

SERVICE



WORK SHOP GROUP

WORK SHOP FORMAT

- (1) OPEN MEETING WITH MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOW BY THE SERENITY PRAYER.
- (2) READ ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PREAMBLE
- (3) INTRODUCE SELF (SHORT AND SWEET)
- (4) GIVE SHORT RESUME ON LAST WEEK CHAPTER
- (5) READ CHAPTER, ASK THE PREPARED QUESTIONS AND BE SURE ALL PARTICIPATE.
- (6) MEETING SHOULD LAST NOT OVER NINTY MINUTES
- (7) QUESTIONS OVER, CALL FOR SECRETARY REPORT
- (8) COLLECTION
- (9) ASK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
- (10) ASK MEMBERS TO READ CHAPTER FOR NEXT WEEK MEETING SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK, BE PREPARED.
- (11) MENTION THE CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE ON TABLE.
- (12) CLOSE WITH LORD'S PRAYER AS USUAL.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS A FELLOWSHIP OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE WITH EACH OTHER THAT THEY MAY SOLVE THEIR COMMON PROBLEM AND HELP OTHERS TO RECOVER FROM ALCOHOLISM.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING. THERE ARE NO DUES OR FEES FOR A. A. MEMBERSHIP; WE ARE SELF-SUPPORTING THROUGH OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS. A. A. IS NOT ALLIED WITH ANY SECT, DENOMINATION, POLITICS, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION; DOES NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN ANY CONTROVERSY; NEITHER ENDORSES NOR OPPOSES ANY CAUSES. OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO STAY SOBER AND HELP OTHER ALCOHOLICS TO ACHIEVE SOBRIETY.

*Maggi Harrison
8-26-98*

THE TWELVE STEPS

1. WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL--THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE.
2. CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY.
3. MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM.
4. MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES.
5. ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES, AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS.
6. WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER.
7. HUMBLY ASKED HIM TO REMOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS.
8. MADE A LIST OF ALL PERSONS WE HAD HARMED, AND BECAME WILLING TO MAKE AMENDS TO THEM ALL.
9. MADE DIRECT AMENDS TO SUCH PEOPLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE, EXCEPT WHEN TO DO SO WOULD INJURE THEM OR OTHERS.
10. CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT.
11. SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT WITH GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM, PRAYING ONLY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT.
12. HAVING HAD A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AS THE RESULT OF THESE STEPS, WE TRIED TO CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO ALCOHOLICS, AND TO PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

1. OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A. A. UNITY.
2. FOR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY -- A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN.
3. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR A. A. MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING.
4. EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR A. A. AS A WHOLE.
5. EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE -- TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.
6. AN A. A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE, OR LEND THE A. A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.
7. EVERY A. A. GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.
8. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.
9. A. A. AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.
10. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE A. A. NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.
11. OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO, AND FILMS.
12. ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.

A.A.'S LEGACY OF SERVICE

BY BILL W.

OUR TWELFTH STEP--CARRYING THE MESSAGE--IS THE BASIC SERVICE THAT THE A.A. FELLOWSHIP GIVES; THIS IS OUR PRINCIPAL AIM AND THE MAIN REASON FOR OUR EXISTENCE. THEREFORE, A.A. IS MORE THAN A SET OF PRINCIPLES; IT IS A SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS IN ACTION. WE MUST CARRY THE MESSAGE, ELSE WE OURSELVES CAN WITHER AND THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN THE TRUTH MAY DIE.

HENCE, AN A.A. SERVICE IS ANYTHING WHATEVER THAT HELPS US TO REACH A FELLOW SUFFERER--RANGING ALL THE WAY FROM THE TWELFTH STEP ITSELF TO A TEN-CENT PHONE CALL AND A CUP OF COFFEE, AND TO A.A.'S GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION. THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THESE SERVICES IS OUR THIRD LEGACY OF SERVICE.

SERVICES INCLUDE MEETING PLACES, HOSPITAL COOPERATION, AND INTERGROUP OFFICES; THEY MEAN PAMPHLETS, BOOKS, AND GOOD PUBLICITY OF ALMOST EVERY DISCRIPTION. THEY CALL FOR COMMITTEES, DELEGATES, TRUSTEES, AND CONFERENCES. AND, NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN, THEY NEED VOLUNTARY MONEY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP.

THESE SERVICES, WHETHER PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AREAS, OR A.A. AS A WHOLE, ARE UTTERLY VITAL TO OUR EXISTENCE AND GROWTH. NOR CAN WE MAKE A.A. MORE SIMPLE BY ABOLISHING

SUCH SERVICES. WE WOULD ONLY BE ASKING FOR COMPLICATION AND
CONFUSION.

CONCERNING ANY GIVEN SERVICE, WE THEREFORE POSE BUT ONE
QUESTION: "IS THIS SERVICE REALLY NEEDED?" IF IT IS, THEN MAIN-
TAIN IT--WE MUST, OR FAIL IN OUR MISSION TO THOSE WHO NEED AND
SEEK A.A.

NEVER GET DISCOURAGED IN SERVICE WORK. PLANT THE SEED AND LET THE GOD OR POWER GREATER THAN YOURSELF DO THE BALANCE. ONLY "HE" HAS THE POWER!

DO YOU SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT BECOMES OF THE AA SEEDS WE PLANT IN THE MINDS OF OTHERS. DO YOU SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT BECOMES OF THE SEEDS PLANTED IN OUR MINDS.

IT IS LIKENED TO A SOWER OF SEEDS. SOME OF THE SEED FALLS ON THE ROAD. PASSERS-BY TRAMPLE SOME OF IT INTO THE DUST AND THE BIRDS EAT THE REST. SOME OF THE SEED FALLS ON THE GRAVEL PATCH OR SHOULDER OF THE ROAD. IT SPROUTS QUICKLY BUT WHEN THE HOT SUN COMES IT WITHERS AND DIES JUST AS QUICKLY BECAUSE IT WASN'T DEEPLY ROOTED. SOME SEED FALLS AMONG THE WEEDS. IT GROWS, BUT THE WEEDS GROW MORE QUICKLY AND CHOKES IT OUT. SOME OF THE SEED FALLS ON FERTILE SOIL AND BRINGS A GREAT YIELD, ANYWHERE FROM THIRTY TO ONE HUNDRED TIMES THE AMOUNT SOWN.

SO BE IT WITH AA SEEDS WE SOW. THE AA SEED THAT FALLS ON THE ROAD MAY BE COMPARED TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HEAR THE AA WORD BUT HAVE IT SNATCHED FROM THEM BY THEIR OLD DRINKING IDEAS BEFORE THEY CAN ACCEPT IT AND GET SOBER. THE AA SEED THAT FALLS ON THE GRAVEL PATCH OR SHOULDER OF THE ROAD IS LIKE THOSE WHO HEAR THE AA WORD AND IMMEDIATELY AND HAPPILY ACCEPT IT. BUT, BECAUSE THEY ARE SHALLOW, THEY CAN'T ENDURE

TEMPTATION, TROUBLE, OR PERSECUTION AND THEY FADE AWAY. THE AA SEED THAT FALLS AMONG THE WEEDS IS LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO HEAR THE AA WORD, BUT THE PROBLEMS OF DAILY LIFE, THE ILLUSORY PROMISES OF WEALTH, OR THE DESIRE FOR MATERIAL THINGS, CROWD IN AND SLOWLY CHOKE OUT THEIR AA LIFE. SOMETIMES IT TAKES YEARS FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. THE AA SEED SOWN ON FERTILE SOIL, HOWEVER, IS LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO HEAR THE AA WORD AND UNDERSTAND IT AND WORK PATIENTLY TO PRODUCE A GOOD DAILY QUALITY OF SOBRIETY AND IN TIME, DAY BY DAY, THEY HAVE A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

THE PROGRAM OF AA IS SUCH A PROGRAM THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST APPLY THE PRINCIPLES TO HIS OR HER LIFE TO REAP THE BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

CHAPTER ONE

MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHER MEMBERS

MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO AA

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING. OUR MEMBERSHIP OUGHT TO INCLUDE ALL WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM. HENCE WE MAY REFUSE NONE WHO WISH TO RECOVER. EACH MEMBER HAS TO CLARIFY HIS OR HER DESIRES. IF AN INDIVIDUAL REALLY WANTS TO GET DRUNK, THERE IS, SO FAR AS AA KNOWS, NO WAY TO STOP HIM. THE CO-FOUNDERS TOLD BILL D., THEIR FIRST SUCCESSFUL TWELVE STEP CALL, THAT AA HAD NO INTENTION OF TAKING THE PRIVILEGES OR RIGHTS TO DRINK AWAY FROM HIM. IF HE THOUGHT THIS THEY WOULD NOT WASTE HIS TIME. WHO OF THE MEMBERSHIP DARE TO BE JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER OF HIS SICK ALCOHOLIC SISTER OR BROTHER.

IF A ALCOHOLIC SHOWS UP AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP AND SAYS HE OR SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE AA PRINCIPLES, PEOPLE, OR SERVICE MANAGEMENT, WHEN HE DECLARES THAT HE CAN DO BETTER ELSEWHERE--WE ARE NOT TO WORRY. WE SIMPLY SAY, "MAYBE YOUR CASE IS REALLY DIFFERENT. WHY DON'T YOU TRY SOMETHING ELSE?"

IF AN AA MEMBER SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE HIS OWN GROUP, WE ARE NOT TO BE DISTURBED. WE SIMPLY SAY, "WHY DON'T YOU TRY ANOTHER GROUP OR START ONE OF YOUR OWN?"

TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SECEDE FROM AA ALTOGETHER,

WE ARE TO EXTEND A CHEERFUL INVITATION TO DO JUST THAT. IF THEY CAN DO BETTER BY OTHER MEANS, WE ARE GLAD. IF AFTER A TRIAL THEY CANNOT DO BETTER, WE KNOW THEY FACE A CHOICE: THEY CAN GO MAD AND DIE OR THEY CAN RETURN TO AA. THE DECISION IS WHOLLY THEIRS.

WE OF AA BELIEVE THERE ISN'T A FELLOWSHIP ON EARTH WHICH DEVOTES MORE CARE TO ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS; SURELY THERE IS NONE WHICH MORE JEALOUSLY GUARDS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO THINK, TALK, AND ACT AS HE WISHES. NO AA CAN COMPEL ANOTHER TO DO ANYTHING; NOBODY CAN BE PUNISHED OR EXPELLED.

OUR TWELVE STEPS TO RECOVERY ARE SUGGESTIONS, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS WHICH GUARANTEE AA'S UNITY CONTAIN NOT A SINGLE "DON'T". THEY REPEATLY SAY, "WE OUGHT"..... BUT NEVER "YOU MUST". WE THE MEMBERS OF AA HAVE ONLY ONE NAME THAT WILL COMPLETELY REGIMENT US, THAT IS "JOHN BARLEYCORN". THERE WILL NEVER BE REGIMENTATION BY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. EACH MEMBER CAN NEVER SAY OR INSINUATE TO ANYONE THAT HE OR SHE MUST AGREE TO OUR FORMULA OR BE EXCOMMUNICATED. THE ATHEIST MAY STAND UP IN AN AA MEETING STILL DENYING THE DEITY, YET REPORTING HOW VASTLY HE HAS CHANGED IN ATTITUDE AND OUTLOOK. IN ORDER TO CARRY THE PRINCIPLE OF INCLUSIVENESS AND TOLERANCE STILL FURTHER, WE MAKE NO RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENTS OF ANYONE. ALL PEOPLE HAVING AN ALCOHOLIC PROBLEM WHO WISH TO GET RID OF IT AND SO MAKE A HAPPY ADJUSTMENT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR LIVES, BE-

COME AA MEMBERS BY SIMPLY ASSOCIATING WITH US. NOTHING BUT SINCERITY IS NEEDED. BUT WE DO NOT DEMAND EVEN THIS. IN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE THE OXTHODOX, THE UNOXTHODOX, AND THE UNBELIEVER MIX HAPPILY AND USEFULLY TOGETHER. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS OPEN TO ALL.

ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO AA. WE OF AA HAVE NO DESIRE TO CONVINCe ANYONE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY BY WHICH FAITH CAN BE ACQUIRED. ALL OF US, WHATEVER OUR RACE, CREED OR COLOR, ARE THE CHILDREN OF A LIVING CREATOR, WITH WHOM WE MAY FORM A RELATIONSHIP UPON SIMPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE TERMS AS SOON AS WE ARE WILLING AND HONEST ENOUGH TO TRY.

THERE ARE ALCOHOLICS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS YOU AND I. THEY WERE CAUGHT AND WERE INCARCERATED FOR ACTS DONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. LET US NOT FORGET THAT EVERY AA MEMBER HAS BEEN, IN A SENSE A PRISONER. EACH OF US HAS WALLED HIMSELF OUT OF SOCIETY; EACH HAS KNOWN SOCIAL STIGMA. BUT THESE ALCOHOLICS, SOCIETY HAS BUILT A WALL AROUND THEM. THERE ISN'T REALLY ANY ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE AA MEMBERS AND MEMBERS ON THE OUTSIDE. THEREFORE, WHEN THEY COME INTO THE WORLD OF AA ON THE OUTSIDE, LET US BE SURE THAT NO ONE WILL CARE A HOOT THAT THEY HAVE DONE TIME. WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO BE--NOT WHAT THEY WERE--IS ALL THAT COUNTS WITH AA.

MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES ARE SOMETIMES VERY HARD TO TAKE, WHILE WE ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN SOBRIETY. YET WE DO SEE, IN THE LONG RUN, THAT TRANSCENDENCE OVER SUCH PROBLEMS IS

THE REAL TEST OF THE AA WAY OF LIVING. ADVERSITY GIVES MORE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW THAN COMFORT OR SUCCESS.

AA, WE WILL REPEAT, JEALOUSLY GUARDS ITS MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS. IT EVEN GOES SO FAR AS TO INSURE ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBER THAT NEITHER THE AA GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NOR THE HUMBLEST GROUP COMMITTEE CAN ISSUE A SINGLE DIRECTIVE TO AN AA MEMBER AND MAKE IT STICK, LET ALONE HAND OUT ANY PUNISHMENT.

GROUPS HAVE SOMETIMES TRIED TO EXPEL MEMBERS, BUT THE BANISHED HAVE COME BACK TO SIT IN THE MEETING PLACE, SAYING "THIS IS LIFE FOR ME; YOU CAN'T KEEP ME OUT." COMMITTEES HAVE INSTRUCTED MANY AN AA TO STOP WORKING ON A CHRONIC BACKSLIDER, ONLY TO BE TOLD, "HOW I DO MY TWELVE STEP WORK IS MY BUSINESS. WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?"

YES, AA DOES NOT DENY ANYONE HIS OR HER CHANCE TO RECOVER FROM ALCOHOLISM. WE OF AA WISH TO BE JUST AS INCLUSIVE AS WE CAN, NEVER EXCLUSIVE.

- (1) WHO DOES AA MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?
- (2) WHO HAS TO DECLARE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN AA?
- (3) HOW DO YOU BLACK BALL A PERSON IN AA?
- (4) DOES AA TAKE AWAY FROM THE ALCOHOLIC HIS OR HER PRIVILEGES OR RIGHTS TO DRINK?
- (5) WHAT COMMITTEE SUPERVISES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS?
- (6) DOES THIS COMMITTEE HOLD THE RIGHTS TO JUDGE, BE THE JURY AND EXECUTE THEIR FINAL DECISIONS.?
- (7) WHAT DO YOU TELL A MEMBER OF AA WHEN THIS MEMBER SAYS, "I CAN DO BETTER ELSEWHERE"?
- (8) DOES THE COMMITTEE APPOINT YOU TO A GROUP?..
- (9) CAN YOU TRY ANOTHER GROUP IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR ASSIGNMENT?
- (10) CAN YOU START YOU OWN GROUP IF NECESSARY?
- (11) WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CASES OF SECESSION?
- (12) IN CASE THE MEMBERS SECEDE, CAN THEY RETURN?
- (13) DOES AA GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO THINK, TALK AND ACT AS YOU WISH?
- (14) ARE THE TWELVE STEPS TO RECOVERY SUGGESTIVE?
- (15) HOW MANY "DON'TS" IN THE TWELVE TRADITIONS?
- (16) WHAT NAME TOTALLY REGIMETS AN ALCOHOLIC?
- (17) CAN YOU EXCOMMUNICATE AN AA MEMBER?
- (18) WHAT ARE AA RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENTS?
- (19) WHAT IS OPEN TO ALL IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?
- (20) IS AA THE ONLY WAY?
- (21) WHAT COLOR OF SKIN IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE PROGRAM WORK?
- (22) HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INCARCERATED?
- (23) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AA MEMBERS?

(24) WHAT REALLY COUNTS IN AA?

(25) WHAT REALLY MAKES US GROW IN AA?

(26) WHO HANDS OUT DIRECTIVES AND PUNISHMENTS IN AA?

(27) WHO TELLS THE AA MEMBER WHO TO TWELVE STEP AND WHO NOT TO TWELVE STEP?

(28) IS AA INCLUSIVE OR IS AA EXCLUSIVE?

CHAPTER ONE B

MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHER MEMBERS

BECAUSE AA GIVES MEMBERS SUCH INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO THINK, TALK, ACT AS HE OR SHE WISHES, WE AS MEMBERS SURELY HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

REALIZATION DAWNS ON EACH MEMBER THAT HE IS BUT A SMALL PART OF A GREAT WHOLE; THAT NO PERSONAL SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT FOR PRESERVATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP. HE OR SHE LEARNS THAT THE CLAMOR OF DESIRES AND AMBITIONS WITHIN HIM OR HER MUST BE SILENCED WHENEVER THESE COULD DAMAGE AA. IT BECOMES PLAIN THAT AA MUST SURVIVE OR THE INDIVIDUAL WILL NOT.

AA IS MORE THAN A SET OF PRINCIPLES, IT IS A SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS IN ACTION. WE MUST CARRY THE MESSAGE, ELSE WE OURSELVES CAN WITHER AND THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN THE TRUTH MAY DIE.

EACH MEMBER COMING INTO AA FINDS A GREATER PERSONAL FREEDOM THAN ANY OTHER SOCIETY KNOWS. THE NEW MEMBER FEELS HE HAS STRUCK SOMETHING BETTER THAN GOLD. HE MAY NOT SEE AT ONCE THAT HE HAS BARELY SCRATCHED A LIMITLESS LODE WHICH WILL PAY DIVIDENDS ONLY IF HE MINES IT FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE AND INSISTS ON GIVING AWAY THE ENTIRE PRODUCT.

