

GLOSSARY OF GENERAL SERVICE TERMS

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.

Area – A geographical division within a state or province. A Conference delegate comes from an area. 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. Our area is Northern Illinois Area 20. There are a total of three areas within Illinois.

Area Assembly – A meeting of G.S.R.s and committee members to discuss area affairs and, every other year, to elect a delegate and committee officers.

Area Committee – A committee made up of district committee members (elected by the G.S.R.s in each district) and area committee officers. The area committee generally serves as a “steering committee” for the area.

Class A Trustee – Nonalcoholic trustee. 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 A.A. and some experience working with A.A. and its members. Historically, A.A. has relied on its non-alcoholic friends to represent use in the media. As non-A.A.s, they do not have to worry about their anonymity.

Class B Trustee – Alcoholic trustee. 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.

Conference – The General Service Conference; this can mean either the structure involving committee members, G.S.R.s and delegates in an area, or the annual meeting of Conference delegates each April in New York. For this conference, 93 delegates from the U.S. and Canada come to New York for a week for a closed business meeting to conduct the business of A.A.

C.P.C. – Cooperation with the professional community. C.P.C. committees at the district, area, trustee, and Conference level help carry the message to professionals who work with alcoholics.

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 to the area the results of that meeting.

District – A division within an area, represented by committee members.

D.C.M. – District Committee Member. An experienced G.S.R. elected by other G.S.R.s to represent the groups of their district in area committee meetings and to coordinate service activities in the district.

District Meetings – Meetings of the D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s of groups in a district.

General Services – Movement-wide services, performed by anyone in the general service structure (G.S.R., D.C.M., delegate, etc.)

G.S.B. – General Service Board. The legal entity that oversees the operation of 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.

G.S.O. – The General Service Office, which provides services to groups in the U.S. and Canada and publishes A.A. literature.

G.S.R. – General service representative. The group contact with the General Service Office; voting member of the area assembly.

Grapevine (G.V.) – The international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous is available online and in print. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is one of the two operating corporations of the General Service Board and is responsible for Grapevine operations and finances.

Gv.R. – Grapevine representative; the group or district contact with the Grapevine office.

La Viña – Bimonthly Spanish-language magazine published by the A.A. Grapevine.

P.I. – Public Information. P.I. committees at the district, area, trustee, and Conference level help carry the message by working with the media.

Region – A grouping of several areas from which a regional trustee comes to the board of trustees. There are six regions in the U.S., two in Canada. We are part of the East Central Region. Regional conferences and forums take place in which group members, G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, Area committee members, delegates, and members of the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. participate.

Rotation – The spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership.