

aaHG Group Conscience

Minutes

Date: December 10, 2025

Time: 6:00pm EST.

Chair: Ash Megan

Opening Prayer

Set Aside Prayer, led by Marissa M.

Tradition of the Month Reading

Tradition 12; "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." - p. 184, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Gary M read and spoke on this Tradition and Ash then shared the following from AA Comes of Age.

***Bill W
noted in
AA Comes
of Age that
the:***

“Traditions are a guide to better ways of working and living, and they are also an antidote for our various maladies. The Twelve Traditions are to group survival and harmony what AA’s Twelve Steps are to each member’s sobriety and peace of mind... But the Twelve Traditions also point straight at many of our individual defects. By implication, they ask each of us to lay aside pride and resentment. They ask for personal as well as group sacrifice... The Traditions guarantee the equality of all members... They show how we may best relate ourselves to each other and to the world outside.”

Steering Committee Members Present

Ash M., Big Bob, Jo Unicorn, Melody, Deron W, Nicole C, Brent W, Liz P, Celina, Angela R, Marissa M, Harold, Albert C, Bob C, Duane & Ryan M.

Other AA Home Group members were in attendance in support of our Group Conscience.

Reports

We were not presenting this month so as to get through business. Ash Megan started proceedings by speaking on our purpose as a group.



We serve our fellowship by:



Guiding Operations:

We address organizational and logistical needs, such as training trusted servants, coordinating schedules, determining best practices for the safety of our group, and managing our technical resources.



Overseeing Finances:

We maintain transparency, uphold sound financial practices, and handle contributions responsibly to support the group's self-sustaining approach.



Upholding AA Traditions:

We advance AA's primary purpose of helping alcoholics achieve sobriety and support aaHG's mission to provide 24/7 online meetings, as outlined in our bylaws.



Resolving Group Issues and Conflicts:

We address challenges in line with AA's principles, fostering a harmonious and supportive fellowship.



By working together with shared dedication and accountability, we strengthen our group's foundation, ensuring it remains a reliable and welcoming space for all seeking recovery and mutual support.



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Motion:

Ricardo's Motion was tabled at the Steering Committee Meeting due to him not being in attendance. He was contacted by Ash Megan on multiple occasions to present his motion, but she never received a response back from him. Ash Meghan said that she would try to meet with him again and will be referring him to the IT Chair and Co-chair for discussion.

MOTION TO CLARIFY AND EXPAND AD HOC COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

I move that aaHomeGroup **amend Section 3, Item 2** of the bylaws and **strike Item 12 of Section 2** to remove conflicting language, clarify the Chair's authority regarding ad hoc committees, and expand opportunities for Trusted Servant participation.

The current bylaws imply that only Steering Committee members may be appointed to ad hoc committees. Additionally, Item 12 in Section 2 creates confusion by suggesting that any Steering Committee Chair may form a "subcommittee," which overlaps with the Chair's authority to create ad hoc committees.

This motion clarifies the distinction between ad hoc committees and SC subcommittees so that our bylaws are consistent and easy to understand.

CHANGES THAT WOULD BE MADE

~~11. The SC may create and appoint ad hoc committees as needed for specific purposes (e.g., Grievance Committee). The members of these committees will be members of the SC.~~

11. Any SC Chair may form a subcommittee, if needed, to assist them in fulfilling the mission of their area of service. The SC Chairs shall decide how many persons will be included in their specific subcommittee. Members of these subcommittees are not elected by the Group Conscience. Subcommittee members are not considered to be members of the SC.

Ash Megan moved to amend the AAHG section three, item two of the bylaws and strike item 12 of section two to remove conflicting language. This is to clarify the chair's authority regarding aaHG Ad Hoc committees and expand the opportunities for Trusted Servant participation.

It would give her the ability as chair to go and ask any Trusted Servant, if they are a Trusted Servant and they are service members on the platform to join some of these Ad Hoc Committees. So not only will it be Steering Committee Members, but it will also be Trusted Servants. The current bylaws imply that only the Steering Committee Members may be appointed to Ad Hoc Committees. Additionally, item 12 in section two creates confusion by suggesting that any Steering Committee chair may form a Subcommittee, which overlaps with the chair's authority to create the ability to create Ad Hoc Committees. It would give more broader viewpoints from other people. This motion clarifies the distinction between Ad Hoc Committees and Steering Committees so that our bylaws are consistent and easy to understand. This would clarify that Ad Hoc Committees may be composed of any aaHG Trusted Servant, ensuring great inclusivity and allowing the group to benefit from a wider range of skills and experience. It affirms that grievance committees must be composed of only Steering Committee Members. The reason for that is because there is a lot of sensitive information involved.

CHANGES THAT WOULD BE MADE

2. **Chair:** The Chair shall preside at all Group Conscience meetings of aaHG and facilitate Steering Committee meetings. The Chair may pass his/her presiding duties to the Co-Chair when needed. The Chair appoints any ad hoc committees **composed of aaHG Trusted Servants.** ~~and serves on all~~ Grievance Committees **must be composed of Steering Committee members.** Additionally, the Chair will serve as the interim Assistant Treasurer if the Treasurer resigns; the Chair always has access to any and all of aaHG's financial information.

