

▼ APPENDIX F:

CHANGING BOUNDARIES: REDISTRICTING/NEW DELEGATE AREA/NEW REGION

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 DCM to communicate with them all, several courses can be followed:

New Districts: Divide the district into two or more districts, each with its own DCM.

Local Committee Member (LCM): A large district could divide itself into smaller districts (often called subdistricts or local districts), each electing a local committee member. Depending on area practice, these LCMs may or may not be voting members of the area committee and may or may not hold regular meetings with the GSRs they serve.

District Committee Member Chairperson (DCMC): A large district in a city or county may hold regular meetings led by a DCMC, who serves as the link between the district and the area. Within this large district, there are as many district subdivisions as needed to adequately serve the groups. Each of these may be called a subdistrict, local district, or zone. Each is served by a DCM, who may hold regular meetings of GSRs. In some areas, these DCMs are voting members of the area committee and assembly; in some, they are not.

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.

When additional committee members are elected to respond to expansion, qualifications and election methods listed for a DCM can serve as guidelines.

FORMING A NEW DELEGATE AREA

If the A.A. population seems to have grown to the point where the current delegate and other trusted servants can no longer provide adequate service and communication, there may be local interest in forming a new area. In such a case, the area committee or Committees involved may write to G.S.O. and request an application for an additional delegate area.

This four-page application form requests detailed information about the current area structure:

- How often assemblies are held
- Whether there is an alternate delegate
- How often district meetings are held
- Number of active DCMs and whether they assist the delegate and alternate delegate
- Number of active GSRs in the area
- Geographical and A.A. population information about the area and its pattern of growth over the past five years, broken down to yearly figures

The application form is designed to determine problems regarding geography and A.A. population, as well as whether or not the current area service structure is as well developed as it might be to provide support for the delegate.

When such a request came up at the 1961 Conference, a memo from co-founder Bill W. provided background on the subject. Bill wrote (in part): “It should be reemphasized that the Conference is not a political body, demanding a completely rigid formula of representation. What we shall need will always be enough delegates at the Conference to afford a reliable cross section of A.A. plus enough more to make sure of good local communication.”

REQUESTING A CHANGE OF REGION

Similarly, an area may decide that it should be part of a different region. In that case:

- The GSRs in that area will be informed in advance by the area committee of the necessary facts—both advantages and disadvantages—in order to make a sound decision in requesting a change of region.
- A simple majority (one-half plus one) of GSRs should be present (or respond to a mail poll). Two-thirds of the majority present or responding should agree before an area petitions for a change of region.
- Upon notification by the delegate of the plan to change regions, the General Service Office will provide a form to be filled in by the delegate, indicating that the conditions outlined have been fulfilled.
- The delegate from the requesting area will write, on behalf of the assembly, to the secretary of the trustees’ Nominating Committee, stating the request and enclosing the completed form. The delegate will also send copies of the letter and form to the trustees in the two regions involved.
- The delegate will ask G.S.O. to send a letter to all of the area delegates in the two regions involved, requesting that they obtain the group conscience of their respective areas on the proposed change of region, and that they indicate approval/disapproval on an enclosed card, as soon as possible.

Approval by two-thirds of the delegates from each region involved is required before the proposal is presented to the General Service Conference for action.

A change of region will become effective at the end of the Conference, at which it may be approved.