

A.A. Terms

What Does It Mean?

When I was new to General Service and trying to understand what this service structure was all about, I would hear people talking in some sort of secret language using phrases like GSR, DCM, CPC, Delegate, AAWS, etc. I was constantly asking “What does it mean?” We hope the following list helps you in your service journey so you can answer, “I know what that means!”

A.A.G.V. – A.A. Grapevine, Inc. / A.A. Grapevine Board

- One of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board.
- A.A.G.V. is responsible for the production and content of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña Magazines.
- The A.A. Grapevine Board reports directly to the General Service Board and is accountable to the Fellowship through the Conference Grapevine Committee.

A.A.W.S. – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

- One of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board.
- A.A.W.S. is responsible for producing and distributing A.A.’s literature and related material for the U.S. and Canada
- The A.A.W.S. Board reports directly to the General Service Board and is accountable to the Fellowship through A.A.’s General Service Conference.

Area

- A geographical division within a state or province from which the Conference delegate is elected. There are 2 areas in Missouri – Western Area (39) and Eastern Area (38)

Class A Trustee (nonalcoholic)

- There are 7 Class A trustees who are members of the General Service Board, men and women who are recognized professionals in their own fields.
- They have a loving commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous and some experience in working with A.A. and its members.
- Historically, A.A. has relied on its non-alcoholic friends to represent us in the media as non-AAAs, they did not have to worry about their anonymity.

Class B Trustee (alcoholic)

- There are 14 Class B trustees who are members of the General Service Board. They are men and women A.A.s who are strong in one or more of the following areas: length of sobriety, business or professional background, leadership, and grasp of A.A. structure.

Delegate

- The person elected every two years by the Area Assembly to serve the U.S. and Canada as a whole at the annual General Service Conference.
- The delegate communicates the actions of the Conference to A.A.’s in their area.
- The delegate is the primary point of contact between the area and the rest of the A.A. service structure in the U.S. and Canada.

DCM – District Committee Member

- An experienced GSR elected by the other GSR’s
- The DCM is the chairperson of the geographical unit of the A.A. service structure – a district – and represents the groups that meet there.
- The DCM is an essential link between the groups’ GSRs and the Area Delegate
- The DCM is automatically a member of the Area Committee, chairs the regular district meetings, attends all the area meetings, and often attends regional meetings.

District

- A geographical unit within the area that is defined by the area and coordinated by a District Committee Member

GSB – General Service Board

- The legal entity that oversees the operation for A.A.’s service corporations, A.A.W.S., Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., as well as the General Service and Grapevine Offices.

GSC – General Service Conference

- For this event, the 93 delegates from the U.S. and Canada come to New York City for a week each April for a closed business meeting to conduct the business of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada. The 21 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.

GSO – General Service office / New York

- Provides services to groups in the U.S. and Canada and publishes A.A. literature.

GSR – General Service Representative

- An A.A. member elected by the A.A. group to participate in discussions and activities at the group, district and area level.
- GSRs elect their District Committee Member (DCM), Area Delegate and Area Officers.

GV – A.A. Grapevine Magazine

- The International Journal of A.A. and “our meeting in print” published monthly

La Viña Magazine

- Spanish language “our meeting in print” magazine published bimonthly.

Region

- A grouping of several states or provinces from which a Regional Trustee is elected to serve on the board of trustees
- There are six regions in the United States and two in Canada. The Western Area of Missouri is in the Southwest Region.

Third Legacy

- Recovery is A.A.'s first legacy, Unity its second and Service is the third legacy.
- In this sense, service is the sum total of A.A.'s services, from a Twelfth Step call, to A.A.'s coast-to-coast and worldwide service activities of carrying the message of recovery and hope.
- There is also a Third Legacy voting procedure that is sometimes used in A.A. (more information on this can be found in the Service Manual, Chapter 1)

Trustee

- The General Service Board is composed of 21 trustees.
- The trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous are concerned with everything happening inside and outside A.A. that may affect the health and growth of the fellowship.
- Trustees of the General Service Board have a spiritual and legal responsibility to protect A.A.'s Steps, Traditions, Concepts, principles and the integrity of the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. (See Class A trustee and Class B trustee)

Conference Actions

Committees discuss and debate agenda items. The committees have three options for each agenda item

1. Take no action.
 2. “Recommit” or send back to the trustees committee for more information. “Committee Considerations” – are requests for additional information and suggestions the committee would like discussed by the trustee committee for the next conference.
 3. Bring a “Recommendation” to the whole GSC/ for further discussion and vote. At Conference a recommendation is considered a motion. If passed the motion becomes an “Advisory Action”.
- “Floor actions” are motions that come from the floor of the conference instead of out of committee. The conference as a whole also has 3 options for floor actions
1. Vote not to consider – no discussion
 2. Retracted – the person making the motion withdraws it
 3. Discussion and vote by entire conference – which could also result in an Advisory Action, being sent back to the trustees committee or a failed vote