



AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

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Area 11 General Service Committee

A message as I rotate

Reflecting upon the past two years serving as Delegate for Area 11, I am overwhelmed by emotions. First of all, I am grateful to the members of Area 11 for trusting me to serve the Fellowship in this capacity and for supporting me every step of the way. From voting me in to be a trusted servant to showing up for our pre-conference and spring assemblies to calling, emailing, and texting with messages of support, inquiries about the Conference process, and feedback about issues affecting AA as a whole, the response from the members in Area 11 has been something I will be forever thankful for.

Second, I am frustrated by the ongoing challenges with communication that we face as a Fellowship. The struggle to maintain efficient, effective, transparent, and clear communication continues in an age when so many tools are available and access is at our fingertips. This includes all levels of the triangle but has been of particular concern for me at the bottom of the triangle. I was able to voice my concerns at a recent sharing session of the General Service Conference, and I shared how some of the delays in communication from the bottom of the triangle, as well as lack of clarity and confusing messaging, have impacted my ability to perform my duties as Delegate.

Third, I am hopeful. Throughout this rotation, I have heard from members of the Fellowship from all across the U.S. and Canada, with many different viewpoints and perspectives. I have listened to things that I agreed with and disagreed with. There were times that I felt very strongly about something only to have my mind changed by something that was said by someone who had a completely different experience than my own. One thing consistent in all of these conversations, presentations, emails, statements, etc., was the passion that every single one of these people has for AA. Participating in these discussions and bringing what was shared back to Area 11 opened my eyes to new ways to look at things. It made me realize that there are always many perspectives but that the principles of AA, carried out with love, tolerance, respect, and understanding of one another, will help us to carry the message to the next sick and suffering alcoholic, which remains our primary purpose.

Fourth, I am uncertain about how AA maintains the balance of protecting the integrity of our program and our principles and keeping up with the rapidly changing world in which we function. How do we keep it simple and yet remain relevant? How do we shake the stigma of hiding in the shadows while avoiding the spotlight to maintain anonymity in the digital age? I believe it is possible, but it looks pretty daunting at times. I am reassured when I realize I am surrounded by people who ask the right questions, care about these things as much as I do, and are working toward finding the path forward.

These are just a few of the many emotions I have experienced in the past few weeks as I prepare to rotate. I could talk for hours about my experience and thoughts if anyone cared to listen, but that is why rotation is important. I have had my opportunity. It is time for someone else to step in and carry on the conversation. And while I adjust to my new role as Past

Delegate, I will ask my Higher Power for grace as a rotate and strive to become an elder statesman, rather than a bleeding deacon. I remain ever available for service to the program that saved my life and made it so beautiful, although not always easy. I will serve in whatever way the Fellowship might see fit in the future, although for now, I am really looking forward to hosting the Service Manual meeting for Panel 75. I hope to see you all there!

Update on the *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous*

As I reported last month, the response to this new book has been overwhelming, and the first printing quickly sold out. As I also noted, the first printing was run without fully implementing the Advisory Action from the 74th General Service Conference. Specifically, there was a failure to replace language referencing "addiction" and "addicted" with language related to alcoholism. The General Service Board has acknowledged this, and it will be corrected in the second printing. In addition to these corrections, there will be some updates to the information about the development of the Plain Language Big Book on the back flap to reflect the process more accurately. To read more about these updates, please click [here](#) for a communication from Scott H., Chair of the General Service Board.

Updated 2024-2026 Service Manual is now available!

When I first learned I was assigned to the Report & Charter Committee for the General Service Conference, I wasn't sure what to expect. I knew that our committee was responsible for reviewing the Final Conference Report and the Service Manual, among other duties, but I didn't know what that entailed. When I got into working with the committee, it became apparent that reviewing and revising the new version of the A.A. Service Manual based on feedback from the Fellowship would be quite the undertaking!

One of the things I am most in awe of is how hard the Report and Charter committee worked, along with GSO staff and members of the three boards, to ensure that this Service Manual serves the purpose of informing our members about our service structure in a way that meets the needs of the Fellowship. It was amazing to see it all come together through the passion of all those involved despite many challenges! This updated version is now available for download as PDF or purchase in hard copy at [aa.org](#) for \$4.

Request for Fellowship Input on Corrections Service

As per a Committee Consideration from the 74th General Service Conference, the GSO Corrections Desk is gathering shared experience from the Fellowship on how A.A. members encourage and engage in corrections service. Please contribute to this valuable feedback by clicking the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5J7PVS5>

This survey will close on December 15, 2024. Please share with all members interested in providing their experience, strength, and hope.

Area 11 Events:

Area 11 Round Up

Saturday, March 29
9 am – 3 pm
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield Street
Wethersfield CT 06109

Pre-Conference Assembly

Save the date!

Saturday, April 12, 2025
More details to come!

Visit the Area 11 Events Calendar. Click [here](#), or scan the QR Code.



Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly

**** (NERAASA) ****

Feb. 21-23, 2025 **online**

Website for more info:

<https://neraasa.org/>

2024-2026

A.A. Service Manual

View it as a PDF [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Mike R.

Please feel free to copy this report and circulate it as needed within A.A. Groups, Districts, and A.A. Service Committees.

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