Strike item 12 of section two, because the wording conflicts with the chair's responsibility to create and appoint Ad Hoc Committees. The Steering Committee Chairs may still create Subcommittees to support their area of service. However, these are operational support groups, not Ad Hoc Committees and are not considered extensions of the Steering Committee. Then we got the change that would be made, and the number 11 is what's already on the bylaws. Number 11 says the Steering Committee, not the Chair, the Steering Committee can create and appoint Ad Hoc Committees as needed for specific purposes. This just defines it better in that the Chair would have the ability to create these Subcommittees and Ad Hoc Committees so that Trusted Servants can be involved – it is not then only composed of Steering Committee Members. Any Steering Committee Chair may form a Subcommittee, meaning Scheduling Chair, a Safety Chair, Co-chairs, Training Co-chairs, the Chair and the Secretary. If assistance is needed, then the Chair shall preside at all Group Conscience meetings of aaHG. The Chair may pass his or her proceeding duties to the Co-chair when needed.

RECOMMENDATION

Therefore I move that the bylaws be updated as follows:

SECTION 2: STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)

Proposed Change: Remove Item 11 and renumber Item 12 to become the new number 11.

SECTION 3: OFFICERS

2. Chair

Proposed Language: "The Chair shall preside at all Group Conscience meetings of aaHG and facilitate Steering Committee meetings. The Chair may pass his/her presiding duties to the Co-Chair when needed. The Chair appoints any ad hoc committees composed of aaHG Trusted Servants. Grievance Committees must be composed of Steering Committee members. Additionally, the Chair will serve as the interim Assistant Treasurer if the Treasurer resigns; the Chair always has access to any and all of aaHG's financial information."

Celina B. asked if the language at 11 is being switched from any Steering Committee may form a Subcommittee Chair? Ash Megan responded by saying that it will be her and any of the other Chairs of either, Safety, Training and/or IT. This will mean that any Steering Committee Chair will be able to create an Ad Hoc Committee. It will give the ability for it to be any Trusted Servant. We are going to give any Trusted Servant the ability to serve on the Subcommittee. She continued to say that the Chairs on the Steering Committee would be the ones to appoint, but we do not have to pick just Steering Committee Members to serve on the Ad Hoc Committees. We could pick anybody that is a Trusted Servant, as long as they're doing service.

Duane shared that he found point 11 confusing. Essentially, the example is given through the Grievance Committee. He said that it must be more carefully controlled, indicating that putting 11 there in the first place is not practical. It matters that their functions can form Subcommittees. The issue he had is with it being only from Trusted Servants among either the Steering Committee or the whole term Trusted Servant, as it gets kind of vague. It also precludes being able to bring in outside expertise subject matter experts in specific types of areas, whether it be like the treasurer needing legal assistance or any kind of Subcommittee, especially with IT.

He continued to say that we need people that are willing to sponsor, hold and build in those areas. It may be someone providing a service for us. He added that the Language is a little bit limiting when we are talking about all the Subdepartments being able to create Subcommittees. They have a lot of freedom to get the help they need to get the job done to be on those committees. Ash Megan responded that her vision is to have more voices heard and to have more people involved. Duane said that he is all for the removal of number 11. He was not sure about the language of number 12. He just wanted to make sure it does not cause more confusion and pain than it's trying to solve. It was suggested that the Language be revised before the motion was voted on to pass by Duane.

Angela R. wondered if instead of limiting it to Trusted Servants, it should be any member of aaHG that could participate in Ad Hoc Committees. Celina B. asked if there is a way to separate from the grievance portion in 11 so that it's its own entity and it's not combined so that there are no causes for confusion?

Jeff said that, if the only issue is in paragraph two, where it says, aaHG Trusted Servants, we could make a friendly amendment and change that to an aaHomegroup member and move forward. Bob C. interjected about the language of any Trusted Servant versus any homegroup member. He shared that one of the things discussed in the MAL Committee Meeting was that they wanted people that were already committed to the group to join these committees.

Liz P. shared that she does not think that 11 needs to be changed at all. That was just being used as an example of a type of committee. For number 11, the one that they were saying they will strike out, is because number 12 is trying to say what number 11 was saying, and they conflict with each other. A separate clause for the Grievance Committee does not have to be done, however, they might need to modify the language. She followed up to say just to give people a little bit of a sense of what happened; the motion was made with the Members At Large, and they came with a recommendation, and then the Steering Committee reviewed it, and they all voted to bring it forward with a two-thirds vote.

And so, by striking number 11, they are basically saying that they are taking out any confusion between Ad Hoc Committees, because only the Chair appoints Ad Hocs and Subcommittees. Any Subcommittee Chair can form a Subcommittee. Grievance Committees have never been Subcommittees, so that has nothing to do with Subcommittee Chairs. By saying that the Steering Committee may create Ad Hoc Committees, was confusing because it made it sound like any Steering Committee member could create an Ad Hoc Committee. Any other Steering Committee leader can form a Subcommittee, i.e. IT. They can all form as many Subcommittees as they want. It was just to clear it up to say any member of the Steering Committee that needs to create a Subcommittee, can do that. The Grievance Committee being used isn't a good example.

