

April 2024
Edition

Concept 4

Area 51 Delegate's Beaming Beacon

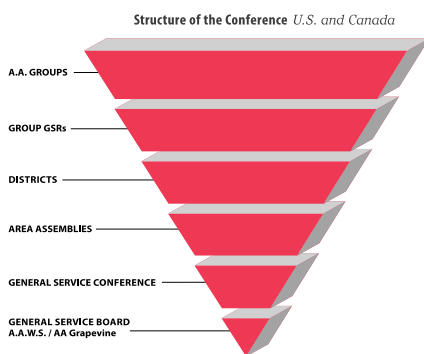


At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

This concept basically tells us that for trusted servants there should always be a right to vote and discuss in equal proportion to the job they perform. According to the Conference Charter, voting members include area Delegates, Trustees, and the staff and directors of AAWS and the Grapevine. Every member brings their expertise to the conversation, however no one member is seen as having authority over the other. At Conference, everyone is equal. Trustees may have a certain area of expertise that they can contribute, and members of staff bring practical knowledge as they are doing the majority of the work to implement policy. It says in the Service Manual that when the time comes to ballot, there are no "superiors", no "inferiors", and no "advisers", meaning every vote counts equally. The Trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and finances, the staff members and directors carry out the work, and the area delegates (delegated from the groups in Concept 2) are responsible for guiding our world services. If one group held authority over the another then the one group would feel like a rubber stamp or "second class". Bill envisioned a conference body working together harmoniously, participating together, belonging to one body, to conduct all of our affairs with a "spiritual cooperation." This is the essence of Tradition 2, trusting all of our trusted servants and allowing them to participate with equality in the conference structure.

Information to Share

- Public Information GSO Desk Update - [Link](#)
- Your Help is Needed: Anonymity and Social Media - [Survey](#)
- AAWS Highlights/Jan 25, 2024 [Link](#)
- Plain Language Big Book FAQ [Link](#)
- Announcement from the Grapevine Publisher. Price Increase [Link](#)
- 7th Annual National Corrections Conference [Flyer](#)



WHAT GOES ON AT THE CONFERENCE

A typical Conference lasts a full week, with sessions running from morning to evening. The opening day features roll call, a keynote address, an opening dinner and a five-speaker A.A. meeting. Business sessions from Sunday to Friday include committee meetings, presentations, workshops and new trustee elections. Each delegate serves on one of the standing Conference committees, which meet early in the week and do the principal work of the Conference. (Some delegates also have a secondary committee assignment.) The committees bring recommendations to the full Conference for consideration as possible Advisory Actions, and generally the last two days (or more) are devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations. Although outside of the Conference, a delegates-only meeting is often held prior to the opening day of the Conference. On Saturday, following the last day of Conference business, a closing breakfast provides an opportunity for goodbyes, and for rotating trustees to say their farewells. In some years, a visit to Stepping Stones, the historical home of Bill W. and Lois in Westchester County, is scheduled at the end of the Conference. In alternate years, a visit to GSO is scheduled during Conference week.

Service Manual p. 39

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

Inside the Delegate's Rocket Ship

- April 2 - First Tuesday Service Manual Study!! [Link](#)
817 1867 0172 Passcode: 1212164
- April 3 - 2nd Virtual Preconference [Flyer](#)
- April 3 - Delegate's Only meeting
- April 6 - Eastern Preconference [Flyer](#)
- April 7 - Spanish Preconference [Flyer](#)
- April 9 - EDW Feedback Session
- April 14-20 - CONFERENCE Brooklyn, NY
- May 17-19 - Spring Assembly in Lake Junaluska [Notice](#)

box 459

Box 459 Fall 2023

- Meet the 4 new Class B Trustees
- Inside AA Finances: The Reserve Fund
- And More!

At Wits End:
A Grapevine
Joke

Location, location

When an ostrich is being chased by a lion on the plains of Africa, it sticks its head in the sand. But when the hardships of life are chasing an alcoholic, he shoves his head...well... somewhere else.

Contacts:

Julie R.
delegate@aanorthcarolina.org

Denise M.
altdelegate@aanorthcarolina.org

