

No Booze News

Intergroup Council of West Central Arkansas

Volume Number 1

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

Intergroup Council of West Central Arkansas publishes *NO BOOZE NEWS*, the month following the quarterly Intergroup meeting, in February, May, August and November. It is emailed to all Intergroup Representatives and District 8 General Service Representatives as well as posted on the website, <https://aawcar.org/>

DEADLINE is the same day as the quarterly Intergroup Meeting, i.e., last Sunday of January, April, July and October. For example the next Intergroup Meeting is July 31 and is also deadline for this quarterly newsletter.

Please send articles and information to Mara M., maranugene86@icloud.com, or text 501-984-3556. Put *No Booze News* in the subject line so it isn't missed. Thank you!!

ONLY first names and last name initials will be used in accord with **Tradition 11**.

ELECTIONS WHY ME?

Service was not part of my recovery, until an old timer asked me why I wasn't going to stand for a position. I said I didn't think I could do it. At that time the man said to me, "Someone was doing it before you came in, so maybe it time for you to give back what was so freely given to you. This brought to my mind what my sponsor, John G., said to me, "to suit up and show up. Then you will see what God's will is for you."

Well, it's that time for rotation again so that we may elect new trusted servants to fill our service positions at Group, District and Area. Area 4 practices a two-year rotation on every even year. All the members at District 8 would like to thank our current trusted servants for their service in the past two years.

The principle of rotation flows from Tradition Two: "For our 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." My experience was that, after two years, I had finally figured out what I was supposed to do and it was time to rotate.

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This issue is devoted to information pertinent to the upcoming Group and District 8 elections. This information is primarily from Conference Approved Sources. The regular columns will return in the October-November-December issue.

Intergroup Council of West Central Arkansas is an A.A. service office in partnership with groups in District 8. The website is <https://aawcar.org>. To find a meeting in District 8 go to <https://aawcar.org/meetings/>.

Our Bookstore is located at 411 Sellers St., Hot Springs, AR 71901. If you would like to purchase literature, coins, etc. please call John K. at 501-282-9838 to schedule your visit to the bookstore.

ALL District 8 groups are encouraged to have an Intergroup Representative: quarterly meetings are held at 2:00 p.m., the last Sunday of January, April, July and October at 411 Sellers Street in Hot Springs. See MG-02 A.A. Guidelines on Intergroup Office.

John's Notes...

Greetings one and all! As the Chairperson of the Intergroup Council of West Central Arkansas, I also want to take this space to let you know that my responsibilities include facilitating our quarterly business meetings, ordering for the bookstore, and assisting the various coordinators with there areas of responsibility.

Intergroup specifically serves District 8 groups and meetings.

I encourage all the groups in our District to send a representative to our quarterly meetings. This is the only way we can know your concerns and how we can best serve you and your group.

Our next meeting is July 31, at 2:00 p.m. at Sellers (411 Sellers Street, Hot Springs).

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to text me at 501-282-9838.

YA'LL COME!!

Wondering what is happening in our District? Looking for Service work? Something to do with your friends or for date night?

Check out our Upcoming Events on page 14!

And mark your calendar to be present!

Groups in District 8 traditionally have their elections in August so that in September District 8 will have their elections and in October Area 4 will have theirs. It has been done traditionally in this order in the past so that everyone will know who can stand for all service positions. Traditionally rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share.

Many outgoing trusted servants find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming servant. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles, or praise-we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

Experience, Strength & Hope,
Tom F.



R. H. SMITH, M. D.
2ND NATIONAL BLDG. AKRON, OHIO
TELEPHONE: HE-0523 REG. NO. _____

R ...if you really and truly want to quit drinking liquor for good and all...we know that we have an answer for you. It never fails, if you go about it with one half the zeal you have been in the habit of showing when you were getting another drink.

Dr. Bob M. D.

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that:

I Am Responsible.

