

Eligibility to Office (Continued)

Eligibility for Election to Area Office	
DCMCs, Alt. DCMCs Past DCMCs, PastAltDCMCs DCMs, Past DMCs Past District Officers	With one year of service in one or more of these offices Regularly attended Area meetings in the past year. (Determined by the Executive Committee if necessary)
Area Officers	Excluding Delegate and Past Delegates
Chairs, Cochairs of Standing Comm. and *Spanish-Speaking Cochairs	
*AA Grapevine/La Viña Archives *Convention Liaison *Cooperation with the Elder Community	*Cooperation with the Professional Comm. *D.C.M. School *G.S.R. School
	*Literature *Newsletter *Public Information Registration *Special Needs *Treatment Facilities
Chairs/Directors of Coordinate Committees	• Currently serving in Office, or • In office in the past 12 months

Suggested Continuous Sobriety

Area Guidelines have suggested continuous sobriety values to be eligible for election to Area office which are equal to/greater than those suggested in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Suggested Continuous Sobriety			
Delegate	6 Years	Secretary	5 Years
Alternate Delegate	6 Years	Treasurer	5 Years
Chair	5 Years	Registrar	5 Years

Eligibility to Vote

Members of the M.S.C.A. Assembly are eligible to vote in Area elections as shown below.

Voting Members of the Election Assembly		
Area Officers G.S.R.s	D.C.M.C.s, Alt. D.C.M.C.s D.C.M.s, Alt. D.C.M.s	Other District Officers
Chairs and Cochairs of Standing Committees		
Chairs/Directors of Coordinate Committees • Currently serving in office, or • In office within the past 12 months		
Lifetime voting members: Past Delegates		
NOTE: In order to be eligible to vote, members of the Assembly must have attended, in their respective capacities, at least one Assembly or A.S.C. meeting in the past year.		

Elections

The Assembly in October of odd-numbered years elects six Area officers. The Assembly in January elects all English and Spanish-speaking Standing Committee Co-chairs; (Some committees elect their own Chairs.)

Third Legacy Procedure

The Third Legacy procedure used to elect the six M.S.C.A. officers is considered unique with A.A. The names of all eligible candidates—except those who state they are unable to serve—are posted on a board. Written ballots are used to vote. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected. If no candidate receives that vote, lots are drawn from a hat to determine the winner. The balloting sequence is shown below. All actions for each ballot are listed in separate boxes. Action statements in bold italics, information items identified with bullets (*).

Third Legacy Procedure	
First candidate to receive 2/3 of the total vote is elected	
Ballot	Action
1	If no First Ballot winner—a second vote is taken
2	If no Second Ballot winner—a third vote is taken
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top two candidates remain • Second place ties remain with top candidate • Candidates with LESS THAN 1/5 of the total vote are withdrawn If no Third Ballot winner—a fourth vote is taken
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top two candidates remain • Second place ties remain with top candidate • Candidates with LESS THAN 1/3 of the total vote are withdrawn If no Fourth Ballot winner—the Chair asks for a motion, a second and a simple majority vote to go to a fifth ballot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the motion fails—Go to the Hat • If the motion carries—Go to a fifth vote
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top two candidates remain • Second place ties remain with top candidate • Candidate with SMALLEST TOTAL is withdrawn If no Fifth Ballot winner—go to the Hat
THE HAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top two candidates remain • In case of first place ties: All those tied remain • In case of no first place ties: Top candidate and tied second place candidates remain Lots are drawn by the teller The first one “Out of the Hat” wins

AREA STRUCTURE and G.S.R. MATERIAL

The following pages give some examples of the types of service material that is available. The answers to your questions will be found in the abundant supply of A.A. literature. When searching for answers or information you will find that your best friend will be the catalog, *A.A. Conference Approved Literature and Service Material*.

Area Officers (Continued)	
Position	Duties
Alternate Delegate	Assist, substitute for the Delegate when required Responsible for special committees, workshops and special functions of the A.S.C. Maintain liaison with A.S.C., Intergroups/Central Service and all other permanent committees Work closely with the Area Chair Assume the duties of the Area Chair when that officer is absent
Chair	Conduct Area meetings. Plan/publish agenda Appoint ad hoc committees Function as Administrative officer of the Assembly Maintain a healthy Area structure Assist Districts when needed
Secretary	Record/distribute Area meeting and Executive Committee minutes. Maintain roster and mailing list; distribute roster. Maintain Assembly records
Treasurer	Conduct Area financial business; Maintain fiscal records; Provide financial reports; File Tax forms; Serve on Financial Committee
Registrar	Maintain Group records up-to-date Locate Groups when needed Schedule visits of officers

Area Committees

The M.S.C.A. Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the A.A. business activity in the Area. They are Standing and Coordinate Committees.

