

Area 11, District 4 Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee Report



Executive Summary

**DISTRICT 4, AREA 11 (CT)
MAY 20, 2021**

What is a District?



“A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups – right in terms of the committee member’s ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well-being.”

– *Page S31 A.A. Service Manual*

What is Redistricting?



“If it were not for adding committee members to take care of new groups as A.A. grows, the General Service Conference might well become unwieldy. As the number of groups increases and it becomes too difficult for the D.C.M. to communicate with them all, several courses can be followed . . .

Good communication and cooperation among groups, districts, and areas is important when redistricting or other changes in district structure are undertaken. There are many variations, but the goal is the same: to take care of expansion at the district level.”

– *Page S34 A.A. Service Manual*

Charge to the Committee



At the August 20, 2020 District 4 Monthly business meeting, a motion was made and passed (26-3) “to create an ad hoc committee to research redistricting District 4 and report back to the district.” The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting is to gather information and provide a report of its findings. The Ad hoc Committee on Redistricting has the following charge:

Main Objective

Review and evaluate options, feasibility, and possible necessity of redistricting District 4.

Charge to the Committee (Cont.)



In support of this objective

- Form a committee with a maximum of 2 people from each sub-district
- Explore possible effective ways for District 4 to redistrict into as many districts as District 4 deems appropriate.
- Explore possible challenges which may arise from redistricting, as well as possible ways to overcome challenges
- Obtain input from redistricting committees that were created by other districts within our area
- Consult with trusted servants outside Area 11 who have experience with re-districting
- Visit district meetings outside of Area 11 as research on how other districts and areas operate

Charge to the Committee (Cont.)



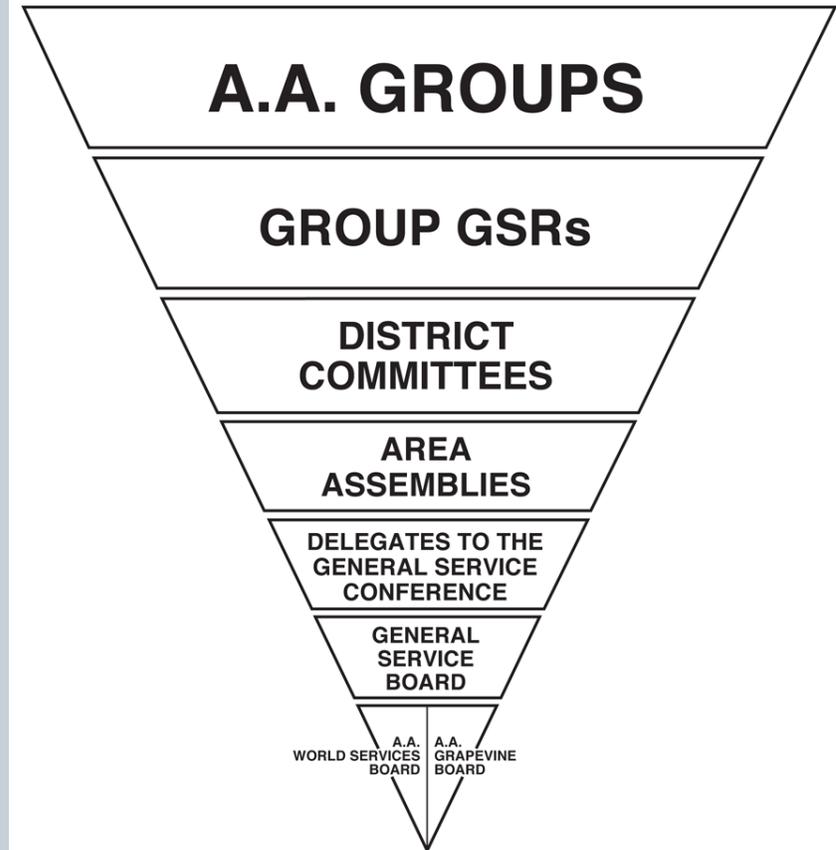
In support of this objective

- Visit district meetings outside of Area 11 as research on how other districts and areas operate
- Research and present data on other areas' ratio of DCMs to groups
- Consult the AA Service Manual as a resource, specifically with respect to the responsibilities of GSRs and DCMs, as well as redistricting on page S34 (2018-2020 Edition)
- Provide a report each month at the District 4 monthly business meeting
- Carry out duties by October 2021, if reasonable and possible
- Present its final report and findings to the District 4 Monthly Meeting in November 2021, if reasonable and possible

Purpose of the Service Structure

- Help more alcoholics
- Make the Two-Way Communication Effective
- Improve information flow up & down the triangle

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



District 4: How do we compare?



