

S-ANON

International



Family Groups

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 (AD)?

An AD is an elected trusted servant who facilitates communication between the groups in the designated Area they represent 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 and Concept Two). 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 one year has elapsed since they last served.

In addition to the AD, each Area is encouraged to elect an Alternate Area Delegate (AAD) who also registers with the WSO and is in contact with the General Delegate Assembly (GDA), which is explained below. The AAD serves as a backup to the AD should they be unable to attend the WSC. AADs are invited to participate in GDA monthly meetings.

WHAT IS AN AREA?

North America (United States and Canada) is organized into "Areas," with each Area eligible to send one AD to the WSC. There are presently 66 Areas. The United States has 51 Areas: the 50 states (California has 2 Areas—North and South); Canada has 13 Areas: the 13 provinces and territories); and the Phone Groups and Online Platform Groups each represent one Area. The goal is to fill as many AD seats as possible with qualified members so that the voice of the groups can be more comprehensively 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 typically have several years of recovery and service experience, who are actively

working the S-Anon program, and who have a willingness to serve. Having a sponsor, working the S-Anon Twelve Steps, and having some experience serving in S-Anon, and possibly in an Intergroup, is helpful. It is also beneficial that the AD be willing to study the S-Anon Twelve Traditions and S-Anon Twelve Concepts of Service. Familiarity with the *S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual (SSSM)* will be useful, too. Some Areas have suggested qualifications and a description of duties for their AD. It is important for an AD to have the tools to communicate effectively with the groups in their Area.

HOW ARE AREA DELEGATES SELECTED?

ADs and AADs are selected by registered groups within each Area. S-Anon groups may organize a formal election process of the Area's choosing, making sure all registered groups in the Area are included (Concept Four). In every case, it is recommended that all registered groups in the Area be given the opportunity to have a voice in the selection of the AD and AAD (Concept One). Once the AD and AAD are selected by the Area, they register with the World Service Office (WSO) and are also in contact with the General Delegate Assembly (GDA) which is explained below.

WHAT ARE THE AREA DELEGATE DUTIES?

One of the many functions of the AD is centered around activities related to the annual WSC meeting. The AD also plays an important role for local groups by providing year-round support and encouraging service engagement. The AD may also share their experience with the AAD, to help prepare them to serve as AD in the future.

BEFORE THE WSC: During the months leading up to the WSC, ADs may be asked to submit motions on behalf of their Area (see Part 5: Append H. of the SSSM: "Format for Motions to be Presented to S-Anon's World Service Conference" for resources and timing of submitting motions) and ADs receive periodic communications from the WSC Committee. In early May, ADs receive the motions that will be considered at the WSC, generally held in July. The AD shares the motions with Area groups, encouraging all groups to review, discuss, and give feedback on the motions, and then report back with their views on each issue by a predetermined date. Some ADs attend various Area S-Anon group

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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 groups and ask for feedback. Each AD has the freedom (Concept Three) to design a communication process that works for their Area. The AD listens with an open mind to all points of view from the Area groups and prepares to bring the Area's voice 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 may be available from the WSO.)

In the months before the WSC, the WSC reports from the BOT and its committees will be distributed to the ADs. The information in the reports should be reviewed prior to the WSC, and ADs are expected to be informed on the contents. Questions may be directed to the designated contact via directions provided by the WSCC.

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 and 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 their own conscience on each motion as they believe best supports the interests of the entire Fellowship (Tradition Two, Concepts Three and Twelve–Warranty Three).

AFTER THE WSC: Upon returning home, the AD reports the WSC discussion and voting results to Area groups using a method of their choosing (Concept Three). Some ADs write a report or newsletter and send it to groups via email. Others hold conference calls or share the results at group meetings. This follow-up is important because it completes the communication cycle and keeps group members informed.

GENERAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The GDA is an informal service body comprised of ADs and AADs which facilitates communication and the sharing of service experience. GDA members communicate in several ways. They meet annually and hold a monthly meeting to discuss matters of interest to all GDA members. In addition, the BOT may periodically participate with the GDA members in joint meetings. The following activities are encouraged to support Delegate informed participation:

- Participating in discussion groups in a thoughtful and timely manner
- Communicating with other members during the annual and monthly GDA meetings
- Assisting with the development of a report for the WSC describing accomplishments and goals
- Serving on one of the BOT Standing Committees

ADDITIONAL SERVICE STRUCTURE DUTIES

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

- Communicating and working with their Regional Trustee
- Serving as the contact person for their Area for service-related questions
- Supporting the S-Anon service structure, referring to Regional Trustees as necessary
- Contacting and supporting new groups in the Area
- Providing leadership in understanding the application of the S-Anon Traditions and S-Anon Concepts of Service
- Encouraging service beyond the group level within their Area
- Facilitating communication with and between groups in the Area
- Ensuring that the AAD (if the Area has one) is informed and prepared to step into the AD role if needed
- Attending international conventions when possible
- Working with a service sponsor and serving as a service sponsor
- Engaging in succession planning

Acronym Key

AD	Area Delegate
AAD	Alternate Area Delegate
BOT	Board of Trustees
GDA	General Delegate Assembly
SSSM	<i>S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual</i>
WSO	World Service Office
WSC	World Service Conference
WSCC	World Service Conference Committee

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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 S-Anon Traditions, S-Anon Concepts of Service, the service structure and the SSSM
- Improving confidence in their abilities and identifying new talents and skills
- Expanding their recovery network
- Practicing the principles of the program while doing Twelfth Step work
- 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 member.sanon.org:

- *S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual*
- *The S-Anon Service Structure, L-18*
- Delegate FAQ

If you are interested in serving as an AD or AAD and wish to speak to a member serving in one of those roles, please contact your current AD (contact information found at member.sanon.org) or the WSO at sanon@sanon.org.



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