AN AA GROUP WHICH IS MADE UP OF AA MEMBERS IS NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, A MEDIATOR OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS, NOR DOES IT FURNISH PERSONAL FINANCIAL AID TO ANY MEMBER. THIS IS WHY SOBRIETY--FREEDOM FROM ALCOHOL--THROUGH THE TEACHINGS AND PRACTICE OF AA'S TWELVE

AA IS MORE THAN A SET OF PRINCIPLES, IT IS A SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS IN ACTION.

STEPS, IS THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP. IF WE DON'T STICK TO THIS CARDINAL PRINCIPLE, WE SHALL ALMOST CERTAINLY COLLAPSE. AND IF WE COLLAPSE WE CANNOT HELP ANYONE. MORE OF THIS WILL BE PART OF THE GROUP'S RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED LATER. THE REASON IT IS BROUGHT UP NOW IS TO LET EACH MEMBER KNOW HOW TO EXPEDITE HIS OR HER EFFECTIVENESS AND ENERGIES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. NO MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER MEMBER'S DOMESTIC OR FINANCIAL CONDITIONS. THIS IS NOT SAYING THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN OR CANNOT INVOLVE HIS OR HERSELF IN THESE CONDITIONS BUT IT IS NO PART OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

THE UNITY OF EACH MEMBER IS THE MOST CHERISHED QUALITY AA HAS. THE MEMBER'S LIFE AND THE LIVES OF ALL TO COME, DEPEND SQUARELY UPON IT. THERE CANNOT BE UNITY IN AA AS A WHOLE UNLESS EACH MEMBER TAKES IT ON AS HIS RESPONSIBILITY. WITHOUT UNITY, THE HEART OF AA WOULD CEASE TO BEAT. "UNIFIED WE LIVE; DISUNITED WE SHALL PERISH." NO CARE, NO VIGILANCE, NO EFFORT TO PRESERVE AA WILL BE TOO GREAT TO HOLD US IN FULL READINESS TO TRY AND CARRY THE MESSAGE.

EACH OF US IN TURN, -- THAT IS, THE MEMBER WHO GETS THE MOST OUT OF THE PROGRAM -- SPENDS A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME ON TWELVE STEP WORK IN THE EARLY YEARS. THAT IS THE CASE WITH MOST MEMBERS, AND PERHAPS HE OR SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE STAYED SOBER WITH LESS WORK.

"HOWEVER, SOONER OR LATER MOST MEMBERS ARE PRESENTED WITH OTHER OBLIGATIONS -- TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COUNTRY. AS YOU WILL

REMEMBER THE TWELFTH STEP ALSO REFERS TO PRACTICING THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS. THEREFORE, WE THINK YOUR CHOICE OF WHETHER TO TAKE A PARTICULAR TWELVE STEP JOB IS TO BE FOUND IN EACH MEMBER'S OWN CONSCIENCE. NO ONE ELSE CAN TELL FOR CERTAIN WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO AT A PARTICULAR TIME. EACH MEMBER MUST LIVE WITH HIMSELF, UNDER SUCH DECISIONS."

"WE JUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE EXPECTED, AT SOME POINT, TO DO MORE THAN CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA TO OTHER ALCOHOLICS. IN AA WE AIM NOT ONLY FOR SOBRIETY--WE TRY AGAIN TO BECOME CITIZENS OF THE WORLD THAT WE REJECTED, AND OF THE WORLD THAT ONCE REJECTED US. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION TOWARD WHICH TWELFTH STEP WORK IS THE FIRST BUT NOT THE FINAL STEP."

THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF AA IS SOBRIETY. WE ALL REALIZE THAT WITHOUT SOBRIETY WE HAVE NOTHING.

HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXPAND THIS SIMPLE AIM INTO A GREAT DEAL OF NONSENSE, SO FAR AS THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IS CONCERNED. SOMETIMES WE HEAR HIM SAY, IN EFFECT, SOBRIETY IS MY SOLE RESPONSIBILITY. AFTER ALL, I'M A PRETTY FINE CHAP, EXCEPT FOR MY DRINKING. GIVE ME SOBRIETY AND I'VE GOT IT MADE!!!

AS LONG AS A MEMBER CLINGS TO THIS COMFORTABLE ALIBI, HE OR SHE WILL MAKE SO LITTLE PROGRESS WITH HIS REAL LIFE PROBLEMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT HE OR SHE STANDS IN A FAIR WAY TO GET DRUNK AGAIN. THIS IS WHY AA URGES THAT THE MEMBER "PRACTICES THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS." WE ARE NOT LIVING JUST TO BE SOBER; WE ARE LIVING TO LEARN, TO SERVE, AND TO LOVE.

THE ESSENCE OF ALL GROWTH IS A WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER AND THEN AN UNREMITTING WILLINGNESS TO SHOULDER WHATEVER RESPONSIBILITY THIS ENTAILS.

GRADUALLY WE BEGAN TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE OTHER FELLOW'S SINS AS WELL AS HIS VIRTUES. WE COINED THE POTENT AND MEANINGFUL EXPRESSION, "LET US ALWAYS LOVE THE BEST IN OTHERS--AND NEVER FEAR THEIR WORST."

FINALLY, WE BEGAN TO SEE THAT ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING OURSELVES, ARE TO SOME EXTENT EMOTIONALLY ILL AS WELL AS FREQUENTLY WRONG. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, WE APPROACH TRUE, TRUE TOLERANCE AND WE SEE WHAT REAL LOVE FOR OUR FELLOWS ACTUALLY MEANS. WE SHOW AS MUCH TOLERANCE TO OUR FELLOWMAN AS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOWS TOLERANCE FOR US.

OUR ENTIRE AA PROGRAM RESTS UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL TRUST. WE TRUST GOD, WE TRUST AA, AND WE TRUST EACH OTHER. THEREFORE, IF THIS TRUST IS 100% WE FIND NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS IN THE FELLOWSHIP. WHEN THIS TRUST IS BROKEN OR NON-EXISTENT IT CAN BRING NOTHING BUT UNHAPPINESS.

UNITED WE STAND. DIVIDED WE STAGGER!!!!!!

THIS WE OWE TO AA'A FUTURE: TO PLACE OUR COMMON WELFARE FIRST; TO KEEP OUR FELLOWSHIP UNITED. FOR ON AA UNITY DEPEND OUR LIVES, AND THE LIVES OF THOSE TO COME.

1. DO MEMBERS HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITIES TO AA?
2. HOW MUCH PERSONAL SACRIFICE SHOULD AN AA EXPEND?
3. WHAT COMES FIRST IN AA YOUR PERSONAL GAIN OR YOUR PERSONAL SACRIFICE?
4. WHAT IS IT THAT EVERY MEMBER MUST DO?
5. CAN YOU NAME ANY FELLOWSHIP OR SOCIETY THAT GIVES ITS MEMBERS MORE FREEDOM THAN AA?
6. IS AA BETTER THAN GOLD, AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED?
7. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS STATEMENT, "BARELY SCRATCHED A LIMITLESS LODE WHICH WILL PAY DIVIDENDS ONLY IF HE OR SHE MINES IT FOR THE REST OF HIS OR HER LIFE AND INSISTS ON GIVING AWAY THE ENTIRE PRODUCT?"
8. WHAT IS THE SOLE PURPOSE OF A GROUP?
9. DOES AA FURNISH TO ITS MEMBERSHIP MEDIATORS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?
10. DO YOU AS A MEMBER UNDERSTAND HOW TO EXPEDITE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS AND ENERGIES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?
11. AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF IN DOMESTIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ANOTHER MEMBER?
12. WHAT IS THE MOST CHERISHED THING OF AA?
13. DO YOU AGREE ON "UNIFIED WE LIVE, DISUNIFIED WE SHALL PERISH"?
14. HOW DO MEMBERS IN THEIR EARLY AA YEARS GET THE MOST OUT OF THE PROGRAM?
15. DO YOU BELIEVE WE AS AA MEMBERS SHOULD PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS?
16. WHO CHOOSES FOR A AA MEMBER WHETHER HE DOES OR DOES NOT MAKE A "TWELVE STEP CALL"?
17. ARE WE AS INDIVIDUALS TO DO MORE THAN JUST "CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA"?
18. WHAT DOES THE WORD "SOBRIETY" MEAN TO YOU?

19. IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXPAND "SOBRIETY" INTO A GREAT DEAL OF NONSENSE?
20. WHY DOES AA URGE ITS MEMBERSHIP TO "PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS?"
21. WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL GROWTH?
22. CAN YOU ACCEPT YOUR FELLOWMAN'S SINS, AS WELL AS HIS VIRTUES?
23. DO YOU LIKE THE EXPRESSION, "LET US ALWAYS LOVE THE BEST IN OTHERS--AND NEVER FEAR THEIR WORST?"
24. WHAT IS IT THAT WE FINALLY ADJUST TO?
25. DO YOU SHOW AS MUCH TOLERANCE TO OUR FELLOWMAN AS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOWS TO US?
26. DO YOU "TRUST" _____ ?
27. WHAT DO WE AS MEMBERS OWE TO AA'S FUTURE?

CHAPTER TWO

THE GROUP

TRADITIONALLY, ANY TWO OR MORE ALCOHOLICS MEETING TOGETHER FOR PURPOSES OF SOBRIETY MAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES AN AA GROUP, PROVIDED THAT, AS A GROUP THEY ARE SELF-SUPPORTING AND HAVE NO OUTSIDE AFFILIATION.

THE GROUP IS THE CENTER AND HEART OF THE AA FELLOWSHIP. IT IS, IN MANY WAYS A UNIQUE TYPE OF GATHERING AND ONE THAT IS LIKELY TO SEEM STRANGE TO THE NEWCOMER. THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THAT FOLLOW SUGGEST HOW THE AA MEETING FUNCTIONS AND HOW THE NEWCOMER FITS INTO THE GROUP PICTURE.

HOW DOES A PERSON JOIN AA?

NO ONE "JOINS" AA IN THE USUAL SENSE OF THE TERM. NO APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP HAS TO BE FILLED OUT. IN FACT, MANY GROUPS DO NOT EVEN KEEP MEMBERSHIP RECORDS. THERE ARE NO INITIATION FEES, NO DUES, NO ASSESSMENTS OF ANY KIND. MOST PEOPLE BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH AA SIMPLY BY ATTENDING THE MEETINGS OF A PARTICULAR LOCAL GROUP. THEIR INTRODUCTION TO AA MAY HAVE COME ABOUT IN ONE OF SEVERAL WAYS. HAVING COME TO THE POINT IN THEIR DRINKING WHERE THEY SINCERELY WANTED TO STOP, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A LOCAL GROUP VOLUNTARILY. OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN GUIDED TO A LOCAL AA GROUP BY A FRIEND, RELATIVE, DOCTOR OR SPIRITUAL ADVISER. USUALLY, A NEWCOMER TO AA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO ONE OR MORE LOYAL MEMBERS BEFORE HE OR SHE

ATTEND THEIR FIRST MEETING. THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW AA HAS HELPED THESE PEOPLE. THEY GET THE FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOLISM AND AA, WHICH HELPS THEM DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE HONESTLY PREPARED TO GIVE UP ALCOHOL.

THERE ARE NO MEMBERSHIP DRIVES IN AA. IF AFTER ATTENDING SEVERAL MEETINGS, THE NEWCOMER DECIDES AA IS NOT FOR HIM, NO ONE WILL URGE HIM TO CONTINUE HIS ASSOCIATION. IF MAYBE SUGGESTED THAT HE KEEP "AN OPEN MIND" ON THE SUBJECT, BUT NO ONE IN AA WILL TRY TO MAKE UP HIS OR HER MIND FOR THEM. THE ALCOHOLIC HIS SELF IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL WHETHER OR NOT HE NEEDS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THEREFORE, A GROUP IS MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WHO HAVE A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING, AND WHO WISH TO ASSOCIATE WITH THAT PARTICULAR GROUP.

WHAT IS AN OPEN MEETING?

AN OPEN MEETING OF AA IS A GROUP MEETING THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, ALCOHOLIC OR NON-ALCOHOLIC, MAY ATTEND. THE ONLY OBLIGATION IS THAT OF NOT DISCLOSING THE NAMES OF AA MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE MEETING.

A TYPICAL OPEN MEETING WILL BE OF THE SPEAKER TYPE, MEMBERS OF AA TALKING, TELLING WHAT IT WAS LIKE, WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT IT IS LIKE TODAY. THE MEETING IS USUALLY ONE HOUR. MOST OPEN MEETINGS CONCLUDE WITH A SOCIAL PERIOD, SERVING COFFEE, ETC.

WHAT IS A CLOSED MEETING?

A CLOSED MEETING IS LIMITED TO ALCOHOLICS ONLY. THE PURPOSE OF A CLOSED MEETING IS TO GIVE ALCOHOLICS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PARTICULAR PHASES OF THEIR ALCOHOLIC PROBLEM WHICH CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BEST ONLY BY OTHER ALCOHOLICS.

THESE MEETINGS ARE USUALLY CONDUCTED WITH MINIMUM INFORM-
ALTIY AND ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DISCUSSIONS. THE CLOSED MEETING IS OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO THE
NEWCOMERS SINCE IT GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS
WHICH MAYBE TROUBLING THEM AND TO GET THE BENEFIT OF THE
"OLDER" MEMBERS EXPERIENCE WITH THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.

I AM SURE IN YOUR MIND YOU ARE SAYING "HOW DO THINGS GET DONE
IN THE AA GROUPS?"

ALL SORTS OF JOBS HAVE TO BE DONE TO KEEP AN AA GROUP GOING--
OR TO START ONE. MOST OF US AGREE, AA, AS SUCH OUGHT NEVER BE
ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES
DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE (TRADITION9).

IT IS THROUGH THE WORK OF THE GROUP MEMBERS IN AA THAT----

1. ALCOHOLICS IN THE COMMUNITY LEARN THAT AA IS AVAILABLE
AND HOW TO FIND IT.
2. CALLS FOR HELP ARE ANSWERED.
3. A MEETING PLACE IS PROVIDED, MADE READY, AND CLEANED UP
AFTER THE MEETING.
4. PROGRAMS ARE ARRANGED FOR MEETINGS.
5. CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE IS ON HAND, AND REFRESH-
MENTS ARE SERVED.

6. THE NECESSARY MONEY IS COLLECTED AND PROPERLY SPENT.
7. GROUP PROBLEMS GET SOLVED.
8. NECESSARY CONTACT IS MADE WITH THE REST OF AA. SUCH AS OTHER GROUPS, INTER-GROUP AND GSO.

IT TAKES PEOPLE TO GET THESE JOBS DONE. IN AA WE CALL THEM "OFFICERS". BUT OUR SECOND TRADITION REMINDS US THAT "OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS, THEY DO NOT GOVERN."

THEY ARE USUALLY CHOSEN BY THE GROUP FOR A LIMITED TERM OF SERVICE.

THE JOBS THEY DO MAY HAVE TITLES. BUT TITLES IN AA DO NOT BRING AUTHORITY OR HONOR; THEY DESCRIBE SERVICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS SERVICE IN AA IS ONE WAY OF "CARRYING THE MESSAGE." THEY ARE FORMS OF TWELVE STEP WORK AN AA MEMBER DOES, PRIMARILY TO HELP HIMSELF RECOVER. IT IS SAID THAT LEARNING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GROUP IS A PRIVILEGE. HANDLED PROPERLY IT CAN BE HELPFUL IN RECOVERY. MANY AA MEMBERS HAVE FOUND GROUP DUTIES AN EXCELLENT WAY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN SOBRIETY.

INDIVIDUAL GROUPS HAVE MANY WAYS OF MAKING SURE THE NECESSARY SERVICES ARE PERFORMED WITH MINIMUM OF ORGANIZATION. FOR EXAMPLE, A TYPICAL GROUP MIGHT HAVE THE FOLLOWING SERVANTS OR WORKERS:

1. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ROTATED APPROXIMATELY EVERY YEAR, SOMETIMES SOONER).
2. GROUP CHAIRMAN
3. SECRETARY
4. TREASURER

5. GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTIVE (GSR) (WILL DISCUSS IN DISTRICT SERVICE).

6. INTERGROUP REPRESENTIVE (WILL DISCUSS WITH INTER-GROUP).

SUCH COMMITTEES AND SERVANTS VARY FROM PLACE TO PLACE. LARGE GROUPS MAY NEED MORE COMMITTEES ETC.

A STEERING COMMITTEE DUTIES ARE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT A GROUP SHOULD DO AND HOW. THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS ONE WAY OF GETTING THOSE QUESTIONS HANDLED FOR THE GROUP.

AS AN EXPERIENCED CROSS SECTION OF THE GROUP MEMBERSHIP, IT CAN HANDLE DAY TO DAY OPERATION FOR THE GROUP.

ANYWHERE FROM THREE TO FIVE MEMBERS MAYBE THE RIGHT SIZE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR A SMALL GROUP. FOR LARGER GROUPS MORE.

IN MANY GROUPS THE OFFICERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY THE STEERING COMMITTEE. SOMETIMES FORMER OFFICERS MAKE GOOD MEMBERS, DUE TO THEIR EXPERIENCE.

IN MOST GROUPS, THE CHAIRMAN IS THE CHIEF OFFICER FOR A STATED PERIOD OF TIME.

LIKE OTHER GROUP SERVANTS, HE OR SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOBER AWHILE--PROBABLY A YEAR. HE SHOULD HAVE HAD OTHER GROUP SERVICE EXPERIENCE BEFORE TAKING THE JOB. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MOST GROUPS HAVE FOUND WORKS BEST.

HE "CO-ORDINATES" GROUP ACTIVITIES, TRYING TO PREVENT CONFUSIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDING IN GROUP AFFAIRS. HE CALLS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PRESIDES OVER THEM. HE MAY OPEN ALL REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS, THEN TURN THEM OVER TO ANOTHER MEMBER WHO IS THE LEADER FOR THAT ONE SESSION ONLY.

OR THE LEADER CAN HANDLE THE COMPLETE MEETING.

THE CHAIRMAN HAS FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE GROUP. ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER WHICH GROUP OFFICER DOES WHICH JOB, AS LONG AS THEY ALL GET DONE WITHOUT CONFUSION OR CONFLICT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR EVERYBODY TO UNDERSTAND WHO IS TO DO WHAT.

THE CHAIRMAN IS THE GROUP MEMBER GENERALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GROUP AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY, STARTING WITH THE LANDLORD.

FOR EXAMPLE; IF THE GROUP MEETS ON CHURCH PROPERTY, WHAT THE PASTOR, THE JANITOR, AND THE CHURCH MEMBERS THINK OF AA DEPENDS MOSTLY ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE GROUPS MEMBERS. IF AA MEMBERS SEEM TO BE NICE FOLKS, OUR WORK IS RESPECTED, AND SICK ALCOHOLICS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT US. IF WE ARE FOUND TROUBLESOME, THE WORD GETS PASSED AROUND ABOUT US AND DOES NOT ATTRACT ALCOHOLICS TO US.