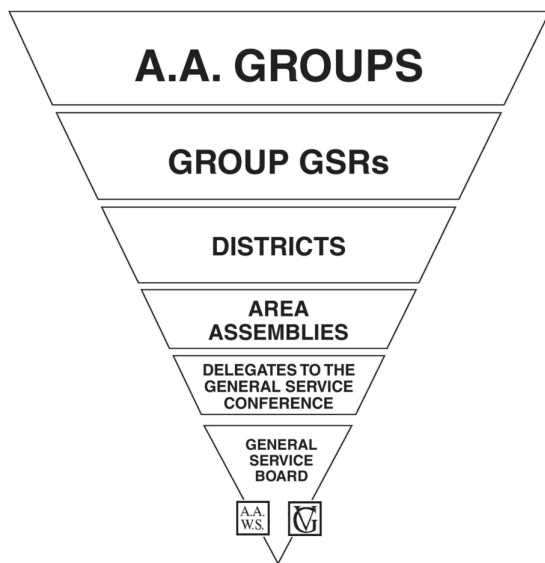


WHO'S IN CHARGE?

An Upside-Down Organization

SM F-179 Structure of the Conference

The groups are on top and the trustees at the bottom. Bill W. wrote in Concept I: "The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services...." Then, in Concept II, Bill made it clear that the groups "delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference... the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole Society."



The inverted triangle of Alcoholics Anonymous service structure is fundamental to our society. To serve—not govern—differentiates AA from other societies. Ignoring this principle for a specific agenda or other exception will invite a cast of unintended consequences ranging from hard feelings to a total compromise of our system, forfeiting our fellowship as we have known it for over 78 years.

The inverted triangle is AA's protection from tyranny. The two risks are the tyranny of the majority and the tyranny of the minority. This inverted triangle prevents the threat of a minority within AA having their rights trampled on. As well, special interest groups can't railroad the agenda.

The Group... Where A.A.'s Service Structure Begins

What Is an A.A. Group?

Partially from pamphlet P-16

The A.A. Group is the heart of Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups are the first contact alcoholics have with A.A. and recovered alcoholics. It is where we gather to share experience and hope. It is also where governance of A.A. begins, with individual members expressing their thoughts and ideas of what and how A.A. should carry the message to still suffering alcoholics. It is where G.S.R.s learn the group conscious.

The long form of Tradition Three clearly states, "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism, hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

Further clarification of an A.A. group is found in Concept Twelve, Warranty Six:

- no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles;
- no fees or dues to be levied — voluntary contributions only;
- no member to be expelled from A.A. — membership always to be the choice of the individual;
- each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes — it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and, finally,
- that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.

Keeping a balance between ultimate authority and active, day-to-day functioning requires **CONSTANT** communication among **ALL** elements of the structure.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIONS?

GROUP POSITIONS

The job descriptions for Group officers are written by the respective Group and may vary from one group to another. Therefore these are general job descriptions subject to individual group decisions.

General Service Representative or GSR represents the group at the District and Area meetings, bringing the groups' activities, thoughts, news and problems these meetings. He or she also chairs the Group's business meeting, coordinates with other group officers and appointed positions like Cake Lady and Supplies.

Alternate GSR substitutes for the G.S.R. when the he or she is absent and unable to exercise the duties. This includes attending District and Area and may require chairing the Home Group's business meeting.

Secretary keeps the minutes of the Group and maintains the list of home group members with their contact information. He or she sends out notices and information to members as needed.

Treasurer receives contributions from the basket and maintains the financial records of monies received and dispersed; maintains a bank account for depositing all receipts and making disbursements as the Group has determined. A report is made at each business meeting.

DISTRICT 8 POSITIONS

From "District 8 Structure & Guidelines"

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER or D.C.M. conducts all District 08 Committee meetings, which are held quarterly and prepares the meeting agendas and then provides the agenda to the Secretary for distribution. With the Alternate DCM's approval, chairpersons of the District 08

Continued next column

Permanent Committees are appointed. Working with the GSRs, a two way communication system keeps the needs as well as Area and G.S.O. activities. District funds the DCM to allow attendance at Area 4 Assemblies, including fuel, lodging, and meals.

Alternate DCM assumes the duties of the DCM in the event of his or her absence. He or she also coordinates the Permanent Committees and maintains contact with all groups in District 8, primarily urging new groups and unregistered groups to participate in District functions. When District 8 is assigned a task at Area 4, the Alternate D.C.M. insures volunteers from the District are available to cover our rotating duties at the Area 04 Assembly for registration and making coffee. In addition, the Alternate DCM is able to attend Area 4 Assemblies to help coordinate the attendance of the District committee members at the Area Committee meetings. He or she learns the duties of the DCM to be better prepared to step into their duties in the event of their absence. The District funds the Alternate DCM to budget to allow attendance at Area Assemblies, including fuel, lodging, and meals.

Secretary serves on the Executive Committee and keeps the minutes of the District 08 Committee Member quarterly meetings. These are then timely published to all the groups in the District. A current list of all duly registered District 08 groups, their meetings and G.S.R.s is maintained and provided to the Area Registrar.

Treasurer is one of the most responsible positions at District. This job requires accuracy, attention to detail & accountability. He or she ensures the basket is passed honoring the 7th Tradition and takes custody of the collection. The Treasurer is responsible for protecting District funds.

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

**Majority from P-19 G.S.R. General Service
Representative**

The General Service Representative or G.S.R. is the link between the Group and with A.A. as a whole. The G.S.R. presents the voice of the members, the group conscience, reporting the group's thoughts to the District 8 Committee member, D.C.M., Area 4 Assembly, and the Area Delegate, who passes it to the Conference.

This communication is a two-way street with the G.S.R. responsible for bringing back to the group District 8, Area 4 and Conference actions that affect A.A.'s unity and development. Only when the G.S.R. communicates the group conscience, keeps the group informed and communicates the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole.

G.S.R.s learn everything they can about the "Twelve Traditions" and "Twelve Concepts" and are familiar with the Service Manual, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and A.A. Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts for World Service, and the pamphlets "The A.A. Group," "A.A. Tradition – How It Developed," "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

QUALIFICATIONS

Experience shows that the most effective G.S.R.s are active in group, service and possibly on a District committee or other service where he or she has encountered situations in which the Twelve Traditions were used to solve problems.

- Usually, prospective G.S.R.s have at least two years of continuous sobriety
- He or she has the time available for district meetings and area assemblies.
- The confidence of the group and an ability to listen to all points of view.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Current experience indicates Groups should provide financial support for their G.S.R. to attend service functions including District 8 and Area 4 Assembly, and other service entities.

DUTIES

G.S.R.s attend District 8 meetings and attend Area 4 Assembly. They receive the G.S.O. bulletin Box 4-5-9.

G.S.R.s supply their D.C.M.s with up-to-date group information, which is relayed to G.S.O., either directly to the Records department or through the Area registrar updating G.S.O.'s database.

They work with group treasurers to develop practical plans for group support. They use the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spiritually Mix."

Further, G.S.R.s participate in District 8 and Area 4 service meetings, and help with planning for area get-togethers and conventions. Following these events, they make reports to their groups for the benefit of those who could not attend.

A Group Conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership. The term "informed" Group Conscience implies that all the pertinent information is identified and has been reviewed. A.A. principles have been consulted, and that all the viewpoints have been heard and discussed before a Vote is taken. To be fully informed requires the willingness and open-mindedness to always hear the minority opinion.

Electing a G.S.R. is not a popularity contest but a serious voting decision, electing the best representative for your group. It is not electing a president, but electing a person who loves A.A. and wants to serve the Group and A.A. as a whole.

From District 25, Area 30, Eastern MA

**When the
GSR votes,
the
Group's
voice is
heard.**



**The voice responds, “NO, I’M THE
MANAGER OF THIS ICE RINK.”**

THIRD LEGACY

Partially From “District 8 Structure & Guidelines” pages 5 & 6

A.A.’s **Third Legacy Procedure** is a unique electoral procedure used, as needed, in all elections, regardless of level.

“**Going to the Hat**” appears to introduce an element of chance or gambling which should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, this method is highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on political scenes and campaigns.

