

General Service Representative Workshop

Welcome!

Area 23 (Southern Indiana)

Service Extravaganza 2026

The Three Legacies

Recovery • Unity • Service

12 Steps • 12 Traditions • 12 Concepts

Mind • Body • Spirit



Recover y

- Offers a second chance at happiness and freedom
- Helps us live useful, productive lives through sobriety



Unity

- Provides a fellowship of people who share a common problem
- Creates love, support, and connection that help sustain sobriety

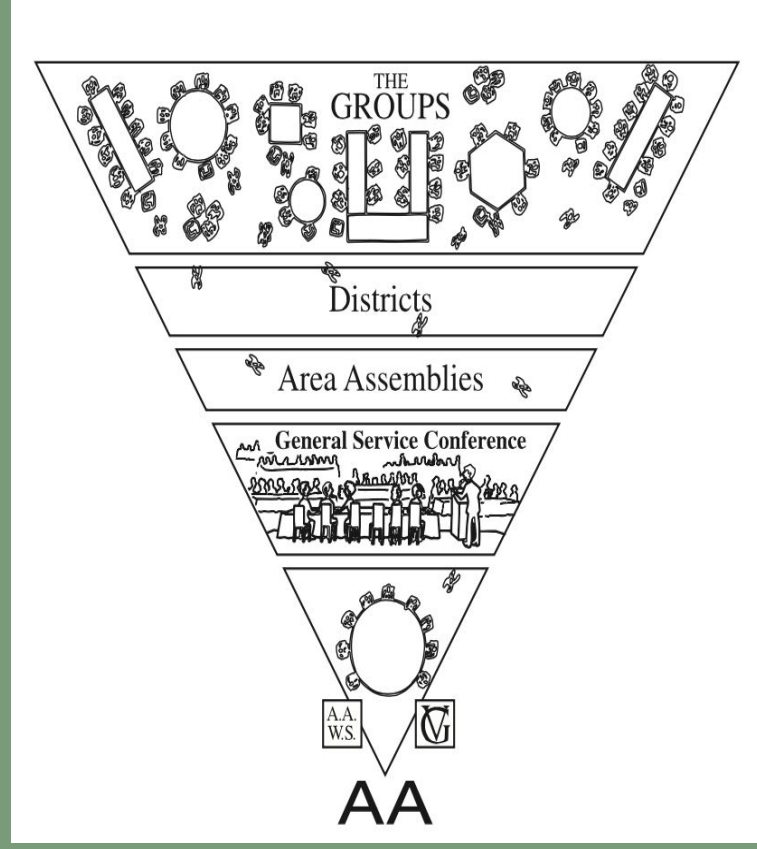


Service

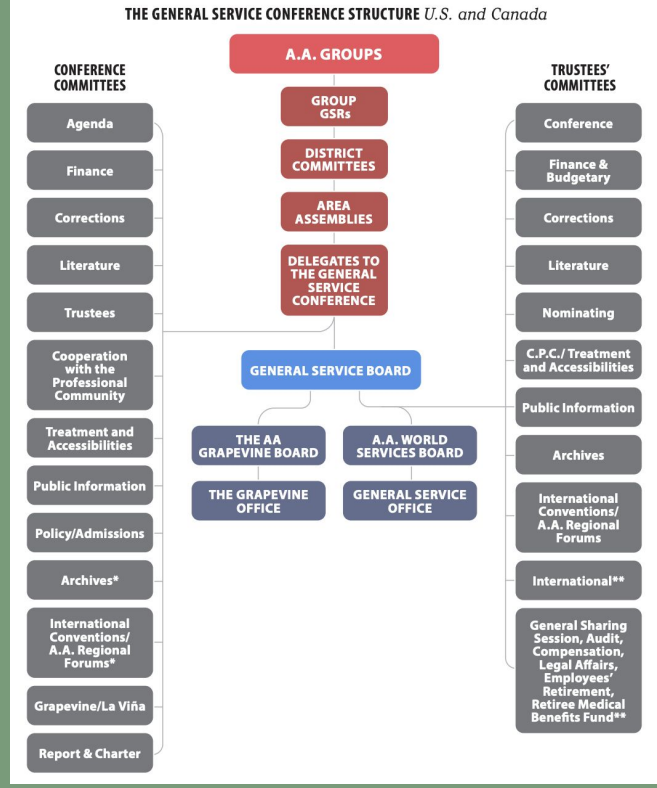
- Gives us the opportunity to carry the message
- Fulfills our primary purpose: "To help the alcoholic who still suffers"



General Service Structure



General Service Conference Structure



Group Conscience

- The GSR is the **link between the Home Group and A.A. as a whole**
- Carries the **group conscience** to District, Area, and beyond
- Brings information **back to the Home Group**
- When the GSR participates, **the group's voice is heard**

"The GSR is that voice."

