



## SERVING AS AN S-ANON AREA DELEGATE

### INTRODUCTION

S-Anon groups have the ultimate responsibility and authority for S-Anon world services (Concept One). The Area Delegate (AD) helps to ensure that the S-Anon groups can participate in decisions affecting S-Anon as a whole.

### WHAT IS AN AREA DELEGATE?

An AD facilitates communication between the groups in his or her Area and the World Service Conference (WSC). ADs have Traditional rights and the Board of Trustees (BOT) have Legal rights (Concept Seven). They all gather annually at the WSC to discuss matters that affect the fellowship as a whole (Tradition One). ADs serve three-year terms of service and up to two consecutive terms (six years total). An AD may serve additional terms after a period of three years has elapsed.

### WHAT IS AN AREA?

North America is organized into "Areas," with each Area sending one AD to the WSC. There are presently 56 Areas: the 50 states (except California, which has 2 Areas—North and South), Canada (East, West, and Central), the Phone Meetings, and Online Meetings. The ultimate goal is to fill as many AD seats as possible so that the voice of the groups can be more clearly heard. For a more thorough explanation of Delegate representation, please consult the publications listed in the Additional Resources section below.

### QUALIFICATIONS TO BE AN AREA DELEGATE

ADs are S-Anon members who are actively working the program. Having a sponsor, working the Twelve Steps, and having some experience serving in the Group, and possibly Intergroup, is helpful. It is helpful that the AD be willing to study the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service. Familiarity with the *S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual* will be useful, too. Some Areas have suggested qualifications and a description of duties for their AD. It is best if an AD is able to communicate either in person or remotely with groups in his or her Area.

### HOW ARE AREA DELEGATES SELECTED?

If S-Anon groups in an Area have an Intergroup, the AD may be selected through a formal election process of the Area's choosing. In other Areas, ADs may volunteer for service. In every case, it is recommended that groups be given the opportunity to have a voice in the selection of the AD. Once the AD is affirmed by the Area, the AD registers with the World Service Office (WSO) and is put into

contact with the General Delegate Assembly (GDA) which is explained below.

### THE ALTERNATE AREA DELEGATE

In addition to the AD, each Area is encouraged to elect an Alternate Area Delegate (Alternate AD), who also registers with the WSO and is put into contact with the GDA. The Alternate AD serves as a backup to the AD should he or she be unable to attend the WSC.

### WHAT ARE THE AREA DELEGATE DUTIES?

The AD has important responsibilities before, during, and after a WSC. The AD also plays an important role in the local and Area service structure.

**BEFORE THE WSC:** During the months leading up to the WSC, the ADs receive periodic communications from the WSC Committee. In May, ADs receive the motions to be considered at the WSC in July. The AD shares the motions with Area groups, encouraging all groups to review, discuss, and vote on the motions, and then report back with their views on each issue by a predetermined date. Some ADs attend various area S-Anon meetings and participate in the group conscience discussions, while others work through Intergroups and rely on group representatives to understand each group's position on the issues. Others email the motions to members and ask for feedback. Each AD has the freedom to design a communication process that works for his or her Area. The AD listens with an open mind to all points of view from the Area groups and prepares to bring the Area's perspective to the WSC. (NOTE: If an Area is unable to cover all or part of the expenses required for its AD to attend the WSC, partial financial support is available from the WSO.)

**DURING THE WSC:** ADs are expected to arrive at the WSC fully informed and able to present the views of Area groups on the motions to be considered (Concepts Four, Five). During the deliberation on each motion, ADs listen with an open mind to all points of view, thoughtfully and prayerfully considering the perspectives presented by other ADs and the Trustees. The AD then votes on each motion as she or he believes best supports the interests of the entire Fellowship (Tradition Two, Concept Twelve-Warranty Three).

**AFTER THE WSC:** Upon returning home, the AD reports the results of the voting to Area groups. Some ADs

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write a report and send it to groups via email. Others hold conference calls or share the results at meetings. This follow-up is important because it completes the communication cycle and keeps members informed.

## GENERAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

ADs communicate in several ways. They meet together annually on the day before the WSC and hold a monthly conference call to discuss matters of interest to all ADs. In addition, twice a year, usually in April and October, the ADs also participate in a conference call with the BOT. The following activities support informed participation:

- Participating in AD email forum discussions in a thoughtful and timely manner
- Communicating with other ADs on monthly teleconferences
- Communicating with other ADs at the GDA
- Assisting with the development of a report for the WSC describing accomplishments and goals
- Serving on one of the BOT Standing Committees

## OTHER ROLES

AD service also includes activities not directly linked to the WSC or GDA that support the growth and development of S-Anon in his or her Area.

- Working with the Regional Trustee
- Serving as the contact person for his or her Area for service-related questions
- Supporting the S-Anon service structure, referring to Regional Trustees as necessary
- Contacting and supporting new groups

- Providing leadership in understanding of the Traditions and Concepts
- Facilitating communication with and between groups in the Area
- Ensuring that the Alternate AD (if the Area has one) is informed and prepared to step into the AD role if needed
- Attending International Conventions, when possible

## BENEFITS OF AREA DELEGATE SERVICE

Serving as an AD can be a rewarding experience. Members who have served in this role report many benefits, including:

- Gaining better understanding of the Traditions and Concepts
- Improving confidence in their abilities
- Expanding their network of recovery friends
- Being a part of the respectful decision making process at the WSC
- Preparing for continuing service work at the BOT level

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about the AD position in the following resources available at [www.sanon.org](http://www.sanon.org):

- *S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual*
- *The S-Anon Service Structure, L-18*
- Delegate FAQ at <http://sanon.org/areadelegatefaq.html#Q3>

If you are interested in serving as an AD or Alternate AD and wish to speak to a member serving in one of those roles, please contact the WSO.

## Acronym Key

AD	Area Delegate
Alternate AD	Alternate Area Delegate
BOT	Board of Trustees
GDA	General Delegate Assembly
WSO	World Service Office
WSC	World Service Conference



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