

THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The **Conference** represents a vast pool of A.A. experience gathered for decades from A.A.'s all over the world. Every A.A. group can share its experience with other groups through its area delegate to the **Conference**.

The 93 elected area delegates make up over two-thirds of the **Conference**, but there are others at the annual **Conference** session, too:

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

The 21 trustees of A.A.'s General Service Board (U.S. and Canada) are part of the **Conference**. Fourteen are A.A.'s; seven, non-alcoholics.

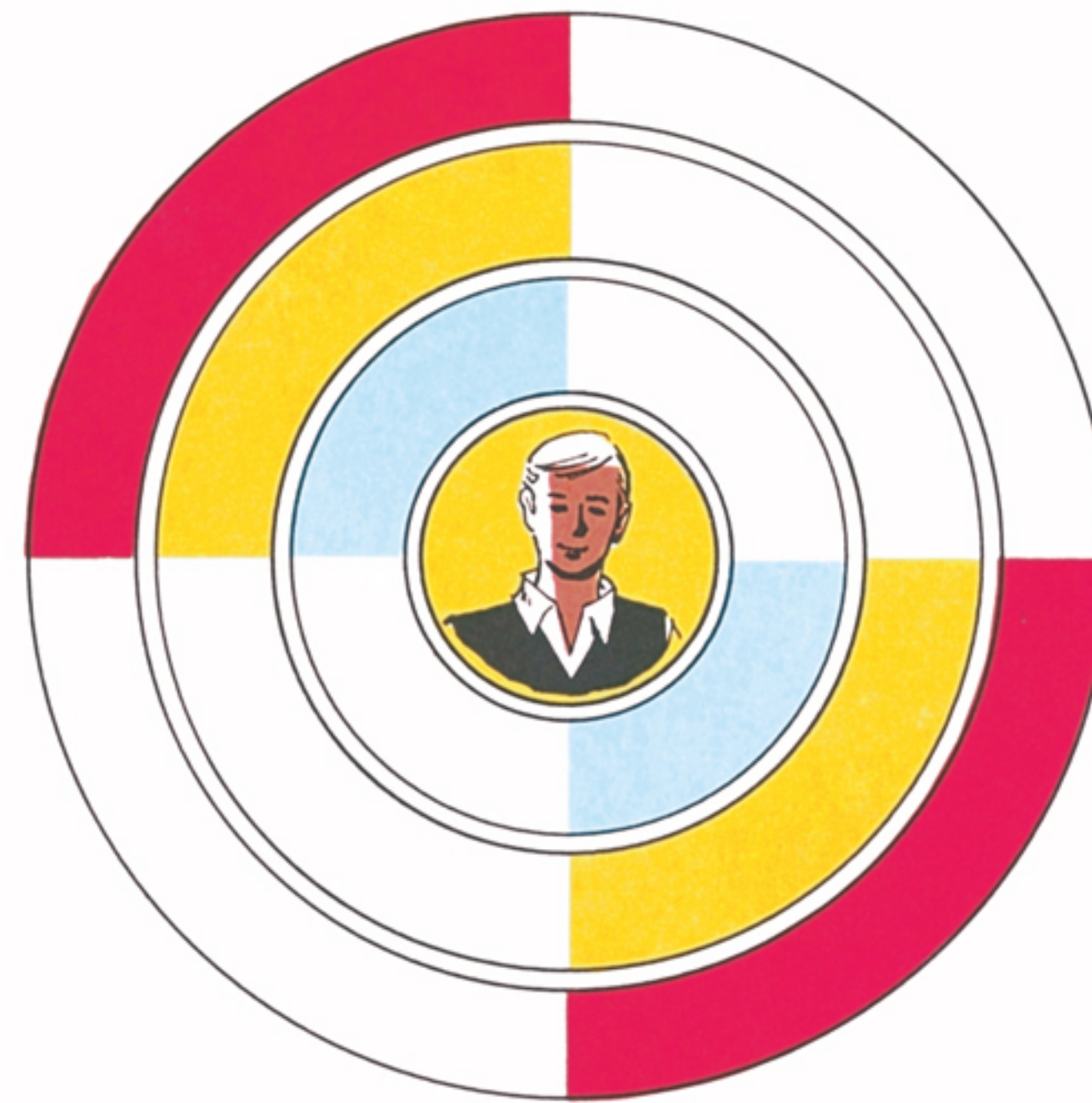
A.A. WORLD SERVICES

The directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. (the legal entity responsible for the business of the General Service Office), and the A.A. staff members at G.S.O. are also **Conference** members.

THE GRAPEVINE

In addition, directors of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and the A.A. staff of the magazine sit at the **Conference**.

Every A.A. group has a voice at the Conference if it has an active G.S.R.!



IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, WE ALL WORK TOGETHER!

All parts of our Fellowship—group meetings, committees, offices, Conferences, and group jobs—have one joint purpose: **to help that one newcomer who has a drinking problem.**

But in order for A.A. to run itself, we have to have a system for finding out how A.A. as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate.

We need constant, honest communications from one part of A.A. to every other, furnishing a wide cross section of A.A. experience. The General Service Conference makes that possible.

(Of course, neither the Conference, the General Service Board, nor any A.A. committee or office has any power to govern anyone in A.A. "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.")

You and I may not need a General Service Conference today, to insure our own recovery. But what about the millions of sick alcoholics still stumbling out there in the dark?

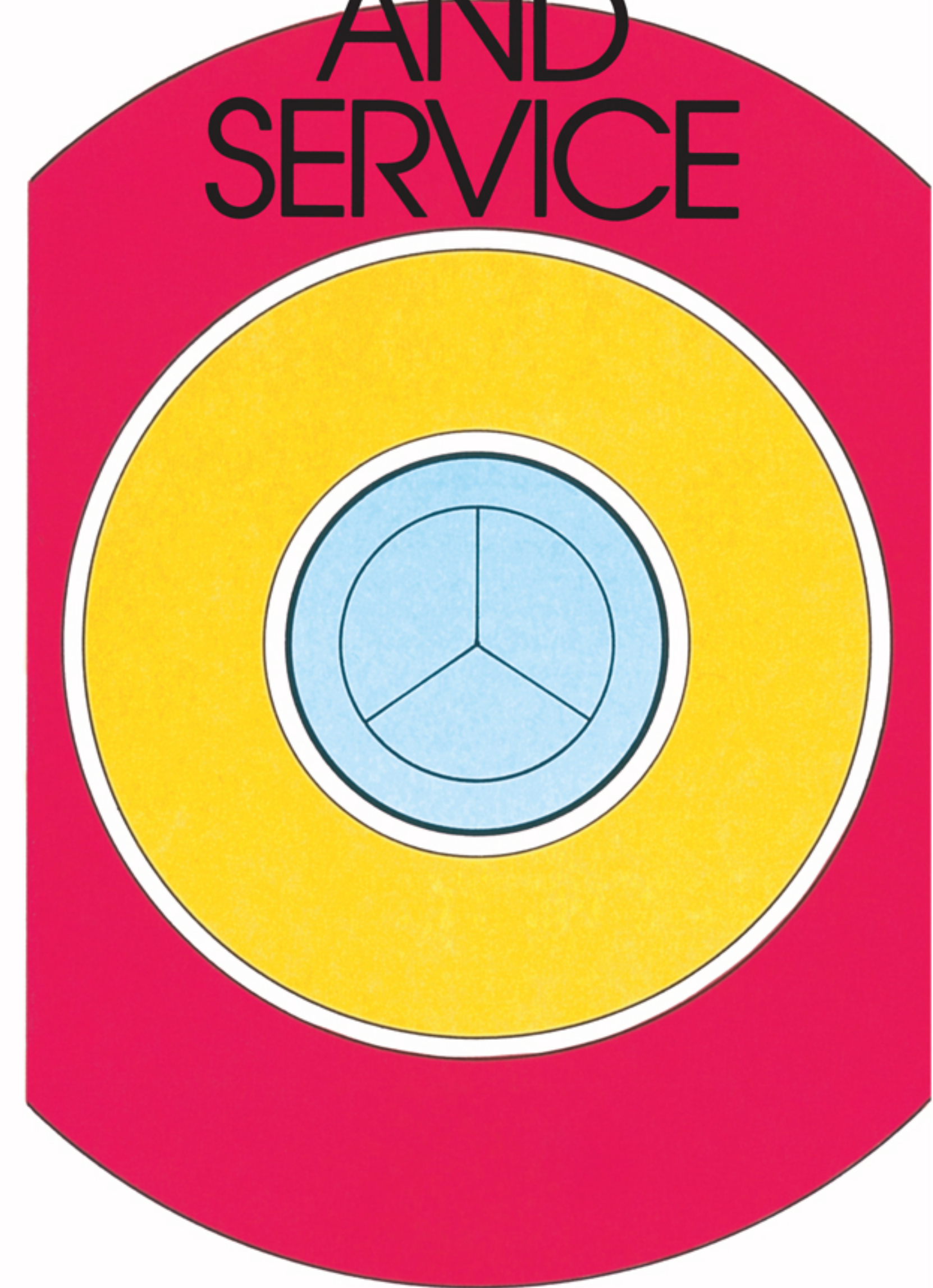
When they come trying to find us, we want each of them to get the same loving help we all had. The Conference—and the whole general service system—has that responsibility: **to keep A.A. alive and well for those yet to come.**

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

This leaflet is based on "The A.A. Service Manual," "A.A. Comes of Age," and the pamphlet "G.S.R. May Be the Most Important Job in A.A." For further information, contact your group's G.S.R., or write P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

CIRCLES OF LOVE AND SERVICE



How the parts of A.A. all fit and work together

Here is THE A.A. SYSTEM for getting things done — to help alcoholics, without bosses or rules



A.A. is made up of circles of people who care. Here is a close-up look at each circle.

The big red circle is the world of A.A. for all the U.S. and Canadian groups (other countries have their own separate systems).

A.A. runs its own affairs, without any outside interference. So each A.A. group needs to make its voice heard on overall A.A. policies. Each group has its say in worldwide A.A. through its **general service representative (G.S.R.)**.

If a group does not have a good **G.S.R.**, it is isolated from the rest of the Fellowship. It does not participate in the group conscience of A.A. as a whole.

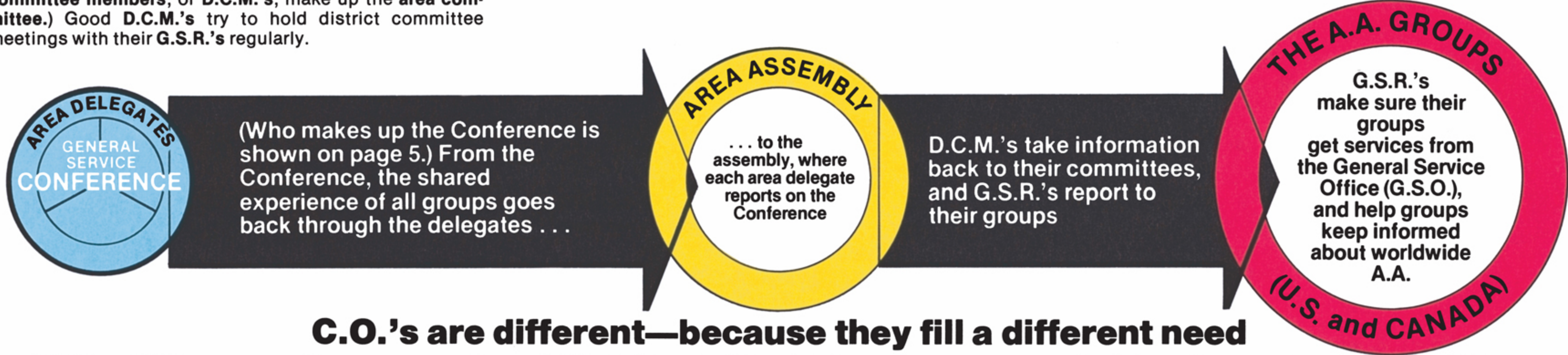
For every district of about ten groups or so, a committee member is elected by the **G.S.R.'s**. (These **district committee members**, or **D.C.M.'s**, make up the **area committee**.) Good **D.C.M.'s** try to hold district committee meetings with their **G.S.R.'s** regularly.



Every group in an area can send its general service representative (G.S.R.) to its **area assembly**, shown above as the yellow circle. The district committee members (D.C.M.'s) are there, too, making up the **area committee**—a sort of steering committee for the **assembly**.

Each group sends its own ideas or problems to the **assembly**, so other groups can share their experience and maybe help. From the **assembly**, each G.S.R. can take back to the group the experience of other groups.

Every area elects a **delegate** to go to the **General Service Conference** in New York each April, shown above as the blue circle. **Delegates** serve for only a two-year term. Like G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, and trustees, **Conference delegates** are never paid for A.A. service.



C.O.'s are different—because they fill a different need

G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, area committees, area assemblies, and the General Service Conference are concerned with only A.A.'s *worldwide* affairs. **Central offices**

(C.O.'s), **intergroups**, and **answering services** are entirely separate. They handle *local* services only—such as coordinating local Twelfth Step calls, printing

meeting lists, and in some places furnishing public information speakers for non-A.A. groups and for A.A. meetings in institutions.