

# GSR News

## Coffee Hour Recap

### August 2023

*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*



### Elections for Panel 74!

I would like to take this moment to thank all of the trusted servants serving on Panel 72 during 2022-2023! There has been so much accomplished to help reach the alcoholic who may not even know A.A. is here to help. This includes our Delegate and Alternate Delegate and everyone who worked so tirelessly helping prepare them for 2 General Service Conferences as well as the Service Committee Chairs and their committee members who helped carry the message of A.A. to our entire community in Western New York. We should also express our gratitude to the Area Officers such as the Treasurer, Secretaries, Registrar and Chairs who helped make it all happen.

It is time for a new panel, Panel 74 to serve during 2024-2025! Hopefully this issue will help answer some questions you might have and prepare you to vote at our election in September and maybe stand for one of the positions yourself! ~Contributed by Amy H.



### Next Coffee Hour

September 11 @ 7 pm

819 8956 5200

Password: service

### Resources:

- [Area50WNY.org](http://Area50WNY.org)
- [AA.org](http://AA.org)
- [Buffalo Intergroup buffaloany.org](http://Buffalo Intergroup buffaloany.org)
- [Gen-Wyoming Intergroup genesee-wyomingcountyaa.org](http://Gen-Wyoming Intergroup genesee-wyomingcountyaa.org)
- [Niagara Falls Intergroup niagarafallsnyaameetings.com](http://Niagara Falls Intergroup niagarafallsnyaameetings.com)
- [NY-PENN Intergroup nypennintergroup.org](http://NY-PENN Intergroup nypennintergroup.org)

### What is a Panel?

The AA Service Manual (2021-2023 edition) defines panels as “a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year”. I think of them like a high school or college class year. Delegates who are elected will serve two years and be assigned whichever panel number is held in a delegate’s first year. For example, the very first panel (Panel 1) was in 1951, the year the Conference began. At the time, there were 37 delegates who began their first two-year term. The following year, Panel 2 had an additional 38 delegates added to begin their terms. With panel 1 delegates being in a position to mentor and lead panel 2 delegates, we can see the importance of honoring the spirit of rotation in order to ensure continuity and growth among our leaders. To date, there are 93 delegates representing the United States and Canada. Since Western New York is Area 50, our panels will always follow a rotation in even numbered years. In 2024, we will begin our 74th panel!

~Contributed by Patrick L.

### Who is on the Panel?

In the Area 50 elections, we will be voting for members to fill the positions listed below. Even if you don’t feel ready to stand for one of these positions, please be sure to attend the Election Assembly to vote for the best trusted servant for the job!

#### Committee Officers

Delegate, Alternate Delegate  
Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson  
Secretary, Treasurer

#### Service Committee Chairs

Accessibilities, Archives  
Cooperation with the Professional Community  
Correctional Facilities, Finance  
Literature, Public Information  
Treatment Facilities

#### Other Voting Members

GSA Education Chair, GSR Orientation Chair  
Web Chair, Area Intergroup Liaison

Your District may also be voting for a new District Committee Member or an officer position such as secretary in the next few months, so there are plenty of opportunities to serve there as well!

### Next General Assembly:

**Saturday Sept. 16th**

**10 am– 2 pm**

**Windom Community Church**

**3766 Abbott Rd.**

**Orchard Park, NY 14127**

**Online:**

**993 4272 4284**

**CONTACT ME:** Amy H.

GSR Education Chair

**F72GSReducation**

**@Area50WNY.org**

## How Do I Vote? The Third Legacy Procedure

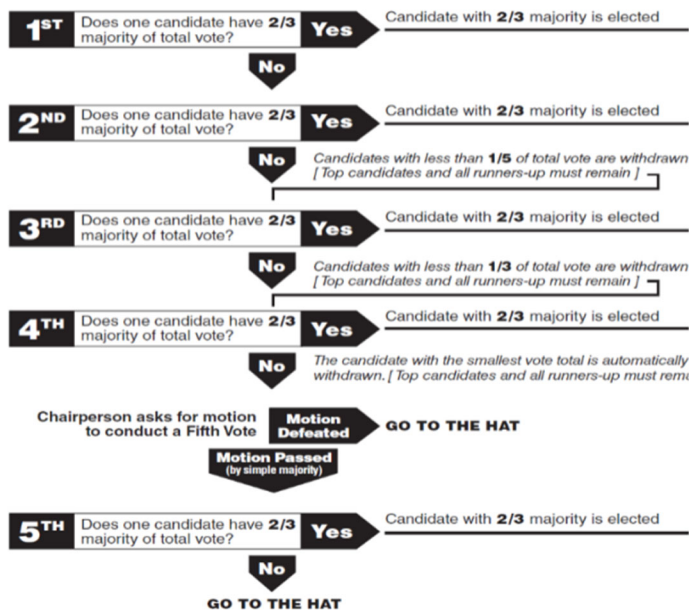
A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

~Appendix G, The A.A. Service Manual

Third legacy voting is used in area assemblies to elect the delegate, alternate delegate/area chair, treasurer, and secretary. The procedure emphasizes **substantial unanimity**: for a person to be elected they need two thirds of the vote. It can take up to five rounds of voting. This voting system is unique to A.A. which is pretty amazing how it keeps us unified.

~Contributed by Megan C.

## The Third Legacy Procedure



## What Next?

**The most important function of the GSR is to carry information to and from your home group!**

Please tell your home group members (and anyone else who will listen) that these opportunities for service are available to them. Our group conscience is strengthened by the number of members who participate, and the goal is always an **informed** group conscience.

## Sources:

- The A.A. Service Manual
- [aa.org](http://aa.org)
- Area 50 Handbook

<http://area50wny.org/handbook/>

## Communication is the Key!

One of the most eye opening things I learned about myself as an alcoholic in recovery was my complete inability to communicate prior to coming into Alcoholics Anonymous. That doesn't mean I wasn't able to speak, write or listen. But it does mean I wasn't able to do those things without being in a defensive or attacking place. **I wasn't able to express my needs without demanding them**, nor was I able to speak my Truth without becoming defensive (since I always made myself out to be a victim). By working the 12 Steps of AA, coming to believe in a power greater than myself, and showing up in service to God and to my fellows, I'm thus now equipped with the ability to communicate all of those things and then some, and have conversations about those things instead of confrontations. Even when those conversations are tough or difficult. You may be wondering "that's all fine and good, but **what the heck does any of that have to do with Service or being a GSR**?" And I believe that it has everything to do with it. It has been my experience that communication, or more importantly, lack thereof, is usually at the root of all misunderstanding and conflict. In regards to Service in Area 50, "Improved communications with the groups and members" was actu-



ally the first of six goals on the Area Inventory conducted in 2022. That alone shows there is a need for better communications between the area, homegroups, and individual members. There have been many times when I talk about anything Area related with people in AA but not really involved much in service, such as the assemblies, the Delegates Questionnaire, or different service events like the NYS Informational Workshop, and I hear similar versions of responses like "oh, I had no idea that was happening". Perhaps that with a bit more focus on our individual responsibility to communicate what is happening at the Area to other members of AA and homegroups, we can all contribute to increasing the Unity in Area 50, little by little. As our Responsibility Statement says "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.". To me, that statement suggests that I have a personal responsibility to carry the message, whatever that looks like. **That includes communicating with other individual members of AA and with homegroups about all the wonderful things that service outside of the homegroup can bring to our own personal recoveries, and to carrying the message to the next sick and suffering.**

~Contributed by Jen W.