It was thought that they wanted to give opportunities to the Trusted Servants, to people who are dedicated to this platform. A wording shift might be needed. Celina commented on the fact that they are looking at members of alcoholics. You are a member, when you say you are a member. This is not about the fact that we are on Zoom. This is about the fact that we are an AA meeting of alcoholics and non-alcoholics. And you're a member when you say you are a member. She thinks that anybody should have the right to be a part of and participate in this fellowship, even though we are on Zoom, which is different from a brick-and-mortar meeting. She thought that it is very important to look at wording making sure we are not separating anyone. She did not think that expertise needs to be included or mandatory. If we have gifts because of those credentials that we can offer to AA, then that is a blessing.

Nicole said that she feels responsible, because she was the one who pointed out the inconsistency in the bylaws. They met and discussed it in a small group. They were all in agreement on getting rid of number 11 in section two. She then stated that she does not feel the need to change anything else.

She was hoping that, ideally, they were going to try to get this through quickly because there is more important business to do. She continues to speak of one of the Committees that has been formed recently and it already has members who are not technically Trusted Servants. She believes that this just complicates it by adding that extra language. She also said that the grievance Committee Process is already defined as being Steering Committee Members in a document that was approved by the GC quite a while ago. She did not see the need for the extra complicated language that we may or may not agree on. She said that she is in favour of just getting rid of number 11 because that seems like the simplest way to do it.

Jeff shared a way to move forward with the language that the committee has proposed and called the question. One is to make a motion to recommit this back to the committee and have them, based on this discussion, come up with language that they think would be acceptable. They did the same thing at the last GC when the motion for a GSR ran into some issues and some concerns, and it needed further discussion.

Jeff motioned to have some members adjust the wording and resubmit 2nd by Liz P.

Yes 24, No 0, Abstain 10 Motion passed.

Motion:

Motion

The Ad Hoc GSR Discussion committee makes a motion to amend the aaHG Bylaws to include two new Steering Committee positions for a General Service Representative (GSR) and an alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR). The proposed changes to the Bylaws are attached.

Background

The ad hoc GSR Discussion committee met 4 times to consider whether to recommend that the AA Home Group expand the Steering Committee to include a GSR position and an Alternate GSR. The committee reviewed the recommendation submitted by Ato H., aaHG, former Safety chair, and Jeff B., a member in service to aaHG as a Chair and Host (see attached). The committee discussed the benefits to aaHG of having a GSR and an Alternate GSR and considered the possibility of having our current IGR (OIAA Intergroup Rep) also serve as the GSR. There was extensive discussion by the Ad Hoc Committee, including a review of the history of the IGR and GSR position at aaHG. In the end, the Ad Hoc Committee voted 7 – 1 to recommend that this motion be sent to the Steering Committee.

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

The following are the proposed changes to the aaHG Bylaws:

1. **Section 1, Paragraph 2 be amended to include the following: As an international group, international members (i.e. those outside the US/Canada General Service structure), as discussed in Concept IV, the Right of Participation, will have the same rights and privileges as those members from the US and Canada, including voting privileges, serving on the Steering Committee, serving as an aaHG Group Officer (Chair, Alt. Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and serving as the aaHG GSR, IGR or their alternates.**
2. Section 2, paragraph 3 be amended to add the General Service Representative (GSR) position to the list of Steering Committee members to be elected in October.
3. Section 2, paragraph 4 be amended to add the alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) position to the list of Steering Committee members to be elected in January.

4. Section 3, paragraph 1 be amended to add the GSR and Alt. GSR to the list of Steering Committee members.
5. Section 3, paragraph 17 be included as a new paragraph describing the role of the GSR as follows:

17. General Service Representative: **The aaHG recognizes the current limitations of having the General Service Representative (GSR) serve internationally and the General Service Representative will, therefore, be of service in the US/Canada General Service structure. Should the option for our Group GSR and Alternate GSR to serve on a worldwide platform virtually internationally become available, AAHG commits to will carefully consider switching to this new mechanism to solidify, maintain and encourage international relationships. To reflect the international nature of the aaHG, if the GSR is from the US or Canada, then the Alternate GSR will be international and if the GSR is international, then the Alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the Alternate GSR consist of one member from the US/Canada and one member internationally.**

The GSR shall serve on behalf of the aaHG at meetings of the District that aaHG registers **within the US/Canada General Service structure** and at Area Assemblies in the Area that the District belongs to. The GSR will make reports of District and Area activities to the Steering Committee and to the Group Conscience. The GSR will also bring all District and Area motions and budgets to the aaHG and obtain the Group Conscience on those motions and budgets. The GSR will bring any group concerns to the District for discussion.

The GSR will represent aaHG prior to the annual General Service Conference by attending an Area delegate pre-conference report, presenting the current year's agenda items to the aaHG at a regular or special Group conscience meeting and providing the aaHG group conscience on the agenda items to our Area's delegate. The GSR will also bring back the results of the General Service Conference to the group.

