

# A Vision From You



January 6, 2024

Dear Area 50 Membership

Members in Area 50 were in an Inventory process throughout Panel 72. From our independent overseer from A.A. in Maine, here are your voices from surveys, roundtables, discussions, ideas, suggestions, what works and what not...we heard you. This small and simple book is from you to you. It is you who found "A Vision From You". Thank you!

Condensed in a simple group conscience, this is the work to be done. This is the next phase for Panel 74...IMPLEMENTATION!

After you've read it, we ask again for our members in Area 50 to participate and be involved. It will certainly be worthwhile...and fulfilling. If any of these suggestions tap your heart, please be ready to make it happen. Any member of Area 50 may be on an ad hoc committee to get it going. If you are interested, please contact me.

This is a project of love intertwined with Step 12, Tradition 5 and Concept 1. The outcome can do more for the sick and suffering in WNY that we might never know.

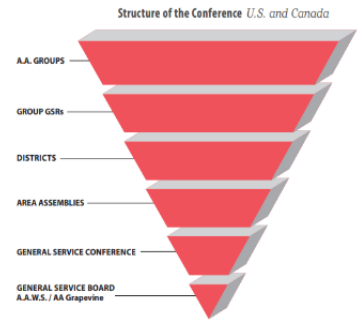
Thank you for your Vision! Now let's get it into Service!

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Area 50  
Inventory Ad Hoc Committee

PS This process is so vital every few years for the Area. AA has encouraged not just Areas, but Home Groups to look inside with an Inventory. Here is a link to the Group Inventory Worksheet:  
<http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/GroupInventoryWorksheet.pdf>  
Perhaps bring it to your Home Group via your GSR.

## Goal 1. Improve Communication w the Groups, Members and Districts

Communication within the General Service structure is reflected in the following upside-down triangle. A GSR (General Service Representative) is a Home Group's primary link in the General Service structure. Common forms of communication used by Area 50 include (but are not limited to) Area 50/local District websites, Area 50 email, announcements, Area 50/local District monthly meetings, and social media sites.



- A. Clarify and enhance communication channels within and without GSO, Area, Districts and Home Groups via phone, emails, websites and more, up and down the triangle. An Ad Hoc Committee may be convened because of the complicated and important work with all communication. Once a robust communication chain is workable, an organizational chart might help members understand the structure of our communication channels for all.
- B. The Area should have a communication position (Corresponding Secretary?) with a Committee. They would disperse handbooks and service manuals, create, print and send flyers, information from GSO, Area50, Districts, and Home Groups...perhaps Simple and usable flyers from the Area would be a great help when the DCMs or others go to the meetings or groups to explain the reasons for connecting with AA as a whole, or when the Districts have Days of Sharing, going out to all of Area 50, etc.
- C. We need a more robust Social Media presence. Perhaps a communication person(s) to gather, send and discuss information via Social Media (with respecting our Traditions and [AA.org](http://AA.org) guidelines).
- D. How to explain in layman's terms the structure of Area 50 and its component parts. We have many resources on Area 50 website (and A.A..org) to help the Districts and Home Groups. How can we get that info into the hands of the Home Groups, to disperse to their members and make the info worthwhile throughout the HGs?
- E. Communication about the Assemblies, ACMs and other Service meetings should be informed Area wide via the calendar on our Web Site and through email lists and announcements throughout the Area wide and timely.
- F. Technology has upgraded since Covid. Our Web Chair and Committee members have knowledge and resources to enhance communication. Perhaps working with others in Area Service and their wonderful resources on Area 50 website can be restructured so that they are more useful to the Home Groups. We should all know systems, and how we can enhance the Home Groups assistance. For example, on Area 50 website we all have our Service positions with email addresses. We could add first names and last first letter to be more communicative with our members.



## **Goal 2. Understanding the role of each AA constituency in General Service**

Each Constituency (Area Officers, Chairpersons, DCMs, GSRs, Groups) and its corresponding description and duties are clearly outlined in the Area 50 Handbook. The Handbook is accessible on the Area 50 website and available in hard copy form.