Voice of the Homegroup

Guardians of the Traditions

Protecting AA's Unity

- GSRs help ensure decisions align with the **Twelve Traditions**
 - Traditions guide:
 - Group autonomy
 - Unity and fellowship
 - How we relate to A.A. as a whole
 - Helps groups navigate issues while keeping **A.A.'s principles first**
- Tradition awareness helps protect both the **group** and the **fellowship**

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Registering with the General Service Office (GSO)

- Confirm your Home Group is **registered with GSO**
- Your **DCM** can help determine registration status
- Use:
 - **New Group Form** (if not registered)
 - **Change of Information Form** (if already registered)
- Help available from:
 - **Area Group Services Chair**
 - area23aa.org

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Why Registering with GSO Matters

You Get Stuff

- GSR or DCM Packet
- Subscription to **Box 4-5-9**

You Get Connected

- Group assigned a **service number**
- Better communication with GSO
- Access to Area committees
- Your group stays informed and involved

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Service Work at District & Area Level

- GSRs participate in:
 - **District meetings**
 - **Area Assemblies**
- Share group conscience with the **DCM**
- Help shape Area discussions and decisions
- Support the Area Delegate by contributing your group's voice

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Attending District Meetings

- District meetings are a **two-way communication channel**
- You:
 - Bring information **from your group**
 - Take information **back to your group**
- Helps you stay informed and effective
- You can't report what you don't hear

Attendance strengthens your service role

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Why Attendance Matters

- Keeps your group connected to A.A. as a whole
- Builds understanding of service structure
- Allows your group to influence decisions
- Reinforces unity and informed participation

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Understanding Group Conscience

- Group conscience reflects **substantial unanimity**
- Achieved through:
 - Full information sharing
 - Listening to all viewpoints
 - Respect for minority opinions
- Guided by A.A. principles, not personalities

(A.A. Group Pamphlet, p. 28)

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	Where Do I Need to Be and When? Regular Commitments • Home Group business meetings • District meetings • Area Assemblies	
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Where Do I Need to Be and When? Area 23 2026 Dates March 1, 2026 — Area 23 Assembly Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Location: Hosted by District 18a Inn at DePauw 2 W. Seminary Street, Greencastle, IN 46135 April 12, 2026 — Area 23 Pre-Conference Assembly Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM Location: Hosted by District 20 Hendricks County Fairground 1900 E Main St, Danville, IN 46122		
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Area 23 2026 Dates

May 17, 2026 — Area 23 Assembly

- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:**
Hosted by District 6
Community Building
4920 N. State Hwy 3, North Vernon, IN
47265

August 16, 2026 — Area 23 Assembly

- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Location:**
Hosted by Districts 24 & 26
Location TBD

**November 15, 2026 — Area 23
Assembly**

- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:**
Abe Martin Lodge
1405 IN-46 W, Nashville, IN 47448

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	- District & Area updates - Upcoming Assemblies & events - Conference agenda items - Service opportunities - Financial needs related to service - How decisions may affect the group	
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What Does the GSR Report?

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Don't Skip This - Workshops & learning opportunities - Voting Assemblies every other year Your Vote Truly Matters - One vote can change Area decisions - Ask your group for financial support to attend		
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In Summary The GSR Role Matters - You are the voice of your Home Group - Participation = representation - Attendance = informed service - Your service helps A.A. continue to function and grow		
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Why the Home Group Matters - The Home Group is the foundation of A.A.'s service structure - Most A.A. members find continued sobriety through: - Service responsibilities - Ongoing fellowship - Voting on issues affecting A.A. as a whole - The Home Group is where ultimate authority begins <i>"The A.A. groups today hold ultimate authority for our world services."</i> — Bill W., Concept I		
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GSR & Group Conscience

- The GSR **carries the group conscience** beyond the Home Group
- Group conscience reflects:
 - Shared information
 - Open discussion
 - Respect for minority opinions
- Decisions are made through **substantial unanimity**, not control

The GSR ensures the group's conscience is **heard, respected, and represented**

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Guiding Principles for Group Health

- The Twelve Traditions help groups:
 - Maintain unity
 - Avoid outside influence
 - Stay focused on A.A.’s primary purpose
- The GSR helps the group **apply the Traditions** when questions arise
- Traditions protect both the **group** and **A.A. as a whole**

Types of Home Group Meetings

Business Meetings

- Administrative and service-focused

Group Inventory Meetings

- Evaluate effectiveness in carrying the message
- Review Traditions and group practices
- Both strengthen group unity and long-term health