6. Section 3, paragraph 18 be included as a new paragraph describing the role of the Alt. GSR as follows:

18. Alternate General Service Representative: The alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) shall assist the GSR as necessary and fill in as needed. If the GSR position becomes vacant, the Alt. GSR will automatically become the GSR, A special, off-cycle election can be held if the Alt. GSR is unable to serve as the GSR for the remainder of the term. **If the Alternate GSR is international, then the GSR will be from the US or Canada and if the GSR is international, then the Alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the Alternate GSR consist of one member from the US/Canada and one member internationally.**

7. Section 4, paragraph 3p be added to define the eligibility requirements for the GSR position as:

p. General Service Representative

- ~~Mandatory~~ 2 years of continuous sobriety.
- **Been in service to the aaHG for at least 6 months. in some capacity at some time.**
- Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required.

8. Section 4, paragraph 3q be added to define the eligibility requirements for the Alt. GSR position as:

q. Alternate General Service Representative

- ~~Mandatory~~ 2 years of continuous sobriety.
- **Been in service to the aaHG for at least 6 months. in some capacity at some time.**
- Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required.

The changes that were made to the GSR Motion submitted by Jeff and Ato is the description of the General Service Representative. aaHomegroup recognizes the current limitations of having the General Service Representative (GSR) serve internationally. There is no mechanism for a GSR to serve in multiple conferences around the world. We need to pick one in the same way that we need to pick a homegroup. The General Service Representative will therefore be of service in the US, Canada general service structure. Should the option for one, our group GSR and the alternate GSR to serve on an online worldwide platform virtually and internationally become available, it will be looked at. In fact, aaHomegroup commits to carefully considering switching to this new mechanism to solidify, maintain, and encourage international relationships.

17. General Service Representative: **The aaHG recognizes the current limitations of having the General Service Representative (GSR) serve internationally and the General Service Representative will, therefore, be of service in the US/Canada General Service structure. Should the option for our Group GSR and Alternate GSR to serve on an online worldwide platform virtually internationally become available, AAHG commits to will carefully consider switching to this new mechanism to solidify, maintain and encourage international relationships. To reflect the international nature of the aaHG, if the GSR is from the US or Canada, then the Alternate GSR will be international and if the GSR is international, then the Alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the Alternate GSR consist of one member from the US/Canada and one member internationally.**

To reflect the international nature of the aaHomegroup, if the GSR is from the US or Canada, then the alternate GSR will be international. And if the GSR is international, then the alternate GSR will be from the US and Canada. That part was added afterwards just to make sure that there is no question that either the alternate GSR is international or the GSR is and vice versa.

The GSR shall serve on behalf of the aaHG at meetings of the District that aaHG registers **within the US/Canada General Service structure** and at Area Assemblies in the Area that the District belongs to. The GSR will make reports of District and Area activities to the Steering Committee and to the Group Conscience. The GSR will also bring all District and Area motions and budgets to the aaHG and obtain the Group Conscience on those motions and budgets. The GSR will bring any group concerns to the District for discussion. The GSR will

It is mandatory that either the GSR or the alternate GSR consists of one member from the US, Canada, and one member internationally. And then there was just a minor change to the actual description of the GSR itself. That paragraph is all new, but the GSR shall serve on behalf of aaHomegroup at meetings of the district that aaHomegroup registers with within the US Canada general service structure. This does not specify what district and what area we would register with, whether we would go with a local district, which has been done already, or we would choose one of the online districts. That would be the next step after determining whether to have a GSR.

**Motion to Amend the aaHG Bylaws to
Add a General Service Representative (GSR) and an Alternate
To the Steering Committee**

aaHG group conscience on the agenda items to our Area's delegate. The GSR will also bring back the results of the General Service Conference to the group.

6. Section 3, paragraph 18 be included as a new paragraph describing the role of the Alt. GSR as follows:

18. Alternate General Service Representative: The alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) shall assist the GSR as necessary and fill in as needed. If the GSR position becomes vacant, the Alt. GSR will automatically become the GSR. A special, off-cycle election can be held if the Alt. GSR is unable to serve as the GSR for the remainder of the term. **If the Alternate GSR is international, then the GSR will be from the US or Canada and if the GSR is international, then the Alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the Alternate GSR consist of one member from the US/Canada and one member internationally.**

In the alternate description, we repeat that language. It says if the alternate GSR is international, then the GSR will be from the US or Canada. And if the GSR is international, then the alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the alternate GSR consists of one member from the US Canada and one member internationally. One of the other concerns was the language that somebody had to have served on the Steering Committee, but that language has been changed to the GSR and the alternate GSR have to have been in service in the home group for at least six months, which is the requirement for you to be of service on the Steering Committee itself. And we struck out the mandatory two years of continuous sobriety.

18. Alternate General Service Representative: The alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) shall assist the GSR as necessary and fill in as needed. If the GSR position becomes vacant, the Alt. GSR will automatically become the GSR. A special, off-cycle election can be held if the Alt. GSR is unable to serve as the GSR for the remainder of the term. **If the Alternate GSR is international, then the GSR will be from the US or Canada and if the GSR is international, then the Alternate GSR will be from the US or Canada. It is mandatory that either the GSR or the Alternate GSR consist of one member from the US/Canada and one member internationally.**

7. Section 4, paragraph 3p be added to define the eligibility requirements for the GSR position as:

p. General Service Representative

- **Mandatory** 2 years of continuous sobriety.
- **Been in service to the aaHG for at least 6 months. in some capacity at some time.**

Motion to add a GSR and an ALT GSR to the Steering Committee with the outlined bylaw amendments, 2nd by Big Bob. The floor is opened for discussion. Angela asked to reconsider the mandatory two years of sobriety.