THE SAME GOES, FOR LOCAL DOCTORS, POLICE, SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHERS WHO ENCOUNTER SICK ALCOHOLICS.

USUALLY, THE BETTER INFORMED A CHAIRMAN IS ABOUT ALL AA, THE BETTER HE OR SHE FUNCTIONS AS CHAIRMAN. MOST CHAIRMAN AGREE IT'S A GOOD IDEA NOT TO EXPECT LOTS OF PRAISE. THE KEY TO KEEPING A GROUP IN GOOD STEAD IS TO USE THE TRADITIONS.

1. HOW MANY AA MEMBERS CONSTITUTES A GROUP?
2. WHAT IS THE HEART OF THE AA FELLOWSHIP?
3. HOW DOES "ONE" JOIN AA?
4. WHERE DO THEY OBTAIN A MEMBERSHIP FORM AND IS A FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIRED?
5. WHAT ARE THE INITATION FEES AND DUES?
6. WHAT ARE THE TRUE REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP?
7. CAN YOU NAME SEVERAL WAYS PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FIND OUR FELLOWSHIP?
8. WHERE AND HOW OFTEN ARE MEMBERSHIP DRIVES PUT ON IN AA?
9. WHO DECIDES IF THE NEWCOMER CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE GROUP?
10. WHAT IS THE ONE SUGGESTION EACH NEWCOMER SHOULD BE TOLD?
11. WHO DETERMINES WHO IS OR ISN'T AN ALCOHOLIC?
12. WHAT IS A OPEN AA MEETING?
13. WHAT IS A CLOSED MEETING?
14. WHO RUNS AA?
15. WHAT ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS IN AA CALLED?
16. BUT, REALLY WHAT ARE THEY CALLED?
17. DOES A JOB IN AA BRING AUTHORITY OR HONOR?
18. WHAT DOES A MEMBER SERVE IN AA OR WHAT BENEFITS DO THEY RECIEVE FOR THEIR TERM, MONEY OR. ETC. ?
19. SHOULD AA BE WELL ORGANIZED TO THE MAXIMUM?
20. NAME THE SERVANTS OR WORKERS NECESSARY TO GIVE A GROUP THE MINUMUM ORGANIZATION?

CHAPTER TWO-B

THE GROUP

SOME GROUPS HAVE NO CHAIRMAN, BECAUSE THE SECRETARY SERVES AS THE GROUP OFFICER. THESE ARE SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SECRETARY:

1. TAKE OVER WHEN THE CHAIRMAN IS NOT THERE.
2. SEES TO CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE, ALL BOOKS OF AA ARE ON DISPLAY AT MEETINGS.
3. MAKES SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. IF THE GROUP KEEPS MEMBERSHIP, IT IS HIS OR HER JOB TO KEEP THE RECORDS.
5. ACCEPTS AND ASSIGNS TWELVE STEP CALLS IF NECESSARY.
6. CORRESPONDS WITH OTHER GROUPS.
7. ATTENDS TO THE POST OFFICE BOX.
8. KEEPS THE ANNIVERSARY FILE.
9. HELPS THE TREASURER AND CO-SIGNS CHECKS.
10. TAKES CARE OF BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HELPS GSR, DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY
12. KEEPS INTER-GROUP AND GSO INFORMED AS TO MEETING PLACE, NEW OFFICERS, AND ETC.

LIKE ANY OTHER GROUP OFFICER, THE SECRETARY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO SEE THAT NEWCOMERS GET HELP.

AA GROUPS ARE SELF-SUPPORTING, ACCEPTING MONEY ONLY FROM MEMBERS. (TRADITION 7) PASSING THE HAT IS USUALLY ALL A GROUP HAS TO DO, TO MEET ITS NEEDS. THERE IS NO FORMAL OBLIGATION FOR

ANY MEMBER TO CONTRIBUTE BUT MOST DO CONTRIBUTE A DOLLAR.
AA SAYS, "DON'T GIVE TILL IT HURTS, BUT TILL IT FEELS GOOD."

GROUP FUNDS GO FOR SUCH SERVICES AS:

1. RENT FOR MEETING PLACES
2. REFRESHMENTS
3. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE SUCH AS: LIGHTS, COFFEE CUPS, SPOONS, ASHTRAYS, POSTAGE, TELEPHONE, AND ETC.
4. ALL AA CONFERENCE LITERATURE. HARD COVER WE SELL, PAMPHLETS ARE USUALLY FREE.
5. MONTHLY PAYMENT TO INTER-GROUP.
6. MONTHLY PAYMENT TO GSO.
7. ANNUAL PAYMENT TO AREA GS COMMITTEE FOR DELEGATE EXPENSES.
8. QUESTION ANY EXPENSE NOT ACCORDING TO TRADITIONS OF AA.

THE TREASURER USUALLY KEEPS GOOD SIMPLE RECORDS AND KEEPS HIS GROUP INFORMED ABOUT HOW MUCH IS TAKEN IN AND HOW MUCH IS SPENT. HE GIVES MONTHLY REPORTS AND QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

PROBLEMS CAN BE AVOIDED BY KEEPING THE GROUP FUNDS IN A SEPARATE GROUP BANK ACCOUNT WHICH REQUIRES TWO SIGNITURES ON EACH CHECK. THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF DOING THIS JOB AND ANY OTHER AA TASK BUT THE METHODS SUGGESTED HERE HAVE PROVED TO ELIMINATE TROUBLES LATER.

IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO BUDGET ALL EXPENSES IN ADVANCE, SETTING ASIDE SUMS FROM EACH COLLECTION IN ORDER TO MEET MONTHLY PLEDGES AND BILLS.

AA EXPERIENCES CLEARLY SHOW THAT IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR A

GROUP TO ACCUMULATE LARGE SUMS IN EXCESS OF WHAT IS NEEDED.
JUST A PURDENT RESERVE.

GROUP TREASURIES ARE USED FOR ALL GROUP EXPENSES, BUT NOT
FOR MEMBER'S EXPENSES IN TWELVE STEP WORK. THIS IS A CARDINAL
PRINCIPLE.

MOST GROUPS SEND GSO, NEW YORK \$3.65 PER MEMBER ANNUALLY
FOR THEIR PART IN PAYING EXPENSES FOR WORLD SERVICE HANDLED IN
OUR GSO OFFICE. DUTIES OF GSO TO BE EXPLAINED AT A LATER DATE.

A MONTHLY CHECK SHOULD BE MAILED EACH MONTH FOR PART PAY-
MENT. GSO HAS MONTHLY EXPENSES JUST LIKE OUR GROUP AND IF WE
DO NOT DO OUR PART IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER IT EFFECTS THEIR
EFFECTIVENESS.

EACH GROUP HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP PAY EXPENSES FOR INTER-
GROUP OFFICE IN THEIR COUNTY OR AREA THEY SERVE. EACH GROUP
SETS THEIR MONTHLY PAYMENT ONCE A YEAR AND THE GROUP EXPECTS
THE TREASURER TO MAIL A CHECK MONTHLY FOR THAT AMOUNT TO
THE INTER-GROUP. DUTIES OF INTER-GROUP TO BE EXPLAINED AT A
LATER DATE.

THE PROGRAM CHIRMAN IS USUALLY APPOINTED FOR ONE MONTH
AND IT IS HIS DUTY TO ARRANGE FOR MEETINGS. IF THERE IS AN INTER-
CHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GROUPS, IT IS HIS DUTY TO ARRANGE FOR
THE EXCHANGE OF SPEAKERS. HE ARRANGES THE CHAIRS, ASHTRAYS
AND IN GENERAL TAKES CARE OF THE MEETING BEFORE AND AFTER.

THE REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE FURNISHES THE COFFEE, CAKE,
COOKIES OR EATS, AND CLEANS UP THE REFRESHMENT AREA AFTER

THE MEETING.

GROUP WORKERS OR SERVANTS ARE CHOSEN FOR A LIMITED TERM OF SERVICE, ONE MONTH, SIX MONTHS, OR A YEAR, IT VARIES. IT IS WISE TO USE A ROTATING SYSTEM, WHERE NO ONE MEMBER SERVES TOO LONG. EACH MEMBER SHOULD BE ASKED TO SERVE. THE MORE YOU HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOING THE BETTER THE GROUP. MORE AND MORE GROUP SERVANTS HAVE FOUND THAT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE THREE AA LEGACIES HELP THEM DO A BETTER JOB. THE MORE WE ELIMINATE FAVORITISM AND KEEP NOMINATING OUR SERVANTS ON A NON POLITICKING PROCEDURE WE SELECT THE RIGHT MEMBERS FOR THE RIGHT OFFICE. WE PICK SERVANTS IN AA FOR THEIR ABILITY NOT THEIR PERSONALITY.

EACH GROUP IS AUTONOMOUS AS TO THE TYPE, LENGTH, LOCATION, REFRESHMENTS, GROUP DONATIONS, ETC., AS LONG AS ALL MEMBERS OF A GROUP ARE ALCOHOLICS, AND THEY ARE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING. A GROUP'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO HELP ALCOHOLICS RECOVER THROUGH THE AA PROGRAM AND AS A GROUP THEY HAVE NO OUTSIDE AFFILIATION. AS A GROUP THEY HAVE NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES AND AS A GROUP, THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION, AND THEY NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN THEIR PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO, TELEVISION AND FILMS.

1. IS EACH GROUP ANONYMOUS IN ITS OWN GROUP AS TO WHAT COMMITTEES SERVE THEM?
2. WHAT DOES A STEERING COMMITTEE DO OR WHAT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?
3. WHO SHOULD MAKE UP THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED?
4. IS THERE ANY SET NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO MAKE UP A STEERING COMMITTEE?
5. WHO SETS THE TIME FOR A OFFICER TO SERVE?
6. WHAT IS THE BEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR A CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE?
7. WHAT ARE SOME OF HIS RESPONSIBILITES?
8. IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO LET EACH SERVANT KNOW WHAT HE OR SHE SHOULD DO IN THEIR GROUP JOB?
9. HOW IS THE BEST WAY FOR A AA GROUP TO GET RESPECT IN THE COMMUNITY?
10. WHAT ARE THE BEST TOOLS TO KEEP A GROUP IN GOOD STEAD?
11. CAN THE SECRETARY SERVE AS CHAIRMAN?
12. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GROUP SECRETARY?
13. WHAT IS ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH GROUP OFFICER?
14. SHOULD THIS INCLUDE MEMBERS TOO?
15. HOW IS THE GR OUP FINANCED?
16. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS IN AN AA GROUP THAT REQUIRES MONEY?
17. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF THE TREASURER?
18. SHOULD A TREASURES RECORDS BE COMPLICIATED.?
19. SHOULD THE GROUP HAVE A CHECKING ACCOUNT AND SHOULD THE TREASURER AND SECRETARY SIGN THE CHECKS OR SHOULD THE CHAIRMAN?
20. SHOULD EACH GROUP HAVE A BUDGET AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

21. SHOULD AA GROUPS ACCUMUALTE LARGE BANK ACCOUNTS?
22. WHAT IS MEANT BY PRUDENT RESERVE?
23. WHAT IS THE MOST CARDINAL PRINCIPLE IN AA?
24. SHOULD ALL EXPENSES BE PAID BY CHECK?
25. WHAT IS THE YARD STICK FIGURE FOR EACH GROUP TO SEND TO GSO TO SUPPORT WORLD SERVICES?
26. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EXPENDITURE?
27. WHY SHOULD THE GSO CHECK BE SENT MONTHLY?
28. IS THE INTER-GROUP ALSO A RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH AA GROUP IN ITS AREA OR DISTRICT?
29. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS EXPENDITURE SHOULD BE A MONTHLY EXPENSE?
30. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN?
31. HOW LONG DOES THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN SERVE?
32. WHO ARRANGES FOR THE REFRESHMENTS?
33. WHAT IS THE ROTATING SYSTEM?
34. WHAT IS THE KEY TO A GOOD GROUP?
35. WHAT ARE THE THREE AA LEGACIES?
36. WHO SHOULDWE ELIMINATE IN PICKING OUR SERVANTS OR GROUP OFFICERS?
37. WHAT ARE A GROUP'S PRIMARY PURPOSES?
38. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH MEMBERS ANONYMITY?

CHAPTER THREE
INTER-GROUP OFFICES

AN INTER-GROUP IS AN AA SERVICE OFFICE THAT INVOLVES A PARTNERSHIP AMONG GROUPS IN A GIVEN DISTRICT. IT IS ESTABLISHED TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FUNCTIONS COMMON TO ALL GROUPS--FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE BEST HANDLED BY A CENTRALIZED OFFICE--AND IT IS USUALLY MAINTAINED, SUPERVISED, AND SUPPORTED BY THESE GROUPS IN THEIR GENERAL INTEREST. IT EXISTS TO AID GROUPS IN THEIR COMMON PURPOSE OF CARRYING THE AA MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

THE AA EXPERIENCE HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE INTER-GROUP OFFICES ARE ESSENTIAL, PARTICULARLY IN POPULOUS AREAS. THERE ARE OVER 180 INTER-GROUP OFFICES NOW FUNCTIONING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PERFORMING VITAL AND INDISPENSABLE AA SERVICES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THESE CONSTITUTE A NETWORK OF SERVICE OUTLETS AND AA CONTRACTS FOR WHICH WE SHOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL.

SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, INTER-GROUP OFFICE VENTURES HAVE BOGGED DOWN IN DISPUTES OVER MONEY, AUTHORITY AND LIKE MATTERS--THUS BECOMING LESS EFFECTIVE IN CARRYING THE AA MESSAGE. IT'S NOT ALWAYS CLEAR WHY THESE TROUBLES HAVE COME UP, BUT OFTEN IT'S BEEN BECAUSE THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF AN INTER-GROUP OFFICE WERE NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED OR UNDERSTOOD, OR THERE WAS SOME DISREGARD OF THE PRINCIPLES OF AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS.

SO THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE WISE TO REMEMBER AS SOME OF THE BASIC SERVICES AN INTER-GROUP MIGHT OFFER.

(1) AA INQUIRIES--PROVIDES AA LISTINGS IN LOCAL PHONE DIRECTORY, THE OFFICE MAY RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM THOSE SEEKING HELP AND SEND THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE AA GROUP OR ARRANGE ALSO TO HAVE SOMEONE MAKE A TWELVE STEP CALL ON THE NEW MEMBER.

(2) OFFICE FACILITIES--CAN MAINTAIN A CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFFICE IN WHICH PAID WORKERS AND OR VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH ANY ALCOHOLIC PROBLEM.

(3) INFORMATION EXCHANGE--THE OFFICE IS USED AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL INFORMATION AMONG ALL THE GROUPS IN THE AREA. THEY ALSO PRODUCE A MEETING DIRECTORY OF THE AREA CALLED "WHEN AND WHERE", WHICH IS PRINTED QUARTERLY.

(4) LOCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS--IDEAL CONTACT FOR THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT ALCOHOLISM AND AA. SUCH AS:

- (A) ARRANGING AA SPEAKERS FOR NON-ALCOHOLIC GROUPS.
- (B) MAINTAINING A POST OFFICE BOX TO PROTECT ANONYMITY OF MEMBERS.
- (C) ASSISTING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC MEDIA IN ALL TYPES OF COMMUNICATION.
- (D) COOPERATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES WHICH DEAL WITH THE ALCOHOLIC.
- (E) ANY BUSINESS OF AA WHICH INVOLVES THE TOTAL GROUPS IN THE AREA.

(5) HOSPITALIZATION--ARRANGING FOR THE ALCOHOLIC AND HIS FAMILY TO GET INFORMATION ON WHICH HOSPITAL WILL ACCEPT ALCOHOLICS.

(6) AA IN INSTITUTIONS--MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH LOCAL GROUPS IN PRISONS AND OFFERING SERVICES TO THEM.

(7) LOCAL AA EVENTS--DISTRIBUTE THE INFORMATION ON AA EVENTS.

(8) AA BULLETIN OR NEWSLETTER--INTER-GROUP PUBLISHES A NEWSLETTER MONTHLY. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE ON LITERATURE TABLE.

EACH GROUP HAS AN INTER-GROUP REPRESENTATIVE AND THIS COMMITTEE MEETS ONCE A MONTH. IT IS THE DUTY OF THIS INTER-GROUP REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT TO HIS OR HER GROUP THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-GROUP OR THE IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS.

FROM THE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES THEY ELECT A STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH HANDLES THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE. THEY ALSO DEVELOP GENERAL POLICIES AND PLANS. THEN THEY PRESENT THEM TO THE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP A TWO WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION GOING BETWEEN THE INTER-GROUP OFFICE AND THE GROUPS.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS INTER-GROUP OFFICES ARE FINANCED:

(1) THE PLEDGE SYSTEM: EACH GROUP IN THE AREA CONTRIBUTES A FIXED AMOUNT, PAID MONTHLY. THIS INSURES REGULAR INCOME.

(2) SALE OF LITERATURE: THE INTER-GROUP BUYS AA CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE IN LARGE QUANTITIES AND SELLS AT REGULAR PRICES TO ITS GROUPS.

(3) SPECIAL GROUP COLLECTIONS: EACH WEEK SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA A GROUP IS HAVING AN "INTER-GROUP BENEFIT MEETING". ALL COLLECTION FROM THE MEETING IS GIVEN TO THE INTER-GROUP FOR OPERATION.

(4) SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: SOME INTER-GROUPS HAVE WHAT THEY CALL THE \$1.00 CLUB. AN AA MEMBER CONTRIBUTES \$1.00 PER MONTH TO INTER-GROUP OPERATIONS.

(5) SPECIAL EVENTS: YEARLY BANQUET, AND SIMILAR EVENTS, USING "PROFITS" FOR SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE.

THE INTER-GROUP DOES NOT COME BETWEEN GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AND THE GROUP. THESE TWO OFFICES DO NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR EACH OTHER. THE INTER-GROUP TAKES CARE OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, AND THE GSO TAKES CARE OF AA WORLD SERVICE.

INTRODUCE INTER-GROUP SECRETARY AND ASK HIM OR HER TO EXPLAIN MORE ON ITS OPERATION.