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Business Meetings How Groups Conduct Their Affairs - Usually held monthly - Purpose: - Elect officers - Review finances - Discuss group operations - Decide contributions - Voting participation may be limited to Home Group members - GSR participation ensures service information flows both ways <i>"Our common welfare comes first."</i> — First Tradition		
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Group Inventory Is Our Group Aligned with the Traditions? - Group Inventory helps evaluate: - Group unity - Primary purpose - Alignment with A.A. principles - Often conducted: - Yearly or bi-annually - By reviewing Traditions one at a time - Encourages honesty, humility, and growth <i>"Some groups take inventory by examining the Twelve Traditions, one at a time."</i>		
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Being an Effective GSR Show Up Prepared - Attend: - Home Group meetings - District meetings - Area Assemblies - Vote — you are the voice of your group - Participate in your assigned Area committee - Preparation builds confidence and clarity		
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Be Prepared - Maintain a Service Notebook - Carry: - A.A. Service Manual - Area 23 Structure - Area 23 Guidelines - Bring information to the group - Carry the group conscience back to District and Area		
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Service Tools		

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	Share information about: - District and Area proposals - Upcoming votes or agenda items - New officers and service positions - Average meeting attendance - Group concerns (location changes, court referrals, etc.)	
	- District, Area, and GSO Treasurer's Reports - Area handouts and Box 4-5-9 - Workshops, events, and service opportunities - Issues requiring an informed group conscience - Reimbursement needs for service-related expenses	
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Contributions & Support

- Online donations available at **aa.org**
- Mail options:
 - **GSO** — PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, NY
 - **Area 23** — PO Box 546, Indianapolis, IN
- The Seventh Tradition ensures A.A. remains **self-supporting**

In Summary

The GSR & the Home Group

- The Home Group is the **heart of A.A.**
- The GSR connects the group to A.A. as a whole
- Communication, preparation, and participation matter
- When the GSR serves well, **the group is heard**

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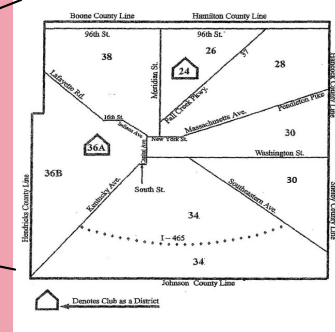
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Area 23 Officers & Committee Members

Who Serves the Area?

- Area Officers provide leadership and continuity
- Committee Chairs support specific service functions
- Positions are filled through **trusted service**, not authority
- GSRs may be assigned to committees by lot

Area 23 Districts



- Area 23 is divided into **multiple districts**
- Each district:
 - Supports local groups
 - Is served by a **DCM**
- GSRs attend their **district meetings**
- Districts are the bridge between Groups and Area

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	• 2 Hancock, Rush, Shelby • 4 Bartholomew, Decatur, Franklin-(Oldenburg meeting) • 6 Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, Washington • 8 Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland • 10 Brown, Owen, Orange, Martin, Monroe, Lawrence • 12 Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Harrison, Perry, • Pike, Spencer, Warrick • 14 Posey, Vanderburgh, Gibson • 16 Green, Sullivan, Daviess, Knox • 18a Clay, Montgomery, Putnam • 18b Vigo (South of Crawford Street) • 18c Parke, Vermillion, Vigo (North of Crawford Street)	
	• 20 Hendricks, Morgan • 22 Boone, Hamilton • 24 The Carvel Club (Meetings) • 26 N-NE Marion County • 28 E-NE Marion County • 30 E-SE Marion County • 34 Southside Marion County and Greenwood in Johnson County • 36a Westside Club in Marion County (Meetings) • 36b Westside Marion County (Outside of the Westside Club) • 38 NW Marion County, • 40a Randolph, Wayne • 40b Fayette, Henry, Union, Franklin • 42 Spanish Linguistic (non-geographic district)	
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Why This Matters to GSRs

- Area 23 is **your support system**
- Committees exist to help groups succeed
- Knowing who to contact:
 - Saves time
 - Strengthens communication
 - Helps your group stay connected

You are never serving alone

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Area 23 Officers Chair — Alan Griffin chairperson@area23aa.org Alternate Chair — Savannah Tokarz alternatchair@area23aa.org Delegate — Todd Kowinski delegate@area23aa.org Alternate Delegate — Lisa Jones alternatedelegate@area23aa.org Secretary — Bruce Jones secretary@area23aa.org Alternate Secretary — Bo Scott alternatesecretary@area23aa.org Treasurer — Heather Gottbrath treasurer@area23aa.org Alternate Treasurer — Christopher Shober alternatetreasurer@area23aa.org		
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next assembly

March 1, 2026 Area 23 Assembly

- Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**
- Location: Hosted by District 18a
Inn at DePauw
2 W. Seminary Street, Greencastle, IN
46135