Bob C. said that districts and areas' business and their votes go back to their roots and are things that only pertain to their district. He wanted to know how we would handle that. Jeff said that we will just abstain from those votes and only take up the votes that deal with areas. Jeff said that that would be more of an issue if we decide to go with a local district. He continued to share that it is quite different if you look at events that are put on by online districts. For example, the online district that my current homegroup belongs to is District 25 out of Area 72, Western Washington.

All the events that they put on are all hybrid and are open to online groups and to a certain extent to in-person groups. Being an online district, they cater more to online groups and most of the items that come up at the district level relate to online groups. It would be pertinent to us should we join an online district. He went on to say that we had joined a local district, but it was in Area 30 in Massachusetts. That can change and it would be his recommendation that we form an Ad Hoc Committee to determine what district we want to join once we make the decision that we want to have a GSR or not. He also pointed out that we do not have the same OIAA rep that signed us up in that district.

Albert shared that when he first started doing service in AA, in his Service Manual, it said that he had to have two years of continuous sobriety to be a GSR. He agreed with Angela R. that it should be a two-year commitment here on aaHomegroup as stated in the service manual.

Duane asked if Jeff at least elicited some commentary from the international members. Jeff responded that they had four members internationally participate in the Committee and much of the language to strengthen that internationally came from one of the international members.

Duane said that AA groups are geographically based normally and therefore all the GSOs are geographically based too. This was his problem with moving forward to connect to a GSO. There are a lot of people who feel like we are not a real AA group unless we are connected to a GSO or we need a vote, and we are already represented by our local areas for those groups. He continued to say that he knows the value of a GSR in normal local groups, but we are of a basic, lower level reach the alcoholic 24 seven international group and getting involved in regional ideas or AA business just seems outside of the scope of what this group was set up for. He said that he is personally against it, but he can appreciate the due diligence and that he will yield to whatever the vote of the group.

Celina asked when we talk about online districts, is this considered as AA as a whole. She also asked if we will still be a part of everything else that happens with AA like brick and mortar, just online? Jeff confirmed that it is true. He elaborated by saying that when you are talking about an online district, if you look in the latest version of the service manual, it was updated to say that there are now three kinds of districts in an area and to note that in the U.S. and Canada structure, there are 93 distinct areas. Some states have just one area. Some larger states have more than one. New Jersey, for example, has two. Some of the larger states, even more. Texas and New York have four. California has six. He continued to say that some of those areas decided to create an online district to support their online groups.

Of the first two, one was out of Area 72, Western Washington, and the other was out of Area 48, Northeast New York. There are some 50-odd groups in District 25, Area 72, and about 30 groups in District 20, Area 48. Those groups and districts are no different than the geographic districts that exist in those areas, along with what are called linguistic districts. An area can have a linguistic district that is a Spanish district or a Polish district, and those exist in many areas as well. In Northern New Jersey, there are two linguistic districts that are not treated any differently than the geographic districts. They do not have an online district. In Area 72, there is a linguistic district, there is an online district, and then there are geographic districts. All of them are considered as you would expect from Concept 4, the right of participation, is to be no different than one another. They have the same rights and privileges and connect to AA as a whole. Celina thanked Jeff and asked if our vote would then indeed matter, and Jeff confirmed.

Big Bob said that the bylaws given to us by the Group Conscience say that every member of the Steering Committee is elected on a rotation basis and that no one serves more than one year. He asked if it would be wrong if we had to elect GSRs for one year and then come back? Otherwise, the Steering Committee Membership is all changing in one year. He asked if that would be a problem or is that something that the Group Conscience would like to consider changing for just two members? And this would make two members now basically super members because they would not have to stand for election.

Jeff responded that the Service Manual says that GSRs serve for two years. Often, they will serve with the rotation of when the area officers rotate in. However, how Trusted Servants serve in a particular group is really up to Group Conscience. The groups are at the top of the triangle and groups, as we know in Tradition 4, are autonomous. He went on to say that while the recommendation comes that a GSR should serve for two years, it is not an absolute. Nothing is in Alcoholics Anonymous, especially if it does not affect AA as a whole. If we want to have our GSR serve for one year and then serve for another year, we can certainly do that.

Duane said that we have yet to have an IGR serve a full two years ever on this platform. We have been lucky to ever have one make it past one year. We have not been able to keep them long enough to be able to even come to that question in the first place. He went on to say that he does not think forcing the two-year time period is going to help because the group is young and members haven't stuck to it long enough. He added that it would break the rhythm of how we do our elections.

Jeff went on to say that there are three types of districts. Geographic, which is what they have always been. Linguistic, which is like the Spanish and the Polish. And then they have added virtual districts or online districts.

The following is taken from the service manual and was shared with the group.

