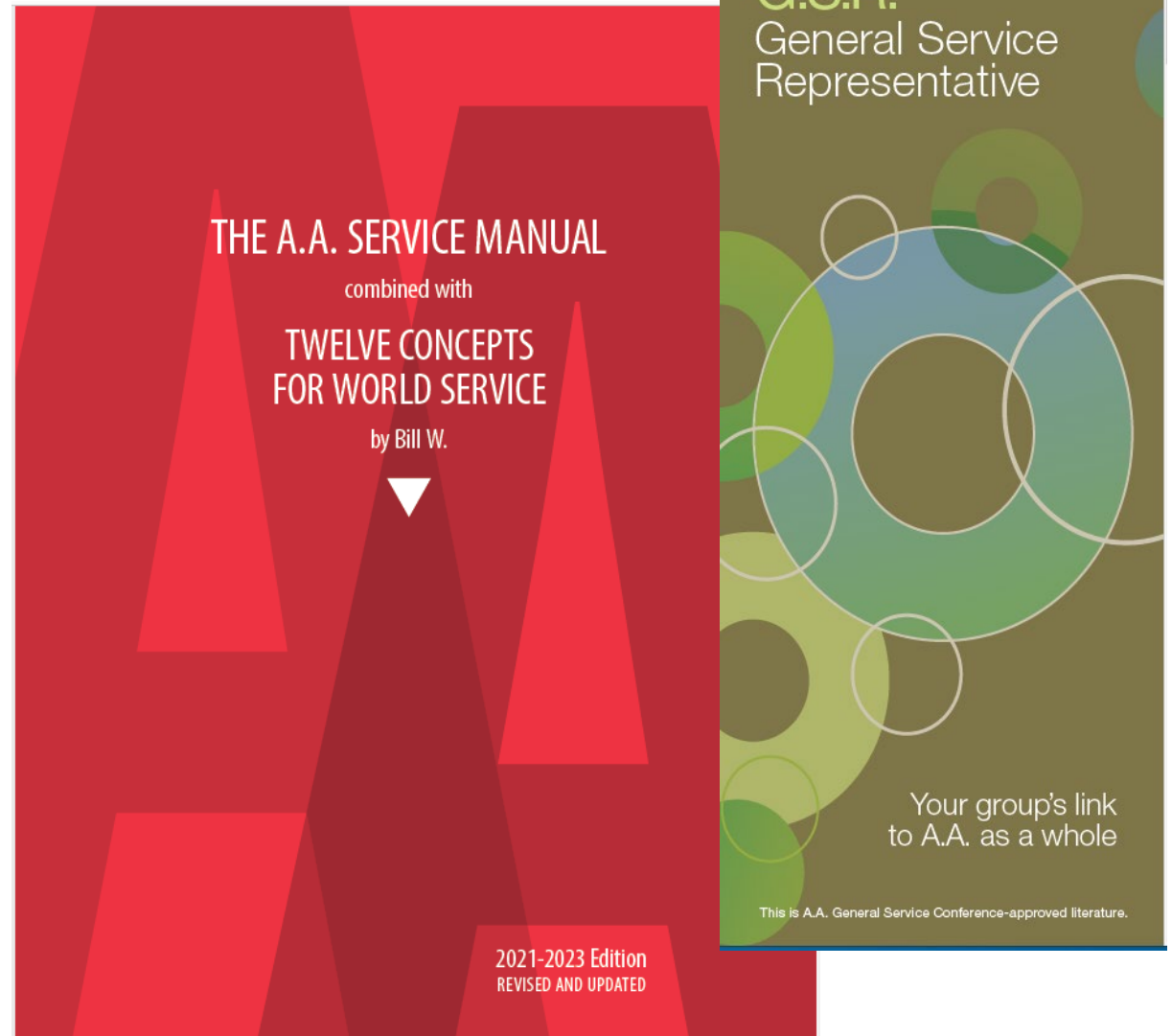
The AA Groups are the final authority

The GSR represents the group, carrying the group conscience to the District & Area



# Your Role as GSR

- You are the link between your group and the larger Fellowship.
- You are a channel through which news, information, opinions and ideas can flow **in both directions.**
- You give your group a voice in the affairs of the fellowship.





# Purpose of the Assembly

*Area 39 of Western Missouri Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous is a service body. It protects and respects the autonomy as well as the privilege of dissent of any or all AA groups in the Area and of any voting members of the Area Assembly.*

*Service will be the primary purpose of the Assembly. It will encourage all AA groups to participate in the business conducted at the Assembly and to support it in its efforts to cooperate with General Service Office, AA World Services, the A.A. Grapevine Inc. and the AA General Service Conference.*

*The Assembly is specifically charged with the duty of electing a Delegate to the General Service Conference and to provide the Delegate with the support to assist in the duties of this office. The Assembly is further charged with electing such other Officers as it deems necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly.*

# Service Concepts

- Concept 3: The Right of Decision
  - A trusted servant can decide which matters to dispose of on their own, and which they should consult with others on
    - Likewise, the Assembly can decide which matters to handle on its own, and which need to be sent back to the groups
  - It will sometimes happen that new information or ideas will come up at assembly that make you reconsider your vote—*Does this address my group's concerns? Would my group consider this a deal-breaker?*
  - You have the right to cast your vote based on your best judgment, based on your group conscience and considering what's best for the fellowship as a whole
  - “Trusted servants at all A.A. levels are expected to exercise leadership, and leadership is not simply a matter of submissive housekeeping.” – Service Manual, p. C22
  - “...for after all God gave us brains to use.” -- BB, p. 86.

