

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Foreword

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly abides by the principles reflected in the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. We also follow as closely as possible the current A.A. Service Manual. However, we recognize that over several years of our existence, we have developed practices and procedures unique to Area 29. **This handbook, therefore, is an effort to describe those practices and procedures presently accepted in the working structure of the Maryland General Service Area Assembly.**

New members are continually coming into Maryland General Service to serve their groups and their districts. At the same time, we have lost many of our early timers upon whom we have relied to orally pass on our traditional "way of doing things". As time has passed, experience has shown that we can no longer retain in our collective memories all the experience and knowledge that has served us so well in the past. Just as our Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous", was written so that our message of recovery would not become garbled in the oral method of passing it on, we in Maryland General Service Area 29 believe that this handbook will serve to pass on our service message as it has become known and accepted in the Area 29 service structure.

We know and recognize that no prior service committee or assembly decisions shall be binding on future committees or assemblies. All current committees and assemblies are encouraged to make decisions as they see fit according to their own group conscience. This handbook, therefore, will serve as a guide and a reference for what has worked in the past. It is subject to change by vote of the Area Assembly as the needs in Area 29 Maryland General Service change and as better ways are found to carry our message. As better ways are found and adopted for Area 29, they will be incorporated into the appropriate section of this handbook. A document referencing updates to the text of this handbook will be maintained in the Appendix.

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## Spirituality in Action\*

“I am convinced that God's hand was never more apparent in all of Bill's writings than it is in our blessed third legacy. It is totally a spiritual document, and I think of service as spirituality in action.

“Bill said our third legacy is that ‘least possible organization which will maintain us in effectiveness and unity.’ That must mean that our least possible organization is intended to bind our groups together, in loving and purposeful communication, in about the same manner as individual members are bound together in an A.A. group.

“Originally our ‘least possible organization’ was a means of electing delegates to a conference. Today, we see it differently. Bill challenged us to produce a reliable, 12-months-of-the-year, continuing operation capable of supporting a full measure of service responsibility. I have a job and a responsibility, but I can't do ‘your job.’ Delegates should not do committee members' jobs; they should be delegates. The power and importance of A.A.'s basic principles take on new meaning for our service people in the careful consideration of watchwords like ‘rotation’ and ‘anonymity’ and ‘leadership.’

“Leadership is a continuing problem, just as Bill foretold. If you want better trustees, we need better delegates. If we want better delegates, we need better committee members. If we want better DCMs, we need better GSRs. Better service suggests better unity. Better unity suggests better recovery.

“What is important is that we grow under God quietly and calmly and in freedom. We have no doctrine that has to be maintained. No membership that has to be enlarged. No authority that has to be supported. No prestige, power or pride that has to be satisfied. No property or money is worth quarreling about. These are the advantages of which we should make the best possible use.”

- by Tom G., a former General Service Trustee, Canada  
from a presentation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Service Structure of the Conference

### Overview

The A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada are linked together by a representative service structure which makes it possible for A.A. members themselves to oversee A.A.'s world-wide service activities in ways consistent with our Twelve Traditions. "A.A.'s world-wide service activities" includes writing, printing and distributing a uniform literature, acting on matters of A.A. policy, guarding the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, serving as the voice and anonymous face of A.A. to the world, and providing a conduit and repository for experience and communication among groups.

The components of our service structure are shown in the diagram below, with the A.A. groups, which the A.A. Group pamphlet calls "the fundamental unit of A.A.," shown at the top since that is where the ultimate responsibility lies. The corporations that perform the hands-on execution of A.A.'s worldwide service activities (Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) are shown at the bottom of the inverted triangle, since all their authority is traditionally delegated to them by the units above them. The groups are connected to the corporations by three successive levels of representation: Districts, Areas and the General Service Conference. Each of these levels is composed of multiple units from the level immediately above.

### STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)

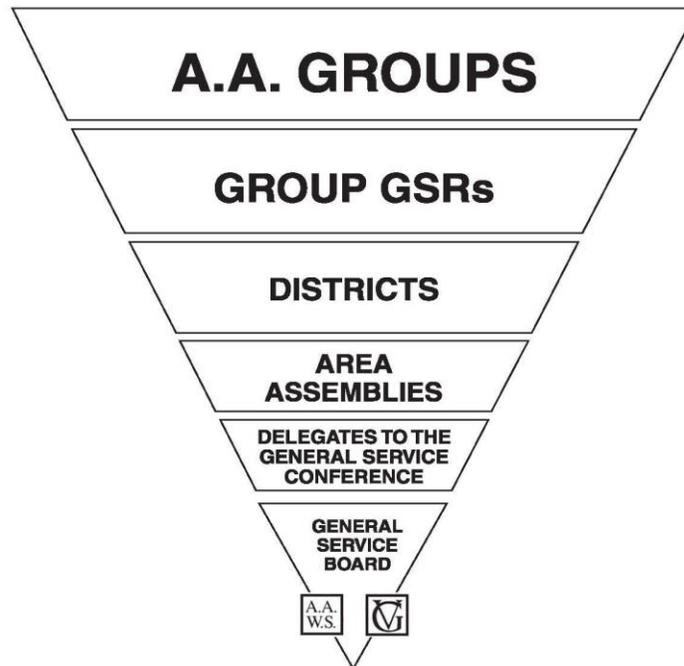


Diagram reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual, 2015-2016 Edition; page S16 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

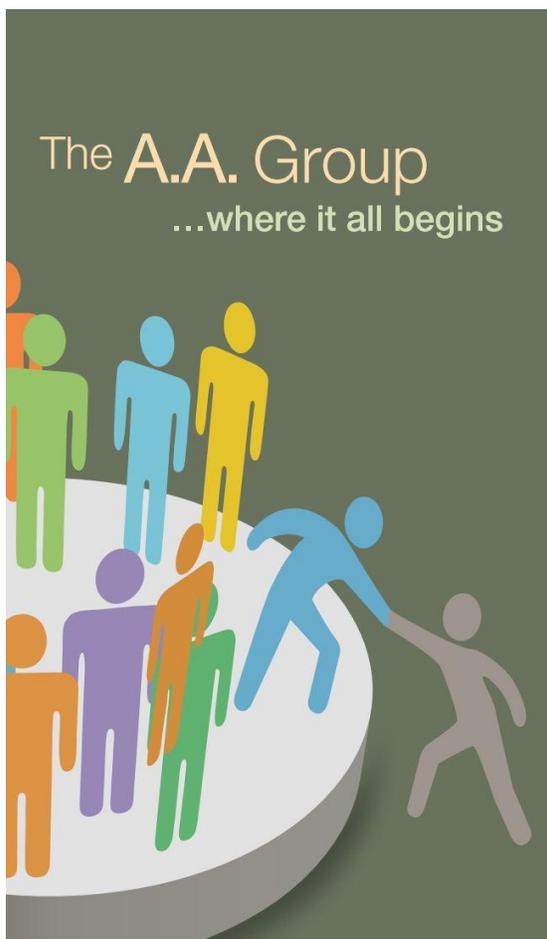
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## The A.A. Group

When our co-founders sponsored the General Service Conference, they placed in the hands of the groups the future and destiny of the fellowship. It is suggested that the pamphlets **“The A.A. Group”** and **“Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”** be your first “trusted servant” guides. As you read the sponsorship pamphlet, substitute “the group” for “newcomer” or “beginner.”

A group is an assembly or coming-together of people who associate with each other, who identify, who share and who participate in activities together. To continue our personal recovery and to insure the future of A.A., it is suggested that we belong to a home group, abiding by a common set of Traditions and having one voice in our group conscience, which is expressed in one vote through the General Service Representative.

Without a group, there is no group conscience, and without the GSR, there is no link to the rest of Alcoholics Anonymous to voice the conscience of an informed group to the fellowship as a whole.



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# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## The Group Conscience

A group conscience is a majority of well-informed members, a conscious awareness that “a loving God” may express “Himself” in a minority voice; each question must be well debated, and every member of the group has an equal opportunity to express his or her experience and opinion on the subject, so that a real sense of the group may be known.

The group conscience, as we know and understand it, is a result of decisions taken by members of the group, after consideration and deliberation on all the facts. The experience of others and their own experience are brought to light. Therefore, any statement that affects A.A. as a result of a group conscience ought not be rejected or taken lightly. A.A. experience has taught us that those of the minority opinion are often our greatest teachers and should have the right to be heard and the right of appeal and reconsideration. That right provides the voice that may contribute the important information that sways the group to make “the best” informed decision. Experience reminds us that we must not fail to hear the message because we did not like or agree with the messenger.

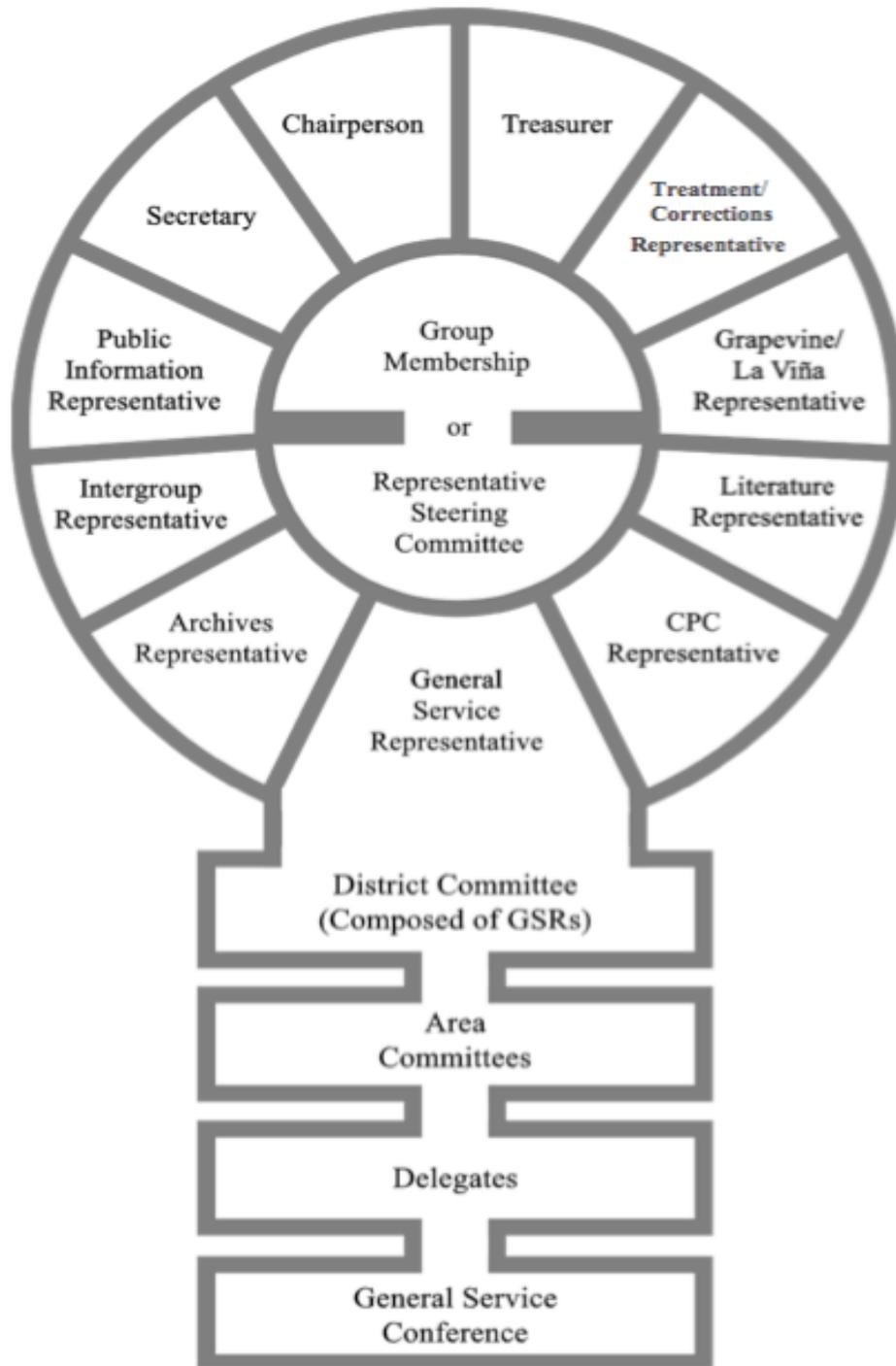
It was our co-founders' belief that A.A. members would be enlightened enough, moral enough and responsible enough to manage their own affairs through chosen representatives. The danger, of course, is that ignorance, apathy, and power seeking would invade this democratic system, which is based on spiritual principles, and cause it to decline in spiritual resources and collective wisdom.

Happily for us, there seems little prospect of such a calamity. The life of each individual and of each group is built around the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We very well know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death to the individual and dissolution for the group. An even greater force for A.A. unity is the compelling love that we have for our fellow members and for the principles upon which our lives today are founded.

Therefore, we believe that we see in our fellowship a spiritual society characterized by enough enlightenment, responsibility and love of God and humanity to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Service Structure inside the A.A. Group



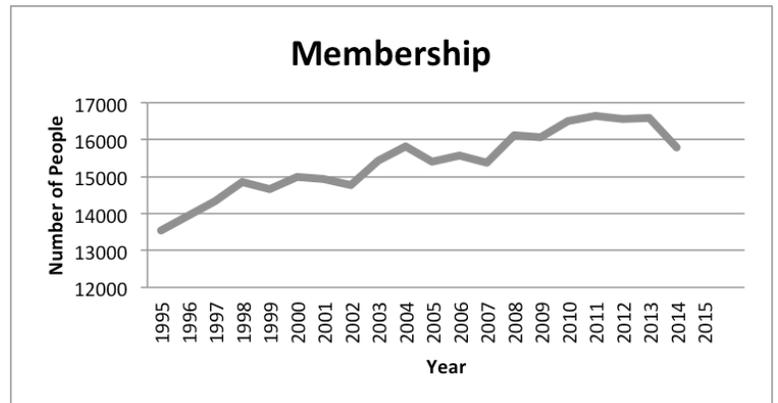
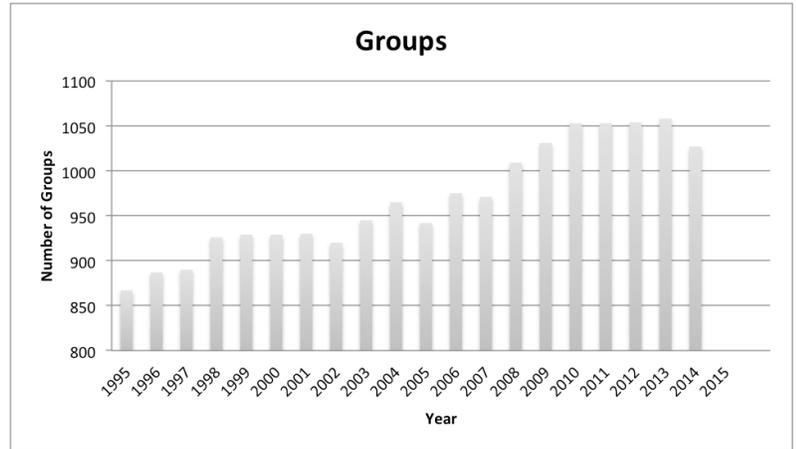
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# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Growth of A.A. in Area 29—Maryland General Service

### Groups and Membership\*

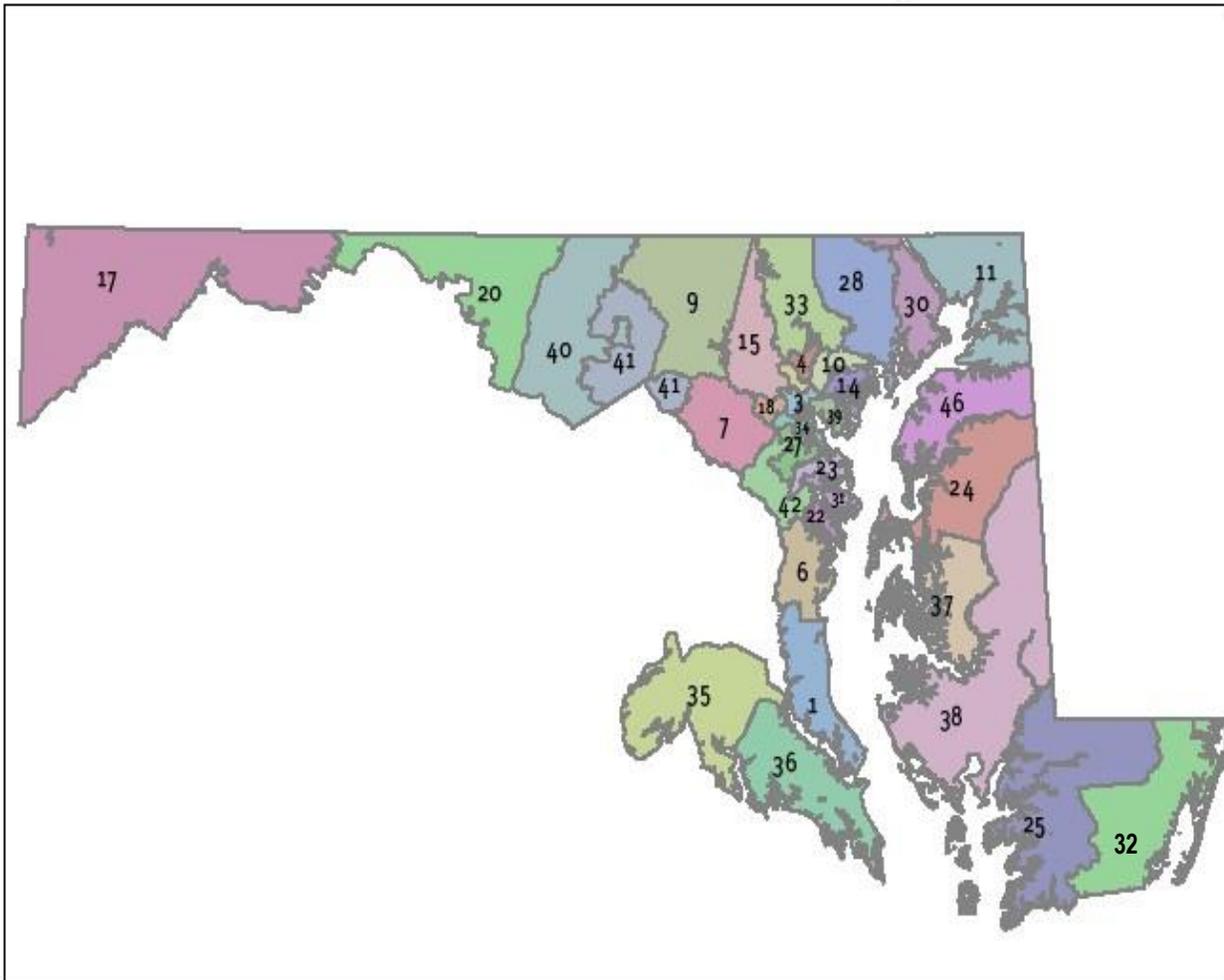
Year	Groups	Membership
1995	867	13542
1996	887	13934
1997	890	14337
1998	926	14843
1999	929	14650
2000	929	14989
2001	930	14945
2002	920	14784
2003	945	15421
2004	965	15815
2005	942	15405
2006	975	15582
2007	971	15373
2008	1009	16108
2009	1031	16057
2010	1053	16497
2011	1053	16637
2012	1054	16566
2013	1058	16584
2014	1027	15779
2015		
2016		



\* Data on groups and membership compiled from Annual General Service Conference Reports, 1996-2015.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Area 29 Map of Districts



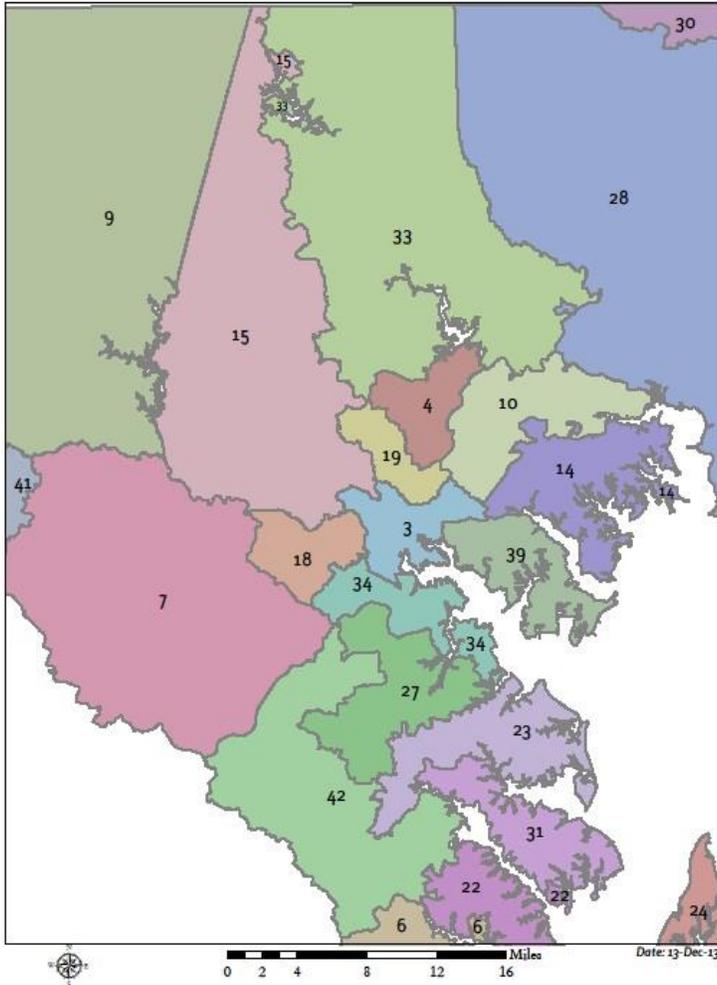
### Area 29 Districts

Dist.	Description	Dist.	Description
1	Calvert County	27	Anne Arundel zips 21060, 21061, 21090, 21144
3	Balt zips 21201, 21202, 21205, 21213 21216, 21217, 21223, 21230, 21231, 21287	28	Balt & Harford zips 21009, 21010, 21013, 21014, 21040, 21047, 21050, 21051, 21082, 21084, 21085, 21087, 21132, 21154, 21156, 21161
4	Balt zips 21204, 21212, 21239, 21252, 21286	30	Harford zips 21001, 21005, 21015, 21017, 21028, 21034, 21078, 21160
6	Zips 20711, 20714, 20733, 20736, 20751, 20754, 20758, 20764, 20765, 20776, 20778, 20779, 21035, 21037, 21140	31	Anne Arundel zips 21012, 21146, 21409
7	Howard County EXCEPT zips 21771 & 21797	32	Worcester County
9	Carroll County	33	Balt zips 21030, 21031, 21053, 21057, 21093, 21111, 21120, 21131, 21152
10	Balt zips 21128, 21162, 21206, 21214, 21234, 21236, 21251	34	Zips 21225, 21225, 21227
11	Cecil County	35	Charles County
14	Balt zips 21220, 21221, 21237	36	St. Mary's County
15	Balt zips 21071, 21074, 21102, 21104, 21117, 21133, 21136 21153, 21155, 21163, 21207, 21208, 21215, 21235, 21241, 21244	37	Talbot County
17	Garrett & Allegany Counties	38	Dorchester & Caroline Counties
18	Balt zips 21043, 21228, 21229, 21250	39	Balt zips 21219, 21222, 21224
19	Balt zips 21209, 21210, 21211, 21218	40	Frederick County EXCEPT District 41
20	Washington County	41	Frederick & Howard zips 20871, 21704, 21754, 21757, 21770, 21771, 21774, 21776, 21791, 21793, 21797, 21798
22	Zips 21140, 21401, 21402, 21403, 21405	42	Anne Arundel zips 20701, 20724, 20755, 20794, 21032, 21054, 21076, 21077, 21113, 21114, 21240
23	Zips 21056, 21108, 21122	46	Kent County
24	Queen Anne's County		
25	Wicomico & Somerset Counties		

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Baltimore Zip Codes "212- -" Districts 3, 4, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 34, 39

### Area 29 – Districts with Baltimore Zip Codes



Zip Code to District			
21201	3	21223	3
21202	3	21224	39
21204	4	21225	34
21205	3	21226	34
21206	10	21227	34
21207	15	21228	18
21208	15	21229	18
21209	19	21230	3
21210	19	21231	3
21211	19	21235	15
21212	4	21236	10
21213	3	21237	14
21214	10	21239	4
21215	15	21241	15
21216	3	21244	15
21217	3	21250	18
21218	19	21251	10
21219	39	21252	4
21220	14	21286	4
21221	14	21287	3
21222	39		

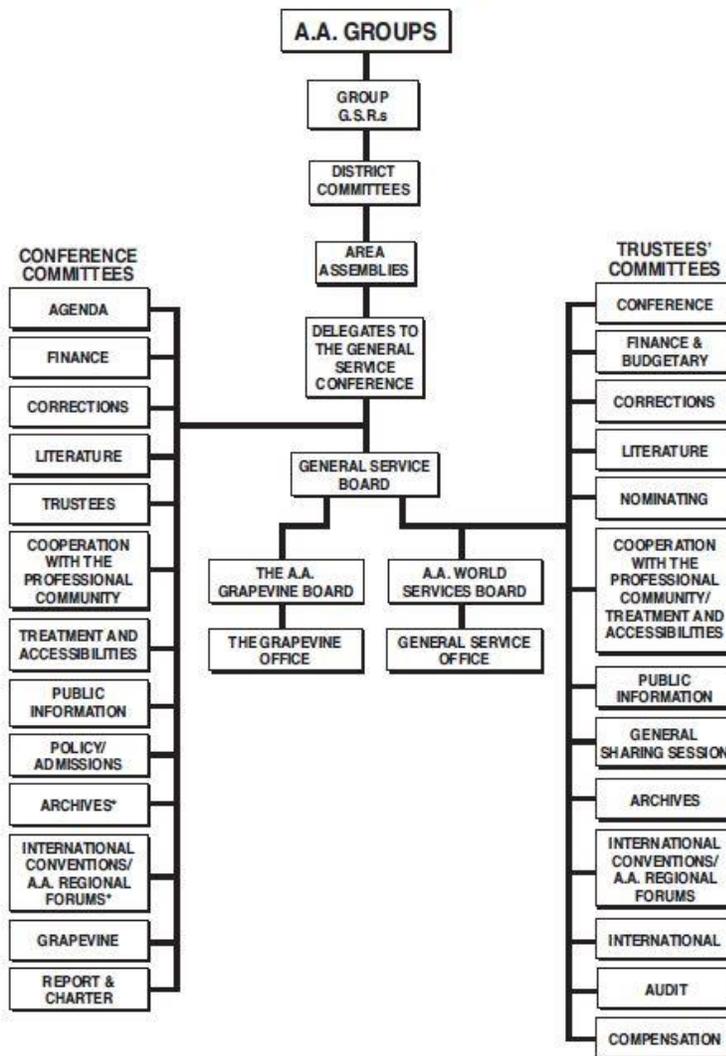
# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## The Fellowship as a Whole

While the General Service Conference operates all year round, the annual meeting, held in New York, usually in April, is the culmination of the year's activities, the time when the collective group conscience of U.S./Canada A.A. comes together to take actions that will guide the groups in the years to come.

Keeping a balance between ultimate authority and responsibility and the active, day-to-day functioning of the world services means there must be constant communication among all elements of the structure.

**The General Service Conference Structure  
(U.S. and Canada)**



\*Secondary committee.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Structure inside the Maryland General Service Area Assembly



# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## The Role of the General Service Representative (GSR)

The GSR is the two-way link between the group conscience and A.A. as a whole. The non-existent or inactive GSR deactivates the check-and-balance system for group self-honesty. Experience seems to indicate that the good intentions of the group were often the enemy of what was the best for the fellowship as expressed in the Traditions and the Concepts. The active GSR ensures the liaison between the group and the worldwide fellowship, starting with group discussions that share the group's experience of "carrying the message" at the District and Area levels.

GSRs are, in a sense, the service sponsors of their groups. They are as kind, nonjudgmental and willing to share as they would be with a newcomer. Group sponsorship is the best example of the relationship of the GSR to the group in matters of service and unity. Because the GSR enjoys the trust of the group, they learn to listen and listen to learn. Their role is often reversed. They return to the group with the results of problems and solutions that could affect the unity, health and growth of A.A. How well GSRs do their job can be measured by the way they listen to the group conscience and keep their group informed.

Active sponsorship experience is one of the most powerful experiences a GSR can bring to service responsibility. It indicates the ability to reach out and carry the message by working with others as suggested in chapter seven of the Big Book. The GSR needs to develop courage, emotional maturity, and a thick skin to carry the message of service. Experience and AA history provide this confidence.

A sense of humor about ourselves is most important to our service commitment and sobriety. We take the program and our sobriety seriously; we do not take our personal hurts or the rejection of our opinions too seriously. As Dr. Bob said, "Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance."

A General Service Representative job description appears in bulleted form in the current A.A. Service Manual. Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# **Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook**

## **The Role of the District Committee Member (DCM)**

Just as the GSR is the two-way link between the group conscience and A.A. as a whole, the DCM is the two-way link between the GSRs in a district and the Area Committee and Area Officers. The non-existent or inactive DCM severs that link: a district without an active DCM loses its voice at the Area Committee meetings and is deprived of the information which an active DCM could have reported back to the district's GSRs for their reports to the groups. The active DCM acts as the liaison among the groups in a district, and between the district and the worldwide fellowship, sharing the district's experience of "carrying the message" at the District and Area levels.

The spiritual principles which apply to GSRs apply equally to DCMs: just as GSRs are in a sense the service sponsors of their groups, an experienced DCM is able to serve as the service sponsor of his or her district. The DCM is in a unique position, able to bring important issues regarding A.A. as a whole to the groups in the district. The DCM can visit groups in his or her district which do not have active GSRs, informing those groups of current issues in Maryland General Service and A.A. service worldwide, and perhaps encourage those groups to register with the General Service Office, to elect an active GSR, and to exercise their right to participate in the affairs of A.A. worldwide. The DCM is also able to encourage the groups within a district to examine ways to carry the message of A.A. through activities, such as workshops, which would be difficult or impossible for a single group or individual to do alone.

The DCM is an essential link between the groups' GSRs and the Area's Delegate. As leader of the district committee, made up of all the GSRs in the district, the DCM is exposed to the group conscience of that district. As a member of the Area Committee, he or she is able to pass on this thinking to the Area Delegate and Area Committee and is able to keep the groups, through their GSRs, informed about the issues that could affect the unity, health, and growth of A.A. How capably this is done is a measure of the DCM's effectiveness.

District Committee Member Qualifications and Duties appear in bulleted form in the current A.A. Service Manual.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose and Composition of the Maryland General Service Area Assembly

Any meeting of the Area G.S.R.s and the Area Committee (see next page) is an Assembly. The Area Assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure – the democratic voice of A.A. expressing itself.

The purpose of the Maryland General Service Area Assembly is the same as the purpose of an A.A. group: to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Primarily, the way this is done is by electing a Delegate to serve as the representative of the Area to the General Service Conference. The Area Assembly also provides an opportunity for the District Committee Members and the individual A.A. groups to share their experience. The Assembly strives to:

- Sponsor Area events such as the annual convention, various workshops and other service-related events that have Area-wide significance
- Stimulate A.A. group involvement and participation in the Assembly
- Allow for free, open, and unrestricted dialogue between A.A. groups in Area 29 to ensure against “railroading” and “log rolling” of one individual's or group's specific agenda or course of action
- Ensure the right of the minority to be heard
- Encourage the groups to contribute to Maryland General Service and to the General Service Office in New York
- Provide a forum for allowing the A.A. groups to inform the Delegate of what items are of concern to the A.A. groups
- Ensure that the voice of the A.A. groups is heard within the A.A. service structure
- Ensure that the Area Assembly does not act as a governing body over anyone
- Provide for regular meetings of the GSRs to ensure informed dialogue between the groups and the Delegate
- Pool the financial and human resources to stimulate “carrying the A.A. message” where it is beyond one group's resources to do so
- Act as a guardian of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.
- Introduce the Twelve Concepts for World Service

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose and Composition of the Maryland General Service Area Committee

Basically, the Area Committee is composed of all District Committee Members, Area Officers, all Area Service Committee Chairpersons, and the Maryland General Service, Inc. Board of Directors.

The primary purpose of the Area Committee is to provide the leadership necessary to assist the Area Assembly in carrying out the business of the Area Assembly. The Committee has firsthand knowledge of what is happening in A.A. World Services through our Delegate, and is also close to district and local needs and concerns.

\*An active Area Committee deals with all kinds of service problems:

- Is Area experience being shared among groups?
- Is the A.A. message getting into hospitals, prisons, jails, and rehabilitation centers?
- Are news media and professionals who deal with suffering alcoholics well informed about A.A.?
- Are new groups and loners being visited and helped?

\*Reprinted from The A. A. Service Manual, 2018-2020 Edition p. S45, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Suggested Area Assembly and Area Committee Meeting Formats

Although the Maryland General Service Area Assembly and Maryland General Service Area Committee differ in purpose and composition as discussed on pages 16 and 17, the format (see below) and Procedures (see next page) are basically the same.

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly meets regularly during each calendar year, approximately bimonthly. The Area Committee meets three (3) to four (4) times during each calendar year, approximately bimonthly. The Chairperson currently in office shall designate the date, time and place of each meeting. The first regular Area Assembly in each calendar year (approximately in March) shall be designated as the Annual Meeting of Maryland General Service, Inc. The regular Area Assembly meeting in October of each odd-numbered year will be the Elections Assembly for officers elected for two (2) years beginning January 1st after the election.

Registration, fellowship and coffee precede the meetings. The new GSR or DCM is encouraged to arrive early for the initial registration meeting process. A Question and Answer meeting for new GSRs and DCMs (including new Alternate GSRs and Alternate DCMs) will be scheduled during the Lunch Break or before the meeting.

### A Typical Area Assembly or Area Committee Agenda

Chairperson Opens -	MGS - Area 29 Business Meeting with The Serenity Prayer
Secretary's Report -	Synopsis of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report -	Contributions and Expenditures Update
Alt. Delegate's Report -	Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) Updates
Delegate's Report -	General Service Updates (Worldwide & Regional)
Committee Reports -	Area Service Committees
District Reports -	District Committee Members
Sharing Sessions – What's On Your Mind?	
Old Business -	Unfinished Area Assembly or Area Committee Business
New Business -	New Area Assembly or Area Committee Business
Ask-It Basket Questions	
Adjournment -	Closing

(LUNCH - The Chairperson will suspend business for a lunch break.)

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Summary of Area Assembly and Area Committee Procedures

In business sessions, the Area Assembly and Area Committee *generally* follow Robert's Rules of Order.

### **General Rules of Debate**

An item of business to be voted on by the Area Assembly or Area Committee is brought to the floor as a motion. If a second to the motion is made, discussion will follow. (An Area Committee recommendation is automatically a motion that has been made and seconded.) People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and are called on in order. Each person may speak for two (2) minutes. No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish have addressed the issue for the first time. Voting is done by a show of hands, or if the Chairperson requests a "sense of the meeting" and no "nays" are heard, the motion passes.

### **Calling the Question**

A voting member may call for a vote – "call the question" – after the matter has had a thorough airing or discussion has ceased. Calling the question brings debate to a halt while the members decide whether to proceed to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate. A motion to call the question must be made in order at the microphone; requires a second; is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote. The Chairperson may decline to entertain the motion to call the question if he/she feels the matter has not been thoroughly aired. If no one is standing at the microphone, the Chairperson may proceed to a vote without anyone calling the question.

### **Simple Majority Vote, Substantial Unanimity, Tabling, and Referral to Committee**

A simple majority is required to approve a motion in most cases. The exception is when any member of the Area Assembly raises a point of order during the discussion and requests that the motion require substantial unanimity to be approved. If seconded, the point of order is voted on without debate. If passed by a simple majority, the original motion on the floor will now require two-thirds vote in favor to pass or be approved.

Any voting member may make a motion to table (postpone) further discussion and/or voting on any motion until the next meeting of that body. A motion to table must be made without comment and is not debatable. If the motion to table is seconded and approved by a simple majority, the tabled motion is placed on the "Old Business" agenda for the next meeting of that body.

Important matters to come before the Area Assembly may be referred to the Area Committee either by the Area Chairperson or by Area Assembly action. The Area Committee considers carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Area Assembly as a whole for acceptance or rejection. This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during the Area Assembly.

### **Minority Opinion and Reconsideration**

Once the outcome of the vote is determined, the chairperson may ask for the minority opinion to be heard. Only those voting with the minority may come to the microphone to express their views. The Chairperson is not required to ask for minority opinion, but any member voting in the minority may ask to be heard.

After hearing the minority opinion, a member who voted with the prevailing side may make a motion to reconsider, or the Chairperson may ask whether anyone in the majority wishes to change his or her vote. A motion to reconsider may be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and con, is resumed, bringing only NEW considerations to the floor. No action may be reconsidered twice.

### **Eligibility to Vote**

At Area Committee meetings, all DCMs (or their alternates), Area Officers, Chairpersons of Area Service Committees (or their co-chairs), and the members of the Board of Directors are eligible to vote. At Area Assembly meetings, all GSRs (or their alternates) and all voting members of the Area Committee listed above have a vote. The exception is members of the Board of Directors (who have a vote at Area Assemblies only if fulfilling other positions that do have voting rights).

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose of the Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committees

The purpose of the Conference Agenda Review Committees (“CARC(s)”) is to help prepare the Area Delegate and alternate delegate for the General Service Conference and to recommend Agenda Items to the Area for consideration and possible approval no later than the December Area Assembly. The CARC will consist of GSRs and DCMs in the designated districts, as well as Area Committee Leaders, Past Delegates, Area Officers and all interested members of the fellowship. Each CARC will choose a CARC Leader\* and Recorder, and alternates, to facilitate the meetings and help prepare reports and presentations for the annual Mini Conference.

Each CARC will discuss the same pre-selected topics from the Final General Service Conference Agenda as modified by a committee consisting of the Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Past Delegates. This should stimulate interest and add a significant cross section of the Area conscience to future discussions. Each CARC will be assigned a Mentor\* to help guide the CARC process.

Area Service Committees are responsible to review any Kit and Workbook available from GSO which corresponds to their committee and bring any recommendations for changes to the area. Each Committee Chairperson will participate in at least one CARC meeting.

Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARCs)	1	2	3	4
<b>Districts:</b>	24	1	3	7
	25	6	4	9
	32	22	10	17
	37	23	11	20
	38	27	14	40
	46	31	15	41
		35	18	
		36	19	
		42	28	
			30	
			33	
			34	
			39	

**The basic functions and suggested timetables of the Conference Agenda Review Committees are:**

- Choose a CARC Leader and Recorder, and alternates, between December and February to plan, conduct and record CARC meetings for the coming year
- Between the February Committee and the April Mini Conference, meet regularly to discuss the Modified General Service Conference Agenda
- Present a summary of the Pros and Cons of the CARC discussions of the Modified General Service Conference Agenda for the Area 29 Mini-Conference in April
- Meet post-Conference to review resulting General Service Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations
- Recommend, beginning in May but no later than the December Area Assembly, Agenda Items to be submitted by the Area 29 Delegate to the Conference Coordinator for possible inclusion on the General Service Conference Agenda. These items must be approved by a vote of the Area Assembly before December 15

It is incumbent upon the CARC Leaders to be aware of the budget amount allotted to their CARC for each one year period. The Area will pay the cost of facility rental if necessary, and copies made, up to a designated amount each year.

\*See Alternate Delegate for CARC Leader and Mentor Guidelines

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

**Suggested General Service Time Tables with Suggested Training Schedule**

Month	GSB/NE Region	CARCs*	Area 29*	Suggested Training at Area* or District
January	General Service Board Meeting	Elect CARC Leader and Recorder if not done in December. Begin scheduling CARC meetings for February and March	<b>Area Panel Planning Meeting</b> (Area Officers and Service Committee Chairs) Newly elected panel takes office in even years.	<b>Even Yrs</b> – Committee Process. How to Write Committee Report, Hyperdrive Tour thru Service Manual and MGS Handbook, Expense Reimbursement, Rotation of badges (practicing Concept XI, viz. induction procedure) <b>Odd Yrs</b> – Rotation Notebook, Plan for Year, Review of Committee work/accomplishments over the past year of the Panel. <u>District – New GSRs</u> From GSR School Workbook: The A.A. Group, An Informed Group, Consentance, Group Record Keeping, Suggestions for GSRs, GSR Report to District, Glossary of A.A. Service Terms, Acronyms, What the Buddy System is and How to Use It
February	Final Agenda provided to Delegate @ Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> +NERAASA	Delegate receives Final GSC Agenda, works with Past Delegates to create Modified Agenda for CARC discussions Begin holding CARC meetings Continue holding CARC meetings. Choose presenters and prepare for Mini Conference	<b>Area Committee</b> Alternate Delegate provides Modified Agenda to CARCs	<u>Area – DCMs</u> Role of the DCM-What does a DCM do? How to create a flyer. What is a CARC? Why is it important? How Can I Participate? <u>District – GSRs</u> From GSR Workbook: The Service Triangle, Where is my Area? My District? GSR Participation at Area, What is a CARC?
March	NERD (Delegates only)	Continue holding CARC meetings Choose presenters and prepare for Mini Conference	<b>Area Assembly</b> This Assembly is designated as the "Annual Meeting of the Corporation"	MGS Handbook: The Service Triangle, What is a Committee? Assembly? Robert's Rules, Why do we have a Conference? <u>District – GSRs</u> CARC Participation, What is the Mini Conference? Why attend?
April	General Service Conference (GSC) in New York	Prepare Delegate and educate attendees by presentations at Mini Conference	<b>Mini Conference</b> CARC presentations to prepare Delegate for GSC	Encourage all to attend and participate in Mini Conference <u>District – GSRs</u>
May		Re-convene to review GSC Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations.	<b>Area Assembly</b> Delegate reports to Area on GSC	Effective Reporting to District/Home Group – after Report Back <u>Area – DCMs/GSRs</u>
June	NERF in odd years	Continue meeting to discuss possible Agenda Items for next GSC	<b>Maryland State Convention</b>	<u>District – GSRs</u> Why does the CARC Process continue? Submitting an Agenda Item to the Area, GSO.
July	General Service Board meeting	Continue meeting to discuss possible Agenda Items for next GSC	<b>Area Committee</b>	MGS Handbook-Committees: How can I participate at the Area? What are the service opportunities? (A short job fair) Overview of AA Guidelines <u>Area – DCMs</u>
August	Final General Service Conference Report distributed	Proposed Agenda Items may be presented to Assembly for consideration and vote.	<b>Area Assembly</b>	<u>Area – DCMs/GSRs</u> <b>Even Yrs</b> – Why do we take an Area Inventory? How do we prepare? Why participate? <b>Odd Yrs</b> – Concept IX – Choosing our trusted servants wisely; Describe the duties of officers before election day; Discuss timeline for election of new DCMs and GSRs
September	Final General Service Conference Report distributed	Proposed Agenda Items may be presented to Committee for consideration to be voted on by the Assembly in December.	<b>Area Committee</b> Proposed Budget may be presented by Finance Committee	MGS Handbook-Committees: How can I participate at the Area? What are the service opportunities? Prepare members to stand for positions in Oct. Train Committee Chairs to create budget. <u>Area – DCMs</u> <u>District – GSRs</u> <b>Even Yrs</b> – Why, & How of an Area Inventory <b>Odd Yrs</b> – Training on Election Process; Preparing members to stand for elections; How do we choose our trusted servants?
October	General Service Board meeting	Area Business suspended.	<b>Area Assembly</b> Business suspended for election in odd years. Area Inventory in even years	Regular Business Suspended for Third Legacy Procedure Election in odd years or Area Inventory in even years. <u>District – GSRs</u> Encourage all to attend and participate in Area Election of Officers in odd years or Area Inventory in even years
November		Proposed Agenda Items may be presented to Committee for consideration to be voted on by the Assembly in December	<b>Area Committee</b> Proposed Budget may be presented or more work may be done if Budget was presented in September but not approved. <b>Area Assembly</b> Final vote on Budget by Assembly Final opportunity for CARCs to present GSC Agenda items for approval by Area Officer and Service Committee Chair turnover in odd years.	Nuts and Bolts of a Rotation Notebook; Why Service Sponsorship is A Valuable Tool <u>District – DCMs and GSRs</u> Prepare new DCMs and GSRs for rotation in January. Service sponsorship; Promote Gratitude Month – giving back <u>Area – CARC Leaders and Recorders</u> CARC Process, Role of the CARC Leader and Recorder <u>Area – DCMs and GSRs</u> I'm rotating on...what do I do now? Consider committee work. <u>District – DCMs and GSRs</u>
December	Proposed Agenda Items for next years' General Service Conference due to the Conference Coordinator by Dec 15th	Deadline for proposed Agenda Items for the GSC is Dec 15. DCM luncheon at Assembly to choose and train CARC Leaders and Recorders	<b>Area Assembly</b> Final opportunity for CARCs to present GSC Agenda items for approval by Area Officer and Service Committee Chair turnover in odd years.	CARC Process, Role of the CARC Leader and Recorder <u>Area – DCMs and GSRs</u> I'm rotating on...what do I do now? Consider committee work. <u>District – DCMs and GSRs</u> Continued preparation for new DCMs and GSRs to assume their jobs in January of the Area Chair. New GSR and DCM Orientations are offered at the beginning of every Area 29 meeting. + Encourage Area Service Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs and others to attend NERAASA and buddy-up with at least one respective Committee Chair from another Area – to provide greater insight, vision and participation on topics of mutual concern, both in Area 29 and A.A. as a whole.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Election of Area 29 Officers

### Timing of the Elections

The election of all Area Officers is held in October of the odd-numbered years.

### Eligibility for Nomination

**Delegate**—All current and past Area 29 Maryland General Service Area Committee Members, excluding current and past Delegates.

**Alternate Delegate**—All current and past Area 29 Maryland General Service Area Committee Members.

**Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer**—All current and past Area 29 Maryland General Service Area Committee Members, and all DCMs-elect.

Prior to the closing of nominations for each of the above positions, the Assembly is asked if it wishes to open the nominations to any other individual member of A.A. If approved by a simple majority, additional nominations are then accepted, when seconded. All nominees must be present at the time of voting to be eligible for election to any position.

### Voting Procedure

Third Legacy procedure, as described on pages S21 and S22 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual, and illustrated on the following page, is used to elect each of the above trusted servants.

### Election Procedure

*Delegate / Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer*— The most recent past Delegate will conduct the election. Other past delegates attending the October election assembly will be responsible for the tallying of ballots.

### Eligibility to Vote

The following trusted servants are eligible to vote:

Area Officers – Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer  
GSRs (or their alternates),  
DCMs (or their alternates),  
Chairpersons of Area Service Committees (or their Co-Chairs)

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Third Legacy Procedure

A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is an electoral procedure used in Area 29 primarily for the election of Area Officers and Regional and At-Large Trustees.

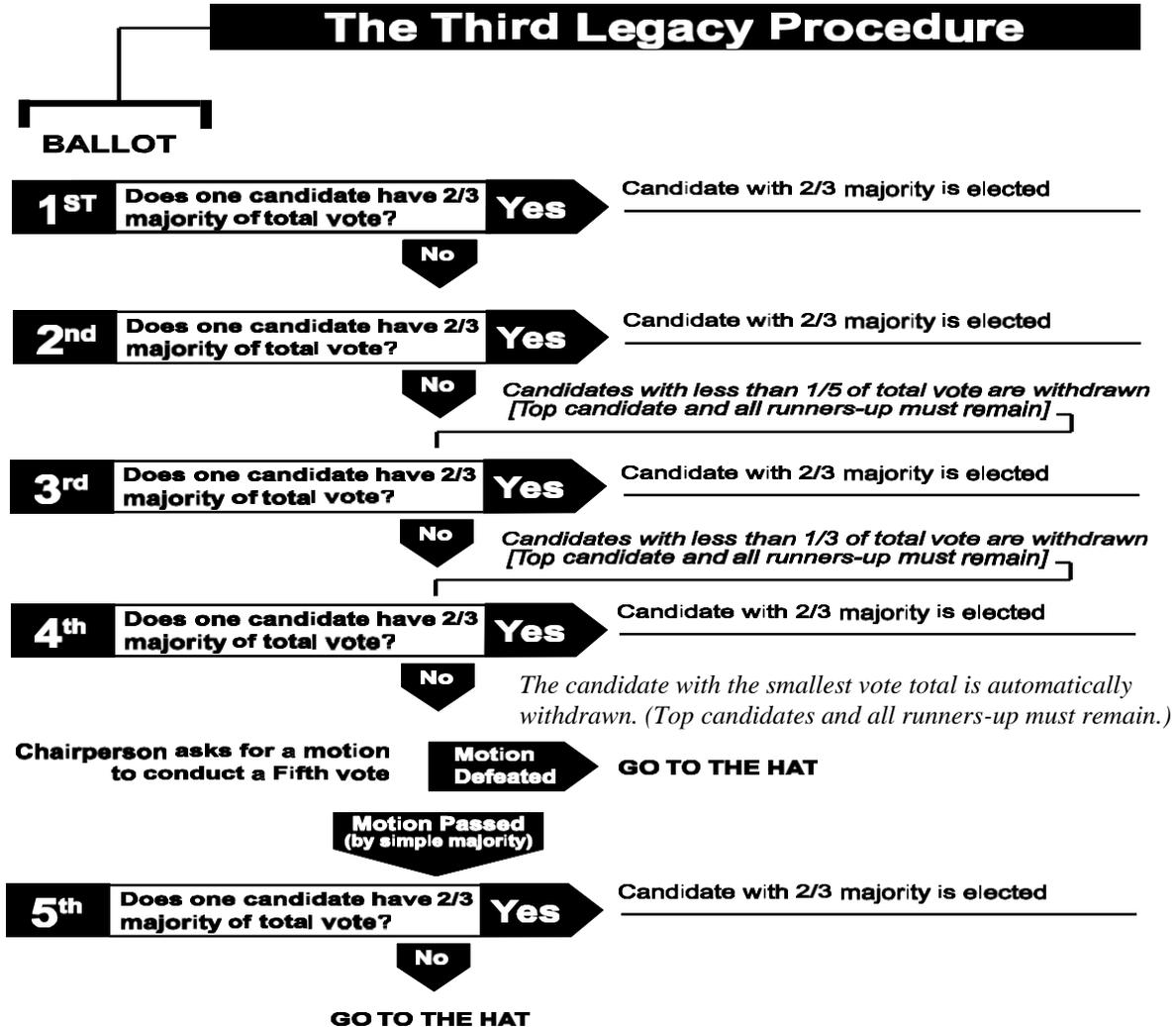


Diagram from the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual, p. S22. Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

## Regional Trustee & Trustee-at-Large Candidate

When these positions rotate (every four years), an election of a candidate from Area 29 Maryland General Service will take place at the Fall Area Assembly of the year prior to rotation. The Delegate will conduct the election according to Third Legacy procedure and inform the General Service Office of our nominee.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Duties and Responsibilities of Area Officers

### Area Delegate

- Attends the annual General Service Conference in April of each year and reports back to the Fellowship at the next Area Assembly and Area Convention, the highlights and significant results of the Conference. As requested, presents this report to A.A. groups throughout the Maryland General Service area
- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings, updating those bodies with information and news received from throughout the Fellowship
- Continually informs and works closely with the Alternate Delegate to insure a smooth transition in the event that it may become necessary for the Alternate Delegate to assume the Delegate's responsibilities
- Makes the semi-annual group contribution reports, provided by the General Service Office, available to the Area Assembly
- Responds to anonymity breaks in Area 29
- Responds to requests from the General Service Office regarding the Confidential Directory
- Prepares the annual Delegate's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this service position and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Calls a meeting of Past Delegates in February to select items from the General Service Conference Agenda to create a Modified Agenda for CARC discussions.
- Attends Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings and the Area 29 Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Informs GSO of the names and addresses of newly elected Area officers
- Provides copies of Group Change forms received from GSO to the Area Registrar to update Area records

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Duties and Responsibilities of Area Officers

### Alternate Delegate

- Prepares to attend the General Service Conference, in the event that the Area Delegate is unable to do so, by keeping well informed on matters affecting Maryland General Service Area 29 and A.A. as a whole
- Assists the Delegate whenever and wherever possible
- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Coordinates the Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committees (“CARCs”), working with Area CARC Leaders and DCMs to help prepare for presentations at the Area 29 Maryland General Service Mini Conference
- Prepares the annual Alternate Delegate’s budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this service position and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings and the Area 29 Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Duties and Responsibilities of Area Officers

### Area Chairperson

- Sets annual working calendar of Area meetings and events
- Prepares agendas and conducts the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Designates the Area Assembly in March of each year as the annual meeting of the corporation according to the Maryland General Service, Inc. Amended Bylaws
- Appoints Area Service Committee chairpersons to coordinate ongoing service activities or to address special issues or concerns and offers them guidance and encouragement in the execution of their duties and responsibilities
- Develops ways to make Area Assemblies more informative and useful
- Designates an individual to organize and conduct the GSR/DCM Question and Answer Session at Area Assemblies and Area Committees
- Coordinates the distribution of the ask-it-basket questions
- Communicates with Treasurer to ensure that annual State and Federal tax returns have been prepared by Maryland General Service CPA; affixes signature to returns prior to submission
- Prepares the annual Chairperson's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this service position and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings and the Area 29 Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Duties and Responsibilities of Area Officers

### Area Secretary

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Prepares, reports, and distributes by electronic or postal mail delivery systems, as appropriate, the minutes of the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings not less than 10 days before those meetings
- In performing their duties, frequent communication between the Registrar and the Secretary is necessary to coordinate distribution of minutes and notices
- At end of two year term, provides all corporate records to incoming secretary and all paper copy and CDs of Area meeting minutes to the Area Archives
- Prepares the annual Secretary's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this service position and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings and the Area 29 Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Duties and Responsibilities of Area Officers

### Area Treasurer

- Attends the Finance Committee, Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Opens and maintains a checking account for the purpose of transacting all Maryland General Service Area Assembly business. The account will have signature cards for the Treasurer, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, and Secretary
- Opens and maintains an appropriate account for deposit of the Maryland General Service prudent reserve funds
- Maintains records of supporting documentation for expenditures (*e.g.*, receipts, invoices, purchase orders)
- Maintains records of group contributions to the Maryland General Service Area Assembly
- Sends a contribution to the General Service Office for the Delegate's attendance at the General Service Conference
- Reports the opening balance, income, expense and closing balance for each fund at each Area Assembly and Area Committee; copies of the supporting detail are to be available at this time for review by the membership
- Prepares mid-year and year-end financial reports for presentation to the Area Committee in July and January of each year; these reports will itemize income, expenses and variances within each budgeted area
- Provides to MGS's CPA a year-end financial report in sufficient detail to prepare State and Federal tax returns and ensures that the returns are signed by the MGS Chairperson before they are filed
- Prepares the annual Treasurer's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this service position and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings and the Area 29 Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Area Service Committees

Area Service Committees are created by the Area Assembly. Their primary purpose is to carry out the wishes and directions given by the informed group conscience of the Area Assembly. Chairpersons of Area Service Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of Maryland General Service, Inc. for a two-year term and are entitled to one vote in both Area Assemblies and Area Committees.

The Area Service Committees are listed below. Additional information on each committee can be found in the following pages titled "Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of the Area Service Committees".

- Accessibilities
- Archives
- Area Meeting Host
- Area Registrar
- Audio
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine
- Intergroup Liaison
- Literature
- Margenser Newsletter
- Maryland State Convention
- Mini Conference
- Public Information (PI)
- Technology Committee
- Treatment
- Workshops

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Accessibilities Committee

The purpose of the Accessibilities Committee is to determine resources and recommend activities that will help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those with special accessibility needs, both inside and outside the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Accessibilities Committee Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years beginning in January of the even-numbered years.

- Attends Area Assembly and Committee meetings
- Shares information and resources on the A.A. program with all persons with special needs, including but not limited to:

Hearing Impaired	Bed-ridden or homebound
Sight Impaired	Speech Impaired or those with language barriers
Physically Impaired	Reading Impaired or Mentally Impaired
- Works to coordinate and provide guidance in setting up A.A. meetings in Area 29 as needed and requested for special needs groups as listed above
- Coordinates work to identify and improve physical accessibility at meeting locations in Area 29
- Cooperates with Intergroup, District and individual A.A. Group Accessibilities Committees when they require help or guidance
- Makes available, when possible, equipment to help hearing, sight, or otherwise impaired A.A. members communicate at A.A. Group meetings, workshops or convention-type gatherings
- When required, provides listings of ASL Interpreters within defined boundaries in Area 29
- Makes available, when possible, and as needed; Braille, audio, video, non-English speaking A.A. Literature, meeting listings, posters, flyers, etc.
- Works to coordinate and help start non-English speaking A.A. meetings as needed and requested within Area 29
- Promotes and supports existing Accessibilities services within Area 29
- Prepares the annual Accessibilities Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference, and is responsible to review the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- As requested, attends groups, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Archives Committee

The purpose of the Archives Committee is to gather and preserve information and artifacts pertaining to the history and development of A.A. groups in Area 29 and to generate interest in the preservation of our principles for the future of A.A. through ongoing projects.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Archives Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs Archives Committee meetings, coordinating information received from group/Intergroup/District Archives representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Coordinates Archives display for the Area 29 State Convention as well as other AA functions as requested by the Area Assembly
- Helps to develop projects that promote awareness of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Maryland General Service, Area 29
- Assists group/Intergroup/District Archives committees whenever and wherever possible
- Maintains all Maryland General Service Archival materials in a safe and secure manner
- May make archival materials available to individuals, groups, and committees per accepted practices and guidelines in the Archives Handbook
- Responsible for the safekeeping of the original and all revisions to the Area Handbook
- Responsible for the collection and safekeeping of paper copies of minutes, Treasurer's Reports, budgets and other reports presented at Area meetings
- Prepares the annual Archives Committee's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings, the Area Mini Conference, and is responsible to review the Archives Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information, knowledge and archives materials of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Area Meeting Host Committee

The purpose of the Area Meeting Host Committee is to help Districts plan Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Area Meeting Host Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Coordinates requests from Districts to host Area 29 Committee or Assembly meetings and reports this information, along with location and directions, to the Maryland General Service Chairperson to help prepare the annual meeting calendar
- Discusses with the hosting District, room set up needs for an Area Assembly or Area Committee meeting
- Ensures that facilities being utilized for Area meetings are priced within budget
- When coordinating with Districts, assures that locations selected are fully handicap accessible venues, including but not limited to: structural, parking, and rest room handicap facilities
- Coordinates, with the District, the cleaning and closing down of the service area and kitchen after each meal at each Area Assembly and Area Committee meeting
- Provides ongoing guidance and suggestions to Districts, up to and including the day of the meeting
- Prepares the annual Area Meeting Host's budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions that may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meeting and the Area Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Area Registrar Committee

The purpose of the Registrar Committee is to assist new and existing groups to update their group information and to maintain a current mailing list of all group GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Committee Chairpersons, and Past Delegates

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Area Registrar** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Should have a working knowledge of computers, database entry, and Microsoft Office, especially Excel and Word.
- Should have advanced skills in email communications.
- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings.
- Oversees sign-in of Area Committee and Assembly attendees and provides counts for attendance and voting majority.
- Assists new or existing groups to prepare Group Change or New Group Information forms
- Enters all Group Information into GSO's Fellowship New Vision database.
- Provides Area Delegate with new group information to assist DCMs in contacting and welcoming new groups to Area 29.
- Maintains a current mailing list of all group GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Committee Chairpersons, and Past Delegates.
- Distributes meeting notifications provided by the Area Chairperson to all Area Assembly members by e-mail or U. S. Postal mail delivery systems, as necessary.
- Prepares the annual Registrar budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process.
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year.
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship.
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service newsletter, the MARGENSER.
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities.
- Attention to detail is important to ensure accuracy of all database entries and reports.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Audio Committee

The purpose of the Audio Committee is to set up and operate microphones and speakers and to record the proceedings of each Area Assembly and Area Committee meeting as well as other events or functions as requested by the Area Chairperson.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Audio Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the monthly Area Assembly meetings and Area Committee meetings for the purpose of setting up the sound system to record the proceedings
- Provides a copy of each meeting recording to the Area Chairperson, Secretary, Delegate and Archives
- Maintains the audio equipment in proper working condition. When necessary, ensures that proper maintenance and repairs are performed
- Prepares the annual Audio budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meeting and the Area Mini Conference
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC)

The purpose of the CPC Committee is to cooperate with Intergroup CPC Committees and the General Service Office in New York, when requested, to help coordinate the CPC work being done within Area 29 Maryland General Service. This helps to maintain good communications throughout Area 29 and avoid confusion.

#### **Basic functions of the CPC Committee are:**

- Encourage local CPC Committee members to attend the Area Assembly to share their experiences. This is also an opportunity for positive discussion and to answer any questions
- Remind all committee members of the importance of having and using the CPC Workbook
- Meet with administrators of institutions and agencies dealing with alcoholism to share information about Alcoholics Anonymous
- Arrange purchase and distribution of CPC literature as may be required

#### **Duties and Responsibilities of the CPC Committee Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs CPC Committee meetings, coordinating information received from local CPC representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Coordinates the use of the Area 29 CPC display as well as the CPC display provided by the General Service Office, as requested, at professional exhibits throughout Area 29
- Keeps the CPC Coordinator at the General Service Office informed of Area 29 CPC activities
- Acts as a conduit for communication between GSO and Intergroup/District CPC Committees, assisting these committees wherever and whenever possible
- Prepares the annual CPC Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference, and is responsible to review the CPC Kit and Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Corrections Committee

The purpose of the Corrections Committee is to cooperate with Intergroup Institution Committees and the General Service Office in New York, when requested, to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics behind the walls; and to set up means of “Bridging the Gap” from the facility to the larger A.A. community.

Basic functions of the committee are:

- Be available to take regular A.A. meetings into facilities, when asked by the local committees, and allowed to do so by the corrections facilities
- Encourage “outside” A.A. group participation in this kind of Twelfth Step work
- Provide a liaison between correctional facilities’ meetings and A.A. groups on the outside
- Coordinate temporary contacts with individuals and A.A. groups to ensure that inmates will be guided to a meeting at the time of their release
- Arrange purchase and distribution of literature for these A.A. groups and meetings
- Meet with administrators of prisons and other institutions to share information about Alcoholics Anonymous

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Corrections Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs Corrections Committee meetings, coordinating information received from Intergroup and district corrections representatives and local correctional facilities representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Acts as a conduit for communication between the General Service Office and Intergroup/district Corrections/Institutions committees; assisting these committees wherever and whenever possible
- Acts as a source of information for outside sponsors who hold meetings “inside the walls”
- Prepares the annual Corrections Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference and is responsible to review the Corrections Kit and Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Finance Committee

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist and help guide the Area Assembly in applying the Seventh Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous to Maryland General Service business activities.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Finance Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs Finance Committee meetings and reports back to the Area Assembly
- Provides financial leadership to the Area
- Assists the Treasurer in the performance of the Treasurer's duties
- Prepares financial guidelines to facilitate Area decision-making to eliminate the need for the Area Assembly to approve every detailed expenditure
- Documents the financial policy and procedure decisions, including their rationale, for inclusion in the Area Handbook
- Initiates changes in financial policies and procedures when necessary
- Assists in the preparation, presentation and management of Area budgets
- Selects qualified individuals to perform the annual tax filings of the financial records and communicates with the Treasurer and the CPA to ensure that all state and federal tax returns are filed on time
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information, knowledge and archives materials of the A.A. fellowship
- Prepares the annual Finance Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings, the Area Mini Conference and is responsible to review the F-19, Self-Support Packet to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Grapevine Committee

The purpose of the Grapevine Committee is to maintain appropriate levels of all A.A. Grapevine, Inc. material for resale at each Area Assembly and Area Committee; to promote awareness of the A.A. Grapevine and LaViña; to encourage A.A. members to submit articles to the A.A. Grapevine magazine.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Grapevine Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs Grapevine Committee meetings, coordinating information received from local Grapevine representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Maintains appropriate levels of all A.A. Grapevine, Inc. material for resale at each Area Assembly and Area Committee
- Establishes order quantities based on volume discounts and sets resale prices so as to provide the lowest possible price to the groups in Maryland General Service Area 29
- Coordinates A.A. Grapevine display and sales for the Area 29 State Convention as well as other A.A. functions as requested by the Area Assembly
- Prepares the annual Grapevine Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year.
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference and is responsible to review the Grapevine Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Intergroup Liaison Committee

The purpose of the Intergroup Liaison Committee is to serve as a resource conduit between the Area 29 general service structure, the General Service Office, and the Intergroups in Area 29.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Intergroup Liaison Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Serves as a resource conduit among Area 29 general service structure, General Service Office, and Intergroups in Area 29
- Attends Intergroup meetings and functions as invited by Intergroups and as coordinated with the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Area Chairperson
- Chairs Intergroup Liaison Committee meetings and meets informally with Intergroup representatives at Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Subscribes to newsletters from all Intergroups within Area 29, and mails Margenser to Intergroups
- Invites Intergroups to attend Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings and addresses such issues as the Assembly agrees to allow
- Partners with Area 29 Intergroups to organize and execute Intergroup Days of Sharing to facilitate communication and sharing of experience between Intergroups, Districts and Maryland General Service
- Prepares the annual Intergroup Liaison Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- May attend and participate in Intergroup/Central Office Seminar at least once during the two year term, as provided in the Area budget, and reports back to the Assembly and Intergroups in Area 29
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meeting and the Area Mini Conference

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Literature Committee

The purpose of the Literature Committee is to maintain appropriate levels of all A.A. World Services, Inc. Conference-approved literature and other service material, including the Area 29 Assembly Handbook for resale at each Area Assembly and Area Committee.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Literature Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Establishes order quantities based on volume discounts and sets resale prices so as to provide the lowest possible price to the groups in Maryland General Service Area 29
- Coordinates Literature display and sales for the Area 29 State Convention as well as other A.A. functions as requested by the Area Assembly
- Prepares the annual Literature Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one of more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings and the Area Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### **MARGENSER Newsletter Committee**

The purpose of the MARGENSER Newsletter Committee is to compile and edit articles submitted to the MARGENSER by A.A. members and to organize, have printed, and distribute the newsletter.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the MARGENSER Newsletter Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Solicits, coordinates, edits and organizes quarterly newsletter articles
- Arranges for printing and distribution of newsletter
- Coordinates with printing operations to organize mailing to all on distribution list plus any additional mailings; updates mailing list periodically
- Remains available and open to all ideas and suggestions to make newsletter more informative, useful and interesting
- Handles the editorial aspects of periodic revisions to the Area 29 Assembly Handbook, presenting proposed revisions to the Area Assembly for its approval from time to time as updates to the Handbook are needed.
- Prepares the annual MARGENSER Newsletter budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, district or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of A.A. fellowship
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meeting and the Area Mini Conference
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# **Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook**

## **Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees**

### **Maryland State Convention Committee**

The purpose of the Maryland State Convention Committee is to plan and present the Area 29 Maryland State Convention held in June of each year.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Maryland State Convention Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of one year, beginning in July every year

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs monthly Convention Committee meetings with Sub-Committee Chairpersons for event planning activities
- Appoints sub-committee chairpersons and outlines the responsibilities of each sub-committee
- Acts as a conduit for communication between the Area 29 Area Assembly and the State Convention Committee
- Coordinates the location, accommodations, food service, and all other items of planning and preparation required for the Maryland State Convention. Negotiates with the site hotel and/or convention center to determine best possible room and meal rates
- Provides hotel/conference center contract to Area Chairperson for final approval and signature
- Prepares the annual Maryland State Convention budget and submits it to the Finance Committee for review as soon as possible after its preparation
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area AA events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meeting and the Area Mini Conference

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Mini-Conference Committee

The purpose of the Mini-Conference Committee is to plan and present the annual Area 29 Mini-Conference each spring to prepare the Area 29 Delegate for the General Service Conference.

**Qualifications** - It is recommended that the Mini-Conference Chairperson has, in the past, attended at least one Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA), and participated in at least one Area 29 Regional Panel or Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC").

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Mini-Conference Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of one year.

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Prepares the annual Mini-Conference budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- Coordinates the planning for location, accommodations, food service, speakers, presenters, workshops, and all other items of planning and preparation required for the Area 29 Mini Conference, held each spring to prepare the Area 29 Delegate for the General Service Conference
- Negotiates with the event venue to determine best possible room and meal rates
- Provides event venue, if applicable, contract to Area Chairperson for final approval and signature
- Ensures that flyers for the Mini-Conference are prepared sufficiently in advance of the Mini-Conference to allow GSRs, DCMs, and Area officers to announce the event
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Is encouraged to attend one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee ("CARC") meetings

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### **Public Information Committee (PI)**

The purpose of the Public Information Committee is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is achieved in the following ways:

- Through informing the general public about the A.A. program
- Through reaching “third parties” whose work is or may be involved with the active alcoholic (Sometimes this function is handled in conjunction with the CPC Committee.)
- By keeping the Fellowship well informed, so that members and A.A. groups may carry the message more effectively
- Arrange the purchase and distribution of PI literature as may be required

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Public Information Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs PI Committee meetings, coordinating information received from Intergroup/District PI representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Acts as a conduit for communication between the General Service Office and the Intergroup/District PI committees
- Assists the Intergroup/District PI committees wherever and whenever possible
- Prepares the annual PI Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference and is responsible to review the PI Kit and Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends groups, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Technology Committee

On August 12, 2017, the Maryland General Service (MGS) Area 29 Assembly voted in favor of converting the then standing Website Committee to the Technology Committee. Since the original inception of the MGS website, its function and composition have changed, as have those of its committee. The function of the website, along with related and new technologies, have expanded to become more than useful communication tools within the fellowship and the service structure.

The change of name to Technology Committee reflects the now predominant, efficient, and effective role of technology in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as modernizing the role of the committee in providing guidance to the service structure of Area 29 on technology related matters.

The prevalence of social media and its use in recovery has spurred a greater role in the Technology Committee's responsibility to be guardians of the fellowship, particularly with respect to our Twelve Traditions.

### Structure:

- Technology Committee Chair (eligible to vote in the Area Committee and Area Assembly) and Co-Chair (votes when Chair is absent)
- Webmaster and Co-Webmaster
- Technology Committee Members

### Purpose and Duties:

- The primary purpose of this service committee is to set policy and guidelines for the content and structure of the MGS Area 29 website, as well as any additional and future use of electronic and other communication technologies, ensuring that the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts are followed;
- The Technology Committee will provide consultation, information, direction, and support to Committees, Districts, Groups, and Members of Area 29 in the use of new and existing technologies, to better carry the message within the Twelve Traditions;
- Implement and maintain new technologies that facilitate the use of technology for information exchange and storage, committee collaboration, data sharing, event registration, and e-commerce;
- Maintain a current inventory of the location and condition of MGS owned technology equipment, software, and computer related manuals and documentation; and
- Develop informed budget recommendations for the technology requirements of Area 29.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Technology Committee Chair:** appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Performs all duties in accordance with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts for World Service and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (Form MG-18).
- Ensures payments of fees associated with the website are made on time regarding domain registration, web hosting, etc.
- Maintains and monitors contracts and registrations for hardware, software, ISP agreements and all applicable licenses
- Monitors all license agreements to ensure they are current and there are no lapses in coverage (user must inform Technology Committee of upcoming license agreement expirations)
- Prepares the annual Technology Committee budget request, with collaboration from the Webmaster, to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## **Duties and Responsibilities of the Technology Committee Chair (continued):**

- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings and the Area Mini Conference
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- Forms a working committee to carry out the duties as outlined above in Purpose and Duties

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Webmaster** – As a member of the Technology Committee, the Webmaster is appointed by the Technology Committee Chair, in consultation with the Area Chairperson, for a term of two years, beginning in January of even numbered years. The two year term may be renewed at the end of the first term, for the purpose of website development continuity, or for the training of a new Webmaster.

- May attend service functions or events as provided in the Technology Committee budget approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Performs all duties in accordance with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts for World Service and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (MG-18)
- Provides and maintains an Area 29 website for the posting of general information regarding Alcoholics Anonymous and information specific to Area 29, which includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Calendar of Area 29 events, which includes Recognized Service Entities, Districts, and Intergroup events
  2. Delegate Reports
  3. Agenda and directions to upcoming Area Assembly and Committee meetings
  4. Maryland General Service contact information
  5. The Area 29 MARGENSER newsletter
  6. Contact information for Intergroups within Area 29
  7. Information about the Area 29 service structure, including Committees and Districts
  8. Links to A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
  9. Information on Area 29 Conventions, Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARCs) and the Area Mini Conference
- Maintains and monitors the website, in coherence with the Website Guidelines, including but not limited to:
  1. Designs, writes, tests and implements code (HTML, JAVA, etc.) for the website
  2. Includes informative comments in code to ensure proper transfer of knowledge to the next Webmaster
  3. Tests all links to ensure they are live and repairs or disables broken links
  4. Maintains backup files of the website in a secondary location (external hard drive, etc.) at least once a month
  5. Has a working knowledge of current Web Creations software
  6. Keeps software and language current, as needed, and within budgetary guidelines
- Provides anonymity protected e-mail forwarding for all members of the Area Committee, including Area officers, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, District Committee Members (DCMs) and Alternate DCMs, and the immediate Past Delegate
- Monitors contracts and registrations for hardware, software, ISP agreements and all applicable licenses regarding the MGS website
- Researches new service providers as needed
- Collaborates with Technology Committee Chairperson to formulate an informed technology related annual budget
- Turns over any purchased hardware or software to incoming Webmaster when position is vacated
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Treatment Committee

The purpose of the Treatment Committee is to cooperate with Intergroup/District Treatment, Institution Committees, and the General Service Office in New York, when requested, to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of “Bridging the Gap” from the facility to the larger A.A. community. Basic functions of the committee:

- Be available to take regular A.A. meeting into facilities, when asked by the Intergroup/district committees and allowed to do so by the facilities.
- Encourage A.A. group and Intergroup/district committee participation
- Provide a liaison between treatment facilities’ meetings and A.A. groups on the outside
- Coordinate temporary contacts with individuals and A.A. groups to ensure that individuals will be guided to a meeting at the time of their release.
- Arrange purchase and distribution of literature for these A.A. groups and meetings
- Meet with administrators of institutions and agencies dealing with alcoholism to share information about Alcoholics Anonymous

**Duties and Responsibilities of Treatment Chairperson** - appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Chairs Treatment Committee meetings, coordinating information received from Intergroup/district Treatment representatives for reporting back to the Area Assembly
- Acts as a conduit for communication between the General Service Office and the Intergroup/district Treatment committees
- Assists the Intergroup/district Treatment committees wherever and whenever possible
- Coordinates A.A.’s Treatment display at professional exhibits throughout the Maryland General Service Area 29 as required
- Prepares the annual Treatment Committee’s budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Attends one or more Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meetings, the Area Mini Conference and is responsible to review Treatment Kit and Workbook to make any recommendations for changes to the Area and/or the General Service Conference Coordinator
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER
- As requested, attends group, Intergroup, District or other Area A.A. events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Service Committees

### Workshop Committee

The purpose of the Workshop Committee is to assist groups, districts, and Intergroups in Area 29 who wish to present workshops on various topics related to A.A.

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Workshop Committee Chairperson**—Appointed by the Area Chairperson for a term of two years, beginning in January of the even-numbered years

- Forms a working committee of A.A. members to assist in carrying out the performance of these responsibilities
- Attends the Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings
- Fields all inquiries by Area groups, districts and Intergroups interested in putting on workshops
- Assists groups, districts and Intergroups in preparations for workshops; suggesting themes, workshop outlines, workshop formats, and speakers; providing or recommending workshop materials, and coordinating the attendance of Maryland General Service officers, Area 29 committee members or other invited participants when requested
- Collects and shares material useful in future workshops
- As requested, attends Intergroup, District, or other Area events to share information and knowledge of the A.A. fellowship
- Prepares the annual Workshop Committee budget request to be submitted to the Finance Committee in the fall of each year and is prepared with supporting documentation to answer any questions which may be asked during the budget approval process
- Is encouraged to attend at least one Conference Agenda Review Committee (“CARC”) meeting and the Area Mini Conference
- May attend service functions or events as listed on page 54 of this Handbook and request reimbursement as provided in the Area 29 Budget for this committee and approved by the Area Assembly each year
- Is encouraged to write and submit service-related articles for the quarterly Maryland General Service Newsletter, the MARGENSER

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Matters of Finance

Typical of most undertakings in A.A., the Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly strives to be self-supporting through the contributions of the A.A. groups within the Area. In our early years, the primary purpose of this support was to see that our Delegate's expenses for the annual meeting of the General Service Conference were paid. Today, however, this is only the beginning. In addition to the more routine expenses of postage, phone calls, printing meeting minutes and the like, new costs have been generated over the years as the GSRs, Area officers and Area Committee chairpersons have expanded the service role of the Assembly to include active institutional work, useful public information, and cooperation with the professional community.

## Guiding Principles

- The Seventh Tradition supports our primary purpose, as set forth in the Fifth Tradition
- All officers and committees are endowed with the Third Concept "Right of Decision"
- Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority with the scope of such authority well-defined<sup>1</sup>
- Final authority rests with an informed group conscience<sup>2</sup>
- We are an organization of volunteers who understand that service is its own reward
- Expenses incurred while conducting business at the request of the Area should be fully reimbursed, or duly noted for purposes of future budgets
- The choice to be reimbursed should be left to the individual
- The intent of the Area is to encourage anyone who is willing and able to perform service to do so by removing personal finances as a limiting factor
- The Area budget should be set at adequate levels to cover expected expenses
- According to Warranty Two our prudent financial policy is to have sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve<sup>3</sup>
- In the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, the Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly should be self-supporting in all its affairs

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<sup>1</sup> From Concept X in The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 43, Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> From Concept I in The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 6, Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> From Concept XII in The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 64, Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Maryland General Service, Inc. - Internal Financial Control Policy

The organization, Maryland General Service, Inc. (MGS), will implement a system of internal controls that includes all coordinated methods and measures to safeguard resources, assure the accuracy and reliability of accounting records and enforce adherence to established management policies and procedures.

Financial duties should be assigned, whenever feasible, so that the responsibilities for operations, custodianship, and reporting are separate and distinct. (See sections regarding functional activities for specific segregation of duties and requirements outlined below regarding Cash Controls.)

The organization must have a system of authorization and procedures to provide reasonable accounting control and oversight of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses.

### Secure Area

Transactions and documents specified below shall be recorded in paper or electronic form, as appropriate. The term "secure area" in the following implies a locked physical location for transactions and a password protected online storage area for documents.

### Cash Controls

#### **Bank Accounts**

Check signing authorization and signature cards for all MGS bank accounts shall be executed and maintained by the Treasurer and the Financial Institution.

The MGS Treasurer will notify the bank immediately if there is a change in authorized check signers for any account associated with MGS.

At a minimum, one corporate bank account shall be maintained for payments on demand for operating and other expenses. Secondary accounts will be opened only for specifically identified purposes (e.g. Reserve Fund, Special Savings, Literature, Grapevine, State Convention)

All orders for blank vendor checks by any MGS committee must be authorized in writing by the MGS Treasurer. Upon delivery of the blank checks, the checks will be reviewed and noted for any discrepancies of check sequence numbers, missing or incorrect information.

Unused check supplies will be safeguarded in a secure area. Access to unused check supplies is limited to authorized personnel. Signed checks that have not been mailed or distributed will be kept in a secure area.

#### **Bank Statement Reconciliations**

All Maryland General Service, Inc. (MGS) bank statements shall be available to the MGS Finance Committee Chairperson for review upon request.

Bank statement reconciliations for all MGS associated accounts shall occur within 10 days after the end of the month. The reconciliation process shall, at a minimum, account for sequential check numbers, and examination of cancelled checks for authorized signatures, irregular endorsements, alterations and a review of voided checks. Differences and outstanding items shall be resolved in a timely manner and reported back to the MGS Finance Chairperson for signature of the completed bank reconciliation form.

## Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

Checks outstanding for over thirty (30) days shall be investigated and resolved in a timely manner.

Voided checks and stop payments shall be recorded and restored to cash balance in the general ledger in a timely manner.

The bank reconciliation reports are filed in the monthly Financial Reports Binder. Bank Statements and cancelled checks are filed in a MGS-assigned secure area to be available for review by the MGS Finance Committee Chairperson.

### Cash Receipts

Mail with check receipts will be opened, date-stamped, and recorded on a Checks Received Log, which will include the date of the check, the name of the payer/ group and the amount of the check.

Check receipts will be endorsed as follows:

For Deposit Only Full Organization Name Bank Name Account Number
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All checks received will be deposited at regular intervals.

All Cash Receipts will be recorded and properly substantiated with supporting documentation.

The cash deposit slip will be numbered.

The listing of mail receipts will be subsequently compared to the cash receipts record and authenticated copies of the deposit slip on a monthly basis.

The Checks Received Log and deposit slips will be forwarded to the MGS Finance Chairperson monthly.

### Disbursements

All expenses, with receipts attached, must be submitted in writing to the MGS Treasurer.

Disbursements from bank accounts shall be made only for valid transactions. The payment of goods and services shall be organized to ensure that no unauthorized payments are made, that complete and accurate records are made of each payment, and that payments are recorded in the appropriate period.

All disbursements will be tracked according to the originating source. Documentation must be provided for checks used out of sequence.

The MGS Chairperson and one (1) other MGS Officer must approve non-check disbursements.

Disbursements shall be made on a regular schedule established by the MGS Treasurer and all MGS Committee Treasurers.

“Two signatures” can mean two authorizations via electronic method or two physical signatures on a traditional paper check. All disbursements or withdrawals shall require the “signatures” of the MGS Treasurer and one (1) other MGS officer. All MGS Committees shall have at least two authorized signature positions within the committee.

## **Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook**

### **Credit and Debit Cards**

Credit cards in the name of an officer or other trusted servant are not authorized. The MGS debit card is authorized for use by the MGS Treasurer. ALL purchases made with the MGS debit card shall be authorized in writing (paper or electronic), in advance, by the MGS Chairperson and one (1) other MGS Officer.

### **Electronic Transfer of Funds**

Electronic fund transfers originating from the bank using Online Banking are authorized as long as the following conditions are met:

- 1) The payee has agreed to receive electronic funds originating from the bank
- 2) Each transfer is accompanied in the MGS Treasurer's documentation by substantiated expense vouchers and receipts.
- 3) All disbursements made via electronic funds transfer shall be authorized in writing (paper or electronic), in advance, by the MGS Chairperson and one (1) other MGS Officer.

### **Accounts Payable**

The MGS Treasurer pays invoices by their due date, usually within a 30 day grace period from invoice date.

Checks used for Accounts Payable are pre-numbered, safeguarded until used, and will not be signed "blank."

Checks used for Accounts Payable will only be signed upon sufficient presentation of an invoice or other documentation of the expense.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## The Budget

A financial budget is a planning tool used in the business world for hundreds of years. Its primary purpose is to plan or predict future amounts of income and expense over a given period, usually a year. Based on this type of plan, the Area Assembly delegates spending authority to our trusted servants in Maryland General Service. This eliminates the need for the Area Assembly to approve each detailed expenditure. This **does not** mean that once the budget is approved it can never be changed.

The Finance Committee is responsible for preparing the next year's annual budget proposal by soliciting input from all of the Area officers, committee chairpersons, and other trusted servants. This is done in the fall of each year and presented for approval or disapproval at the Area Committee usually in September or November. Providing the budget to the DCMs in September allows them to distribute it to the GSRs for discussion with their groups prior to the final Area Assembly of the year, when the final voting on the budget will occur (usually held in December).

If the budget proposal is not approved by the Area Assembly, it is the Area Chairperson's prerogative to delegate the budget to the Finance Committee for further review and modification or to take other action as appropriate. In this case, Maryland General Service, Inc. will continue to function under the terms of the previous year's budget until a new budget is approved.

## The Prudent Reserve

A.A. experience clearly shows that it is not a good idea for a group to accumulate large sums of money in excess of what is needed. The original recommendation in this Handbook was that the Area Assembly should set the Prudent Reserve at an amount equal to approximately six (6) months of operating expenses. In recent years the Area Assembly decreased the Prudent Reserve to a fixed amount of \$10,000.

<sup>4</sup> The Prudent Reserve is not money that should never be spent; it exists as a back-up fund.

In 2007, the Area Assembly specified that the Prudent Reserve should be kept in deposit accounts separate from the general operating funds. The prudent reserve is held in cash accounts at local banks. The Prudent Reserve account is net of, and does not include, the Assembly's inventories of AAWS, Inc. or A.A. Grapevine literature. The Prudent Reserve account also does not include seed money for the annual Maryland State Convention, or any special reserves which the Assembly may from time to time see fit to establish for ad hoc purposes.

## Financial Review

At the end of each year, the financial records of Maryland General Service, Inc. are reviewed by the Treasurer, the Finance Committee, and/or an accounting firm employed by the Area Assembly.

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<sup>4</sup> As of December 2009

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Expense Reimbursement for Area Officers and Committee Chairs

The annual corporate budget shall be the general guide for reimbursement of expenses. Budgeted expenses will be reimbursed upon receipt of appropriate Expense Vouchers with receipts and supporting documentation.

### Forums, Conventions, Conferences and Other Events

This category of expenses includes the cost of lodging when necessary and is reimbursable as indicated above.

While not required or expected, except in certain designated trusted servant positions, Area Committee leaders are encouraged to attend as many service-related functions and events within their budget to enhance and enlarge their service experience. Recommended events and functions may include:

- **NERAASA** (North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)  
The purpose of NERAASA is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee members and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.<sup>5</sup> NERAASA is held annually in February.
- **MGS State Convention** – See page 42
- **NERF** (North East Regional Forum)  
Regional Forums are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, the A.A. Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. Regional Forums are held every other year in each region on a rotating basis.<sup>6</sup> NERF is typically held in June.
- **NERD** (North East Regional Delegates Convention)  
The NERD Convention began in 1971 and continues as an annual reunion for Past Delegates, seated Delegates and seated Alternate Delegates. NERD is typically held in March.
- **MGS Mini Conference** – See page 43
- **MGS Conference Agenda Review Committees (“CARCs”)** – See page 20
- **Other Events of Special Interest may include:** Intergroup/Central Office/AAWS Seminar, Bridging the Gap Seminar, Annual Archives Conference, Annual Corrections Conference, or consult the Area Chairperson or a Service Sponsor for other suggestions regarding service enhancing opportunities.

### Travel, Auto Mileage, and Meals

Automobile mileage is reimbursable at a rate determined by the Area Assembly. Other travel expenses and meals are reimbursable when accompanied by receipts.

### General Operating Expenses

Expenses in this cost category include items such as postage, telephone, copying, and office supplies. These are all reimbursable when accompanied by receipts.

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<sup>5</sup> Excerpt from the “NERAASA Guidelines

<sup>6</sup> Excerpt from “Regional and Local Forums” page on the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Appendix A—2018/2019 Handbook Updates

2018 Page #	2019 Page #	2018 Page Title	2019 Changes
Cover	Cover	Cover	Changed date at bottom of book cover to June 2019
1	1	Foreword	In first sentence of paragraph 2, changed “New members are continually coming into Area 29...” to “New members are continually coming into Maryland General Service...”
2	2	Table of Contents	Added “Candidate” to Election of Regional Trustee & Trustee at Large. Added “with Suggested Training Schedule” to the title of page 21
2	2-3	Table of Contents	Removed “p” or “pp” to designate page(s). Removed Area Standing Committees and Area Ad Hoc Committees and added “Area Service Committees” followed by an alphabetized list of all Area Service Committees with revised page numbers.
3	3	Table of Contents	Revised page numbers for all headings.
3	3	Table of Contents	Removed “Why Do We Have a \$300 Limit on Budget Overages?” since the \$300 limit was removed from the Amended Bylaws.
3	3	Table of Contents	Removed Appendix D – Current Practice Concerning Standing, Ad Hoc and ad hoc Committees...” since the Amended Bylaws removed these designations.
3	3	Table of Contents	Renamed Appendix E to Appendix D
3	3	Table of Contents	Added “Amended” in front of Bylaws of Maryland General Service, Inc.
6	6	The A.A. Group	Updated covers of The A.A. Group and Q&A on Sponsorship pamphlets
10	10	Area 29 Redistricting	Revised title of page to “Area 29 Map of Districts”.
11	11	Area 29 Redistricting	Revised title of page to Area 29-Districts with Baltimore Zip Codes
12	12	The Fellowship as a Whole	Updated diagram to 2018/2020 A.A. Service Manual
13	13	Structure Inside MGS Assembly	Removed “Fall Convention Committee”, corrected Website Committee name to Technology Committee
15	15	The Role of the DCM	In last paragraph, changed “job description” to “Qualifications and Duties”, removed “Reprinted with permission...” since the text is not a direct quote from the A.A. Service Manual.
17	17	Purpose and Composition of the MGS Area Committee	Removed “Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons”, added “Area Service Committee Chairpersons”. Revised wording of bullets per 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual and corrected page number in permission at bottom of page.
18	18	Suggested Area Assembly and Area Committee Meeting Formats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removed “meets five (5) times” in 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and added “meets regularly”</li> <li>2. Next to Secretary’s Report changed “Reading of Minutes” to “Synopsis of Minutes”</li> <li>3. Next to Alt Del Report changed “General Service Updates to “CARC Updates”</li> <li>4. Next to Committee Reports removed “Standing and Ad Hoc Committees” and added “Area Service Committees”</li> <li>5. Added “Ask-It-Basket Questions before Adjournment</li> </ol>
19	19	Summary of Area Assembly and Area Committee Procedures  In the paragraph “Eligibility to Vote”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removed “Area Standing and Ad Hoc committees” and added “Area Service Committees”.</li> <li>2. Added “and the members of the Board of Directors” before “are eligible to vote”.</li> <li>3. Added at the end of the paragraph, “The exception is members of the Board of Directors (who have a vote at Area Assemblies only if fulfilling other positions that do have voting rights).”</li> </ol>
20	20	Purpose of the Area 29 CARCs	In paragraph 3, removed “Standing” and inserted “Area Service”. Changed sentence to read: “Area Service Committees are responsible to review any Kit and Workbook available from GSO which corresponds to their committee...”
21	21	Suggested General Service Time Tables with Suggested Training Schedule	In Footnote 1 after “subject to change” added “according to the GSC schedule or,” In Footnote 2 changed “Chairs/Co” to “Chairs/Co-Chairs”. Corrected “Committee Chairs” to “Service Committee Chairs” in several places.
22	22	Election of Area Officers	In “Voting Procedures” changed 2015-2016 to 2018-2020 In “Eligibility to Vote” removed Chairpersons of Area Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and added Chairpersons of “Area Service Committees”.
23	23	Third Legacy Procedure	Updated The Third Legacy Procedure diagram from page S22 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual. Added the word “Candidate” after Regional Trustee & Trustee-at-Large
	24-48	Area Officer and Area Service Committee pages	Corrected page 53 to page 54 indicating that the Area Officers and Area Service Committee chair may attend service functions or events listed on this page.

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2018 Page #	2019 Page #	2018 Page Title	2019 Changes (All references to the "A.A. Service Manual" mean the 2013-2014 A.A. Service Manual)
26	26	Duties and Responsibilities of Area Chairperson	In 3 <sup>rd</sup> bullet, added "Amended" in front of Bylaws In 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet, changed "Standing and Ad Hoc" to "Area Service" Committee chairpersons
29	29	Area Standing Committees	New page title is "Area Service Committees". Reworded 1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph to remove references to "Standing Committees". Removed 2 <sup>nd</sup> paragraph which described where the description of Standing Committees could be found. In 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph, changed "Standing" to "Service" in two places. Revised paragraphs are followed by a new, alphabetized list of ALL Area Service Committees. Revised "Website Committee" to "Technology Committee".
30-50	30-48	Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities of Area Standing or Ad Hoc Committees	Corrected Standing or Ad Hoc to read "Area Service Committees"
49	30	Accessibilities Committee	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
40	31	Archives Committee	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order. Removed "and Fall Conference".
41	32	Area Meeting Host	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
42	33	Area Registrar	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
43	34	Audio	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
44	--	Fall Convention	Removed page
30	35	CPC	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
31	36	Corrections	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
32	37	Finance	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
33	38	Grapevine	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order. Removed "and Fall Conference".
45	39	Intergroup Liaison	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order. .
34	40	Literature	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order. Removed "and Fall Conference".
46	41	Margenser Newsletter	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
47	42	Maryland State Convention	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
48	43	Mini Conference	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
35	44	Public Information	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order. Reformatted bullets
	45	Technology	This page was inserted in this location to put it in alphabetical order. In August 2017 the Area Assembly approved the renaming of the Website Committee to Technology Committee. In December 2017 the Assembly then approved the revision of the Handbook text of the Duties and Responsibilities of the Technology Committee and the Webmaster.
38	46	Webmaster (member of the Technology Committee)	This page was inserted in this location as part of the revised text for the Technology Committee approved by the Assembly in December 2017.
39	--	Area Ad Hoc Committees	This page was removed since Ad Hoc Committees no longer exist.
36	47	Treatment	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
50	48	Workshops	This page was moved to this new location to put it in alphabetical order.
51	49	Matters of Finance	Page was moved due to other changes in handbook. No other changes.
52	49	Guiding Principles	Page was moved due to other changes in handbook. No other changes.
52-54	50-52	Internal Financial Control Policy	These pages were moved due to other changes in handbook. Under Bank Accounts, removed 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence, "The MGS Bylaws provide authorization for all bank accounts, who may sign checks, drafts or other orders for payment of money against the corporation checking accounts.". Removed "Fall Convention" in 4 <sup>th</sup> paragraph under Bank Accounts. Under Disbursements, in 6 <sup>th</sup> paragraph, removed "per paragraph 4.07 of the MGS Bylaws".
55	53	Budget, The Prudent Reserve, Financial Review	Under Budget – corrected "fifth Area Assembly of the year" to "final Area Assembly of the year". Under Prudent Reserve – removed "or Fall Conference".
56	54	Expense Reimbursement	In paragraph 1- removed end of second sentence referring to spending funds in excess of \$300. In bullet 2 – removed "Fall Convention" and changed page to 42. In bullet 5 – changed page to 43, In bullet 6 – changed page to 20, In bullet 7 – added "Annual Corrections Conference"

## Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

2018 Page #	2019 Page #	2018 Page Title	2019 Changes <small>(All references to the "A.A. Service Manual" mean the 2013-2014 A.A. Service Manual)</small>
57	-	Why Do We Have a \$300 Limit on Budget Overages?	Removed page since the \$300 limit was removed from the Amended Bylaws.
58-61	55-58	Appendix B 2016/2017 Handbook Updates	Page renumbered due to other changes in handbook. Renamed to Appendix A., 2018/2019 Handbook Updates
62	58	Appendix C – MGS Delegates	Page renumbered due to other changes in handbook. Renamed to Appendix B. Added Linda J. Panel 66, 2016-2017 and Don B. Panel 68, 2018-2019.
63	--	Appendix D – Standing, Ad Hoc and ad hoc explanation	Page removed since Standing and Ad Hoc Committees were changed to Area Service Committees. Definition no longer needed.
64-66	59-61	Appendix E – The Principles of Alcoholics Anonymous	Pages renumbered due to other changes in handbook. Renamed to Appendix C
67-76	61-70	Bylaws of MGS	Pages renumbered due to other changes in handbook. Renamed to Amended Bylaws of MGS

**For previous updates, contact the MARGENSER Committee for the complete record.**

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# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## Appendix B—Maryland General Service Area 29 Delegates

NAMES	PANEL	YEARS SERVED
Charles S.	02	1952-53
Henry M.	04	1954-55
Michael L.	06	1956-57
Clarence M.	08	1958-59
Thomas H.	10	1960-61
John V.	12	1962-63
Milton H.	14	1964-65
Ginny D.	16	1966-67
Ben V.	18	1968-69
John O.	20	1970-71
William C.	22	1972-73
Thomas S.	24	1974-75
Paul W.	26	1976-77
Ed E.	28	1978-79
Sunny N.	30	1980-81
Frank Y.	32	1982-83
Thomas E.	34	1984-85
Gene R.	36	1986-87
Dick R.	38	1988-89
Thomas C.	40	1990-91
John C.	42	1992-93
Valerie W.	44	1994-95
Arnold R.	46	1996-97
Peggy T-R	48	1998-99
Morgan J.	50	2000-01
Victor L.	52	2002-03
Nancy K.	54	2004-05
Barbara B.	56	2006-07
Tom R.	58	2008-09
Nancy B.	60	2010-11
Bob C.	62	2012-13
Ron M.	64	2014-15
Linda J.	66	2016-17
Don B.	68	2018-19

**Appendix C – The Principles of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous**

1. We admitted that 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 wherever 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 the 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.

Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, P 59-60, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

## Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

### The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Short Form)

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. 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.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous, except for 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 nonprofessional, 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 all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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## Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

### The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional ‘Right of Decision’.
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional ‘Right of Participation’, allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional ‘Right of Appeal’ ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well-defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserves be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, P 574-575, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## AMENDED BYLAWS MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE, INC.

### PREAMBLE

Maryland General Service, Inc., will follow the spirit of ARTICLE THREE of the Articles of Incorporation of this Corporation, and will use for its basic guide of conduct, in all corporate matters unless otherwise stated, the current A.A. Service Manual – Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service, as published by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., New York, NY 10016, as the same may be amended, modified or supplemented by the General Service Conference. These Amended Bylaws supersede in their entirety all previous versions of the Bylaws.

We are an organization whose purpose is to maintain services for those who seek through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means of arresting the disease of alcoholism through the application to their own lives, in whole or in part, of the 12 Steps which constitute the recovery program upon which the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.

We will be spiritually guided by the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Conference approved literature, the guides and the guidelines sent out by the General Service Office, New York, NY, 10016.

We will serve the collective conscience of the A.A. groups in Area 29, as defined by the General Service Conference.

We will from time to time sponsor activities for the members of the Corporation, including friends of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### ARTICLE ONE

#### Name, Seal, and Offices

- 1.01. Name. The name of this Corporation is Maryland General Service, Inc.
- 1.02. Seal. The seal of the Corporation shall be circular in form and shall bear on its outer edge the words “Maryland General Service, Inc.”, and in the center a triangle with the words and figures “UNITY, RECOVERY, SERVICE, 1987 MD.” The Area Assembly may change the form of the seal and the inscription thereon.
- 1.03. Offices. The principal office of the Corporation shall be the address of the Maryland General Service, Inc. archives. The corporation may have offices at such other places as the Area Assembly may from time to time designate.

# Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook

## ARTICLE TWO

### Members and Organizational Structure of the Corporation

#### 2.01. Members of the Corporation shall consist of:

- (a) GSR - the General Service Representative (GSR) elected by and listed for each A.A. Group in Area 29 as each is defined in the Preamble of this document. In the absence of the GSR, the Alternate GSR elected by the A.A. Group may exercise all rights and responsibilities of the GSR. The GSR carries the A.A. Group's conscience to the Area Assembly (as defined in Article 2.04); votes on behalf of the Group on all issues brought to the floor; and reports back to the Group on the business conducted.
- (b) DCM - GSRs from a district recognized by the Area Assembly shall elect one of their members as a District Committee Member (DCM) and an alternate that will serve in the absence of the DCM. The DCM carries the district's conscience to the Area Assembly and the Area Committee (as defined in Article 2.05). The DCM holds district meetings to inform the GSRs as to what occurred at the Area Committee.
- (c) Officers - The Officers of the Corporation elected by the Area Assembly shall be members of the Corporation during their term of office.
- (d) Committee Chairpersons - Each Chairperson of an Area Service Committee shall be a member of the Corporation while so serving, subject to removal at any time by the Area Chairperson or vote of the Area Assembly.
- (e) Board of Directors – The Board of Directors as defined in ARTICLE THREE shall be members of the Corporation.

#### 2.02. Rights of Members of the Corporation

- (a) Voting Rights and Procedure
  1. Each member of the Corporation shall have one (1) vote in person at any corporate meeting that they are designated to attend. The exception is the members of the Board of Directors (who have a vote at Area Assemblies only if fulfilling other positions that do have voting rights).
  2. No proxy voting shall be allowed. The vote for Officers of the Corporation (Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer) shall otherwise be conducted by written ballot as prescribed by the Third Legacy Procedure defined in The A.A. Service Manual.
  3. All actions, determined to be major actions by the Area Chairperson or the Area Assembly, will require a vote of substantial unanimity (normally 2/3 of the votes); all other business requires a simple majority vote.
  4. The right of a member of the Corporation to vote shall cease on the termination of membership.

## **Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook**

- (b) Compensation - No member shall receive any compensation from the Corporation for any service rendered nor shall they be entitled to share in the distribution of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the Corporation.

### **2.03. Resignation or Termination**

- (a) Any member of the Corporation as previously defined may resign from the Corporation by written notice to the Area Secretary and the Area Chairperson.
- (b) The Area Chairperson may terminate any appointed Area Service Committee Chairperson at any time by written notice to that Chairperson and the Area Secretary.
- (c) All member's rights, titles and interest in or to the Corporation shall cease on termination of membership.

### **2.04. Area Assembly**

- (a) Meetings of the Members – Meetings of the members of the Corporation shall be known as the Area Assembly, and it shall be the highest policy-making body of the Corporation. There shall be regular Area Assembly meetings during each calendar year, held approximately bi-monthly. The Area Chairperson of the Corporation currently in office shall designate the date and place of each Area Assembly, giving due regard to the requirements of these Bylaws, the views of the Area Assembly as expressed, and the views of the Area Committee, a small segment of the Area Assembly, hereinafter referred to and defined.
- (b) Notice of Regular Area Assembly - Notice of the time, place, and purpose or purposes of a regular Area Assembly shall be served by publication on the Area 29 website, and through U.S. Mail or electronic delivery to each member of the Corporation at their address as it then appears in the membership database of the Registrar, not less than ten (10) days before the meeting.
- (c) Annual Meeting - The first regular Area Assembly in each calendar year shall be designated as the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, called by the Area Chairperson approximately in March.
- (d) Election Assembly - Elections of Officers of the Corporation shall be held at a regular Area Assembly in October of each odd-numbered year. The Officers of the Corporation elected shall serve for a period of two (2) years beginning January 1 after their election.
- (e) Special Meetings – Special meetings of the Area Assembly may be called at any time by the Area Chairperson or Delegate, or by three (3) Officers, and must be called by the Area Chairperson or Area Secretary on receipt of the written request of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Corporation, or upon a majority vote of any Area Assembly.
- (f) Notice of Special Meetings – Notice of a Special Area Assembly will follow the same procedure as in Section 2.04(b) of these Bylaws.

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- (g) Annual Corporate Budget – The annual corporate budget as approved by the Area Assembly shall be the general guide for reimbursement of expenses.
- (h) Quorum – At any Area Assembly, the presence in person of a majority of the registered members of the Corporation on that day shall constitute a quorum for all votes, and the act or acts of a majority of the quorum shall be the act of the Corporation, except as may be otherwise specifically provided by statute or by these Bylaws. A meeting may be adjourned from time to time by majority vote without any notice other than by announcement at the meeting and without further notice to any absent members. Any business may be transacted at the next meeting which might have been transacted at the adjourned meeting.

### 2.05. Area Committee

The Area Committee shall consist of the DCMs, all elected Officers, all Area Service Committee Chairpersons and the Board of Directors as defined in ARTICLE THREE. The Area Committee shall provide such recommendations and/or information for action by the Area Assembly as the Area Committee may deem appropriate, or as the Area Assembly may specify, and shall carry out such other functions as the Area Assembly may designate. In accordance with Concept IV, members of the Board of Directors will have a vote at the Area Committee.

## ARTICLE THREE

### Board of Directors

- 3.01. Members of the Board of Directors – On January 1 following the Area Election Assembly, the Immediate Past Delegate shall become a member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Immediate Past Delegate, who shall act as President of the Corporation, the current Delegate, the Area Chairperson, and the two (2) most recent Past Delegates who are willing to serve. When the Immediate Past Delegate is seated on the Board, the longest serving member will vacate his or her seat. The Board of Directors shall designate a recording secretary.
- 3.02. Number – The number of Directors shall be five (5). Each Director in office shall serve until resignation or removal as herein provided. There shall always be at least three (3) Past Delegates as board members. At no time shall there be more than two (2) Officers as Directors. The most recent Past Delegate on the Board, or his/her designee, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors as President .
- 3.03. Duties – The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall have such powers and duties as are prescribed in these Bylaws, and shall meet at such times as they may deem necessary to carry out their duties, subject to review by the Area Assembly. Duties shall include:

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- (a) advise and guide the Area Assembly through their past experience, service and wisdom;
- (b) function on behalf of the Corporation as described in ARTICLE NINE , dissolution;
- (c) make the final recommendation to the Area Assembly on all investments of corporate assets over fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00);
- (d) facilitate the biennial election and may appoint two (2) persons (who need not be members) to serve as inspectors of the election that is occurring;
- (e) provide oversight of the Area Rotation Meeting typically scheduled in December following elections; and
- (f) perform any and all duties assigned by the Area Assembly or Area Committee that are not contrary to these Bylaws or State or Federal statutes.

3.04. Election Transition Meeting – Prior to January 1 following the Election Assembly, the incoming Board of Directors, as determined by the incoming President of the Board, together with the outgoing and incoming Officers will meet for the purpose of organization at a time and place to be determined by the new President of the Board of Directors.

3.05. Resignation – Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors.

3.06. Vacancies – Any vacancy in the Board of Directors shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by majority vote of the Directors then serving by affirmative vote of the majority thereof.

3.07. Special Meetings – Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the presiding President of the Board or by any three (3) board members.

### ARTICLE FOUR

#### Officers

4.01. Designation. The Offices of the Corporation shall be an Area Chairperson, a Delegate, an Alternate Delegate, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. . No person may simultaneously hold the offices of both Area Chairperson and Secretary, nor of both Area Chairperson and Delegate.

4.02. Vacancies. In case any Office of the Corporation becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or any other cause, the current Delegate may appoint a

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member of the Area Assembly to fill such vacancy. The member so appointed shall hold Office until the next Area Assembly, and thereafter for the unexpired term if approved by the Area Assembly, unless the Area Assembly determines an election process is in order.

4.03. Area Chairperson. The Area Chairperson shall:

- (a) preside over all Area Assembly and Area Committee meetings;
- (b) have the general charge and supervision of the business of the Corporation;
- (c) have the authority to sign and execute, in the name of the Corporation, all authorized deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof have been expressly delegated to some other officer or agent of the Corporation;
- (d) see that the Annual Report is filed with the records of the Corporation, and an abstract thereof entered into minutes of the Annual Meeting;
- (e) assure that all required Area taxes and legal filings are accomplished as required by law; and
- (f) otherwise perform all duties incident to the office of Chairperson, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Area Assembly.

4.04. Delegate. The Delegate shall:

- (a) represent the Corporation and its members at the annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, and
- (b) bring back to the Corporation and its members the results of the Conference meeting.
- (c) at the request or in the absence of the Area Chairperson, perform the duties and exercise the functions of the Area Chairperson.

4.05. Alternate Delegate. The Alternate Delegate, at the request or in the absence of the Delegate shall perform the duties and exercise the functions of the Delegate.

4.06. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- (a) produce and ensure distribution of the minutes of the meetings of the members;
- (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws or as required by law;
- (c) be custodian of the records of the Corporation; and

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- (d) otherwise perform all duties incident to the Office of a secretary of a corporation, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Area Assembly.

4.07. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) have charge and be responsible for all funds, securities, receipts and disbursements of the Corporation;
- (b) deposit, or cause to be deposited, in the name of the Corporation, all monies or other valuable effects in Federally insured banks, trusts, companies, or other depositories as shall from time to time be selected by the Area Assembly (or by substantial unanimity of Area Officers and the Board of Directors in case of an emergency);
- (c) provide at each Area meeting a current consolidated financial report;
- (d) provide financial information and guidance to assist in preparation and presentation of the annual Area budget;
- (e) using the approved budget as a general guide, tender expenses to those entitled, upon receipt of appropriate supporting documentation; and
- (f) otherwise perform all the duties incident to the office of a treasurer of a corporation, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Area Assembly.

4.08. Removal of Officers and Directors. Any Officer or Director may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting at any regular or special Area Assembly, for conduct detrimental to the interest of the Corporation, for lack of sympathy with its objectives, or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purpose. Any Officer or Director proposed to be removed shall be entitled to reasonable notice, in person or in writing with documentation of delivery, at or prior to the meeting at which such removal is to be voted upon. Any Officer or Director so notified shall be entitled to appear before and be heard at such meeting.

### ARTICLE FIVE

#### Agents and Representatives

- 5.01. The Resident Agent of the Corporation shall be selected by the Board of Directors. Other agents or representatives may be appointed by the Board of Directors, with subsequent notification to the Area Assembly, to perform such acts or duties on behalf of the Corporation as may be consistent with governing statutes, the Articles of Incorporation, and these Bylaws.

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## ARTICLE SIX

### Contracts

- 6.01. The Area Committee, except as in these Bylaws otherwise provided and subject to review by the Area Assembly, may authorize any Officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to a specific instance; and unless so authorized by the Area Committee, no Officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or to any amount.

## ARTICLE SEVEN

### Committees

- 7.01. Area Service Committees. The Area Chairperson may appoint one or more Committee Chairpersons to committees that have been duly established by the Area Assembly. The members of such committees shall be appointed by and shall serve at the direction of the Committee Chairpersons and the Area Assembly. Such Committee Chairpersons shall advise and aid the membership in all matters designated by the Area Chairperson or the Area Assembly. Each Area Service Committee may, subject to the approval of the Area Chairperson, prescribe goals and the procedures by which it will function.
- 7.02. Ad Hoc Committee. The Area Chairperson may form and dissolve such committees as may be needed to perform a specific purpose for the Corporation.

## ARTICLE EIGHT

### Fiscal Year

- 8.01. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall commence on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year, and end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year.

## ARTICLE NINE

### Prohibition against Sharing in Corporate Earnings

- 9.01. No member, or employee, or member of a committee, or any person connected with the Corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operation of the Corporation, provided this shall not prevent the payment to any such person authorized expenses incurred; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate

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assets upon dissolution of the Corporation. All members of the Corporation shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the Corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the Board of Directors shall be distributed, conveyed, delivered, and paid over, in such amounts as the Board of Directors may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the Board of Directors will distribute the funds to charitable, religious or educational organizations including but not limited to any in state or out of state Alcoholics Anonymous organizations, which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

### **ARTICLE TEN**

#### **Investments**

- 10.01. The Corporation shall have the right to retain all or any part of any securities or property acquired, and to invest and reinvest any funds held by it, without being restricted to any class of investments which a fiduciary is or may hereafter be permitted by law or any similar restriction to make, provided, however, that no action shall be taken by or on behalf of the Corporation which is a prohibited transaction or would result in the denial of the Corporation's tax exemption under the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

### **ARTICLE ELEVEN**

#### **Exempt Activities**

- 11.01. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, no member or representative of this Corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity on behalf of the Corporation unless permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, and by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of such Code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

### **ARTICLE TWELVE**

#### **Indemnification**

- 12.01. The Corporation shall indemnify its directors, employees, and agents in accordance with the provision of ARTICLE TWELVE of the Second Amended Articles of Incorporation of Maryland General Service, Inc.

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## ARTICLE THIRTEEN

### Amendments

- 13.01 Any member may propose to make, alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws of the Corporation, by
- (a) submitting the proposal at any Area Assembly.
  - (b) If the Area Assembly feels the proposal may have merit, it shall forward the proposal to the Area Committee for discussion.
  - (c) The Area Committee shall return the proposal with a recommendation at least twenty (20) days prior to the next Area Assembly; and
  - (d) written notice of the Committee's recommendation shall be included in the notice of the Area Assembly meeting which may
  - (e) adopt the proposal by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum.

### ADOPTION

These Amended Bylaws of Maryland General Service, Inc. were adopted at the Area Assembly held on December 15, 2018, at Severna Park, Maryland.