▼ CHAPTER 2

THE DISTRICT AND ITS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER

THREE TYPES OF DISTRICTS

A district is part of an area, one of the 93 areas that make up the U.S./Canada General Service Conference. Below are the three types of districts in general service.

Geographic District

This is the most common type of district. The number of groups in a district is usually determined by how many groups a district committee member, or DCM, can reasonably be expected to keep in touch with, learn their problems, and find ways to contribute to their growth. District boundaries may be redrawn should the number of groups increase or decrease significantly. (See Appendix F, pg. 112, Changing Boundaries.)

Linguistic District

To encourage participation of the maximum number of groups, some areas have incorporated linguistic districts within their structure. These districts are made up of groups that conduct meetings in languages including French, Spanish, Polish, Vietnamese and American Sign Language. They usually have a bilingual DCM or liaison. Their boundaries may be independent of the conventional geographic district boundaries.

Virtual District

To serve the large number of online groups that blossomed in the pandemic and still remain active, some areas have incorporated virtual districts within their structure. These districts are made up of groups, either new or previously established, that conduct meetings online and wish to participate in the general service structure.

The District and Its District Committee Member

Jeff motions to vote to add the GSR positions with the current bylaw amendments, 2nd by Jo Unicorn.

Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 1, Motion passes.

Motion:

MOTION TO CHANGE INCONSISTENT SOBRIETY REQUIREMENTS IN THE

Hello steering committee and fellow trusted servants,

I wish to make a motion to change the mandatory requirements of the Treasurer, Secretary and IT chairs to 1 year continuous sobriety. This is because I have realised in light of recent events the bylaws have conflicting statements.

It states that there must be Mandatory 2 years service for the 3 mentioned service positions but only 1 year for the Alternate positions. It then states that should the Treasurer, Secretary or IT chair position become vacant the alt automatically fills that position. I don't feel that these 2 points line up correctly and would appreciate it if the steering committee could look to dropping the mandatory requirement to the same as the alternate position.

Thank you for your time, gratefully in service

Jo Unicorn

Ash presented Jo's motion sharing that the Members At Large and herself had met. They realised that the IT and the Treasurer roles should require someone to have substantial sobriety, which would be two years or more. The Secretary role, however, is one that does not move into shared responsibilities and its scopes; its scope is aligned with the Assistant Secretary and equal requirements resolved to conflict in the bylaws. The proposed change would reduce the minimum sobriety requirement for the Secretary from two years to one year, matching the Assistant Secretary so that the assistant could become the Secretary in full. The recommendation continued that the proposed change will increase the minimum sobriety requirement for the Assistant Treasurer from one year to two years, aligning with the Treasurer. The rationale is the Assistant Treasurer supports and may temporarily step into the Treasurer role. We want to be able to have somebody that has a little bit more sobriety in that role due to the position carrying significant financial oversight.

Matching requirements provides continuity and ensures readiness for that responsibility. The recommendation for the Information Technology Co-chair would be to increase the minimum sobriety requirement for the IT Co-chair from one year to two years, aligning with the IT Chair. The rationale would be the IT Chair and the Co-chair maintain essential systems that keep the platform running. The consistent sobriety requirements ensure the Co-chair is prepared to assume chair duties when needed. Ash noted that it helps iron out some of the inconsistencies that we have. She personally felt like we do not need those upped sobriety times because even the positions that have a year of sobriety, people are recommending members with more sobriety time. She went on to say that it does not mean that we are going to have a whole bunch of people with a lot less sobriety time. It just means that if there is a qualified candidate that comes in, that just so happens to fall in between the one and the two years, they could potentially come in and do work in AA and get more involved, especially in this homegroup.

The floor was open for discussion. Andi noted that a year is not enough time to serve on the Steering Committee. Serving on a group level brings more of a responsibility. She went on to say that she believes in upping the requirements and that a different level of requirements would not be a terrible thing for our group.

Bob C. noted that two years for IT and Treasurer is adequate, because of the responsibility the roles carry and that it should not be limited to less than that. Amy noted that she does support the notion of time regarding this motion.

Jo Unicorn said that she has two things to say about the motion that she put together. Whether the sobriety time gets upped, whether it's one year, five years, 10 years, that is totally irrelevant to her purpose of putting the motion in. The requirements simply did not align between the co/assistant positions. There's no governing body, all positions should be ALT and therefore have the same sobriety requirement for the role. It has not only been for the Secretary. The sobriety time should be the same to align with the assistant/alternate positions.

Celina spoke and said that we must all remember that time is irrelevant, as we are all sick people and that everyone does what they can – we are powerless over the rest. Duane said that the reason they went with the lower terms was to try to do that inclusion initially when the group was first started, because we had a lot of members very young in sobriety. He said that they had a hard time getting people who had long-term sobriety to serve in this homegroup, because they already had groups that they were dedicated to and already had certain positions in. Now that it has matured, we can look at higher sobriety times. He said that he would have voted for much higher sobriety for Scheduling, IT and Treasurer. He said that he is glad we have at least the two years as a requirement.

Gary shared an experience with a Treasurer that he had had and emphasised that it is important to be wary of the Treasurer role specifically and the sobriety connected to that as well.