**Area 50 Handbook Section II, III and IV** [Handbook – Area 50 WNY](#)

- A. Area Officers, Committee Chairs and perhaps all of the ACM can be very viable to help educate, answer questions and help a need. Each of the above should be going to Home Groups and District meetings throughout the Area...at least monthly if not more. We reach out to our members, and report to the ACM monthly. A fulfilling project for all.
- B. Go to Home Groups in your District and make announcements that all AA members have a voice and the importance of having a DCM for their District, GSR's & Intergroup Reps represent their group to help carry the message and the importance of service work in and outside the Home Groups. We all have a responsibility to do this. Our GSRs do such a wonderful job, especially in the coming months before the Pre-Conference and Pre-Conference Assemblies. Perhaps GSRs and/or others in Service can go to a few meetings that do not have a GSR, show how important it is, and help them to be a voice of the Conference.
- C. Help Districts to engage. Someone (a DCM or Area Service person) goes to all meetings and Groups, explaining the need and what it does for the group. Early on, try to get a GSR elected, and take them under their wing, and be sure they attend Coffee Hours for GSR Education.
- D. A Service Sponsor would be helpful to anyone in Service, and AA encourages it. "Much the way A.A. sponsors share their experience in recovery with their sponsees, a "service sponsor" can be defined as an alcoholic who, having made progress in recovery as well as participated in service, shares this experience with another alcoholic starting their own journey in service." [A.A.org](#) Don't be shy to ask someone, either Sponsor or Sponsee!

### Goal 3. Improving the Work and Visibility of the Service Committees

Area 50 has 8 Service Committee Chairs: Accessibilities, Archives, Cooperation with Professionals, Correction Facilities, Finance, Literature/AA Grapevine/La Vina, Public Information, Treatment Facilities, GSA Education and GSR Orientation. More specific definitions in the Area 50 Handbook. Individual Service guidelines are on [AA.org](#)

**Area 50 Handbook, November 2020, page 8** [Handbook – Area 50 WNY](#)

- A. Our talented Area Committee Chairs and their Committee member(s) should go to the Districts and Home Groups to let them know about new options. Notice that the Districts prefer that the Committee Chairs and their committee members come and discuss at a District meeting or the Home Group(s). At least once a month, Area Committee Chairs and committee members find opportunities and help Home Groups follow-through as they want. Form a committee and make it interesting to participate in group service. Then discover what needs to be completed or changed...and then do it with the Districts and/or Home Group(s). Outreach, outreach, outreach! Step 12, Tradition 5
- B. Learn about proper distribution of funds for the Home Groups if they wish via Finance Outreach. [AA.org](#) has flyers regarding Group Treasury, Finance, etc. Districts or Home Groups might want more information for their specific situation. Our Finance Committee Chair may have a specific breakdown of contributions, show what entities do for their Groups, etc. A person from the Finance Committee could go to Groups and Districts with advice and any other information, perhaps minimally monthly.
- C. Last Panel, Accessibility Committee went to each Home Group to hear and find what is needed. It is something to model for other Service Committee Chairs.
- D. Virtual or hybrid meetings can be very helpful to those with accessibility issues. There are better ways to communicate within our Assemblies, Days of Sharing, Workshops, etc., Virtual meeting opportunities and communications methods through virtual techniques are important. This is an opportunity for the Accessibility Committee in partnership with Web Chair (or Technology Chair).
- E. There is wonderful info from A.A.org, including Workbooks, pamphlets videos, etc. Many resources also reside on Area 50 website, including Area 50 Handbook. All in Service are encouraged to attend Workshops throughout A.A.

## **Goal 4. Increase Cooperation with the Intergroups**

The Area and the Local Intergroups (Central Offices) are two separate but vital service structures who coexist in many areas in mutual cooperation and harmony. Traditionally, Areas and Intergroup/Central Offices have performed different functions. The Intergroups are the arms of AA, as Bill has written. Area 50 has Liaisons who help communicate and coordinate information between the Area and the Intergroups, in mutual respect and unity.