# Service Concepts

- Concept 4: The Right of Participation
  - “Each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”
  - Responsibility & Authority go together.
  - Those responsible for carrying out a decision should have reasonable input into that decision.
  - There are no bosses and underlings in AA
  - “Just as there are no second-class A.A.’s, neither should there be any second-class world service workers, either.” -- Service Manual, p. C15

# Service Concepts

- Concept 5: The Right of Appeal

- “Throughout our world service structure, a traditional Right of Appeal ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”
- This is the basis of Minority Opinion. If you believe the Assembly is about to make a significant mistake, you have the right—and some would argue, a duty—to speak up.
- Likewise, *listen* to the minority opinion & give it careful consideration.
- “The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.” –Service Manual, p. C16

# Area Committees

- Accessibilities
- Archives
- Corrections
- Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC)
- Grapevine
- Literature
- Public Information (PI)
- Treatment
- Missouri State Convention
- WAMO Convention
- Subcommittees:
  - Technology (Subcommittee of PI)
  - Bridge the Gap (Subcommittee of Corrections & Treatment)
- Other committees:
  - Finance
  - Institutions Forum
  - WAMY PAA
  - Ad Hoc (“for this”) committees, appointed as needed for specific tasks

# Schedule of a 2-year panel: Year 1

- January assembly
  - New GSR Orientation
  - Committees set goals for the year, prepare budget proposal
  - Saturday night: Workshop
- March assembly
  - Committees discuss & report back on agenda items for General Service Conference
  - Review budget proposals; amend as needed, adopt budget
  - Prepare delegate for General Service Conference
- June assembly
  - New budget year begins
  - Saturday night: Delegate gives report from General Service Conference
- September assembly:
  - Committees continue with their business
  - Saturday night workshop

# Schedule of a 2-year panel: Year 2

- January assembly
  - As for Year 1, *except* no New GSR orientation
- March assembly
  - As for Year 1
- June assembly
  - As for year 1, *except*:
  - Any business left over from this assembly is tabled until January, to keep the calendar clear for September elections
- September assembly:
  - Election assembly! Past delegates attend to administer election, regional trustee invited
  - Committees elect chairs for coming rotation
  - Saturday night: Trustee (if attending) remarks, or workshop
  - Assembly approves committee chairs
  - Elections for area officers for next panel, done by Third Legacy procedure

# Website resources

- Main website: <https://wamo-aa.org/>
- Mailing lists: <https://wamo-aa.org/emaillist/>
- Forms: <https://wamo-aa.org/forms/>
- Note: *These will change when the new website goes live!*



# Nuts & Bolts of an Assembly

- Friday evening
  - Committee chairs meeting (hybrid)
- Saturday morning
  - Early sign-in, call to order
  - GSR Sharing session
  - DCM Sharing session
- Saturday afternoon
  - Committee meetings
- Saturday evening
  - Workshop or Delegate activity
- Sunday morning
  - Officer reports
  - Committee reports
  - Past delegate remarks
  - Business meeting
    - Previous minutes
    - Attendance report
    - Treasurer's report
    - Old business
    - New business
    - Other applicable business

# Financial & Budget Procedures

- Tony B., Treasurer

# Your GSR Report

- Form on website; or email to [secretary@wamo-aa.org](mailto:secretary@wamo-aa.org); or written copy.
- Electronic submission STRONGLY preferred.
- Include:
  - How does your group support the service entities (District / Area / GSO) and/or your local central office?
  - How does your group participate in carrying the message outside the group?
  - How do you encourage newcomers to get involved in service & group activities?
  - Has your group faced any challenges or problems? If so, how did you address them? (This information is often VERY useful.)
- Please do NOT include:
  - Where/when, schedule changes, etc.

# Participation in Assembly business

- Committee meetings:
  - Everyone participates
  - Everyone votes
- Business meeting:
  - Everyone participates in discussion (right of participation)
  - GSRs, DCMs, Standing Committee chairs, Area Officers, Past Delegates (red badge) vote
  - Alternate GSR, Alternate DCM, Alternate committee chairs vote if GSR/DCM/Chair is not present
  - No absentee/proxy voting
  - No one person has more than one vote

# Dealing with an agenda item

- Item is placed on agenda by submitting at least 45 days prior to assembly
  - It's usually worth getting help with the wording, to make sure the motion is clear as to what it's proposing.
- During the business meeting, the item is brought to the floor. The person submitting it is asked to present it
- Discussion: Members go to the microphone to discuss. All may participate.
  - 2 minutes per speaker
  - Don't just repeat what someone else has already said
  - Give everyone a chance at the mic
- Eventually someone will call the question (move that discussion end)
- Simple majority vote on whether to end discussion & go to a vote on the motion.
- Assuming discussion ends, go to vote (voting members only).
  - May be simple majority or 2/3 majority, depending on question.
  - Many items handled by show of hands, others by counting off.
  - If vote is unanimous: It's decided, go to next agenda item
- Otherwise: Opportunity for minority opinion.
  - Only those who voted in the minority (voting for a motion that failed, or against a motion that passed) can go to the mic
  - After minority opinion, check whether minority opinion changed anyone's vote.
  - If not, motion is settled. If anyone says yes, discussion is re-opened.
- After further discussion, eventually someone will call the question, again decided by simple majority
- After minority opinion & additional discussion, a second vote is held. This vote is final.

# Your To-Do List

- Sign up for Email lists
- Room reservations for the year
- Assembly dates in your calendar
- Choose committees
- GSRs: Keep your alternate informed!
- Alternates: Demand your GSR keep you informed!

# The Six Warranties (Concept 12)

- The Area is where the voice of the fellowship expresses itself, under the guidance of our collective Higher Power. Concept 12 offers the General Warranties of the Conference as guiding principles:
  - The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.
  - Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.
  - None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.
  - That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity.
  - That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy
  - That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Questions?