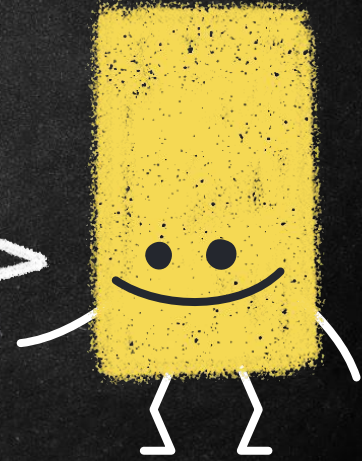
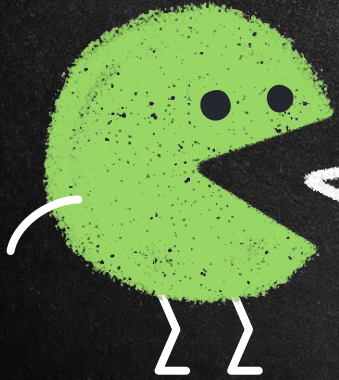


AREA 23  
PRECONFERENCE  
ASSEMBLY  
GUIDANCE

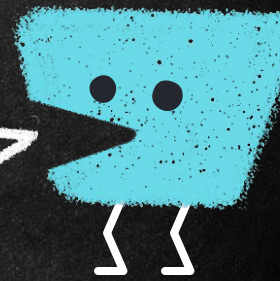
PRESENTED BY JANET FLIKKE  
PAST DELEGATE P72/A23



# AGENDA

- GSC History
- Purpose of Preconference Assembly
- Group Conscience

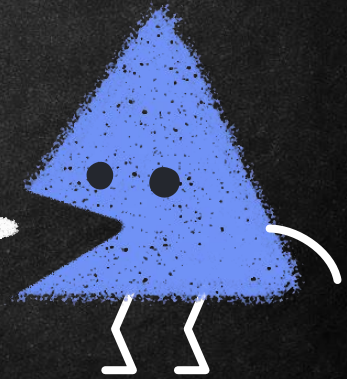
- Committee Procedures
- Review of Committee Suggestions
- Trusted Servant and Right of Decision





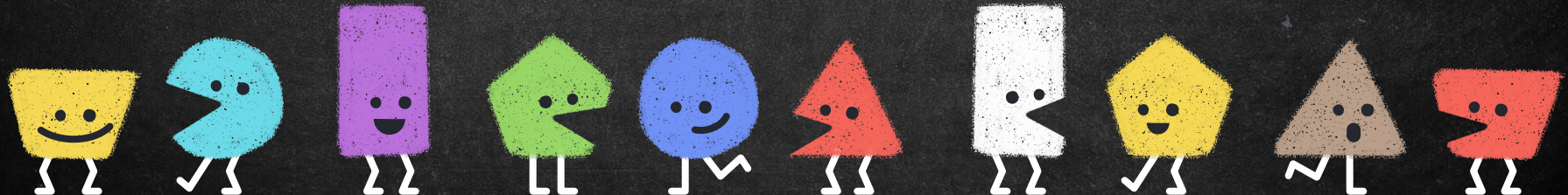
# HISTORY OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

- 1st GSC - April 20-22, 1951
- Purpose
- Five Committees (now: 13)
- 74th GSC - April 14-29, 2024
  - Brooklyn, New York



# General Service Conference

93 Area Delegates  
21 Trustees of the General Service Board  
6 nontrustee Directors from AAWS & Grapevine  
15 AA Staff from GSO



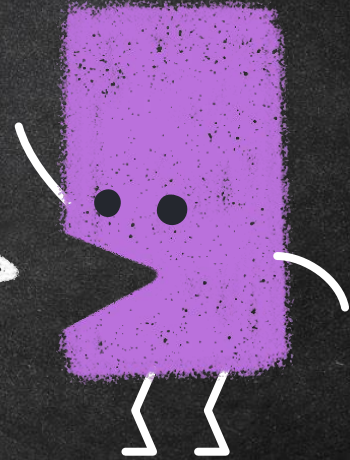


# AREA MAP OF US AND CANADA

\*This map represents a  
general outline of Areas



“  
*Where do  
all of these  
agenda items  
come from?*”

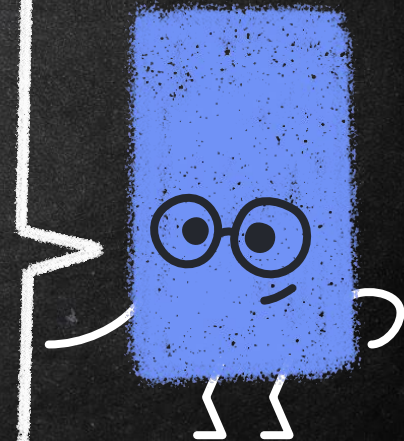




## Sources of Agenda Items

The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by:

- Individual A.A. members
- Delegates
- Area assemblies
- Directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine
- Groups
- Trustees
- Area committee members





Whatever its origin, any agenda item follows the same path to the Conference agenda:

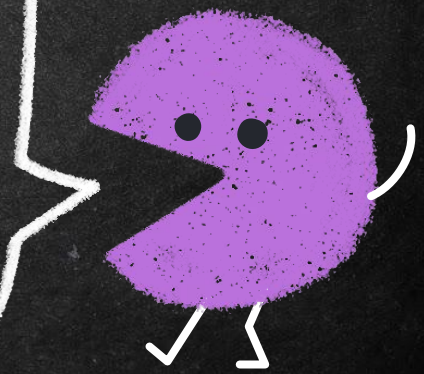
- The A.A. staff studies it in the light of previous Conference actions
- Passes it on to the trustees' Conference Committee or the appropriate Conference committee.
  - Usually, the trustees' committee determines the most appropriate way of programming it — as a workshop or presentation subject, a proposal or a committee concern.

(For suggestions that do not concern overall policy, there are procedures to ensure they are routed to the most appropriate part of the service structure.)

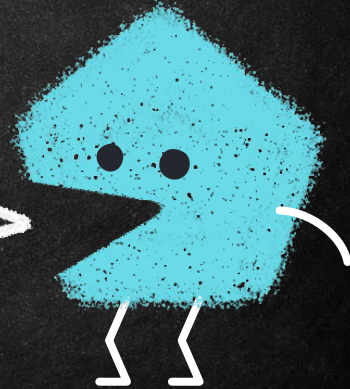
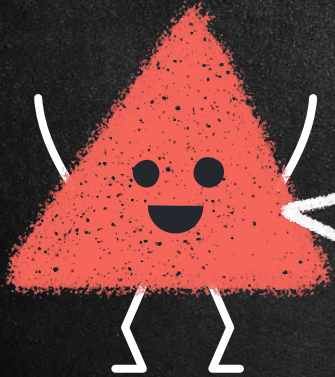




How ARE Decisions  
Affecting A.A.  
Made?



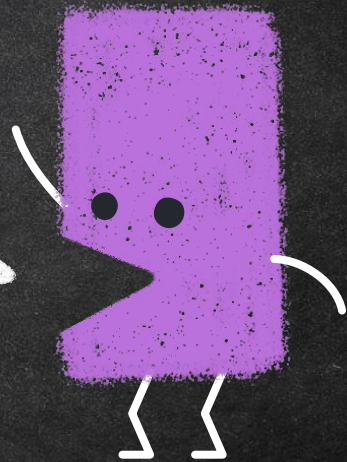
**Area 23  
Preconference  
Assembly**





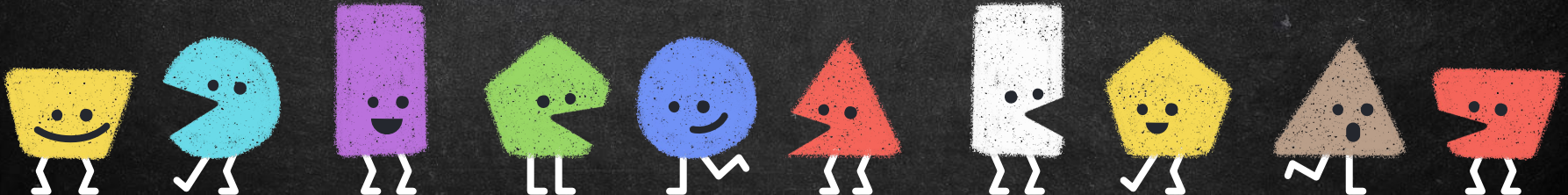
“

*The ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services **resides with the groups** — rather than with the trustees, the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.”*





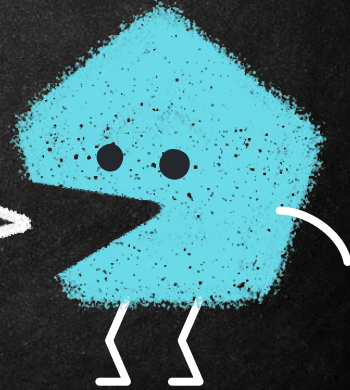
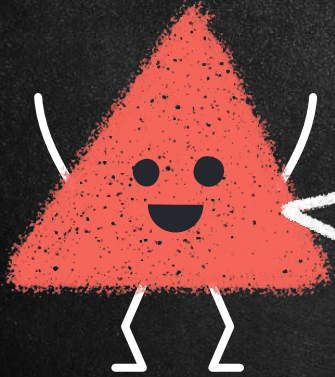
# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



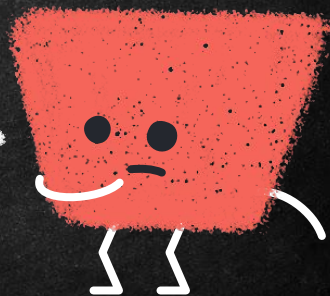


# District Committee Member

D.C.M.



WHAT IS AN  
INFORMED A.A.  
GROUP CONSCIENCE?

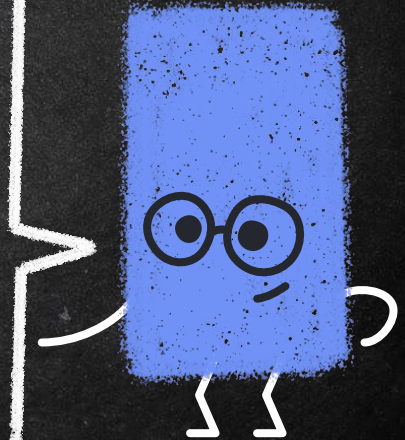




# PreConference Assembly

What to expect?

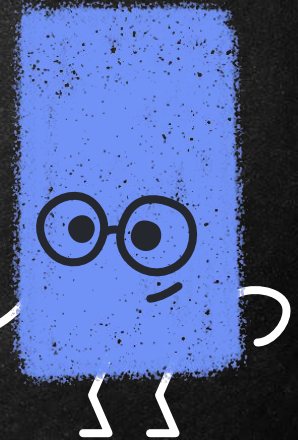
- Brief review of the history, purpose and process of the PreConference Assembly
- Attending members will be assigned to one of four committees (in separate rooms/hybrid)
- Each committee will have a Chair and a Secretary
- Members will join their assigned committees and review/discuss or consider the selected agenda items





# PreConference Assembly (cont.)

- Take a vote on the agenda items (when needed)
  - Secretary will take notes for Committee Chair to present when we return to a whole assembly
- Participate in the whole assembly discussion
  - Share your group's conscience if it hasn't already been shared by any of the Committee Chairs
- Vote, when requested by Delegate for further clarification of the Area's position on an agenda item
- Share the outcome with your homegroup/district

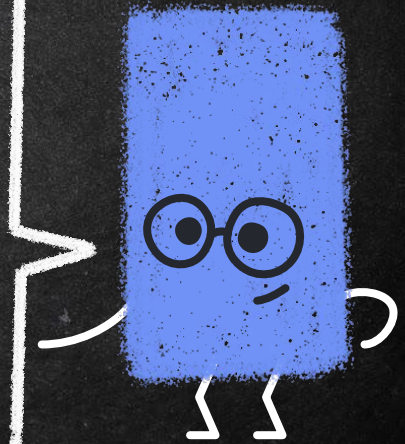




**Committee Chair** leads the meeting through discussion of action items.


**Secretary (Past Delegate)** records minutes of the meeting and prepares written report, is time keeper and assists Chair.

- Breaks may be taken at committee's discretion.

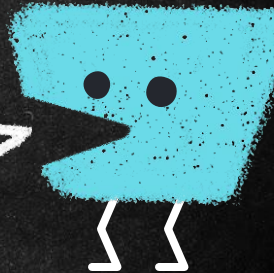




# COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

A yellow, textured, circular character with two black dots for eyes and a simple curved line for a smile. It has two thin white legs.

Everyone is entitled to AND SHOULD express their group's opinion, however, if that perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to say it again.

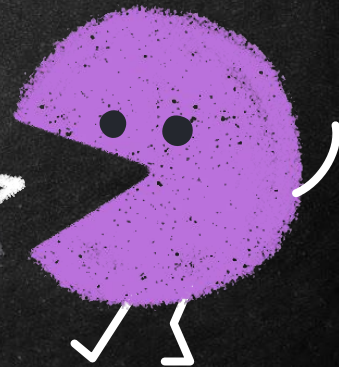
A blue, textured, rectangular character with two black dots for eyes and a simple curved line for a mouth. It has two thin white legs.

People who wish to speak "raise their hands" and are called on in order by the chair.



Voting should take place only after thorough discussion of agenda item(s).

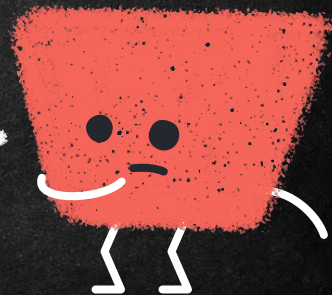
\*Minority opinion is heard.





## CONSIDER – as in “Consider a request to..”

- Generally a vote is indicated
  - Committee studies motion, and votes to send it to the full Conference. (Makes it a recommendation)
  - Committee votes to not send it to full Conference (Makes no recommendation or takes no action.)
- The vote count (both “for” and “against”) is shared with the full assembly
- Committee may amend motion before sending it to full Conference
- The committee may come up with additional considerations regarding the agenda item



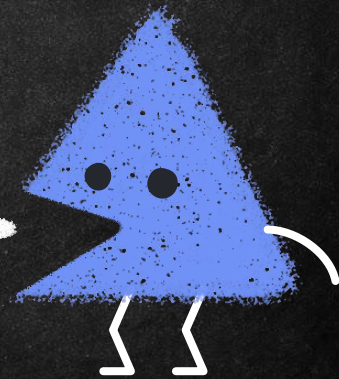


## DISCUSS – as in “Discuss ways to ...”

- Committee members share their experience, concerns and ideas on the topic
- Referencing decisions based on the provided material and additional existing GSO approved literature is helpful
- Committee may come up with requests, suggestions, recommendations or additional considerations.
- A vote is probably not indicated (exceptions may occur)

If no vote is needed....

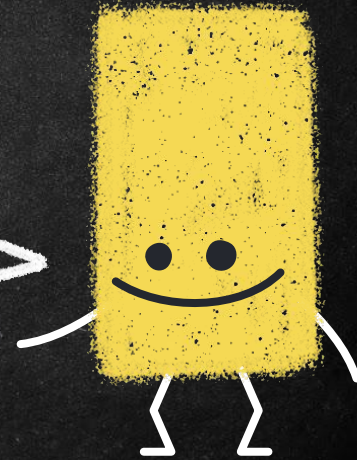
- Overview of the discussion should be provided to the full assembly






# REVIEW – as in “Review the xyz Workbook...”

- Committee goes over the item and may make recommendations, suggestions, requests.
- The committee can decide whether the item requires a vote.
- An overview of the committee’s recommendations, suggestions and requests is presented to the full assembly.



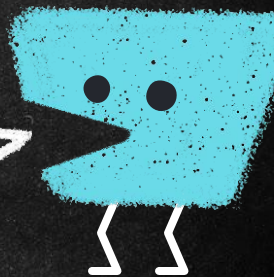


# THE REPORT

A yellow, textured, circular character with two black dots for eyes and a simple curved line for a smile. It has two thin white legs.

Meet together as a  
whole Assembly

Committee Chairs  
will provide reports  
to the Delegate

A blue, textured, trapezoidal character with two black dots for eyes and a simple curved line for a mouth. It has two thin white legs.

Delegate will ask for  
additional input from  
the “whole assembly”

A general consensus  
will be determined



Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”?

Concept III: 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.”

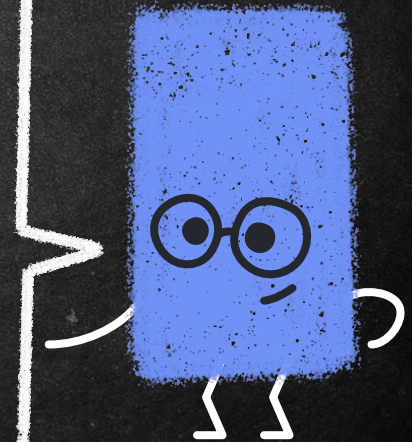




# Practicing the *Right of Decision*...

Exercise your “Right of Decision” if:

- A vote has to be taken immediately, always considering the common welfare of A.A.
- You may vote contrary to your District’s conscience if new information is presented that you feel would sway their decision.
- The Right of Decision should NEVER be used as an excuse for failing to inform those who are entitled to be consulted.
  - You are a TRUSTED servant



“

*Thank you for the  
opportunity serve.  
Does anyone have any  
questions?*