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INTER-GROUP?
2. ARE INTER-GROUP OFFICES ESSENTIAL?
3. WHERE ARE THEY NEEDED MOST?
4. WHY DO THE INTER-GROUP OFFICES SOMETIME FAIL TO FUNCTION?
5. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BASIC SERVICES AN INTER-GROUP OFFICE MIGHT RENDER?
6. SHOULD EACH GROUP HAVE AN INTER-GROUP REPRESENTATIVE?
7. HOW OFTEN DOES THE INTER-GROUP COMMITTEE MEET?
8. WHY ARE THE INTER-GROUP REPRESENTATIVES SO IMPORTANT TO THE GROUP?
9. HOW ARE INTER-GROUP OFFICES FINANCED?
10. SHOULD EACH GROUP PLEDGE IN THEIR BUDGET TO SUPPORT THE INTER-GROUP?
11. SHOULD THE GROUP BUY CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE FROM THE INTER-GROUP?
12. WHO CALLS THE SPECIAL MEETINGS, SUCH AS THE INTER-GROUP BENEFIT?
13. DO YOU BELIEVE IN SPECIAL MEETINGS, SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND BANQUETS?
14. DOES THE INTER-GROUP HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WORLD SERVICE?
15. DOES GSO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH LOCAL AFFAIRS?

ASK INTER-GROUP SECRETARY TO MAKE ANY REMARKS THAT ARE PERTINENT TO INFORMATION ON THE INTER-GROUP.

CHAPTER FOUR
GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
(GSR'S)

WE ARE NOW READY TO BEGIN BUILDING THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE. AS YOU HAVE ALREADY NOTED THE "STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP" ON PAGE # GIVES YOU THE CHART WE ARE GOING TO USE IN EXPLAINING THIS STRUCTURE.

THE CONFERENCE PLAN IS A METHOD BY WHICH AA'S COLLECTIVE GROUP CONSCIENCE CAN SPEAK FORCEFULLY AND PUT ITS DESIRES FOR WORLD WIDE SERVICES INTO EFFECT. IT IS THE STRUCTURE THAT TAKES THE PLACE OF GOVERNMENT IN AA. IT INSURES THAT THE FULL VOICE OF AA WILL BE HEARD WHETHER IT REPRESENTS THE GREAT MAJORITY OR A MINORITY. THE CONFERENCE PLAN WAS ESTABLISHED AS A GUARDIAN OF OUR WORLD-WIDE SERVICES SO THEY CAN CONTINUE TO FUNCTION UNDER ALL CONDITIONS.

GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)--THE CHART SHOWS THAT THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WIDE SERVICE STARTS WITH THE GROUP, YOUR GROUP. SO WITH THIS IN MIND THE GROUP HAS TO HAVE SOMEONE TO REPRESENT THEM. THIS SERVANT IS CALLED "THE GSR"--GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. THE GSR HAS THE JOB OF LINKING HIS OR HER GROUP WITH AA AS A WHOLE. IT IS HE OR SHE WHO REPRESENTS THE VOICE OF THE GROUP CONSCIENCE REPORTING THE GROUP'S

WISHES TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TO THE DELEGATE, SO THAT IT WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE CONFERENCE AND TO THE MOVEMENT. THE DUTIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES WILL BE DISCUSSED LATER IN THEIR PART OF THE CHART.

FOR THIS, THE GSR NEEDS THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS GROUP. HE ALSO NEEDS A GOOD EAR FOR LISTENING. WE ALL REALIZE WHATEVER "AUTHORITY" THERE IS IN AA RESIDES IN THE GROUP CONSCIENCE. BECAUSE OF THIS, A GSR CAN DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT A GROUP NEEDS, WHAT A GROUP THINKS ABOUT IN A SITUATION, AND THEN PASS THIS INFORMATION ALONG TO WHERE IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL IN POLICY MAKING.

THIS IS A TWO WAY STREET, ALLOWING THE GSR TO BRING BACK TO HIS GROUP THE PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES THAT AFFECT UNITY, HEALTH AND GROWTH. ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT A GSR KEEPS HIS GROUP INFORMED AND EXPRESSES THE GROUP CONSCIENCE CAN THE CONFERENCE FEEL IT IS ACTING FOR AA AS A WHOLE. THIS BECOMES MORE EVIDENT--WHETHER A GSR SPEAKS FOR A GROUP OF TWO OR THREE OR A GROUP WITH 250 MEMBERS.

EXPERIENCE SHOWS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GSR IS AN AA MAN OR WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE AS A GROUP OFFICER. FROM THIS, HE HAS ALREADY LEARNED THAT AA OFFERS GROWTH THROUGH SERVICE, AND HE OR SHE BECOMES AWARE OF THE MEANING OF OUR TRADITIONS TO THE MOVEMENT'S FUTURE.

USUALLY, THE PROSPECTIVE GSR HAS HAD TWO YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY IN AA, AND HAS TIME AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICT AND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS. THE GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER A CANDIDATE HAS THE CAPABILITIES AND THE TIME FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS IN SERVICE.

IN ORDER THAT EACH GROUP MAY MAKE A WISE SELECTION, IT IS WELL FOR IT TO KNOW WHAT ITS GSR WILL ACTUALLY BE DOING. ONE OF A GSR'S FUNCTIONS IS TO HELP ELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES. THAT IS ONE VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE JOB, BUT MUCH MORE IS EXPECTED.

(1) THE GSR IS THE MAIL CONTACT WITH GSO AND IS LISTED IN THE WORLD DIRECTORY AS THE GROUP CONTACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY. THE GSR RECEIVES FROM GSO BOX 459, PUBLICATIONS WHICH KEEP THE GROUP ABREAST OF AA ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE GSR ALSO IS THE MAIL CONTACT WITH HIS DISTRICT AND AREA COMMITTEES.

(2) BEYOND THIS THE GSR KEEPS GSO SUPPLIED WITH GROUP INFORMATION. CHANGES OF OFFICERS, MEETINGS AND ETC. ALSO HE KEEPS ANNUAL GROUP INFORMATION CARDS, ESSENTIAL FOR THE WORLD DIRECTORY AND FOR GSO MAILINGS.

(3) GSR'S KNOW WHAT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE FROM GSO--GUIDELINES, BULLETINS, FILM STRIPS, TAPES, KITS AND ETC.

(4) GSO KEEPS THE GSR ADVISED OF NEW LITERATURE. IT IS HIS OR HER RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THE GROUP IS INFORMED OF THE AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE APPROVED PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS.

(5) THE GSR FAMILIARIZES HIMSELF WITH CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE.

(6) THE GSR SERVES ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GROUP.

(7) THE GSR CHECKS TO BE SURE THAT THE GROUP CONTRIBUTES TO INTER-GROUP AND GSO ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND SEES ALSO OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF THE GROUP ARE MET.

(8) THE GSR PARTICIPATES IN DISTRICT AND AREA SERVICE MEETINGS AND REPORTS BACK TO THE GROUP. MOST DISTRICTS MEET MONTHLY.

(9) THE GSR KNOWS THE GROUP HANDBOOK AND HELPS EXPLAIN GSO SERVICES TO HIS OR HER GROUP AND NEW GROUPS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE GSR SERVES FOR TWO YEARS. HE IS ELECTED IN THE FALL OF AN ODD YEAR, THE SAME AS THE PANEL IN THIS AREA. THE GSR'S TERM RUNS CONCURRENTLY WITH THOSE OF THE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE DELEGATE. THE DATE OF THE ELECTION OF A GSR IS IMPORTANT FOR TWO REASONS: 1. BECAUSE IT SHOULD BE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE AREA DELEGATE. 2. BECAUSE THE DEADLINE FOR LISTING THE NAMES OF DELEGATES AND GSR'S IN THE WORLD DIRECTORY IS DECEMBER FIRST. SEPTEMBER SEEMS TO BE THE BEST MONTH. THE NEW GSR AND DELEGATE TAKE OFFICE THE FOLLOWING JANUARY FIRST, REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION.

THERE IS ALSO NEEDED A "GSR ALTERNATE". IN CASE A GSR IS UNABLE TO ATTEND ALL DISTRICT AND AREA MEETINGS, HE NEEDS AN ALTERNATE-- ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME.

THE MISTAKE IS SOMETIMES MADE IN ELECTING A GSR. THE MEMBERS

OF THE GROUP FAIL TO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SERVANT.

WHEN YOUR GROUP ELECTS THE GSR, BE SURE THE OFFICE IS FILLED BY A MEMBER WHO WILL DO THE BEST JOB FOR THE GROUP. NOT ONE WHO YOU MIGHT LIKE PERSONALLY. WE ELECT SERVANTS IN AA TO SERVE, NOT TO HELP THEM BECOME BETTER AA MEMBERS OR TO HELP THEM STAY SOBER. SO MANY TIMES THIS HAPPENS AND IN THE END THE GROUP IS THE ONE WHO SUFFERS. SO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO WHO YOU PICK FOR YOUR GROUP GSR. THEY MIGHT END UP AS YOUR COMMITTEEMAN OR DELEGATE REPRESENTING YOU WORLD-WIDE.

1. WHAT IS THE NEED IN AA FOR GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE?
2. DOES THIS STRUCTURE TAKE THE PLACE OF GOVERNMENT IN AA?
3. WHAT DOES THIS STRUCTURE INSURE AA?
4. IN AA DOES THE WAGON WHEEL THAT CREAKS THE MOST GET THE GREASE?
5. WHAT DOES THE CONFERENCE PLAN GRARANTEE?
6. WHAT DOES "GSR" STAND FOR?
7. WHERE DOES WORLD SERVICE BEGIN IN AA?
8. WHAT DOES THE GSR'S JOB CONSIST OF?
9. DOES THE GSR NEED THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS OR HER GROUP?
10. WHERE DOES THE AUTHORITY RESIDE IN AA?
11. IS A GSR'S ABILITY TO LISTEN AN ASSET TO HIM OR HER?
12. CAN GOOD POLICIES BE MADE IN AA IF THE MAKERS OF THE POLICIES DON'T HAVE THE PROPER INFORMATION?
13. DOES A GSR CREATE A TWO WAY STREET IN AA?
14. HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED FOR AN AA GROUP TO HAVE A GSR?
15. IS IT GOOD FOR THE GSR TO HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN SERVICE TO HIS OR HER GROUP?
16. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE QJALIFICATIONS FOR A GOOD GSR?
17. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS A GSR DOES FOR THE GROUP?
18. HOW LONG DOES A GSR SERVE AS THE OFFICER OF THE GROUP?
19. ARE GSRS ELECTED IN EVEN OR ODD YEARS?
20. WHAT OTHER OFFICERS ARE ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME?
21. WHY ARE GSRS AND THE OTHER CONFERENCE OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME?

22. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A GSR ALTERNATE?
23. DO YOU THINK THAT THE GROUPS YOU NOW AND PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED FAILED TO ELECT THE BEST GSR AVAILABLE IN THE GROUP?
24. IS PERSONALITY OR TO HELP A FELLOW MEMBER STAY SOBER A GOOD CRITERIA FOR ELECTING A GSR?
25. WHO SUFFERS IF YOU HELP ELECT A WEAK GSR?
26. DO YOU BELIEVE THE OFFICE OF GSR IS THE BREEDING PLACE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR DELEGATES?

CHAPTER FIVE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A COMMITTEE MEMBER IS AN AA MAN OR WOMAN WHO HAS USUALLY SERVED AS A GSR, AND WHOM THE OTHER GSR'S DECIDE THEY WANT TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DISTRICT. A DISTRICT IS A GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION WITHIN AN AREA. ON THE MAP OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA ASSEMBLY AREA YOU WILL FIND THE BROWARD COUNTY DISTRICT. THIS MAKES COMMUNICATION EASIER BETWEEN THE GROUP AND THE AREA COMMITTEE. A DISTRICT USUALLY INCLUDES MANY GROUPS. IT COULD BE A VERY SMALL SECTION OR IT COULD BE A VERY LARGE SECTION.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL SERVICE AFFAIRS IN HIS DISTRICT. THE WORK TAKES HIM IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, TOWARD THE GROUP AND ITS GSR AND TOWARD THE COMMITTEE WITH ITS BROADER GENERAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE TO DIGEST THE MATERIAL GSO SENDS HIM WHICH INCLUDES BOX 459, FINAL CONFERENCE REPORTS, THE WORLD DIRECTORY, QUARTERLY REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY, AND HE KEEPS HIS GSR'S AND THE GROUPS IN HIS DISTRICT INFORMED ON WORLD WIDE AA.

IT IS ALSO HIS JOB TO HELP THE DELEGATE REPORT TO THE AREA

AND HIS DISTRICT, USING THE DELEGATE'S WRITTEN REPORT AND THE MATERIAL FROM THE CONFERENCE DIGEST AND LATER THE FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT.

AS AA GROWS THE DISTRICT REMAINS THE SAME, BUT WE ADD COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ONE COMMITTEE MEMBER SERVES EIGHT GROUPS. SOME AREAS HAVE ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS JUST IN CASE THE NUMBER ONE BOY RESIGNS OR SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS. THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GSR'S.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER THAT IS ELECTED TO BE OUR SERVANT SHOULD HAVE TWO YEARS AS A GSR AND FIVE YEARS OF SOBRIETY, INTEREST AND TIME TO ATTEND MANY DIFFERENT MEETINGS AND SOME ABILITY TO EXPRESS THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS. ALSO ENOUGH TIME AND MONEY TO ATTEND ALL STATE AND DISTRICT MEETINGS. WE WANT ACTIVE, HARDWORKING, RESPONSIBLE AA'S WHO ARE DEDICATED TO AA SERVICE.

AS ALREADY STATED, THE ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE DISTRICT IS SET UP BY THE LOCAL GENERAL SERVICE MEETING OF THE DISTRICT. IN SOME DISTRICTS, ONLY IMMEDIATE PAST AND ALL NEW GSR'S ARE ELIGIBLE TO RUN AND VOTE. IN OTHER DISTRICTS ONLY NEWLY ELECTED GSR'S ARE ELIGIBLE TO RUN AND VOTE, AND THEN IN OTHER DISTRICTS JUST THE OUTGOING GSR'S ARE ELIGIBLE TO RUN, BUT NEW AND OLD GSR'S ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

WHATEVER METHOD USED, ALWAYS REMEMBER WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SERVANT--NOT A PRETTY PLAY BOY!!!! REMEMBER YOUR DELEGATE

IS ELECTED FROM YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS SO CHOOSE CAREFULLY.

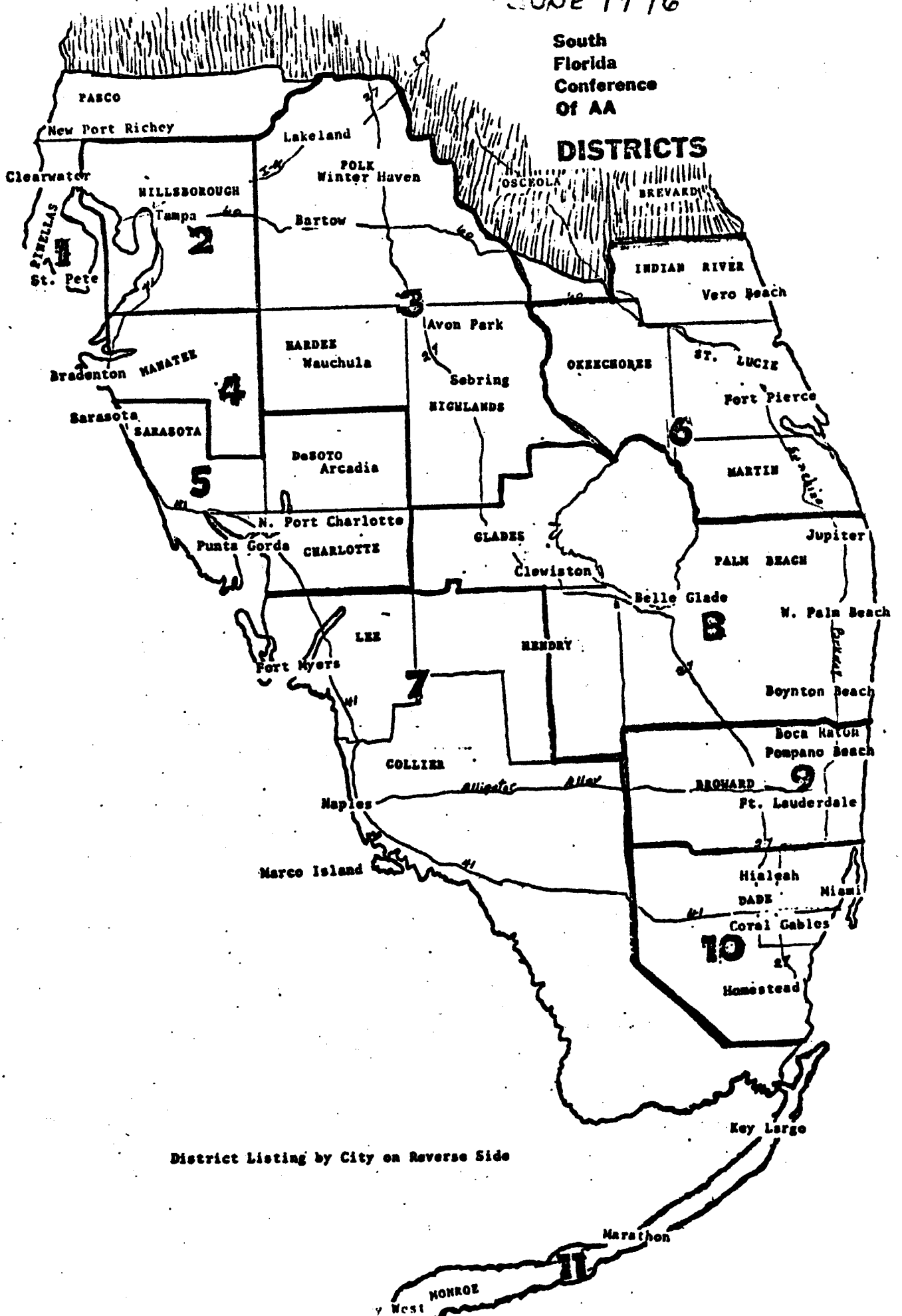
HAVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GIVE TALK

1. A GSR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A GROUP. WHAT IS A COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR?
2. WHAT IS A DISTRICT?
3. HOW MANY GROUPS DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A DISTRICT?
4. WHAT IS A DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR?
5. WHAT DOES THE ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBER DO?
6. WHEN IS A DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER ELECTED?
7. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER?
8. DO AAS ELECT A DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO KEEP HIM SOBER OR BECAUSE HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSONALITY? ...
9. HOW MANY COMMITTEE MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE IN A DISTRICT?

JUNE 1976

South Florida Conference Of AA

DISTRICTS



District Listing by City on Reverse Side

PRINCIPAL CITIES WITH AA GROUPS

South Florida General Service Conference

District 1

Pinellas County

New Port Richey
Clearwater
Dunedin
Indian Rocks Beach
St. Petersburg
St. Petersburg Beach
Tarpon Springs
Pinellas Park

District 2

Hillsborough County

Tampa
Ruskin
Plant City

District 3

Polk, Highlands, Hardee

Lakeland
Winter Haven
Bartow
Mulberry
Lake Alfred
Lake Wales
Avon Park
Sebring
Lake Placid
Wauchula

District 4

Manatee, North Sarasota

Sarasota
Bradenton

District 5

South Sarasota, DeSoto,
Charlotte Counties

Venice
Englewood
N. Port Charlotte
Arcadia
Punta Gorda
Osprey

District 6

Indian River, St. Lucie
Okeechobee, Martin

Vero Beach
Fort Pierce
Stuart
Jenson Beach

District 7

Lee, Collier, Part
Hendry Counties

Bonita Springs
Cape Coral
Fort Myers
Fort Myers Beach
Immokalee
LaBelle
LeHigh Acres
Marco Island
Naples
North Ft. Myers
Pine Island Center
Sanibel

District 8

Palm Beach, Glades,
Part of Hendry

Boca Raton
Delray Beach
Boynton Beach
Lantana
Lake Worth
Greenacres
West Palm Beach
Loxahatchee
Belle Glade
Clewiston
Palm Beach
Riviera Beach
Palm Beach Gardens
Juno Beach
Jupiter/Tequesta

District 9

Broward County

Coral Springs
Deerfield Beach
Pompano Beach
Ft. Lauderdale
Hollywood
Hallandale
Dania
Davie
Margate
Miramar
Sunrise
Wilton Manors
Plantation
Tamarac
Oakland Park

District 10

Dade County

Coconut Grove
Coral Gables
Hialeah
Homestead
Kendall
Key Biscayne
Little River
Miami
Miami Beach
Miami Shores
Miami Springs
North Miami
North Miami Beach
Opa Locka
Perrine
South Dade
South Miami
Surfside
West Miami

District 11

Monroe County

Key Largo
Tavernier
Islamorada
Marathon
Big Pine Key
Key West

CHAPTER SIX
THE AREA COMMITTEE

THE AREA COMMITTEE--PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE IN AA--IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HEALTH OF THE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND BY THE SAME TOKEN, FOR GROWTH AND HARMONY IN OUR BELOVED FELLOWSHIP.

THE AREA FOR WHICH THE COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE IS SOUTH FLORIDA. THE AREA IS SHOWN ON THE DISTRICT MAP. THUS, THE AREA COMMITTEE IS IN A FORTUNATE MIDDLE POSITION. THROUGH ITS ELECTED DELEGATE, IT LEARNS FIRST HAND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AA WORLD SERVICE. THROUGH THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, IT IS CLOSE TO DISTRICT AND LOCAL SCENES. IF GSRS ARE LAX, IF THERE IS A LACK OF HARMONY IN THE DISTRICT, THE COMMITTEE MEMBER SOON KNOWS IT. HE CAN THEN TURN TO HIS WHOLE COMMITTEE FOR HELP IN RESTORING PEACE OR GENERATING MORE ACTIVITY AMONG THE GROUPS IN HIS DISTRICT. THE MIDDLE POSITION IS INDEED A VITAL ONE.

AN ACTIVE COMMITTEE IS AWARE OF ALL KINDS OF SERVICE PROBLEMS AND IS ALERT TO SITUATIONS WHICH HAPPEN WITH SOME FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT THE FELLOWSHIP SUCH AS:

- (1) GROUP MEETINGS THAT ATTRACT
- (2) ACTIVE INSTITUTIONAL WORK

(3) USEFUL PUBLIC INFORMATION

(4) NEW GROUPS AND LONERS

THIS IS BUT A SAMPLING OF THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH AN AREA COMMITTEE MAY FIND ITSELF INVOLVED. A PARTIAL LIST HAS BEEN GIVEN HERE TO POINT UP THE KIND OF ACTIVITY AND THE KIND OF ACTIVE AAS THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS MUCH MORE TO A COMMITTEES WORK THAN THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND A DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MEETING IN NEW YORK.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS MUST HAVE LEADERSHIP, ENTHUSIASM AND KNOW-HOW PLUS THE ABILITY TO ORGANIZE AND GIVE THE COMMITTEE DIRECTION AND INCENTIVE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY, PLUS EXPERIENCE IN GROUP, INTER-GROUP, AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS , SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE STEPS, TRADITIONS AND SERVICE, AND THE ABILITY TO PUT RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE TO WORK IN HIS AREA. HE HAS TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACT AS A SERVANT, RATHER THAN A DICTATOR. HIS LEADERSHIP TALENT SHOULD HELP HIM INSTILL IN OTHERS A HIGH INTEREST IN CONFERENCE SERVICE, AND CERTAINLY HE OR SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT A MEETING IN AN ORDERLY AND IMPARTIAL MANNER.

THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE. HE IS TOLERANT OF THOSE WHO CANNOT SEEM TO SEE BEYOND THEIR

GROUP HORIZON. HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT AA HISTORY, HE CAN RELATE AT GROUP LEVEL HISTORY AND SERVICE, BOTH LOCAL AND WORLD.

ABOVE ALL HE IS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF AA. THROUGH WATCHING HIM MEMBERS OF AA REALIZE PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SERVICE TO OTHERS IS PART OF OUR PERSONAL RECOVERY.

THE SECRETARY TO THE AREA COMMITTEE ADDS GREAT VITALITY AND DRIVE TO AN AREA COMMITTEE. EVEN THE BEST CHAIRMAN CAN BE GREATLY HANDICAPPED BY AN INEFFICIENT SECRETARY, AND MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE WITH A COMPETENT ONE. A SECRETARY SHOULD HAVE:

(1) SOBRIETY AND BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- (A) SERVICE IN GROUP, SUCH AS TAKING MINUTES AT MEETINGS, MAILING AND MAKING MINUTES AS TO THE ESSENCES OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID
- (B) AT LEAST TWO YEARS SOBRIETY
- (C) ABLE TO TYPE
- (D) BULLETINS
- (E) TIME, INTEREST AND ENERGY -- THE JOB IS DEMANDING
- (F) ACTS AS LIAISON BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THE SECRETARY IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT IS SAFE TO SAY "HE OR SHE IS THE HEART OF THE COMMITTEE".

1. WHAT ARE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR IN AA?
2. HOW MANY AREAS ARE THERE IN FLORIDA?
3. HOW MANY DISTRICTS DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE AN AREA?
4. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER IN AA?
5. IS THE COMMITTEE INFORMED ON WORLD SERVICE HAPPENINGS?
6. ARE THEY CLOSE TO THE DISTRICT AND GROUP SCENES?
7. ARE THE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS WATCH DOGS FOR LAXITY IN THE GSRs?
8. IS THE AREA COMMITTEE AWARE OF SERVICE PROBLEMS.
9. WHAT ARE SOME OF THEIR AWARENESSES?
10. WHAT ARE SOME QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER?
11. IS HE A DICTATOR OR A SERVANT?
12. NAME SOME OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.
13. SHOULD A CHAIRMAN BE DEBONAIR?
14. WHAT ARE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER?
15. SHOULD A CHAIRMAN OR WOMAN HAVE FORESIGHT?
16. SHOULD HE BE ACQUAINTED WITH AA HISTORY WHERE HE CAN RELATE?
17. SHOULD HE OR SHE BE A MAN OR WOMAN WHO PRACTICES ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION?
18. WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OFFICER IN AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE?
19. WHAT ARE A SECRETARIES QUALIFICATIONS?
20. WHAT ARE SOME OF HIS OR HER DUTIES?
21. IS HE OR SHE THE HEART OF THE AREA COMMITTEE?

CHAPTER SEVEN

AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

THE TREASURER'S QUALIFICATIONS ARE THAT HE OR SHE SHOULD BE A RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND CAN KEEP GOOD RECORDS.

1. TIME IN AA
 - A. SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF SOBRIETY
 - B. SHOULD BE PRUDENT
 - C. GUARDIAN OF AREA FUNDS
 1. NOT TO BE SPENT EXTRAVAGANTLY
2. ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE
 - A. BOOKKEEPING
 - B. UNDERSTANDING OF PRESENT SYSTEM
 - C. TYPING ABILITY
3. PERSUASIVENESS
 - A. ABLE TO RAISE MONEY NEEDED TO CARRY ON AREA WORK
 - B. SUPPORT OF GSO
 - C. FIRMNESS AND DIPLOMACY

OTHER OFFICERS QUALIFICATIONS:

1. PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIRMAN (IN OUR AREA INTER-GROUP HANDLES)
2. INSTITUTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
3. FINANCE CHAIRMAN
4. OTHER COMMITTEES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE AREA COMMITTEE

ALL OFFICERS SHOULD HAVE A REASONABLE PERIOD OF SOBRIETY AND HAVE LOTS OF THE QUALITIES ALREADY MENTIONED IN THE CHAIRMAN'S QUALIFICATIONS.

EACH QUARTER OF THE YEAR BY INVITATION OF THE DISTRICT, MEETINGS ARE CALLED FOR THE GSRS AND THE AREA COMMITTEE. THIS TYPE OF MEETING IS CALLED "AN ASSEMBLY" OR "QUARTERLY MEETING." THIS ASSEMBLY IS THE MAINSPRING OF THE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE. IT IS THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE OF THE MOVEMENT

EXPRESSING ITSELF. ASSEMBLIES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AREA COMMITTEE, AND THEY ARE CONDUCTED BY THE CHAIRMAN. AN ELECTION ASSEMBLY IS HELD AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS TO ELECT A DELEGATE. THE ELECTION ASSEMBLY IS USUALLY SCHEDULED IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR, PRIOR TO NOVEMBER FIRST. THE NEW OFFICERS TAKE OFFICE JANUARY FIRST.

IN THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS, WORK SHOPS ARE SET UP ON DIFFERENT IMPORTANT ITEMS AND ARE DISCUSSED. AFTER THESE MEETINGS A GENERAL SERVICE SESSION IS CALLED AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKSHOP GIVES A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS.

USUALLY, THE GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY STARTS ITS WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON. ON SATURDAY EVENING THERE IS USUALLY A BANQUET AND AFTER DINNER AN AA MEETING.

ON SUNDAY MORNING THE CHAIRMAN CALLS THE ASSEMBLY TO ORDER AND THE AGENDA PREPARED BY THE CHAIRMAN IS FOLLOWED. THIS AGENDA INCLUDES LAST ASSEMBLY MINUTES, TREASURY REPORT, ALL AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS ON ALL MATTERS, OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS.

THERE IS ALSO DISCUSSION ON GSO ACTIVITIES INCLUDING GRAPEVINE, LITERATURE, AND SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST.

ON MATTERS WHICH CALL FOR A VOTE, ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, ALL GSRS, AND THE DELEGATES HAVE ONE VOTE EACH IN AN ASSEMBLY. ALTERNATES NORMALLY VOTE ONLY IF THE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEMBER OR GSR IS NOT PRESENT. PROXY CAN BE USED,

BUT IT IS NOT A COMMON PRACTICE. EACH ASSEMBLY HAS ITS OWN RULE ABOUT WHETHER A TWO-THIRDS OR A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE IS NEEDED FOR AN ACTION.

THE COMMITTEE IS SUPPORTED BY THE GROUPS. BY THE YARD STICK OR RULE OF THE THUMB IT AMOUNTS TO \$1.00 PER MEMBER PER YEAR. THIS MONEY IS USED TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES OF THE DELEGATE GIVING HIS REPORT TO THE DISTRICTS AND OTHER GENERAL EXPENSE, SUCH AS PRINTING, MAILING AND ETC.

THERE IS NOTHING BETTER IN AA THAN BEING INFORMED AND THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY. YOUR GROUP NEEDS INFORMATION THE GSR ACQUIRES AT THE ASSEMBLY MEETING AND SHOULD REQUEST HIM TO GIVE SUCH A REPORT TO THE GROUP. THE MORE INTEREST THE GROUP SHOWS, THE MORE ENTHUSIASM THE GSR WILL HAVE.

1. THE TREASURER OF THE AREA COMMITTEE NEEDS CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS. WHAT ARE THEY?
2. SHOULD ALL AREA COMMITTEE OFFICERS HAVE THESE SAME HIGH QUALIFICATIONS?
3. HOW OFTEN DOES THE AREA COMMITTEE MEET?
4. WHAT IS THEIR MEETING CALLED?
5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ASSEMBLY?
6. WHO CONDUCTS THE ASSEMBLY?
7. WHERE AND HOW IS THE ASSEMBLY MEETING PLACE PICKED?
8. WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF AN ASSEMBLY?
9. EVERY TWO YEARS THERE IS A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
10. WHAT IS A WORKSHOP?
11. HOW IS THE AGENDA FORMED OR ORGANIZED?
12. WHO VOTES AT AN ASSEMBLY MEETING?
13. WHEN DO ALTERNATES VOTE?
14. CAN A PROXY BE USED?
15. DOES EACH ASSEMBLY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE ITS OWN RULES ON MAJORITY VOTE?
16. HOW IS THE AREA COMMITTEE SUPPORTED?
17. WHAT DO THEY NEED MONEY FOR?
18. WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY?
19. SHOULD A GROUP ALLOW THE GSR TO GIVE A REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY?
20. SHOULD THIS BE INSISTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP?
21. SHOULD THE GROUP PAY THE EXPENSES OF THE GSR FOR THE ASSEMBLY?

22. SHOULD THE GSR EXPENSE INCLUDE HOUSING AND FOOD?
23. DO YOU BELIEVE THE MORE RESPONSIBILITY THE GSR HAS THE BETTER THE GSR?
24. AFTER FINDING OUT THE STRUCTURE OF GROUP, DISTRICT AND AREA DO YOU THINK MORE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE GROUP?
25. DO YOU BELIEVE THE NEXT TIME YOUR GROUP ELECTS OFFICERS YOU WILL BE MORE COGNIZANT OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A GROUP MEMBER?

CHAPTER EIGHT

DELEGATE

ONCE A YEAR, USUALLY IN MID-APRIL EACH AREA SENDS TO NEW YORK A MEMBER TO MEET WITH THE STAFF OF GSO AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THIS MEMBER'S OFFICE IN AA IS CALLED THE "DELEGATE."

A DELEGATE USUALLY IS A MEMBER WHO HAS SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN SERVICE WORK. HE HAS HELD OFFICES IN HIS GROUP, HAS BEEN A COMMITTEE MEMBER. HE HAS GIVEN TIME AND EFFORT TO HELP SERVE HIS FELLOW ALCOHOLIC. HE HAS APPLIED THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF AA TO HIS DAILY LIFE. A DELEGATE IS ELECTED FOR TWO YEARS.

THE DELEGATE'S JOB IS A DEMANDING ONE. HE OR SHE HAS MANY DUTIES. IN MID-APRIL HE PREPARES HIMSELF TO ATTEND THE NEW YORK GSO CONFERENCE. HE FINDS REAMS OF PAPER COMING THROUGH THE MAIL FOR HIM TO PREPARE HIMSELF FOR THE CONFERENCE. WHEN ARRIVING IN NEW YORK AT THE CONFERENCE HOTEL, HE IS ASSIGNED A ROOM. MOST LIKELY HE WILL ARRIVE A DAY EARLY AND WILL GO OVER TO SEE THE GENERAL SERVICE STAFF AND PERSONNEL AND MEET MANY OTHER DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER THE USA AND CANADA.

THE NEXT DAY THE CONFERENCE STARTS AND THEN FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK HE IS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF SOME SORT FROM 9 A.M. TO 11 P.M., EATING TOGETHER, LIVING TOGETHER, ARGUING

TOGETHER, WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER DELEGATES. ALL BUSINESS AT HAND IS DISCUSSED IN FULL AND REPORTS OF AA IN EVERY RESPECT ARE GIVEN BY THE PROPER PERSON. THE DELEGATE IS NOT AN INSTRUCTED MESSENGER TO THE CONFERENCE. A DELEGATE LISTENS TO WHAT IS SAID ON A SUBJECT AND MAKES HIS OWN JUDGEMENT. HE IS A SERVANT OF AA, AND WE CALL A SERVANT OF AA A TRUSTED SERVANT, NOT A MESSENGER.

WHEN ARRIVING HOME THE DELEGATE IMMEDIATELY PREPARES INFORMATION FOR THE AREA AND STARTS GIVING HIS REPORT TO EACH DISTRICT AS INVITED. HE IS EXPECTED TO TRANSMIT THE WORLD PICTURE TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND INSPIRE THEM TO PASS ON THIS INFORMATION TO GSRS AND GROUPS, AND TO THE INTER-GROUP OFFICERS.

THE DELEGATE ALSO PREPARES TO ATTEND AREA ASSEMBLIES. FROM THESE ASSEMBLIES HE COMES TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS IN HIS AREA. HE ATTENDS ALL LARGE GET-TOGETHERS OF AA MEMBERS AND TALKS AND LISTENS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS. HE HELPS THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GSO. HE TELLS THE GSRS AT ASSEMBLIES WHAT TO EXPECT IN NEW CONFERENCE LITERATURE AND ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE. HE CO-OPERATES WITH THE GSO ON INFORMATION STUDIES FROM TIME TO TIME. HE PROVIDES LEADERSHIP ON TRADITION BREAKS, VISITS GROUPS, DISTRICTS AND AREAS, ALWAYS TAKING NOTES ON THE REACTIONS OF THE AA MEMBERS ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AND REPORTING THE RESULTS TO GSO.

HE SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CHAIRMAN IS UNABLE TO ATTEND AND IS THE REFEREE IF ANY REFEREEING IS NECESSARY. ABOVE ALL HE IS CONSTANTLY SHARING HIS STRENGTH AND HOPE WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GSRS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

HE KEEPS THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE FULLY INFORMED, USING HIS HELP WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SO THE ALTERNATE CAN REPLACE HIM IN AN EMERGENCY.

LATE IN THE SECOND YEAR, HE HAS THE JOB OF WORKING WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED DELEGATE -- HIS SUCCESSOR -- TO GIVE HIM BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF CONFERENCE PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES. AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST HE MAINTAINS COMMUNICATION DURING THE YEAR WITH GSO.

DELEGATE EXPENSES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COMMITTEE TREASURY. THESE EXPENSES INCLUDE TRAVEL, TELEPHONE, POSTAGE, OUT OF POCKET, HOUSING AND ETC. AS WE IN AA SAY, THE DELEGATE SHOULD BE PRUDENT. FEW THINGS CAUSE MORE CONTROVERSY IN AA THAN MONEY. A DELEGATE'S EXPENSES ARE NO EXCEPTION.

THE GSO OFFICE PAYS THE BALANCE OF A DELEGATE'S EXPENSES TO NEW YORK, AFTER THE DELEGATE'S AREA HAS PAID GSO THE SUM OF \$200.00. THIS GIVES THE DELEGATE MOST OF HIS EXPENSES. A DELEGATE IS USUALLY AN AA MEMBER WHO IS WELL ADJUSTED AND WELL MOTIVATED AND EXPENSES ARE NOT A BIG THING AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD DELEGATE? AN AA MEMBER WHO IS AVAILABLE

AND HAS THE TIME TO SPEND SERVING AS A DELEGATE, WITHOUT HURTING OR HINDERING HIS LIVELIHOOD. HE SHOULD HAVE SERVED AS A GROUP SERVANT INCLUDING GSR, SERVED AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ENJOYED THE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE DELEGATE SHOULD DISCUSS THE JOB WITH HIS FAMILY, BEING SURE THAT TIME IS AVAILABLE FOR THE AMOUNT OF WORK REQUIRED. HE SHOULD BE WELL TUTORED IN THE AA LITERATURE, SUCH AS, SERVICE MANUEL, AA COMES OF AGE, TWELVE STEPS, TWELVE TRADITIONS AND THE TWELVE CONCEPTS. HE SHOULD TALK TO THE PAST DELEGATES TO BE SURE HE KNOWS HOW MUCH TIME AND WORK IS INVOLVED.

THERE IS NO STANDARD TYPE WHO MAKES A DELEGATE. THEY COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. THERE ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS THAT SEEM TO MAKE FOR BETTER QUALIFIED DELEGATES, AS THEY THEMSELVES AGREE--OFTEN SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THEIR TERMS WHEN THEY CAN MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THE QUALITY OF THE JOB THEY TURNED IN.

1. AT LEAST SIX YEARS CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY
2. ABLE TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS
3. ABLE TO TAKE CRITICISM
4. KNOWLEDGE OF "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER"
5. DOES NOT FEEL THAT HE OR SHE IS THE "FINAL AUTHORITY"
6. KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE TRADITIONS
7. LEADERSHIP ABILITY
8. CAN STIMULATE ACTION
9. OPEN-MINDED
10. ABLE TO DISCUSS AA MATTERS
11. KNOWS WHERE TO GET AA INFORMATION
12. HAS TIME TO CARRY OUT HIS OR HER DUTIES

DELEGATES ARE NOT POLITICAL. THEY RENDER SERVICE TO AA WORLD WIDE, TO INSURE THAT AA CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AS A WHOLE. DELEGATES ARE ALWAYS SERVANTS, NEVER SENATORS.

EACH AA MEMBER SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A DELEGATE, THEREFORE IT IS SUGGESTED THAT NO AA MEMBER CAN SERVE OVER TWO YEARS AS A DELEGATE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN ALTERNATE DELEGATE. THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE MAY SERVE THE ONE YEAR REMAINING OF A DELEGATE AND THEN BE ELECTED TO A FULL TERM OF TWO YEARS.

A DELEGATE'S JOB IF DONE WELL IS NOT EASY. THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE AT ALL LEVELS IN AA. CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF GSO TO ALL IS A FULL TIME JOB. BUT IT IS WORTH ANY HARDSHIP THAT MIGHT OCCUR. IN FACT IT IS A GOD GIVEN PRIVILEGE.

BERNARD B. SMITH, FORMER NON-ALCOHOLIC CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE, SUPERBLY EXPLAINS THE CONFERENCE IN HIS OPENING TALK AT THE 1945 MEETING.

"WE MAY NOT NEED A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE TO INSURE OUR OWN RECOVERY. WE DO NEED IT TO INSURE THE RECOVERY OF THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL STUMBLES IN THE DARKNESS ONE SHORT BLOCK FROM THIS ROOM. WE NEED IT TO INSURE THE RECOVERY OF A CHILD BEING BORN TONIGHT, DESTINED TO 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 AA THAT REBIRTH WHICH 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 INSURE CAN NEVER INVADE AA. WE NEED IT

TO INSURE AA AGAINST GOVERNMENT, WHILE INSULATING IT AGAINST ANARCHY; WE NEED IT TO PROTECT AA AGAINST DISINTEGRATION WHILE PREVENTING OVER INTEGRATION. 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 INSURE THAT CHANGES WITHIN AA COME ONLY AS A RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS AND THE WANTS OF ALL AA, AND NOT OF ANY FEW. WE NEED IT TO INSURE THAT THE DOORS OF THE HALLS OF AA 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 INSURE 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."

SO THAT IS THE DELEGATE, OUR TRUSTED SERVANT.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING AN ASSEMBLY
EXCERPTS FROM THE SERVICE MANUEL, PAGES 49-50

THE DELEGATE IS ELECTED BY THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. THE ELIGIBLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STAND. THOSE ELIGIBLE MAY BE PAST OR PRESENT SOUTH FLORIDA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, OR BOTH.*
- B. THE CHAIRMAN ASKS IF ANYONE IS UNABLE TO SERVE: IF SO, THOSE SIT DOWN. #
- C. PAPER AND PENCILS ARE DISTRIBUTED FOR WRITTEN BALLOTS.

- D. SECRETARY CALLS THE ROLL OF VOTING MEMBERS. VOTING MEMBERS INCLUDE ALL GSRs(ONE FOR EACH GROUP), COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS.
- E. TWO NON-VOTING MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED AS TELLERS, TWO AS COLLECTORS OF BALLOTS, AND ANOTHER TO RECORD AND TALLY VOTES ON THE BLACKBOARD (TOTAL - 5).
- F. WRITTEN BALLOTS ARE CAST, COLLECTED AND GIVEN TO TELLERS TO COUNT.
- G. VOTE WILL BE WRITTEN ON BLACKBOARD ALONGSIDE NAMES OF CANDIDATES.
- H. THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE TWO-THIRDS VOTE IS ELECTED.
- I. AFTER THE SECOND BALLOT (ASSUMING NO CANDIDATE RECEIVES THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS ON FIRST BALLOT) ANY CANDIDATE HAVING LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH OF TOTAL VOTE WILL BE WITHDRAWN AUTOMATICALLY, EXCEPT THAT THE TWO TOP CANDIDATES MUST REMAIN. (IN CASE THERE ARE TIES FOR SECOND PLACE, THE TOP CANDIDATE AND TIED SECOND-PLACE CANDIDATES REMAIN.)
- J. AFTER THE THIRD BALLOT, CANDIDATES WITH LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL VOTE WILL BE WITHDRAWN AUTOMATICALLY, EXCEPT THAT THE TWO TOP CANDIDATES MUST REMAIN. (IN CASE THERE ARE TIES FOR SECOND PLACE, THE TOP CANDIDATE AND TIED SECOND-PLACE CANDIDATES REMAIN.)
- K. A FOURTH BALLOT IS CONDUCTED.
- L. AFTER THE FOURTH BALLOT, IF NO CANDIDATE HAS TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL VOTE, THE CHAIRMAN ASKS FOR A MOTION, SECOND AND MAJORITY OF HANDS ON CONDUCTION OF A FIFTH AND FINAL BALLOT. (IF THIS MOTION IS DEFEATED, BALLOTING IS OVER, AND WE GO TO THE "HAT" IMMEDIATELY. IF THE MOTION CARRIES, A FIFTH AND FINAL BALLOT WILL BE CONDUCTED.)
- M. IF NO ELECTION OCCURS BY THIS TIME, THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES THE CHOICE WILL BE MADE BY LOT (FROM THE HAT.)
- N. LOTS ARE THEN DRAWN BY TELLER, AND FIRST ONE "OUT OF THE HAT" BECOMES THE DELEGATE.

THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE IS ELECTED NEXT, USING SAME PROCEDURE AS ABOVE. # COMMITTEE OFFICERS: (1) TREASURER (2&3) SECRETARIES--RECORDING AND CORRESPONDING--ARE THEN ELECTED; EACH ELECTION

CONDUCTED SEPARATELY USING SAME PROCEDURE AS ABOVE. #

*RATIFIED BY SOUTH FLORIDA AREA GENERAL SERVICE 3rd QUARTERLY MEETING, TAMPA, FLORIDA, AUGUST 25th, 1974.

#AS ADOPTED BY PREVIOUS ASSEMBLIES OF SOUTH FLORIDA AREA GENERAL SERVICE.

1. WHAT IS A GENERAL SERVICE DELEGATE?
2. HOW MANY DELEGATES TO AN AREA?
3. HOW LONG DOES HE SERVE?
4. HOW OFTEN DOES HE GO TO THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY?
5. WHAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HIS QUALIFICATIONS?"
6. WHAT TIME OF YEAR DOES THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MEET?
7. IS THE DELEGATE A MESSENGER OR IS HE A SERVANT TO HIS AREA OR AA AS A WHOLE?
8. IS IT HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO BE INFORMED?
9. HOW LONG DOES THE CONFERENCE LAST?
10. DOES IT APPEAR THAT THIS IS A BUSY WEEK FOR THE DELEGATE?
11. DOES IT SOUND AS IF AT THE CONFERENCE THINGS PERTAINING TO AA BUSINESS ARE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED?
12. DOES THE CONFERENCE SOUND LIKE A SOCIAL GATHERING?
13. WHAT IS THE FIRST THING THE DELEGATE SHOULD DO WHEN ARRIVING HOME?
14. GIVE SOME OF THE DETAILS WHICH SHOULD BE IN HIS REPORT.
15. IS THE DELEGATE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH GSO?
16. DOES HE EVER SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY? WHEN?
17. IS THE DELEGATE'S WORK OVER FOR THE YEAR WHEN HE COMPLETES HIS REPORT?
18. WHO PAYS THE DELEGATE'S EXPENSES?
19. SHOULD HE LIVE LIKE A KING AND SHOULD HE GET APPROVAL OF EXPENSES OVER \$20.00 FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE?
20. DOES GSO BEAR ANY OF THE DELEGATE'S EXPENSES?
21. SHOULD A DELEGATE BE WELL ADJUSTED AND MAYBE PERSONALLY WELL FINANCED?

22. SHOULD THE DELEGATE AFTER TWO YEARS BE SURE THAT THE NEWLY ELECTED DELEGATE IS WELLINFORMED IN ALL AREAS OF AA?
23. WHAT MAKES A GOOD DELEGATE?
24. IS A DELEGATE A POLITICIAN?
25. SHOULD DELEGATES BE CALLED "SENATOR"?
26. CAN A DELEGATE SERVE MORE THAN ONE TERM OF TWO YEARS?
27. UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS CAN A DELEGATE SERVE THREE YEARS?
28. DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD ENJOY BEING A DELEGATE?
29. DOES MR. SMITH'S ARTICLE GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF THE TRUE NEED OF DELEGATES WHO MAKE UP THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?
30. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURE OF ELECTION OF OUR OFFICERS AT GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE?
31. WHO TAKES THE PLACE OF THE DELEGATE IF HE HAS TO BE REPLACED?

CHAPTER NINE

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF AA, INC., HAS BUT ONE PURPOSE, THAT OF SERVING THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. IT IS IN AN EFFECT AN AGENCY CREATED AND NOW DESIGNATED BY THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TO MAINTAIN SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO SHOULD BE SEEKING, THROUGH AA, THE MEANS FOR ARRESTING THE DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM THROUGH THE APPLICATION TO THEIR OWN LIVES, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OF THE TWELVE STEPS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE RECOVERY PROGRAM UPON WHICH THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS FOUNDED.

THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CLAIMS NO PROPRIETARY RIGHTS IN THE RECOVERY PROGRAM, FOR THESE TWELVE STEPS, AS ALL SPIRITUAL TRUTHS, MAY NOW BE REGARDED AS AVAILABLE TO ALL MANKIND. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THESE TWELVE STEPS HAVE PROVEN TO CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL BASIS FOR LIFE WHICH, IF FOLLOWED, ARRESTS THE DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM, THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ASSERTS THE NEGATIVE RIGHT OF PREVENTING, SO FAR AS IT MAY WITHIN ITS POWER TO DO SO, ANY DISTORTIONS OR CHANGES OR EXTENSION OF THESE TWELVE STEPS, EXCEPT AT THE INSISTANCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN KEEPING WITH THE CHARTER OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AS

THE SAME MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE AMENDED. THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD IN ITS DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE CALLED "TRUSTEES". THERE ARE 14 MEMBERS OR TRUSTEES BELONGING TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS OR SO CALLED EX-ALCOHOLIC MEMBERS. THERE WILL BE 7 MEMBERS OR TRUSTEES CALLED NON-ALCOHOLICS. THE NON-ALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES ARE KNOWN AS CLASS B TRUSTEES. CLASS A TRUSTEES SERVE THE BOARD FOR THREE YEARS, CONFIRMED ANNUALLY. THE CLASS B TRUSTEES SERVE THE BOARD 4 YEARS, AND ARE INELIGIBLE TO SERVE LONGER. ALL TRUSTEES ARE ELECTED AND REELECTED ANNUALLY.

THE CLASS B TRUSTEES, 14 IN NUMBER ARE DIVIDED IN TWO CATEGORIES: EIGHT SHALL BE CLASSIFIED AS "REGIONAL TRUSTEES", SIX SHALL BE CLASSIFIED AS GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES. OF THE GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES, FOUR SHALL BE FROM NEW YORK COMMUTING AREA, ONE FROM CANADA AND ONE FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE CLASS B REGIONAL TRUSTEES ARE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR TIME BASICALLY DURING THE FOUR PERIODS OF THE YEAR, EACH THREE DAY PERIOD ENDING ON THE DAY OF EACH QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, AND, IN ADDITION, TO ADVISE THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO REGIONAL VIEWS AND OPINIONS REGARDING POLICY MATTERS. THE REGIONAL TRUSTEES ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE BOARD DURING ALL OF THE TIMES OF THE YEAR.

HOW ARE THE CLASS B TRUSTEES ELECTED TO THE BOARD? THE

ELECTORAL MAP OF THE USA AND CANADA OUTLINES THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH TRUSTEE, 8 IN NUMBER. EACH AREA IS ENTITLED TO SELECT FROM ITS MEMBERS A CANDIDATE FOR THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD. THEY SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE THEIR SELECTION, WITH QUALIFICATIONS. THE GSO THEN PASSES ON THIS INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE. IN TURN TRUSTEES ARE ELECTED THROUGH THE 3rd LEGACY PROCEDURE.

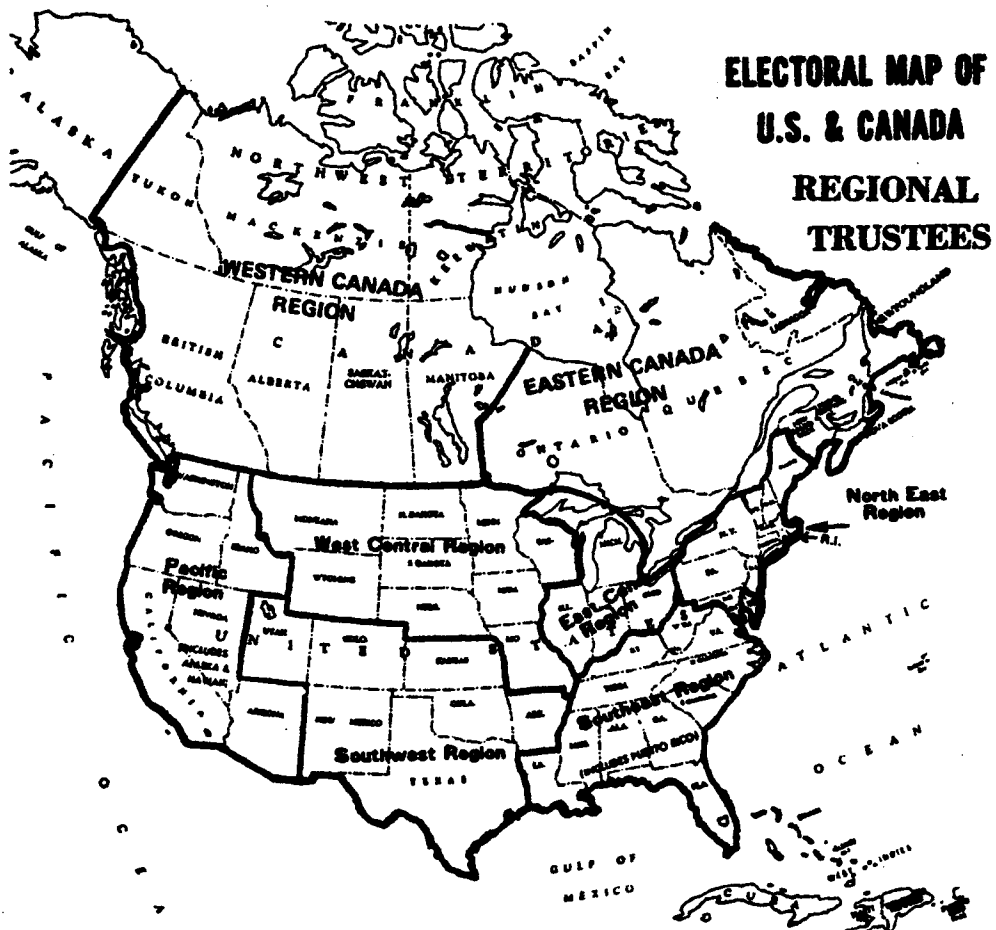
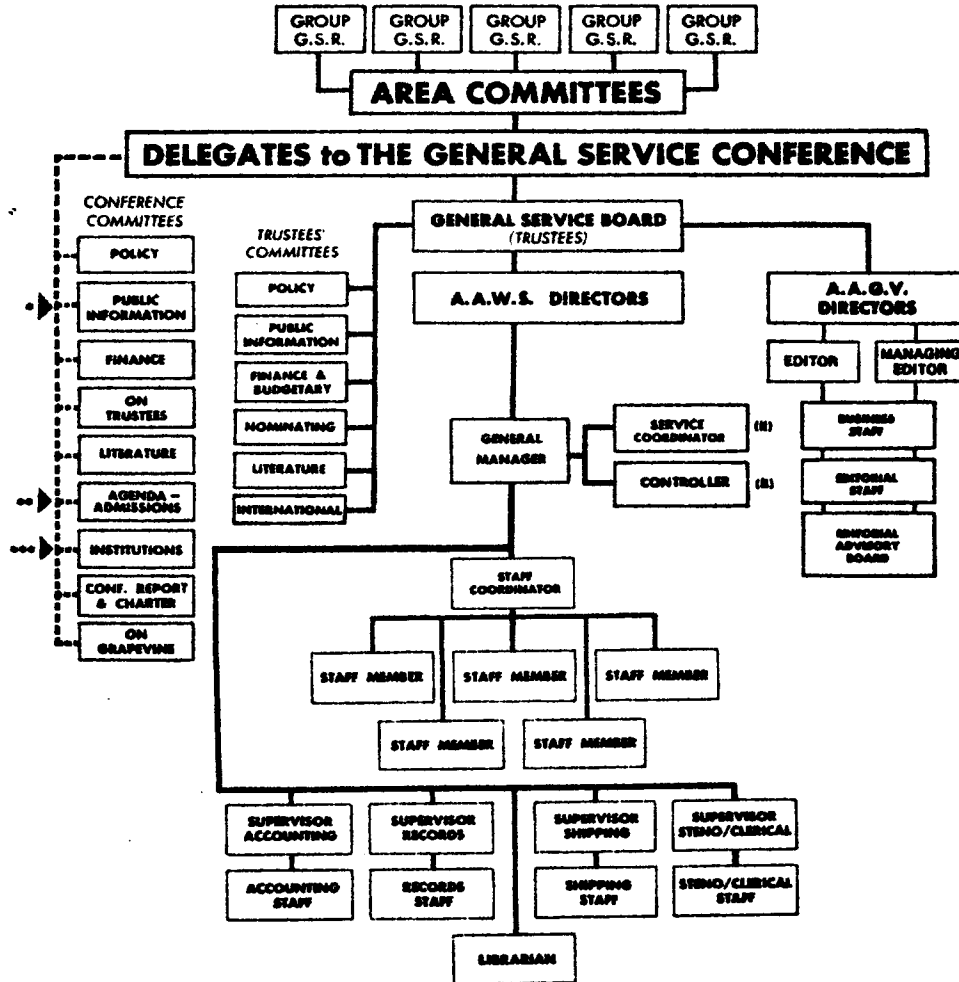
THE FOUR SO-CALLED GENERAL SERVICE NEW YORK TRUSTEES ARE CHOSEN FROM TWO OPERATING BOARDS WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS LATER, NAMELY AA WORLD SERVICES, INC. AND THE AA GRAPEVINE, INC.

THE OTHER TWO GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES ARE SELECTED IN THE SAME FASHION AS THE REGIONAL TRUSTEES, ONE FROM THE USA AND ONE FROM CANADA.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE MORE DETAIL ON THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES, PLEASE REFER TO THE 3rd LEGACY MANUEL, PAGES 88-102.

1. WHAT IS THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD'S PURPOSE?
2. DOES THIS BOARD CLAIM TO OWN THE AA PROGRAM?
3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE "NEGATIVE RIGHT OF PREVENTING" MEANS?
4. WHAT GUIDES THE BOARD?
5. HOW MANY NON-ALCOHOLICS ARE ON THE BOARD AND WHAT ARE THEY CALLED?
6. HOW LONG DO THEY SERVE?
7. HOW MANY ALCOHOLICS ON THE BOARD?
8. HOW LONG DO THEY SERVE?
9. WHERE DO THE ALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES COME FROM AND HOW ARE THEY CLASSIFIED?
10. HOW OFTEN DOES THE BOARD MEET?
11. WHAT IS A "REGION"?
12. DO THE TRUSTEES REPORT TO THE GSO VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF THEIR REGION?
13. IS CANADA PART OF THE BOARD?
14. HOW ARE CLASS B TRUSTEES ELECTED TO THE BOARD?
15. HAVE YOU ANY QUESTIONS ON THE ELECTORAL MAP OF GSO?
16. WHERE DO THE CLASS B TRUSTEES COME FROM?
17. HOW ARE THEY SELECTED OR ELECTED?
18. WHAT IS AN IN-TOWN TRUSTEE? OR WORKING TRUSTEE? HOW MANY ON THE BOARD?
19. WHAT IS A "WORLD TRUSTEE" AND HOW MANY ON THE BOARD?
20. WHAT IS THE 3rd LEGACY MANUEL?

STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP



CHAPTER TEN

G. S. O.

THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE, TO BE KNOWN HENCEFORTH AS GSO, IS LOCATED IN NEW YORK CITY, AND HAS BEEN SINCE ITS BEGINNING.

THE BEST EXPLANATION OF GSO IS, "IT IS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS." IT IS WHERE WE KEEP THE ARCHIVES OF AA, IT IS WHERE ALL ACTIVITY OF AA AT WORLD LEVEL IS ADMINISTERED.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT THE GSO DOES:

1. HELPS WITH GROUP PROBLEMS
2. GIVES SPECIAL HELP TO NEW GROUPS
3. WORKS WITH GROUPS IN HOSPITALS AND PRISONS
4. AA OVERSEAS
5. CLEARING HOUSE FOR LONERS AND INTERNATIONALISTS
6. CONFERENCE-APPROVED BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS
7. PUBLIC INFORMATION
8. ANONYMITY BREAKS
9. RELATIONS WITH ALCOHOLIC AGENCIES
10. IDEA EXCHANGE FOR INTER-GROUPS
11. SELF SUPPORT
12. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
13. AREA, STATE, AND PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS
14. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
15. GUIDE LINES
16. AA HISTORY

THE STRUCTURE OF GSO IS AS FOLLOWS: THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GSO, AND IT TAKES CARE OF ITS ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES THROUGH TWO OPERATING CORPORATIONS. ONE IS THE AA WORLD SERVICES, INC., WHICH HANDLES WORLD SERVICE OR GENERAL SERVICES, AND THE PUBLISHING OF BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. THE OTHER IS THE AA GRAPEVINE, INC., WHICH DOES THE EDITING, PUBLISHING, AND DISTRIBUTING OF

THE AA GRAPEVINE.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES "OWNS BOTH OF THESE SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND ELECTS THE DIRECTORS OF EACH. WHILE THE BOARD DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DAILY OPERATION OF EITHER CORPORATION, IT RECOGNIZES ITS OWN ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEING THAT BOTH OPERATE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE.

AA WORLD SERVICES, INC. HAS SEVEN DIRECTORS, ONLY TWO OR THREE OF WHOM ARE TRUSTEES. THERE ARE VOLUNTEERS, EXPERTS IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLISHING, ONE IS A PAID STAFF MEMBER AND THE OTHER IS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE GSO.

SIMILARLY, AA GRAPEVINE, INC. DIRECTORS ARE TRUSTEES, VOLUNTEERS AND PAID STAFF MEMBERS. IN THE CASE OF AA WORLD SERVICE, INC., ITS PRESIDENT IS THE GENERAL MANAGER AND CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL SERVICES. THIS SYSTEM HAS PROVEN CORRECT.

AS WE ALREADY KNOW, AA PUBLISHES ALL ITS BOOKS AND LITERATURE. WHEN NEW MATERIALS ARE NEEDED, WORK IS STARTED. FIRST THE WRITING. ALL BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY BILL WILSON AS TO THIS DATE. ALL PAMPHLETS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY AA'S WHO TOOK GREAT PAINS TO GATHER THEIR MATERIAL FROM ALL OVER THE MOVEMENT. FROM THE FIRST DRAFT TO THE LAST, COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL PANELS, ARE FREE TO CRITICIZE AND SUGGEST, UNDERLINING WHAT THEY FEEL WILL BEST EXPRESS THE AA POINT OF VIEW. THIS PROCESS TAKES MONTHS OR YEARS, BUT THE RESULTS ARE WORTH THE EFFORT. WHEN THE PAMPHLET IS FINALLY COMPLETED, IT IS ENTITLED TO CARRY THE "CONFERENCE APPROVED" SEAL, HAVING

FULLY EARNED IT.

THE GSO IS THE HEART OF OUR FELLOWSHIP. ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, A MEMBER OF AA WANTS TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM OR ITS SERVICES, A LETTER TO P. O. BOX 459, GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017, WILL BRING THE ANSWER. THERE IS NO REASON THAT A MEMBER OF AA SHOULD NOT BE INFORMED.

HOW IS THE GSO SUPPORTED? THE MEMBERS ALONE SUPPORT THE GSO. THE SUGGESTED AMOUNT OF EACH MEMBER IS ONE CENT A DAY OR \$3.65 PER YEAR. IN OUR TRADITIONS WE KNOW THAT AA DECLINES ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OUTSIDE AA. THEREFORE, WE AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND BE SURE THEY ARE MET. THERE IS ANOTHER COURSE OF INCOME AND THAT IS THE PROFIT ON BOOKS AND LITERATURE. LET IT BE KNOWN FOREVER THAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS FULLY SELF SUPPORTING BY ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP. WE DO NOT RECEIVE GIFTS OR GRANTS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT, ANY CORPORATION, ANY PHILANTHROPIST.

ALSO THERE ARE OTHER PLANS TO GIVE MONEY TO THE GSO IF YOU ARE A MEMBER:

1. THE BIRTHDAY PLAN (\$1.00 PER YEAR ACCORDING TO SOBRIETY YEARS
2. IN MEMORIAM OF A DECEASED MEMBER ON HIS BIRTHDAY
3. ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTION PLAN (ON AA'S ANNIVERSARY UP TO \$300.00)
4. BEQUEST FROM AA MEMBERS (NOT OVER \$300.00)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF AA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

1. WHERE IS AA'S GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE LOCATED?
2. DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AS THE CALL LETTERS "GSO"?
3. WHAT IS GSO?
4. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES IN AA IT TAKES CARE OF?
5. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GSO?
6. WHAT IS AA WORLD SERVICE, INC. ?
7. WHAT IS THE AA GRAPEVINE, INC. ?
8. WHAT DOES EACH OF THESE CORPORATIONS DO FOR AA?
9. WHO OWNS THESE CORPORATIONS?
10. WHO ELECTS THE DIRECTORS FOR BOTH?
11. WHO TAKES CARE OF THE DAILY OPERATION OF BOTH CORPORATIONS?
12. HOW MANY DIRECTORS DOES THE AA WORLD SERVICE, INC. HAVE?
13. ARE THEY ALL TRUSTEES? WHO ARE THEY?
14. IS THE AA GRAPEVINE, INC. ABOUT THE SAME STRUCTURE?
15. WHO PUBLISHES AA LITERATURE?
16. WHO WRITES AA LITERATURE?
17. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO WRITE A PAMPHLET?
18. DO YOU BELIEVE THE "CONFERENCE APPROVED" SEAL IS IMPORTANT ON LITERATURE YOU CARRY ON A TWELVE STEP CALL?
19. DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE?
20. WHAT IS GSO TO THE FELLOWSHIP?
21. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IF YOU WANTED TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER ON SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT AA, YOU AS A MEMBER COULD WRITE GSO AND THEY WILL IN TURN TELL YOU WHAT THEY HAVE FOUND OUT TO BE THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS QUESTION?
22. DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD BE EMPHATIC WITH THEIR ANSWER?

23. WHO SUPPORTS GSO?
24. WHAT IS THE SUGGESTED ANNUAL AMOUNT PER MEMBER?
25. WHAT WOULD THAT COST YOU A DAY?
26. WHAT OTHER MEANS OF REVENUE DOES GSO HAVE?
27. WHO FULLY SUPPORTS AA?
28. WILL AA ACCEPT GRANTS OR GIFTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES?
29. HOW MUCH CAN A MEMBER GIVE PER YEAR?
30. ARE THE GIFTS TO AA TAX DEDUCTIBLE?
31. WHAT OTHER WAYS CAN AA MEMBERS GIVE MONEY IN AA?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

CLUBS

"FROM AA'S BEGINNING, THE GROUP HAS BEEN THE MAINSPRING IN CARRYING OUT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF AA--TO 'CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.' IT IS IN THE GROUP WHERE AAS RECOVER, LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY AND GROW SPIRITUALLY THROUGH SERVICE. THUS, AA MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD ZEALOUSLY (AND EVEN JEALOUSLY) GUARD THE GROUP BECAUSE IT IS THE VERY CORE OF OUR SOBER LIVES TODAY--THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER, EVER MINDFUL OF OUR COMMON WELFARE.

THE AA GROUP IS NOT ONLY AA TO MEMBERS BUT ALSO TO OUR NON-AA FRIENDS. THUS, ANY OTHER SERVICE ENTITY WHICH COMES ABOUT THROUGH A NEED SHOULD SO CONDUCT ITS AFFAIRS THAT IT WILL REFLECT FAVORABLY ON THE AA GROUP, SO THAT THE MESSAGE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CARRIED AND EACH AA WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE WHICH COME FROM GROUP ACTIVITIES.

DURING THE PAST THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, THE CLUB IDEA HAS BECOME A PART OF AA. THIS IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE THE GROUP MAY HAVE FELT THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT MEETING PLACE (A HOME SO TO SPEAK) AND A PLACE WHERE NEW MEMBERS COULD GO FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION; A SPOT WHERE MEMBERS COULD GATHER FOR LUNCH; A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD GATHER SOCIALLY ON WEEKENDS AND

HOLIDAYS. FOR IT SEEMS THAT SOME AAS IN THEIR NEW-FOUND WAY OF LIFE WISH MORE THAN THE GROUP MEETINGS; THEY WANT AA SOCIAL LIFE, TOO. THUS, THE CLUB IDEA WAS BORN.

HOWEVER, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AAS WHO HAVE NOT FELT THE NEED OF A CLUB BECAUSE THEY HAVE FOUND THE GROUP SUFFICIENT FOR THEIR AA NEEDS. THUS, CLUBS ARE DESIGNED FOR THOSE WHO WISH THEM AND ALL PLANS SHOULD BE MADE ACCORDINGLY--ALWAYS ENCOURAGING AA GROUP PARTICIPATION BY THEIR MEMBERS.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS WHICH COME FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER CLUBS:

1. EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THAT THERE IS NO 'AA CLUB'--MANY THINK OF THE CLUB AS AA, PARTICULARLY THE NON-AAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. THEREFORE, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS--AND GUIDE CLUB MATTERS IN KEEPING WITH THESE TRADITIONS. SO WHILE THE CLUB MAY BE CALLED 'ARID' OR 'ANSA' OR 'ANCHOR' OR SOME NAME THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE AA, THE MEMBERS STICK CAREFULLY TO AA TRADITIONS AND ACCEPT NO FUNDS FROM OUTSIDE THE AA MEMBERSHIP. DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS KEEP THE CLUB GOING--PLUS RENT MONEY RECEIVED FROM ONE OR MORE AA GROUPS WHICH MAY HOLD THEIR MEETING IN THE CLUB.

FREQUENTLY THERE IS A TEMPTATION TO ACCEPT BUILDING MATERIALS, FURNITURE, KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FROM WELL-MEANING, CIVIC-MINDED NON-AAS. THEN EVERYONE IN THE CLUB SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE VALUE OF THE SELF-SUPPORT TRADITION--THE ONE THAT HAS BROUGHT US ALONG TO THIS POINT COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT AND FINANCIALLY SOUND. IT WILL NOT ALWAYS BE EASY TO ASSUME ALL YOUR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES BUT IT WILL BE MORE SATISFYING.

2. DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY NEEDED FOR SUCH AN OPERATION AND WORK OUT A BUDGET WHICH WILL COVER YOUR GETTING STARTED, YOUR RENT, UTILITIES, CUSTODIAL CARE, AND ANY OTHER KNOWN EXPENSES.

3. CALL A MEETING OF ALL AAS SEPARATE FROM AN AA GROUP MEETING AND INFORM THEM OF PLANS, THE FINANCIAL NEEDS, AND DETERMINE HOW MANY DUES-PAYING MEMBERS YOU CAN COUNT ON FROM THE BEGINNING. ALSO, ASK THE GROUP OR GROUPS IF THEY WOULD BE

INTERESTED IN USING THE CLUB FOR MEETINGS AND, IF SO, HOW MUCH RENT THEY WOULD CONSIDER REASONABLE. SOMETIMES, CHARTER MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO PAY A LITTLE MORE IN THE BEGINNING TO HELP GET THE CLUB OFF THE GROUND. IT SEEMS BETTER TO ASK ALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FINANCING THAN FOR ONE OR TWO WEALTHIER AAS TO ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY. YOU MAY NOT WISH TO HAVE A FEW AAS FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE CLUB. LET EVERYONE PARTICIPATE WHO WANTS TO. MONTHLY DUES SEEM TO RANGE FROM \$3 TO \$10 DEPENDING ON TYPE AND NEED OF CLUB.

4. CLUB DIRECTORS: WHO WILL SERVE AS DIRECTORS? WHAT SHOULD THEIR QUALIFICATIONS BE? DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVES THE HANDLING OF THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE CLUB. THEY HOLD THE LEASE AND PAY ALL BILLS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPERTY. MANY CLUBS REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS SOBRIETY FOR DIRECTORS AND FOLLOW THE SUGGESTION THAT CLUB DIRECTORS SHOULD NOT HOLD OFFICES IN THE AA GROUP MEETING IN THE CLUB OR IN ANY OTHER AA SERVICE GROUP.

5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP: MOST CLUBS STATE THAT 'ANY AA INTERESTED IN A CLUB IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. MOST REQUIRE THIRTY DAYS OF SOBRIETY, WHILE A FEW REQUIRE NINETY DAYS. DURING THESE PERIODS, HOWEVER NEW AAS CAN USE THE CLUB FACILITIES AS GUESTS.' ALL DUES-PAYING MEMBERS WOULD NORMALLY BE ELIGIBLE TO HOLD OFFICE AND TO VOTE AT THE CLUB BUSINESS MEETINGS.

6. CONSULT A LAWYER AND HAVE THE CLUB INCORPORATED AS A NON-PROFIT BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, UNDER THE RULES OF THE STATE IN WHICH IT WILL FUNCTION. USUALLY, A LAWYER, WHO IS AN AA MEMBER IS AVAILABLE TO ADVISE ON THIS SUBJECT AND IT SHOULD NOT BE A VERY COMPLICATED OR EXPENSIVE PROJECT. INCORPORATION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRADITION SIX WHICH SUGGESTS THAT PROPERTY TO BE USED BY AAS BE SEPARATELY INCORPORATED AND MANAGED, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PRESTIGE AND PROPERTY DIVERT AA FROM ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, A CLUB SO INCORPORATED SHOULD NOT HAVE 'AA' IN ITS NAME.

7. AFTER THE CLUB IS INCORPORATED THE DIRECTORS DETERMINE DETAILS OF CLUB OPERATION. THIS MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF DUES-PAYING MEMBERS TO OBTAIN THEIR APPROVAL OF YOUR OVER-ALL PLANS, CLUB RULES, ETC. ALL BY-LAWS AND RULES CAN BE CHANGED LATER, OF COURSE, AS EXPERIENCE IS PILED UP.

8. GAMBLING AND CARD-PLAYING SHOULD BE GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT IN THE BEGINNING. MUCH DIFFICULTY HAS ARISEN OVER BOTH IN CLUBS NOW FUNCTIONING, AND MANY WHO ORIGINALLY HAD BOTH HAVE DISCONTINUED THEM BECAUSE OF INCIDENTS WHICH HURT THE CLUB.