Standing Committees

There are 15 M.S.C.A. Standing Committees. Individuals standing for Committee Chair are elected by the Assembly. (Some committees elect their own Chair.) Each Standing Committee drafts its own guidelines for approval by the Assembly.

Area Standing Committees (15)	
*AA Grapevine/La Viña Archives *Convention Liaison *Cooperation with Elder Comm. *Cooperation with Prof. Comm. Correctional Facilities *D.C.M. School Finance	*G.S.R. School *Literature *Newsletter *Public Information Registration *Special Needs *Treatment Facilities
* Spanish-speaking Cochairs	

Coordinate Committees

Coordinate Committees are part of the Area structure but are completely autonomous.

Area Coordinate Committees (16)	
• Central Office Committees (9) • Intergroups (4)	• Young People In A.A, Committees (3)

M.S.C.A. Divisions

Mid-Southern California Area districts are formed into geographic divisions to ensure the consideration of driving distance in the fair rotation of hosting Area meetings. The following divisions are used.

M.S.C.A. Divisions										
Divisions	Districts									
Western	1	2	3	4	6	7	21			
Central	5	8	10	12	15	17	18	20	24	25
Eastern	9	10	11	14	30	22	23			

Abbreviations

A.A. Alcoholics Anonymous
A.A.W.S. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
A.M.S.C. Area Medio-Sur de California
A.O.C.Y.P.A.A. All Orange County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
A.S.C. Area Service Comm.
C.O. Central Office
C.E.C. Cooperation with the Elder Community
C.P.C. Cooperation with the Professional Community
D.C.M. District Committee Member
D.C.M.C. District Committee Member Chair
E.A.B. Editorial Advisory Board [AA Grapevine]
G.S.B. General Service Board
G.S.C. General Service Conference
G.S.O. General Service Office
G.S.R. General Service Representative

GV AA Grapevine
GvR AA Grapevine Representative
H.A.C.Y.P.A.A. Harbor Area Cities Young People in A.A.
H.&I. Hospitals & Institutions
I.R.Y.P.A.A. Inland Region Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
L.C.M. Local Committee Member (Same as D.C.M.)
M.C.D. Miembro de Comité de Distrito
M.S.C.A. Mid-Southern California Area
P.I. Public Information
P.R.A.A.S.A. Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly
P.S.A. Public Service Announcement
R.L.V. La Viña Representative
R.S.G. Representante de Servicios Generales
S.C. Southern California
T.F. Treatment Facilities
W.S.M. World Service Meeting
Y.P.I.A.A. Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

M.S.C.A. Service Events	
Event	Held
Area Standing Committee Chairs Election	January
Archives Open House	Spring
Pre-Conference Workshop	Spring
Founders Day	Summer
Foro del A.M.S.C.	Summer
Heritage Day	Fall
Area Officers Election [Oct., Odd-Numbered Years]	October
Servathon	Fall

**G.S.R.
Getting Started Checklist**

General Service Conference. We have talked a lot about the Group Conscience—because you, as G.S.R., are the custodian of that Group Conscience. The thoughts and opinions expressed in Group Consciences are pooled at the District meetings you will be attending, and pooled again at the Area Assemblies. The A.A. Group conscience finally comes to a focus—for one long week each spring—at the General Service Conference. Our Delegate carries our M.S.C.A. Group Conscience, along with the Right of Decision, when attending the Conference. The Conference is A.A.'s way of keeping our Fellowship strong and healthy by looking for weaknesses to be corrected and new challenges to be met.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

This pamphlet describes the Mid-Southern California Area Service structure. The Area is the part of Alcoholics Anonymous service in which you personally will be most involved. It is in the Pacific Region. There are 93 Areas in the Conference, 79 in the United States and 14 in Canada. We fit into the overall A.A. Service structure as described below.

Mid-Southern California Area

The Area is divided into 24 Districts with each District being served by an elected District Committee Member Chair (D.C.M.C.), or District Committee Member (D.C.M.) in the Spanish-speaking Districts. In 2006 there were 1,808 A.A. Groups and 56,075 members reported in the Area. In that year the M.S.C.A. was the largest Area in A.A. membership and second largest in A.A. Groups in the Conference. The M.S.C.A. was tied at 56th with the Northwest Texas Area in per capita contributions (\$3.33) and fourth largest in total Area contributions (\$197,202.68).

With the rapid growth in numbers of A.A. members and A.A. Groups in the M.S.C.A., it was necessary to add the D.C.M.C. position in English-speaking Districts to maintain the integrity of the original Districts without interfering with effective communications between the A.A. Groups (through their G.S.R.s) and the District Committee Member (D.C.M.). D.C.M.s serve Subdistricts within Dis-tribts. Spanish-Speaking Districts do not use the Subdistrict structure; their District leaders are D.C.M.s.

Task	Done
<p style="text-align: center;">Advise A.A. of Your New G.S.R. Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a copy of the A.A. <i>Group Information Change Form</i>. Contact G.S.O. New York, www.aa.org. Click: (1) Services for Members, (2) A.A. Change of Group Information, (3) A.A. Change of Group Information .pdf. The form will appear. Print two copies. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete one form. Fill in "old information" so prior G.S.R. can be removed from the record. Fill out "new information" including your data as new G.S.R. Update other data. See Chapter 2 of <i>The A.A. Service Manual</i>. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make copies for: G.S.O., Area 9, home District, local Central Office and your group records. Mail forms as soon as possible. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make all future routine group information changes promptly the 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Your Group service number close. It may be found in the <i>Western United States A.A. Directory</i>. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The G.S.R. is mail contact with G.S.O. and is listed in the A.A. Directory as group contact. G.S.R.s keep groups informed of 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Attend Group Steering Committee Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively discuss group business. Record the group conscience, carry it to District/Area. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Attend District Committee (G.S.R.) Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out the time and place of the District G.S.R. meeting. The Central Office meeting directory 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend G.S.R. School at Dist./Area meetings. This helps to learn about General Service. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce yourself to the D.C.M.C. (District Committee Member Chair). [The leader of the District Committee.] 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find General Service sponsors. Ask for help in General Service and service literature. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use A.A. service material and current events to give brief monthly reports to your Group. 	

Typical Area Meeting Format

Premeeting Activities	
9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Delegate's Sharing Session
9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	G.S.R. School
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Standing Committee Meetings	
* AA Grapevine/La Viña Archives	* G.S.R. School Literature
* Convention Liaison	* Newsletter
* Cooperation with Elder Comm.	* Public Information
* Cooperation with Prof. Comm.	Registration
Correctional Facilities	* Special Needs
* D.C.M. School Finance	* Treatment Facilities
11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Lunch	
Opening Procedure (Noon)	
Opening prayer	
Tradition for the month, Long Form, Eng. and Sp.	
Concept for the month, Long Form, Eng. and Sp.	
G.S.R. Preamble	
Statement of Purpose and Membership	
Introductions:	
Past Delegates	New D.C.M.C.s
New G.S.R.s	Guests
New D.C.M.s	
Area Meeting	
Seating of the Executive Committee	
Approval of prior Area meeting minutes	
Delegate's report	
Standing Committee reports: (See list above.)	
Old business	
New business	
Executive Committee reports:	
Alternate Delegate	Treasurer
Chair	Registrar
Secretary	
Ad hoc committee reports	
Celebration of A.A. birthdays	
Coordinate Committee reports:	
Central Office Committees	
Intergroup Committees	
Young People in A.A. Committees	
Announcements	
Recap of meeting actions	
Closing prayer	
Adjournment	