7.1 The following election procedures were written using the **AA Service Manual**, “Third Legacy Procedure,” as a guide.

- A. The District 08 Secretary calls the roll of voting members present. This list is the responsibility of each voting member. They are to sign in with the District 08 Secretary as they arrive at the district meeting on election day. Corrections and additions are added to the list at the end of roll call.
- B. Two (2) non-voting members will be selected as “tellers”. Two (2) other non-voting will be selected as “collectors” of ballots and a non-voting member will record and tally votes on the board.
- C. All GSRs and District 08 Executive Committee members are eligible for nomination to District 08 Executive Committee positions for the new term. Each member eligible for nomination will be introduced as their name is written clearly for all voting members to view.
- D. The chairperson asks whether anyone is unable to serve, and if so, that person’s name is removed from the list.
- E. Paper and pencils are distributed for written ballots.
- F. Written ballots are cast, collected and given to tellers to count.

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- G. Each vote will be recorded on the board beside the candidate’s name.
- H. The first candidate to receive two-thirds (2/3) vote is elected.
- I. After the second ballot (assuming no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds (2/3) vote of the first ballot), any candidate having less than one-fifth (1/5) of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except that the two (2) top candidates must remain. In case of a tie for second place, the top candidate and the tied second place candidates remain.
- J. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third (1/3) of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates must remain. In case of a tie for second place, the top candidate and the tied second place candidates remain.
- K. A fourth ballot is conducted. If no candidate has two-thirds (2/3) of the total vote, the chairperson asks for a motion, second and majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot will be conducted. If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and we got the “hat” immediately. If second place is tied, the top candidate and tied second place candidates remain. If there is no tie, the candidate with the smallest total is dropped
- L. If no election occurs by this time, the chairperson announces the choice will be made by lot, from the “hat”.
- M. Lots are then drawn by the teller and the first name drawn out of the “hat” is elected.

7.2 Currently serving GSRs, incoming GSRs and executive committee members shall elect a District 08 Committee Member, Alternate District 08 Committee Member, District 08 Secretary and District 08 Treasurer in September of each even year. Their term of service shall be two (2) years beginning January 1 of the next odd year.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

PLEASE ANNOUNCE

- * **INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4, Picnic, Meeting at 8:00 p.m.**
Please bring side dishes: A-H side dishes H- Desserts
Eating from: 6:00-7:00 Clean Up: 7:00-8:00

AREA 4 ASSEMBLY, Saturday & Sunday, July 9-10

- * **82nd OLD GRANDDAD, July 29-31, Arlington Resort and Spa, Hot Springs Arkansas.**

INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS , Sunday, July 31, 2:00 p.m., 411 Sellers, Hot Springs, Arkansas

DISTRICT 8, Saturday, September 11, 1:30 Committees meet, 2:00 p.m. Members meet. ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICIERS

- * **NATIONAL A.A. ARCHIVES WORKSHOP, September 22-25,
North Little Rock, Arkansas**

AREA ASSEMBLY, Saturday & Sunday, October 1-2

- * **SWARSA, October 7-9, hosted by Oklahoma Area 57, Renaissance
Convention Center, 6808 S 107th East Ave, Tulsa, OK**
- * **ARKYPAA, October 6-9, Camp Mitchell, Petit Jean Mountain State
Park**

While there are no dues or fees for membership in AA or to attend a regular AA meeting, Conventions and Conferences are considered special events, not AA meetings. There is a charge for the use of conference facilities; reimburse speakers' travel expenses; purchase flyers, badges, and coffee, and much more. The conference committee is responsible for all expenses incurred, and, therefore, registrations are used to pay all expenses

For more complete information, please read pamphlet MG-04, A.A. Guidelines to Conferences, Conventions and Roundups, "HOW A.A.s MAKE THEIR GET-TOGETHERS ENJOYABLE AS WELL AS EFFECTIVE IN CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE OF RECOVERY."

BAKE AT THE LAKE 2022

Fun,
Fellowship
and Great
Food!