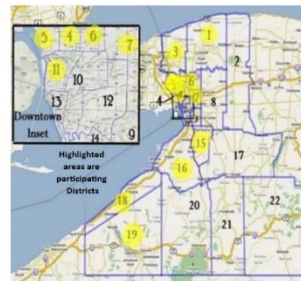
AA Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices at [AA.Org](#)  
**AA Service Manual 2018-2022** [Downloads – Area 50 WNY](#)  
**Area 50 Handbook 2020** [Handbook – Area 50 WNY](#)

- A. Add Chat or Email technology for newcomers. Gift the technology to the Intergroups if they want it. Two Districts are upgrading technology that would attract newcomers. It would be helpful if the Area or GSO would offer help with this. Many other Areas are doing the same.
- B. Having CCR/GSR cooperation can help facilitate communication between groups within the area and in between area. Let's help each other.
- C. Better understand what each of the four Intergroups do and support them. In order to do this better we will need to support the Area's and Intergroup's liaisons. Better unified effort strengthens Area 50 and our Intergroups. Participation at the Committee level bolsters communication. Three of the four Intergroups have liaisons to the Area, and their involvement and efforts are helping the sick and suffering in WNY.
- D. Many ask which one should I support and or serve GSA or CO? I foster a lot of these questions with people. We need education to speak to what the area looks like and the responsibilities of knowing the GSRs, district lines, committees and what is done at all levels.

## Goal 5. Revise and Revive the District Structure

REVISE definition: To make a new, corrected, improved or up-to-date version or arrangement. REVIVE definition: Restore to life or consciousness: regain life, consciousness, or strength: give new strength or energy.

Districts are the vital link between the AA Groups and AA as a whole. Districts and DCMs work with the GSRs who work with the Home Groups, to communicate up and down the triangle.



### AREA 50 Handbook (2022) page 2

- A. Already established DCMs can help other Districts with the 6 Point Power Point, and other resources from Area 50. The difficulty is gathering Home Groups and meetings from the Non-Participative Districts.
- B. Outreach is the most important for the Groups...or meetings, per DCMs.
- C. Many DCMs want an easy and prompt way to know which meetings and Groups are open. It is helpful in many ways, especially when we would prefer meetings to become Home Groups for their voice. How can the Area help? How can the Area better use technology? The Registrar can make this information available, and work with the DCMs.
- D. Get Home Groups and meeting members who wish to be on email list so they can be notified of the events taking place in the District or the Area. Many DCMs have already gathered their members' emails with their first name and last initial. These lists might be upgraded intermittently for new members. Should we also have the lists to the Corresponding Secretary when information goes to the entire body? Of course, for all member lists, only first name and last initial to respect anonymity.
- E. Go to Homegroups in your district and make announcements that all AA members have a voice and the importance of having a DCM for their district, GSR's & Intergroup Reps represent their group to help carry the message and the importance of service work outside the Homegroup.
- F. The DCMC position should be part of the Area. It would help with elections, with prospective past DCM as candidates, frame and list the position on the Area website, etc.

## Goal 6. Re- Imagine the Structure and the Function of the Assemblies

Assembly meetings consider a variety of issues, from General Service Conference business to Area problems and solutions, while sharing sessions, public information programs, workshops, and video programs which keeps A.A. strong and participative in growing service.

**Service Manual (2022) page S36** [Downloads – Area 50 WNY](#)

Area Assemblies should be exciting, entertaining, educational programs with lots of participation. Area 50 Handbook

- A. What more would make the Assembly more attractive to both new and previous participants? Perhaps a survey from the membership and/or a committee from GSRs and DCMs. How can we help Newcomers looking to 'utilize 'the program, but not familiar with Assemblies. GSR orientation and GSA education can help with that.
- B. Information to and from Area members encompasses what the Assembly is about and its purpose. Communication from the Area Chair, GSA Education, GSR Orientation and Corresponding Secretary. Area Secretary takes minutes and sends it to GSO to help others. Send to Group Services at [groupservices@aa.org](mailto:groupservices@aa.org)

The Assembly Should:

- C. Participate in round tables and small group discussions.
- D. Encourage and recognize the group conscience.
- E. Recognize that our fellowship are more people oriented than business oriented.
- F. Recognize the legacy of the Assembly that was not a positive one for a long time.
- G. Acknowledge the importance of Districts rising from the groups.
- H. Find more out of town speakers to increase attraction.
- I. Support and participation of Areas outside of Area 50.
- J. Entertain workshops around the area sharing sessions, Days of Learning, etc.
- K. Recognize the wide range of needs of our large, diverse area.
- L. Address each of AA three legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service!