**G.S.R.
Getting Started Checklist Continued)**

Task	Done
Learn How to Give a G.S.R. Report Suggestion: Give the most information in the shortest time possible. Try 1-3 minute reports. Give 5-10 word statements of fact, and be prepared to give additional information. Develop your report well prior to the meeting. Sound interesting. Supplement report with some additional printed information.	
Collect, Read and Use Helpful Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The A.A. Group</i> [Pamphlet] - M.S.C.A. Guidelines - M.S.C.A. Standing Comm. Guidelines [Var.] - District Guidelines [Home District] - District Standing Committee Guidelines [Var.] - Local Intergroup Newsletters - <i>A.A. Tradition—How It Developed</i> [Pamphlet] - <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> [Book] - <i>A.A. Conference Approved Literature and other Service Material</i> [Catalog] - <i>Service Material List</i> [Free] - <i>The A.A. Service Manual</i> - <i>A.A. Guidelines</i> [1 set of 16 free from G.S.O.] - Subscribe to <i>Box 4-5-9</i> [G.S.O. Bulletin] - Subscribe to the <i>AA Grapevine</i>, [AA Journal] - Report on the <i>Annual Meeting of the General Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous</i> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Service</i></div>	
Learn A.A. Service Addresses G.S.O. - www.aa.org A.A. World Services, Inc. Box 459, Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163 AA Grapevine - www.aagrapevine.org AA Grapevine 475 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10115 Area 9 - www.msca09aa.org Mid-Southern California Area P.O. Box 51446 Irvine, CA 92619-1446 Districts - Click(1)www.msca09aa.org (2) Districts, Maps,etc. (3) District number. - Check Central Office directory Central Offices - Call local Central Office - Check local Central Office directory	

By attending meetings and expressing your Group Conscience you are helping to keep A.A. strong and pass that strength along to future members. Attending Service meetings is as important to the life of A.A. as attending Group meetings is to your life in recovery.

Group Steering Committee Meetings

Many Groups have Steering Committee or business meetings which conduct routine business matters and report back to the Group. Upon occasion the Group votes to express it's Group Con- science on A.A. mat- ters. The G.S.R. carries the results of the Group Conscience to the District and Area meetings.

Group Steering Committee Meetings*	
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Group Conscience on issues that might affect the Group or A.A. as a whole - Discuss questions about Group practices - Nominate candidates for Group Office - Discuss other Group business
Member-ship	Group Officers and Members
Meetings	As established by Group Conscience
* Not all Groups have Steering Committees	

District Committee Meetings

Districts hold meetings for G.S.R.s where you will learn about your District. In this way Groups are able to communicate with each other. At these meetings you will become informed of items to be discussed at the Assembly so that you will be prepared to take part.

District Committee Meetings	
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take the Conscience of Groups in the District on matters that might affect the Groups or A.A. as a whole - Elect D.C.M.C., Alt. D.C.M.C. and D.C.M.s to the Area Service Committee (A.S.C.) - Elect District Standing Committee Chairs - Discuss and act on service needs - Maintain communications between groups, the Area, and A.A. as a whole
Member-ship	Customarily G.S.R.s, D.C.M.C., Alternate D.C.M.C., D.C.M.s and Alternates, Past D.C.M.C.s, District Officers, and Chairs of District Standing Committees
Meetings	Usually each month

M.S.C.A. English-Speaking District Cities Continued

12	Aliso Viejo Capistrano Beach Coto de Caza Dana Point Ladera Ranch Laguna Beach Laguna Hills	Laguna Niguel Laguna Woods Lake Forest Mission Viejo Modjeska Canyon	Rancho Santa Margarita San Clemente San Juan Capistrano Silverado Canyon Trabuco Canyon
14	Aguanga Anza Banning Beaumont	Cabazon Hemet Homeland Idyllwild	Juniper Flats Romoland San Jacinto Winchester
15	Anaheim E. of 55, N. of 91 Anaheim Hills	Brea La Habra	Placentia Yorba Linda
17	Canyon Lake Lake Elsinore Lakeland Village Menifee	Murrieta Perris Rancho California	Sun City Temecula Wildomar
18	Costa Mesa	Irvine	
19	Adelanto Apple Valley Barstow Dagget Helendale	Hesperia Hinkley Lenwood Lucern Newberry Springs	Oro Grande Phelan Trona Victorville Yermo
30	Johnson Valley Joshua Tree Landers	Morongo Valley Twentynine Palms	Wonder Valley Yucca Valley

M.S.C.A. Spanish-Speaking District Cities

20	Costa Mesa Huntington Beach Lake Forest	San Clemente San Juan Capistrano Santa Ana	Tustin Westminster
21	Avalon Bellflower Carson Compton Gardena	Hawaiian Gardens Long Beach Norwalk Paramount Rancho Dominguez	San Pedro Signal Hill Torrance Wilmington
22	Blythe Cathedral City Coachella Desert Hot Springs	Indio Mecca Palm Desert	Palm Springs Thermal City Yucca Valley
23	Corona Lake Elsinore Mira Loma Moreno Valley	Ontario Perris Riverside	Rubidoux San Jacinto Temecula

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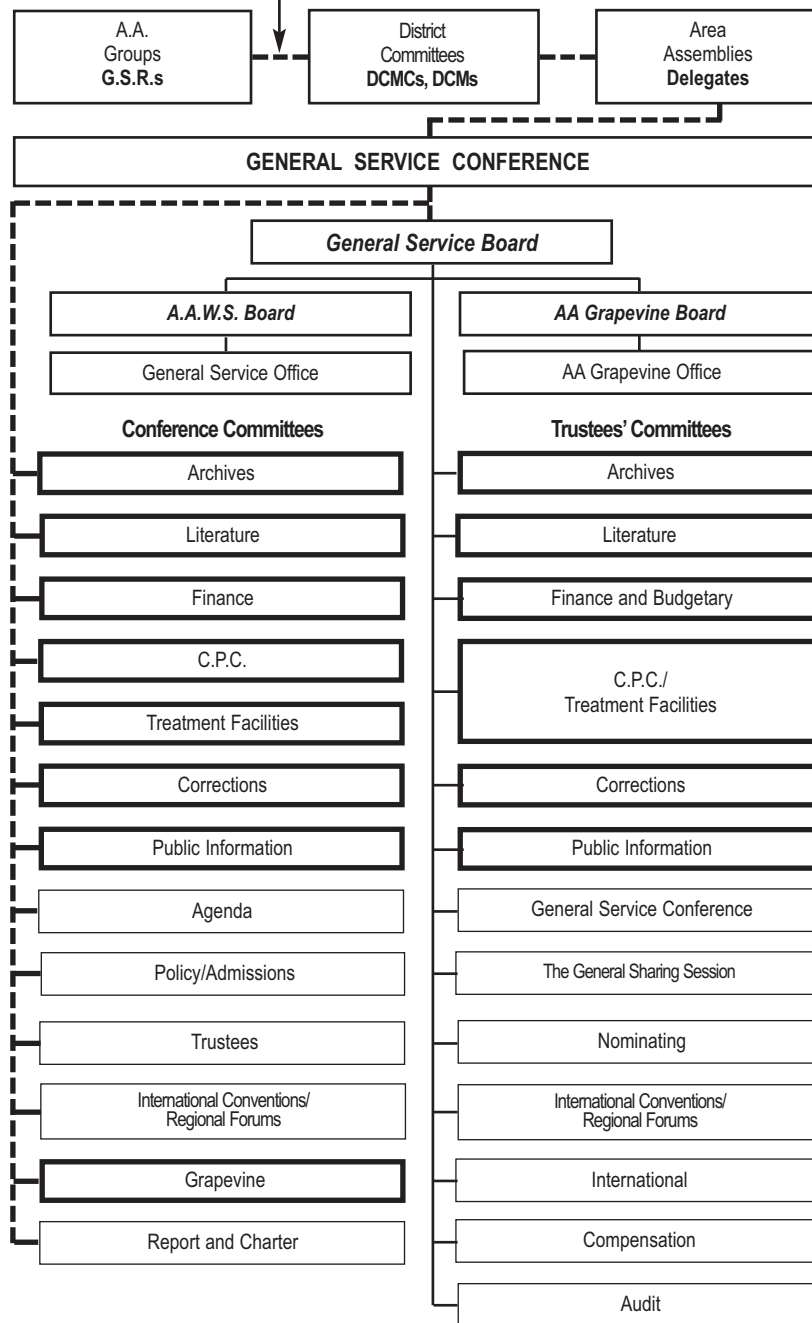
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“A.A.” on the cover symbolizes us as anonymous members in the population always ready to carry the message of recovery. Many A.A. pamphlets carry “A.A.” on the cover to communicate with alcoholics in need. The same approach is used in this pamphlet with hopes of helping G.S.R.s to

learn more about A.A. General Service.

General Service Conference Structure

The Group Conscience path to the Conference



Conference and Trustees' Committees are listed above. M.S.C.A. committees that match are shown in bold-line boxes.