Washington D.C. (Area 13)

- 14 Districts;
502 Groups
- 36 Groups
per district

Rhode Island (Area 61)

- 8 Districts;
300 Groups
- 37 Groups
per district

Northern New Jersey (Area 44)

- 44 Districts;
1,335
Groups
- 30 Groups
per district

Connecticut (Area 11)

- 14 Districts;
1,417 Groups
- 142 Groups
per district

Area 11 District 4

- 1 District;
262 Groups
- 262 Groups
per district

Are We Fulfilling Our Primary Purpose?



- There are currently 262 known active groups in District 4
- Many districts in the USA have between 20 and 40 groups
- When districts get to 50 or more groups, they often redistrict into smaller districts.
- The primary purpose for redistricting is to increase the communication between DCMs and GSRs.

Advantages to Redistricting



- Better communication up and down the A.A. Service Structure
- Smaller, more intimate and informative District Meetings
- GSR's can discuss group issues and share local concerns, fostering stronger fellowship among groups
- Smaller districts will no longer need large meeting halls and can reduce expenses
- Less distance to travel to District Meetings
- Having more accurate information on groups and the districts
- Great, healthier engagement within each group
- This helps us to fulfill our primary purpose

Questions Arising from Redistricting



- What if the District meetings get too small?
 - *Experience has shown that may not be as bad as a District that is too large*
- How do we figure out everything that needs to get figured out? Splitting up treasury, meeting location, new District guidelines, etc.?
 - *It would not be an overnight matter. Those items would all require a group conscience. One thing at a time.*
- How do we fill all of the positions?
 - *Not all Area Standing Committees need representation from every district*
 - *Fewer positions are needed*
 - *GSRs take on more of an active role*
 - *Collaborative work enhanced with smaller groups*
 - *Districts can work together (e.g., combined alkathon, shared answering service)*

Survey of District 4 GSRs



- 34 members of District 4 responded
- What is a manageable number of groups for a DCM to represent?
 - The average response was: 35 groups.
- 44.1% of respondents don't feel engaged when at a district meeting
- 26.5% don't feel like a valued member of District 4
- 67.6% say their DCM has not communicated with them directly in the last 3 months
- 52.9% say they have left a district meeting with questions unanswered
- 52.9% say they don't feel as if the district provides GSRs with adequate training

[Remaining questions of the Survey are in the Complete Report]

A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 7 Districts



	Towns		Groups
A	New Haven	47	
			47
B	Milford	40	
			40
C	West Haven	23	
	Orange	4	
	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
			36

	Towns		Groups
D	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
			40
E	Ansonia	23	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
			34

	Towns		Groups
F	Hamden	24	
	North Haven	5	
	Woodbridge	3	
	Bethany	2	
			34
G	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			31

A First Draft: Reorganizing District 4 into 12 Districts



	Towns		Groups
H, J	New Haven	47	47
K, L	Milford	40	40
M	West Haven	23	23
N	Shelton	7	
	Derby	2	
	Seymour	6	
	Oxford	3	
	Beacon Falls	2	
	Bethany	2	
			22

	Towns		Groups
O	Branford	19	
	N. Branford	4	
			23
P	Guilford	7	
	N. Guilford	4	
	Madison	11	
	North Madison	2	
			24
Q	Ansonia	23	23
R	Hamden	24	24

	Towns		Groups
S	North Haven	5	
	Northford	2	
	East Haven	4	
	Orange	4	
	Woodbridge	3	18
T	Clinton	6	
	Killingworth	3	
	Westbrook	9	
			18

What's the Purpose?



The whole purpose for redistricting, as we understand it, is to better fulfill our ***Primary Purpose*** of carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

Formal Motion and Proposal Moving Forward



Motion for District 4:

The ad hoc committee motions that District 4 redistrict.