Ato thanked this group for helping get the GSR motion up into the finish line. Having said that, this motion that is on the table includes a lot of inconsistencies in our bylaws. He said that he is surprised that this motion is here, because we were comparing things to in-person meetings. Ato went on to say that Steering Committee members need a verifiable sponsor, that they work the steps, and that they have some working knowledge of the traditions, because the problem for this group, this Steering Committee and the Group Conscience is because we do not have that. He said that if we are going to look at the bylaws and be consistent, he thought we need to look at all the years' requirements, not just these three, because there are others that are there, and some that are not there. He would rather have the Members At Large, look at all our bylaws, rather than motioning changes piece by piece.

He went on to say that the first thing that needs to become consistent is our bylaws. If we are talking about consistency, then we need to pull everything back and go through all of it, and make those necessary changes, and make sure that they are all consistent. He further stated that, at the election in January, if we bring the question to our Secretary, who has done a great job, who did not have the time, and asked that we make that a requirement for her to run, he will vote for that.

Ash Megan interjected and said that this motion was indeed taken to the Members At Large for review. Ato agreed that he understands that. He knows the process was followed, but what he was saying is that they only looked at one piece of the bylaws and he would like all of it to be reviewed to make everything consistent. Kayla shared with the group that choices being made to elect Steering Committee members should be made on the basis of the person being qualified for the position and not because they are advocating for themselves or because they are popular.

Ryan interjected and said that anyone is capable of being on a Steering Committee and doing the job. He went on to say that the Group Conscience must pick the right members, because no one runs the group. No one has any authority. Ryan agreed with Ato and said that we need to review all the bylaws and change it in its entirety. He thought that the best way to change the rules would be to just adopt rules that other AA groups have already written. He also said that we would have more time to focus on other matters if this process were to be explored.

Lilian said that, because this went to the Members At Large, and it was reviewed against all the positions, all the positions that were listed were the ones that had inconsistencies. And so those were the ones that were looked at. She called the question to a vote.

(Jo confirmed in the chat that these three positions were motioned as they were the only ones that did not align having checked all of them. Liz P also confirmed this).

Motion to amend the sobriety requirements of both secretary positions to 1 year, and both of the Treasurer & IT positions to 2 years. 2nd by Jo Unicorn.

Yes 21, No 4, Abstain 0.

Jo asked to hear any minority opinion.

Big Bob asked when the Steering Committee voted on this motion. Ash Megan confirmed that it was referred to the MAL and it then went to the Steering Committee to vote on and quorum was reached and the motion approved.

Ato said that the vote was done in an Executive Session and that this particular step should have been voted on in a regular Steering Committee Meeting. He noted again the inconsistencies of the processes and the delay of motions sitting for months at a time and are not seen to. Ato went on to say that they came to observe, and this motion was not voted on there, and members found out it was done when the Executive Session was called. Ash Megan said that there was a quorum present and that is the only reason it was voted on. She went on to say that she apologises for that happening, as she forgot about the motion and it was mentioned in the Closed Session and was set up for a vote.

Celina said that, if that motion was done in a Closed Session, it needs to go back to the Steering Committee, because due processes were not followed. Ash Megan said that the process was followed; it was just in a closed session with the Steering Committee and a quorum apologising that it was a simple mistake of forgetting to speak on it before moving to an executive session.

Duane said that he is willing to switch his vote to recall the question one more time and if it still passes, the debate will be settled. Kayla asked that, if this goes back, is it going to go back to the Steering Committee in an open discussion and then come back to us? It was confirmed. n Duane called the question with the minority opinion in place, and it can now be revoted, and if it does pass, then the motion is approved, and if it does not, it goes back to the Steering Committee.

Ryan said that he was under the impression from everything that he had heard from people that brought complaints to him that they felt that the Steering Committee blocked the Group Conscience from being able to vote on more motions. He further said that the Steering Committee Members are the only ones who can vote in Steering Committee Meetings. He also said that now we are voting with the Group Conscience present and he does not understand the issue. This is what the group wanted, motions presented at GC.

Liz said that, when motions are presented and are being discussed by the Steering Committee, the people there are observers. If you are not a member of the Steering Committee, all you are doing is observing that conversation. Members do not have input. She went on to say that we have enough people in the room to vote on this motion so we can move it forward to the Group Conscience, so that more people can talk about it. She acknowledged that the process was handled a little backwards, but that Ash Megan honestly admitted and owned up to her mistake.

Jo Unicorn made the motion to vote again. Melody seconded.

It was noted by Bob C. that we got a call to question and then a second. It had to go to call the question and that we would have called the question already and that he already seconded it. Then we went on to a conversation which we really should not have done. We should have gone to the question. Duane called it as the minority reverse and then I seconded it.

Yes 25, No 1, Abstain 2 Motion passes.

Motion:

Jo motions to approve the GC Minutes from November 17th, 2nd by Ryan M.

Yes 23, No 0, Abstain 2 Motion passes.

aaHG Related Announcements

- ☐ Ash Megan shared that she wanted to inform the group that Albert is our new Treasurer having stepped into the position per the bylaws due to the resignation of the previous Treasurer for personal reasons. The QR code, PayPal and Venmo information have been changed. She continued to say that we were given back \$3,100 and nothing was lost as far as we are aware. Hiring a forensic analyst will cost a lot of money and she does not think that it is necessary. Rachel has also given back the money that was still going with accounts that had set up recurring payments. She went on to say that she is encouraging Trusted Servants to inform other members that the QR code has changed for Venmo and PayPal, so that if they do have recurring contributions these can be removed.

Albert confirmed that \$3,100 was sent to aaHG immediately after Rachel resigned on November 22nd and then a further \$50 that was sent in after resignation. He added that she was very cooperative and shared with Albert that she had not received any more money. Albert continued to say that he has an account open with a minimum balance that you need to have to have to keep it. Everything is in his name. He had been receiving money and he said that, at the end of each month, he will give Ash the balance sheet or his balance sheet statement, showing what came in and out of that account. He said that, up to this point, everything is secured. He asked for our patience and trust. Ash Megan said that she would be setting up an Ad Hoc Committee around our finances and discuss some ways that other groups may have handled their accounts.

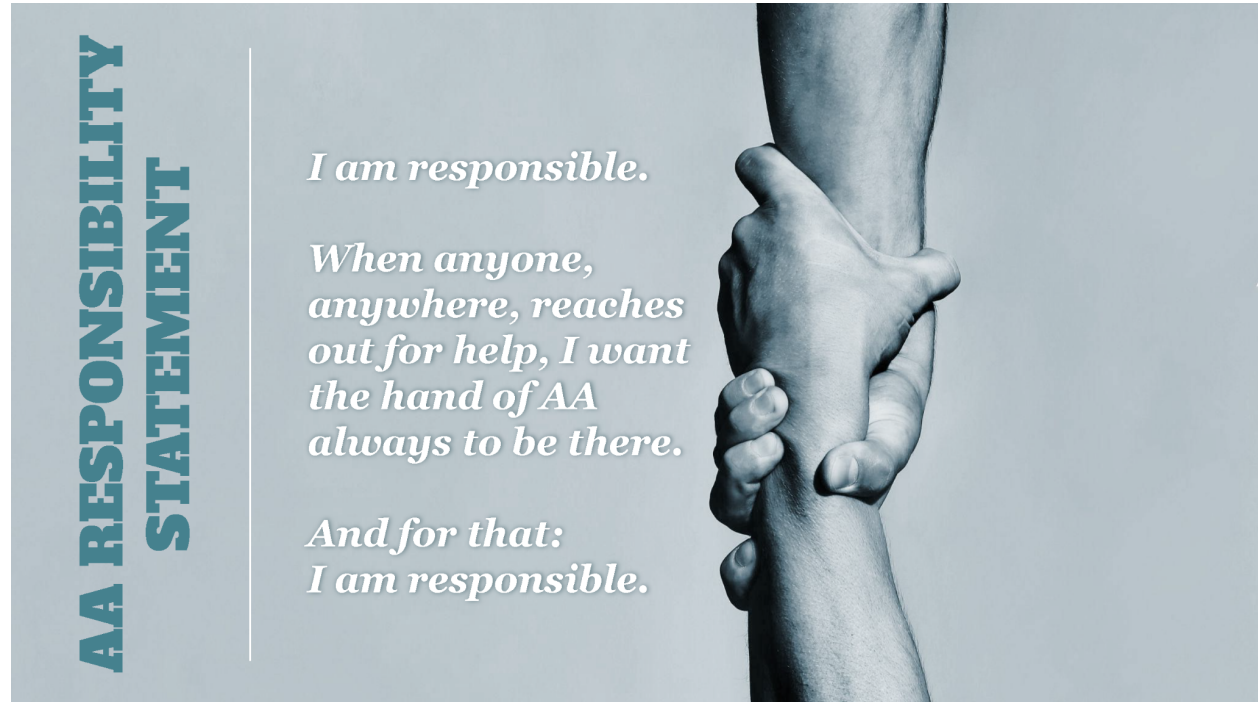
- ☐ The next Group Conscience will be on Monday January 12, 7:30pm EST. This Meeting will be an election for the following positions; The Co Chair, The Secretary, The Assistant Treasurer, The IT Chair, The Safety Co-Chair, Female/Non binary, The Training Co-Chair, The Scheduling Committee Chair, 2 Members at Large, The Intergroup Service Rep Chair and the GSR and ALT GSR Positions.
- ☐ Duane wanted to thank everyone who served on the group. He stated that he is leaving his position in January having fulfilled his 3 years and more, sharing that Liz P. is well-trained with a lot of assets already handed over to her. As soon as Liz P. says that she is comfortable and fully trained, it will be the official last day he will serve.

Closing Prayer

Ash Megan - Serenity prayer.

Adjournment

Responsibility Statement- All

A graphic with a light blue background. On the left, the text 'AA RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT' is written vertically in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. To the right of this text is a vertical white line. Further right, there are three lines of italicized text in a dark blue, serif font. On the far right, there is a black and white photograph of two hands clasped together, with one hand gripping the forearm of the other, symbolizing support and responsibility.

**AA RESPONSIBILITY
STATEMENT**

I am responsible.

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

*And for that:
I am responsible.*