9. EXPERIENCE PROVES THAT INTERGROUP OR CENTRAL OFFICES OR CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE SEPARATE FROM CLUBS-- PHYSICALLY SEPARATE AND SEPARATE AS FAR AS ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED. IN SOME CASES, A NEWLY FORMED INTERGROUP OR CENTRAL OFFICE IS INVITED TO USE CLUB FACILITIES. AT THAT POINT, AAS SHOULD TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT TRADITIONS AND REMEMBER THAT A SERVICE OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE TO ALL AA WHILE A CLUB IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DUES-PAYING MEMBERS ONLY. GENEROUS AS THE OFFER MAY APPEAR, A SERVICE OFFICE IS WELL ADVISED TO MAINTAIN ITS OWN QUARTERS AND ITS OWN OFFICERS.

10. IN THE EVENT AL-ANON WISHES TO USE CLUB FACILITIES FOR MEETINGS, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT RENT BE CHARGED AS IT IS TO ANY GROUP USING THE CLUB FACILITIES FOR ITS MEETINGS.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN 'AA CLUB' MANY CLUBS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH AA BECAUSE THEY ARE ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED BY AA MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO AAS. CLUBS WHERE MEETINGS ARE HELD AND WHICH ARE MAINTAINED FOR TWELFTH STEP AS WELL AS SOCIAL PURPOSES CAN AVOID DIFFICULTIES BY ABIDING BY AA TRADITIONS. THEY SHOULD NOT USE THE AA NAME, HOWEVER, AND SHOULD BE ORGANIZED APART FROM AA. THEY SHOULD NOT ACCEPT MONEY FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, BUT BE SUPPORTED BY MEMBERSHIP DUES AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AA MEMBERS. THE QUESTION OF A PAID MEMBERSHIP IN AA SHOULD NOT ARISE, SINCE AA MEETINGS HELD IN CLUBS ARE OPEN TO ALL. THE CONFERENCE VOICED RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT CLUBS SHOULD OPERATE WITHIN AA TRADITIONS AND ABIDE BY THEM TO THE FULLEST. "

COPIED FROM THE AA GUIDELINES

1. WHAT IS THE MAINSPRING OF AA?
2. DO YOU FEEL THE GROUP IS THE PLACE WHERE AAS LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER?
3. JUST HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU IS YOUR "GROUP"?
4. DOES SERVICE COME FROM GROUP ACTIVITIES?
5. WHERE HAS THE CLUB IDEA COME FROM?
6. DO YOU WANT MORE OUT OF AA THAN A GROUP MEETING?
7. HOW WAS THE CLUB IDEA BORN?
8. DOES EVERY MEMBER OF AA NEED A CLUB ROOM?
9. WHO MAKES UP THE MEMBERSHIP OF A CLUB?
10. DO YOU THINK OF A "CLUB" AS AN "AA CLUB"?
11. SHOULD CLUBS ABIDE BY THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA?
12. SHOULD THE CLUB BE NAMED "AA CLUB"?
13. SHOULD THE CLUB TAKE GIFTS OR DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE?
14. HOW IS A CLUB SUPPOSED TO BE FINANCED?
15. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CLUB SHOULD NOT TAKE BUILDING MATERIAL FREE COFFEE, ETC. FROM OUTSIDERS?
16. WHY DOES A CLUB NEED MONEY?
17. SHOULD EACH MEMBER OF THE CLUB KNOW THE COMPLETE FINANCIAL NEEDS? BOTH EXPENDITURES AND MONEY RECIEVED?
18. SHOULD AA MEMBERS AS A WHOLE BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OF A CLUB OR SHOULD ONE OR TWO WEALTHIER AAS ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY?
19. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE DUES CHARGED FOR MEMBERSHIP?
20. WHO HANDLES THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE CLUB?
21. WHAT SHOULD BE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS?
22. WHAT IS THE QUALIFICATION FOR MOST CLUBS' MEMBERSHIP?

23. WOULD YOU FEEL HURT IF SOME DIRECTOR, WHILE YOU WERE ATTENDING AN AA MEETING IN A CLUB ROOM, CAME UP TO YOU AND SAID: WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU ARE NOT A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF THIS CLUB.
24. WOULD YOU JOIN THE CLUB SO YOU COULD ATTEND THE GROUP?
25. WOULD YOU REPORT THIS HAPPENING, KNOWING WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG, TO THE GROUP OR TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE CLUB?
26. WOULD YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND JUST NOT ATTEND ANYMORE MEETINGS IN THE CLUB?
27. DID YOU KNOW A WELL PLANNED CLUB IS AN ARM OF THE STATE?
28. DID YOU KNOW CLUBS HAVE RULES?
29. IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE GAMBLING OR CARD PLAYING IN THE CLUB?
30. SHOULD AA INTERGROUP BE PART OF THE CLUB OR SHOULD IT BE APART FROM THE CLUB? WHY?
31. INTER GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT _____? A CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT _____?
32. IS THERE SUCH A THING AS AN AA CLUB ROOM?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: THE NEXT FOUR PAGES ARE AN EXAMPLE OF A NON-PROFIT BUSINESS ORGANIZATION CHARTER AS FILED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA. WHEN THE ORIGINAL CLUB WAS FORMED BY AA MEMBERS AS A SOCIAL CLUB, THE NAME WAS ACQUIRED THROUGH THE ADDRESS OF THE BUILDING THAT WAS RENTED AT 101 N. E. 1 ST., POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA.

SAMPLE CHARTER

NON-PROFIT BUSINESS ORGANIZATION CHARTER AS FILED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA WHEN THIS CLUB CAME INTO BEING, THEIR BY-LAWS HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

ARTICLE I

THE NAME OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE "THE 101 FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED". LOCATED IN POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA.

ARTICLE II

THE OBJECTS OF THIS FRATERNITY SHALL BE:

- A. A SOCIAL FRATERNITY FOR SOBER ALCOHOLICS.
- B. TO ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION OF ACTIVE ALCOHOLICS.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - THE CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS SHALL BE

A. ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL:

- 1. BE ENTITLED TO ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF THE FRATERNITY.
- 2. SERVE ON ANY COMMITTEE TO WHICH HE OR SHE IS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

B. INACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE:

- 1. ANY MEMBER WHO LOSES HIS OR HER SOBRIETY.

SECTION 2 - THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE COMPOSED OF SOBER MEN AND WOMEN ALCOHOLICS WITH A MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS SOBRIETY.

SECTION 3 - APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- A. ANY SOBER ALCOHOLIC WITH 30 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

- B. ANY SUCH PERSON SHALL BECOME A MEMBER BY NOTIFYING THE CLUB SECRETARY OF HIS DESIRE TO BECOME A MEMBER AND BY PAYING THE TREASURER ONE MONTH'S DUES IN ADVANCE.

SECTION 4 - RESIGNATIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP.

- A. ANY PERSON MAY RESIGN BY NOTIFYING THE SECRETARY TO DROP HIS NAME FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.
- B. ANY MEMBER WHO LOSES HIS SOBRIETY AND USES HIS KEY WHILE INTOXICATED TO ENTER THE PREMISES SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AND HE SHALL FORFEIT HIS KEY UNTIL REINSTATED.
- C. ANY MEMBER WHO IS TWO MONTHS IN ARREARS OF HIS DUES SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.

SECTION 5 - REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.

- A. ANY PERSON DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP FOR DELINQUENT DUES SHALL BE REINSTATED UPON PAYMENT OF TWO MONTHS DUES HE IS IN ARREARS PLUS THE CURRENT MONTHS DUES.
- B. ANY PERSON WHO LOSES HIS SOBRIETY MAY BE REINSTATED AS ABOVE IN "A" AFTER 30 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

SECTION 1 - THE DUES OF THIS FRATERNITY SHALL BE TWO (\$2.00) DOLLARS PER MONTH FOR EACH ACTIVE MEMBER.

- A. DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE 1ST DAY OF EACH MONTH.
- B. DUES SHALL BE PAID TO THE TREASURER WHO SHALL ISSUE RECEIPT FOR SAME.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - THE MEETINGS SHALL BE

- A. REGULAR
 - 1. REGULAR MEETING SHALL BE HELD QUARTERLY AT THE FRATERNITY ADDRESS ON THE 1ST SUNDAY IN APRIL AND ON THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH THIRD MONTH THEREAFTER.
 - 2. NOTICE OF SUCH MEETINGS SHALL BE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD 5 DAYS PRIOR TO SUCH MEETING AND EACH MEMBER NOTIFIED THERE OF AS HEREINAFTER SET FORTH UNDER ARTICLE VI.

B. CALL

1. CALL MEETINGS MAY BE HELD AT ANY TIME BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 2. BY 5 ACTIVE MEMBERS SIGNING A REQUEST AND FILING SAME WITH THE SECRETARY.
 3. NOTICE OF CALL MEETINGS SHALL BE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AS SOON AS THE DATE AND TIME CAN BE DETERMINED AND EACH MEMBER NOTIFIED AS IN ARTICLE VI.
- C. THE ANNUAL MEETING SHALL BE THE 1ST SUNDAY IN _____ 1963 AND ON THE SAME SUNDAY IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1 - NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

- A. ACTUAL NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN BY ONE MEMBER TELLING ANOTHER OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING IN QUESTION. THIS MAY BE DONE EITHER IN PERSON OR BY PHONE.
- B. CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN BY MAILING A NOTE TO THE MEMBER STATING THE TIME, PLACE AND PURPOSE OF SUCH MEETING-SUCH NOTE MUST BE MAILED 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF SUCH MEETINGS. THE ADDRESS AS IT APPEARS ON THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL IS SUFFICIENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE IS VALID EVEN THOUGH THE MEMBER DOES NOT RECEIVE SAME.
- C. NOTICE OF ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT IF EITHER ACTUAL OR CONSTRUCTIVE.

ARTICLE VIII- QUORUM AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 - A QUORUM SHALL BE A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT.

SECTION 2 - ANY BUSINESS CONDUCTED SHALL BE DECIDED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING.

SECTION 3 - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE ELECTED BY SECRET BALLOT.

ARTICLE VIII--OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

SECTION 1 - THE OFFICERS OF THIS FRATERNITY SHALL BE:

- A. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- B. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- C. SECRETARY) SECRETARY AND TREASURER MAY BE THE SAME PERSON AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD OF
- D. TREASURER) DIRECTORS.

SECTION 2 - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL DETERMINE THE OFFICERS FOR EACH QUARTER AT THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FOLLOWING THE REGULAR QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING. THE SECRETARY AND/OR THE TREASURER NEED NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MAY SUCCEED THEMSELVES IN OFFICE.

SECTION 3 - TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE ELECTED AT THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON THE 1ST SUNDAY IN _____, 196 , AND 3 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

SECTION 4 - THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL SERVE FOR TWO QUARTERS AND CANNOT SUCCEED THEMSELVES IN OFFICE.

SECTION 5 - ANY ACTIVE MEMBER IS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 6 - ANY VACANCY ON THE BOARD WHICH OCCURS BETWEEN QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP MAY BE FILLED BY A MAJORITY OF THOSE REMAINING ON THE BOARD NAMING A REPLACEMENT MEMBER TO SERVE UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING. SUCH VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

SECTION 7 - NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS SHALL ASSUME THEIR DUTIES IMMEDIATELY UPON ELECTION.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

- A. PRESIDE AT ALL MEETINGS.
- B. APPOINT ALL COMMITTEES.

SECTION 2 - VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

- A. TO ASSIST THE CHAIRMAN IN HIS DUTIES.
- B. TO ASSUME ALL THE DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN.

SECTION 3 - SECRETARY

- A. TO MAINTAIN THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS UP TO DATE.

CHAPTER TWELVE

AL-ANON

"THE FELLOWSHIPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS HAVE A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP. THEY ARE NATURALLY DRAWN TOGETHER BY THEIR CLOSE FAMILY TIES. AND YET, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS, THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARDS, AND THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCES OF BOTH FELLOWSHIPS SUGGEST THAT EACH FUNCTIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY IF IT REMAINS 'SEPARATE,' CO-OPERATING BUT NOT AFFILIATING WITH THE OTHER.

EACH FELLOWSHIP HAS ALWAYS HAD ITS OWN GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE, CONFERENCE, PUBLISHING COMPANY AND WORLD DIRECTORY. EACH HAS ESTABLISHED ITS OWN POLICIES AND MAINTAINED ITS OWN SERVICES. THIS SEPARATE FUNCTIONING HAS SERVED BOTH AA AND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS WELL. AS A MATTER OF FACT, AA'S POLICY OF 'CO-OPERATION BUT NOT AFFILIATION' WAS ESTABLISHED AS LONG AGO AS THE EARLY 1950'S, AND BOTH AL-ANON AND AA RECOGNIZED AT THAT TIME THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SEPARATE FELLOWSHIPS.

HOWEVER, FROM TIME TO TIME, QUESTIONS COME TO BOTH AA AND AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICE OFFICES INDICATING CONFUSION AS TO HOW AA AND AL-ANON MAY BEST CO-OPERATE IN THE AREA OF GROUPS, INTER-GROUPS OR CENTRAL SERVICES AND AREA AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

AND GET-TOGETHERS.

THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICES OF AA AND AL-ANON MET AND DISCUSSED THESE QUESTIONS AND AA'S GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE APPROVED THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED GUIDELINES:

QUESTION: SHOULD A GROUP BE AFFILIATED WITH BOTH AA AND AL-ANON?

ANSWER: AS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE AA GROUP IS TO HELP THE SICK ALCOHOLIC TO RECOVER AND THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS IS TO HELP THE AL-ANON TO LIVE WITH HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS WELL AS WITH THE ALCOHOLIC, IT WAS SUGGESTED THEY NOT BE COMBINED BUT REMAIN SEPARATE GROUPS. THIS WILL ENABLE BOTH FELLOWSHIPS TO FUNCTION WITHIN THEIR TWELVE TRADITIONS AND TO CARRY THEIR MESSAGE MORE EFFECTIVELY. THUS, THE GROUP NAME, THE OFFICERS AND THE MEETING SHOULD BE EITHER AA OR AL-ANON BUT NOT BOTH. NATURALLY, ALL ARE WELCOME AT OPEN MEETINGS OF BOTH AA AND AL-ANON GROUPS.

QUESTION: SHOULD AA AND AL-ANON HAVE COMBINED CENTRAL (OR INTERGROUP) SERVICES AND OFFICES?

ANSWER: BOTH EXPERIENCE AND THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA AND AL-ANON SUGGEST THAT EACH FELLOWSHIP WILL FUNCTION MORE EFFECTIVELY IF EACH RETAINS SEPARATE COMMITTEES, SEPARATE STAFFS AND FACILITIES FOR HANDLING TELEPHONE AND PERSONAL CALLS, AS WELL AS SEPARATE TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICES, INTERGROUP

ACTIVITIES, BULLETINS, MEETING LISTS AND ALL TYPES OF TWELFTH STEP SERVICES. ALSO, THAT THE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN EACH SERVICE COMMITTEE OR OFFICE BE AA MEMBERS, IF AN AA FACILITY, AND AL-ANON, IF AN AL-ANON FACILITY.

QUESTION: HOW MAY AA AND AL-ANON CO-OPERATE IN AREA AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS?

ANSWER: THIS ANSWER DEPENDS ON WHETHER IT IS AN AA CONVENTION OR AN AL-ANON CONVENTION. THE FORMER ARE GROWING IN NUMBER.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TWELVE TRADITIONS, A CONVENTION WOULD BE EITHER AA OR AL-ANON--NOT BOTH. HOWEVER, MOST AA CONVENTION COMMITTEES INVITE AL-ANON TO PARTICIPATE BY PLANNING THEIR OWN PROGRAM, AND THE COMMITTEE ARRANGES FOR FACILITIES FOR THE AL-ANON MEETINGS. IF AA INVITES AL-ANON TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MATTER, ALL EXPENSES INVOLVED IN THE AL-ANON MEETINGS ARE PAID FROM THE FUNDS OF THE AA CONVENTION COMMITTEE.

QUESTION: SHOULD AN AA CONVENTION COMMITTEE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO AL-ANON FROM THE FINANCIAL PROFITS OF THE CONVENTION?

ANSWER: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SELF-SUPPORT TRADITIONS OF BOTH FELLOWSHIPS AND TO ABIDE BY THE CONCEPT OF 'CO-OPERATION BUT NOT AFFILIATION,' IT IS SUGGESTED THAT AA SHOULD NOT MAKE GIFTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AL-ANON. BY THE SAME TOKEN AA SHOULD NOT ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AL-ANON.

WE THINK YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS WHICH WAS

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE 1969 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
OF AA.

THE DELEGATES OF THIS, THE 19TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, MEETING IN OFFICAL SESSION IN NEW YORK,
CITY, THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 1969, DO HEREBY DECLARE:

WHEREAS, IT IS THE DESIRE OF THIS CONFERENCE TO CONFIRM THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND THE AL-ANON
FAMILY GROUPS, AND WHEREAS, IT IS THE FURTHER DESIRE OF THIS
CONFERENCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AA'S DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT ALCO-
HOLICS ANONYMOUS RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IT
ENJOYS WITH THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, A SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR
FELLOWSHIP. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
WISHES TO RECOGNIZE, AND HEREBY DOES RECOGNEZE, THE GREAT
CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS HAVE MADE AND ARE
MAKING, IN ASSISTING THE FAMILIES OF ALCOHOLICS EVERYWHERE. "

COPIED FROM THE A. A. GUIDELINES

1. WHY ARE AA AND AL-ANON SO CLOSELY TIED?
2. DOES AA RUN AL-ANON?
3. DOES AL-ANON RUN AA?
4. DOES AA PRACTICE THE SAME CO-OPERATION BUT NOT AFFILIATION?
5. SHOULD A GROUP BE AFFILIATED WITH BOTH AA AND AL-ANON?
6. SHOULD AA AND AL-ANON HAVE COMBINED CENTRAL OR INTER-GROUP SERVICES AND OFFICES?
7. HOW MAY AA AND AL-ANON CO-OPERATE IN AREA AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS?
8. SHOULD AA CONTRIBUTE TO AL-ANON?
9. SHOULD AL-ANON CONTRIBUTE TO AA?
10. DO YOU HAVE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE OR ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR AL-ANON?

HAVE A MEMBER OF AL-ANON MAKE AN AL-ANON TALK TELLING WHAT IT WAS LIKE, WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT IT IS LIKE TODAY.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

LITERATURE DISPLAY

1. BOOKS---HARD
2. BOOKS---SOFT
3. LANGUAGE BOOKS
4. BOOKLETS
5. PAMPHLETS
6. BULLETINS
7. DIRECTORIES
8. CONFERENCE REPORT
9. GUIDELINES

A COMPLETE DISPLAY OF ALL LITERATURE FURNISHED BY GSO AND
EXPLANATION OF ALL CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE.