

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Sarnia Lambton District 14**

**[www.aasarnialambton.com](http://www.aasarnialambton.com)**

**Structure & Operating Procedures**

**January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027**

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## **SARNIA LAMBTON DISTRICT 14 STRUCTURE & OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The purpose of these Structure and Operating Procedures (SOPs) is to provide for the continuing successful operation of a united effort of groups in Sarnia Lambton District 14. *This document outlines the direction the Groups of District 14 have provided to the District Committee by approval of these Structure and Operating Procedures.* All provisions of the operating procedures and all actions of the District should conform to the principles of the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and the most recent edition of the A.A. Service Manual and adhere strictly to the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous - to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

## SECTION ONE - STRUCTURE

The operating procedures shall be reviewed every two years beginning in January of the odd year by District Committee Member, Alternate District Committee Member, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, Secretary/Registrar, Alternate Secretary/Registrar, and any District 14 member who is interested. All recommended changes will be presented to the District Committee to bring to the Groups for discussion for 60 days prior to voting for approval. The changes take effect in January of the next term. The last revision date will be included on the title page of this document. A copy of this document will be given to the Archives Chairperson, and made available to all District 14 Groups within 14 days of approval. An approved copy of this document will be available on the Web Site. ([www.aasarnialambton.com](http://www.aasarnialambton.com))

1. The District Committee shall be composed of:
  - a. District Committee Member (DCM)
  - b. Alternate District Committee Member (Alt. DCM)
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Alternate Treasurer
  - e. Secretary/Registrar
  - f. Alternate Secretary/Registrar
  - g. Sub-Committee Chairpersons for:
    - g.1 Literature/Grapevine
    - g.2 Newsletter/Website Liaison
    - g.3 Telephone Answering Service (TAS)
    - g.4 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
    - g.5 Public Information (PI)
    - g.6 Treatment
    - g.7 Corrections
    - g.8 Accessibilities
    - g.9 Archives
    - g.10 General Service Representatives (GSR) – one from each group
    - g.11 Past District Committee Members (Past DCMs will be ex-officio members of the District Committee. They have a voice but are non-moving, non-voting members of District 14.
2. The members of the District Committee, with the exception of the GSRs, shall be elected by the District Committee in odd numbered years to serve a term of two years. It is suggested that elections be held prior to the Election Assembly of the Area (Fall Assembly of the odd numbered year).
3. The GSRs shall be elected in odd numbered years by the members of their Group to serve a term of two years. It is suggested that elections be held prior to the Election Assembly of Area 86. (Fall Assembly of the odd numbered year).
4. Nominees for DCM, Alternate DCM, Treasurer or Alternate Treasurer shall be presently serving, or past GSRs.
5. If any member, (a) to (g), misses three consecutive monthly meetings the DCM shall inform the District Committee so they can review the circumstances. An election for the position may result.

## **SECTION TWO – VOTING**

1. All members of the District Committee, (excluding the Chairperson of that particular District 14 meeting, Alternate Treasurer, Alternate Secretary/Registrar and past DCMs), shall be considered eligible to vote on subjects brought before the District Committee. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Alternate Treasurer will be eligible to vote. In the absence of the Secretary/Registrar, the Alternate Secretary/Registrar will be eligible to vote. In the absence of the GSR, the Alternate GSR will be eligible to vote. In the absence of both the GSR and the Alternate GSR, an appointed member of the group may attend and vote the group conscience.
2. Motions for consideration are to be on the agenda. All motions require a two-thirds majority, (two thirds of those present and eligible to vote) (66.6%). In following our Concepts, the Minority Opinion shall be heard before a motion is considered carried. After each vote, the side that did not prevail will always be given the opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with a 2/3 vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of 2/3 of the votes, the majority may speak. See- the most current AA Service Manual - How the Conference Operates.
3. Any motion to amend or revise the Sarnia Lambton District 14 Structure and Operating Procedures shall require sixty days' notice to give the GSRs an opportunity to determine their group's conscience on the motion.
4. Any motion that proposes a course of action or change that does not adhere to the Structure and Operating Procedures should be taken back to the groups following the 60-day procedure outlined in paragraph 3 above.
5. Special Cases may arise when a decision must be made and does not allow the 60 days. In these circumstances, the committee will be trusted to make these decisions as a committee and there will be a responsibility to convey the situation and decision reached to the groups. These special situations will require a 100% vote in favour of the motion, of those District Committee members present at the meeting in order to be carried.

## **SECTION THREE – MEETINGS**

The District Committee shall meet monthly at a site agreed on by the Committee. The DCM (or Alternate DCM if requested by the DCM) will chair the meeting. In the absence of the DCM, the Alternate DCM will chair the meeting. In the absence of the DCM and the Alternate DCM the members present will select a Chairperson for that meeting only.

In order to cancel a meeting a motion must be presented 60 days prior to said meeting and must be voted on 30 days before meeting.

## SECTION FOUR – DUTIES & QUALIFICATIONS

### a) District Committee Member (DCM):

The duties of the DCM are contained in the most recent edition of the A.A. Service Manual. The DCM will represent Sarnia Lambton District 14 at all Area 86 Assemblies and Committee Meetings. The DCM, with the assistance of the Alternate DCM, shall prepare the agenda for the District Meetings. The DCM is responsible for setting up the schedule for the district meeting in November for the coming year.

Qualifications: The DCM should have 4-5 years of continuous sobriety , and have held the GSR position, to be eligible for election.

### b) Alternate DCM:

The duties of Alternate DCM are contained in the most recent edition of the A.A. Service Manual. The Alternate DCM will assist the DCM at all Area 86 Committee Meetings and Assemblies, striving to attain a good working knowledge of the duties of DCM and recognizing the necessity to assume those duties in the event of loss or incapacity of the DCM until an election can occur. The Alternate DCM will assist the DCM to prepare the agenda for the District Meetings. The Alternate DCM will also be responsible for the role of Bridging the Gap.

Qualifications: The Alternate DCM should have 4-5 years of continuous sobriety and have held the GSR position, to be eligible for election.

### c) Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all monies contributed to the District, intact, to a Chartered Bank or Trust Company decided upon by the DCM, Alternate DCM, Treasurer, and Secretary/Registrar. The Treasurer shall pay all District 14 expenses as outlined in these procedures or as a result of a motion by the District Committee. The Treasurer shall report to the District Committee at the monthly meetings. The report shall include published balance sheet and group contribution list. The fiscal year for the District shall be January 1 to December 31, inclusive, with an annual statement to be prepared by the Treasurer at years' end. The Treasurer, along with the DCM and Alternate DCM, will prepare a forecast (using the SOPs as a guideline) to be presented to the District Committee for approval in January of each year. Signing authority for District 14 bank account will be any two of the following: Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary/Registrar or Alternate Secretary/Registrar. In the absence of four of the above, the current Literature/Grapevine chair may act as a signatory. Persons with signing authority shall not act as signatories on cheques made out to themselves. (By the end of February, copies of all monthly and reconciled year-end reports must be given to the Archives Chairperson in Digital form). The Treasurer is to follow the AA Guidelines on Finance (MG-15) from the General Service Office (GSO).

Qualifications: The Treasurer should have 2 years of continuous sobriety and have held the GSR position, to be eligible for election.

d) Alternate Treasurer:

The duties of the Alternate Treasurer are to assist the Treasurer, to attain a good working knowledge of the duties of the Treasurer. and recognize the necessity to assume those duties in the event of loss or incapacity of the Treasurer until an election can occur.

Qualifications: The Alternate Treasurer should have 2 years of continuous sobriety, and have held the GSR position, to be eligible for election.

e) Secretary / Registrar:

The Secretary/Registrar shall record the minutes of the District meetings and distribute to members of the Committee within two weeks via email or regular mail. In keeping with Tradition Twelve, the Secretary/Registrar will respect the anonymity of AA members by not citing last names, personal emails or phone numbers including those that reflect places of employment. Minutes of our monthly meeting will also be sent via email or regular mail to all members of the Area Committee, (after the District has approved same). At the end of January, copies of the minutes and journal entries from the previous year must be given to the Archives Chair in digital form. The Secretary/Registrar shall maintain current District 14 contact lists. The Secretary/Registrar will update information submitted from groups on the Group Information Change Forms (F28 – See Appendix Three ) and ensure the Area 86 Secretary/Registrar is given the F28 forms when complete. The Secretary/Registrar will also communicate all group changes to the DCM, Treasurer, Literature, TAS, and Newsletter/Website Liaison Chairpersons. When the members of a meeting wish to become an A.A. Group a New Form (F30- see Appendix Three) must be filled out and a representative of the proposed Group will forward it to the District 14 Secretary/Registrar. The District 14 Secretary/Registrar will then send this to GSO with a copy to the Area 86 Secretary/ Registrar. The Secretary/Registrar will maintain a Motion Journal to provide the district with a record of motions together with the history and result of the motions.

Qualifications: It is recommended to have 2 years continuous sobriety and have served as a GSR.

f) Alternate Secretary/Registrar:

The duties of the Alternate Secretary/Registrar are to assist the Secretary/Registrar, to attain a good working knowledge of the duties of the Secretary/Registrar, and recognize the necessity to assume those duties in the event of loss or incapacity of the Secretary/Registrar until an election can occur.

Qualifications: It is recommended to have 2 years continuous sobriety and have served as a GSR.

#### g) Sub Committees:

Qualifications: It is recommended that the subcommittee chairs have two years continuous sobriety and have been or are currently serving as a GSR.

##### g.1 Literature/Grapevine Chairperson:

The Chairperson shall purchase Conference Approved A.A. literature, from the best available source, on behalf of the A.A. Groups and meetings in the District. The Literature Chairperson shall maintain an up-to-date Literature Price List. The Chairperson is also responsible for the printing and distribution of Group Meeting Lists (Group Meeting Lists are paid for by the District). When a new supply of meeting lists are needed the Secretary/Registrar should be consulted regarding changes. If the Chairperson is made aware of changes to any group, the change should be communicated to the Secretary/Registrar. The chairperson will promote A.A. literature and will follow the A.A. Guidelines on Literature Committees from GSO (MG-09), as well as the current Literature Workbook, both available at aa.org. The Chairperson will promote Grapevine materials and Grapevine magazine subscriptions. A Grapevine display belonging to the District is available for this purpose. The Chairperson will follow the current Grapevine Workbook and Grapevine Representative Handbook, both available at aagrapevine.org. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting, including a financial report and inventory at least once yearly in December.

##### g.2 Newsletter / Website Liaison Chairperson:

The Chairperson will gather information and prepare a Newsletter following the Newsletter Guidelines Sarnia Lambton District 14 Committee (Appendix Two) ) and the AA Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices (MG-02) from GSO. .Printable copies of the Newsletter may be found on the District 14 website. The Chairperson is the liaison between District 14 and the webmaster. The Chairperson will follow the AA Guidelines on Internet (MG-18) from GSO. If the Chairperson is made aware of changes to any group, an email will be sent to the webmaster and the changes will take place within 2 business days. As well, the changes should be communicated to the Secretary/Registrar. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

##### g.3 Telephone Answering Service Chairperson (TAS):

The TAS Chairperson is responsible for maintaining the Cloud Based Phone System data regarding current meeting information. The Chairperson has the responsibility of recruiting and training volunteers to answer phone calls routed from the district phone number from people who want to speak to a member of AA.

The Chairperson also has the responsibility of recruiting volunteers to respond to online chats made through the Chat App on the District Website (Chat Responders). The Chairperson will ensure that all Chat Responder volunteers have been properly trained and received materials on the use of the Chat App and on how to answer Chats.

The Chairperson should maintain a current list of those AA members available to refer Twelfth Step calls to. The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining a list of Sarnia and Area Resource Numbers and updating it on a regular basis and at minimum once yearly. If the Chairperson is made aware of changes to any group, the changes should be communicated to the Secretary/Registrar. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meetings. Procedures for the Cloud Based Phone Answering Service [Appendix 4(a)] and the Chat APP [Appendix 4(b)] shall be reviewed by incoming TAS, DCM, Alternate DCM and Secretary/Registrar every two years.

The Chairperson will follow the AA Guidelines on AA Answering Services (MG-12) from GSO. The Chairperson shall meet a minimum of once a year with all current Chat Responders and TAS volunteers to receive feedback and share experiences in order to further develop training materials and best practices. The outgoing Chairperson shall provide training to the incoming TAS Chairperson and the incoming District Officers by the end of February in the first year of the panel.

**For detailed information refer to Guidelines in:**

**Appendix 4(a)- TAS Phone**

**Appendix 4(b)- Chat App**

**g.4 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chairperson (CPC):**

The CPC Chairperson and their selected Committee carry the A.A. message to the professional community within our District. The Chairperson and committee must at all times adhere to the AA Guidelines on Cooperation with the Professional Community (MG-11) from GSO. and use the CPC Workbook (M-41i). The Chairperson and committee should cooperate with Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities Committees. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

**g.5 Public Information Chairperson (PI):**

The PI Chairperson and their selected committee carry the A.A. message to the general public, and the media, within our District. The Chairperson and Committee must at all times adhere to the AA Guidelines on Public Information (MG-07) from GSO and PI Workbook (M-27i). The Chairperson and committee should cooperate with Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment and Accessibilities Chairperson. Committees The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

**g.6 Treatment Chairperson:**

The Chairperson will reach out to all treatment facilities in District 14. The Treatment Chairperson and their selected committee will carry the AA message of experience, strength and hope to Treatment Facilities. The Chairperson and their selected committee must at all times adhere to the AA Guidelines on Treatment Committees (MG-14) from GSO and the Treatment Facilities Workbook (M-40i). The Chairperson and committee should cooperate with Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, and Accessibilities Committees The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

g.7 Corrections Chairperson:

The Corrections Chairperson and their selected committee carry the A.A. message to those in Sarnia Lambton correctional facilities. The committee members must at all times cooperate with the management of the correctional facilities. Meetings are held at the facilities' discretion, and must adhere to both the corrections facilities' guidelines and AA Guidelines on Corrections Committees (MG-06) from GSO and Corrections Workbook (M-45i). The Chairperson will ensure literature is made available at these meetings, using the literature recommended in the Corrections Workbook. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

g.8 Accessibilities Chairperson:

The Chairperson shall adhere to the AA Guidelines on Accessibility for All Alcoholics (MG-16) from GSO and Accessibilities Workbook (M-48i). The Chairperson and their selected Committee shall educate District 14 members, GSRs and Groups about what can be made available for members who require accommodation in order to access meetings. The Chairperson and committee should, as appropriate, work with the Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information and Treatment Committees. The Chairperson will report to the District Committee at the monthly District meeting.

g.9 Archives Chairperson:

The Chairperson will coordinate meetings consisting of the past DCMs of District 14, along with their selected committee, and will be responsible for inventorying and archiving documents (examples: minutes and Treasurer's reports) and District 14's archival material. Each member of Committee (past DCMs) will receive a copy of the inventory listing. The archives display should be readily available for any functions upon request. The Chairperson will follow the AA Guidelines on Archives (MG-17) from GSO and Archives Workbook (M-44i) and will report to the District Committee at monthly District meetings.

h) General Service Representative (GSR):

The duties of the GSR are contained in the most recent edition of the A.A. Service Manual. The GSR represents their group at the District Meetings and Area Assemblies. The GSR, or in their absence the Alternate GSR, shall give a written and/or verbal group report at the monthly District meeting. In the absence of the GSR and the Alternate GSR, an appointed member of the group may give a report. The GSR maintains and provides a birthday list to the Newsletter/Website Liaison Chairperson making sure to have permission from group members to publish names of group members.

## SECTION FIVE– ELECTIONS

### 1. Regular Elections – District Officers and Subcommittee Chairs

As outlined in the most recent edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*, and in keeping with the principle of service rotation, regular bi-annual elections of District Officers take place in District 14 in the Fall, preferably prior to the Area Fall Assembly, in the odd number years, with the two year term of office starting on January 1 of the even numbered years.

An AA member should not be re-elected to the same position for consecutive terms. Should the occasion arise whereby no one is willing to fill the vacant position, it will remain vacant until someone suitable and willing is found to fill the position.

### 2. Officers to be elected and order of election

- DCM
- Alternate DCM
- Treasurer
- Alternate Treasurer
- Secretary/Registrar
- Alternate Secretary/Registrar

### 3. District Subcommittee Chairpersons to be elected and order of election

- Literature/Grapevine
- Newsletter/Website Liaison
- Telephone Answering Service (TAS)
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Public Information (PI)
- Treatment
- Corrections
- Accessibilities
- Archives

### 4. Eligibility

- Members of the outgoing District Committee.
- Members of the immediate past District Committee.
- Nominations from the floor or self-nomination
- The Third Legacy Procedure is to be used, as outlined in the most recent edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*. (See Appendix One of SOPs)
- Candidates eligible for election must be present, or must have given permission in writing to the DCM for their names to stand. If the person is not present, a written resume must be provided.
- Before the election is held, each person standing for the office shall be requested to say a few words on their service history to a maximum of 2 minutes. If the person is not present, the resume shall be read.

## 5. Who Can Vote

- All current district members are eligible to vote except Alternate Treasurer, Alternate Secretary/Registrar and past DCM's.
- If the GSR is absent, the alternate GSR is eligible to vote. If both the GSR and the alternate GSR is absent, an appointed member of the group may vote.

## 6. Election Process

- This Procedure and the Third Legacy Procedure (Appendix One) shall be read to the District and approval requested to continue.
- The list of names of the outgoing District Committee shall be read and each shall be asked if they are willing to stand. If there is only one candidate, a ballot vote must still occur.
- If no one is prepared to stand from the outgoing Committee, the list of names of the previous Committee shall be read and asked if they wish to stand.
- If no one is prepared to stand, nominations from the floor shall be requested.

## 7. Filling Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs, all members of District 14 will be notified through the GSRs and other Committee members at local meetings. Any vacant positions will be Agenda Items until the vacancies are filled. The Election Process will be followed once an eligible candidate confirms their willingness to stand.

## SECTION SIX– EXPENSES

The Treasurer will pay upon receipt of an account the following outgoing expenses:

- TAS phone
- Public Information Ads within Lambton County approved by the District Committee.
- Rent for District meetings
- Post Office Box rental
- Meeting Lists
- Website domain hosting/domain name/website security
- Health Fair (Literature Supplies)- \$100.00
- District Inventory Expenses (in the odd numbered year)- \$1000.00
- Information Days (i.e. Service Workshops) (in the even numbered years)-\$1000.00
- District Committee Meeting Expenses (example- coffee supplies)- \$100.00
- Miscellaneous District Committee Meeting Facility Expenses- \$50.00
  
- DCM expenses to attend Area Assemblies (\$500.00 per Assembly) paid prior to the assembly. Reasonable expenses above \$500.00 will be reimbursed upon approval of the District Committee. A written report must be presented at the next District Meeting. (Receipts to be turned in to the Treasurer upon return. Unused funds shall be returned at this time)
  
- Alternate DCM expenses to attend Area Assemblies (\$500.00 per Assembly) paid prior to the assembly. Reasonable expenses above \$500.00 will be reimbursed upon approval of the District Committee. A written report must be presented at the next District Meeting. (Receipts to be turned in to the Treasurer upon return. Unused funds shall be returned at this time)
  
- DCM will receive \$200.00 to attend each Area Meeting. It is understood that this sum will vary from meeting to meeting depending on the distance of the host District from Sarnia- Lambton. Reasonable expenses above \$200.00 will be reimbursed on approval of the District Committee. A written report must be presented at the next District Meeting. (Receipts to be turned in to the Treasurer upon return. Unused funds shall be returned at this time)
  
- Alternate DCM will receive \$200.00 to each attend Area Meeting. It is understood that this sum will vary from meeting to meeting depending on the distance of the host District from Sarnia. Reasonable expenses above \$200.00 will be reimbursed on approval of the District Committee. A written report must be presented at the next District Meeting. (Receipts to be turned in to the Treasurer upon return. Unused funds shall be returned at this time)
  
- Sub Committee Chairpersons, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, Secretary/Registrar and Alternate Secretary/Registrar attending workshops will be advanced for expenses up to \$350.00 prior to the Assembly. Receipts are to be turned in to the Treasurer upon return. A written report must be presented at the next District Meeting. No subcommittee chairperson shall receive more than \$350 per assembly, per person.

## SECTION SIX– EXPENSES (cont'd)

Approved expenses for Committee/Sub-Committee positions as follows:

▪ DCM	\$200.00
▪ Alternate DCM	\$100.00
▪ Bridging the Gap	\$100.00
▪ Treasurer	\$100.00
▪ Secretary/Registrar	\$100.00
▪ Literature/Grapevine	\$200.00
▪ Public Information	\$200.00
▪ CPC	\$200.00
▪ Treatment	\$200.00
▪ TAS	\$200.00
▪ Corrections	\$200.00
▪ Archives	\$200.00
▪ Accessibilities	\$200.00

Attendance of the DCM at Eastern Canada Regional Forums/Special Forums/ Canadian Eastern Regional AA Service Assembly (CERAASA) requires prior approval by the District Committee with sixty days' notice to give the GSRs an opportunity to determine their groups' conscience on the motion.

As of December 31, all funds in excess of that year's Prudent Reserve shall be disbursed to Western Ontario General Service ( Area 86),and the General Service Board (GSB). The percentage of these disbursements shall be determined by the District Committee once the Year End Financial Statement has been presented at the January District Committee Meeting.

All additional disbursements will require a motion and seconder by members of the District Committee. Prior to voting on the motion, such motions will require 60 days' notice to give the GSRs an opportunity to determine their Group's conscience on the motion.

Special cases may arise when a decision must be made and does not allow the 60 days notice. In these circumstances the committee will be trusted to make these decisions as a committee and there will be a responsibility to convey the situation and decision reached to the groups. These special situations will require a 100% vote in favour of the motion, of those District Committee members present, in order to be carried.

Prudent Reserve is the eligible forecasted expenses for the year divided by 4 and to be no less than \$4500.00.

## **SECTION SEVEN– DISTRICT INVENTORY**

The district shall hold a district inventory in the fall of the odd numbered years. The inventory shall be conducted by at least one past delegate from outside District 14. It is the responsibility of the current committee to ensure the district inventory is completed.

DCM to advise the District Committee that our SOPs state that a District Inventory shall be conducted in the fall of the odd numbered year and ask that an ad hoc committee be formed to make arrangements for the event. It is recommended that this ad hoc committee be formed by February in order to allow time for planning.

See Appendix Seven

## **SECTION EIGHT- INFORMATION DAYS**

The District shall hold a Service Related Information Day in the spring of the even numbered years. It is the responsibility of the current committee to ensure the Information Day is conducted.

See Appendix Eight

## Appendix One: Third Legacy Procedure

### ▼ APPENDIX G: THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

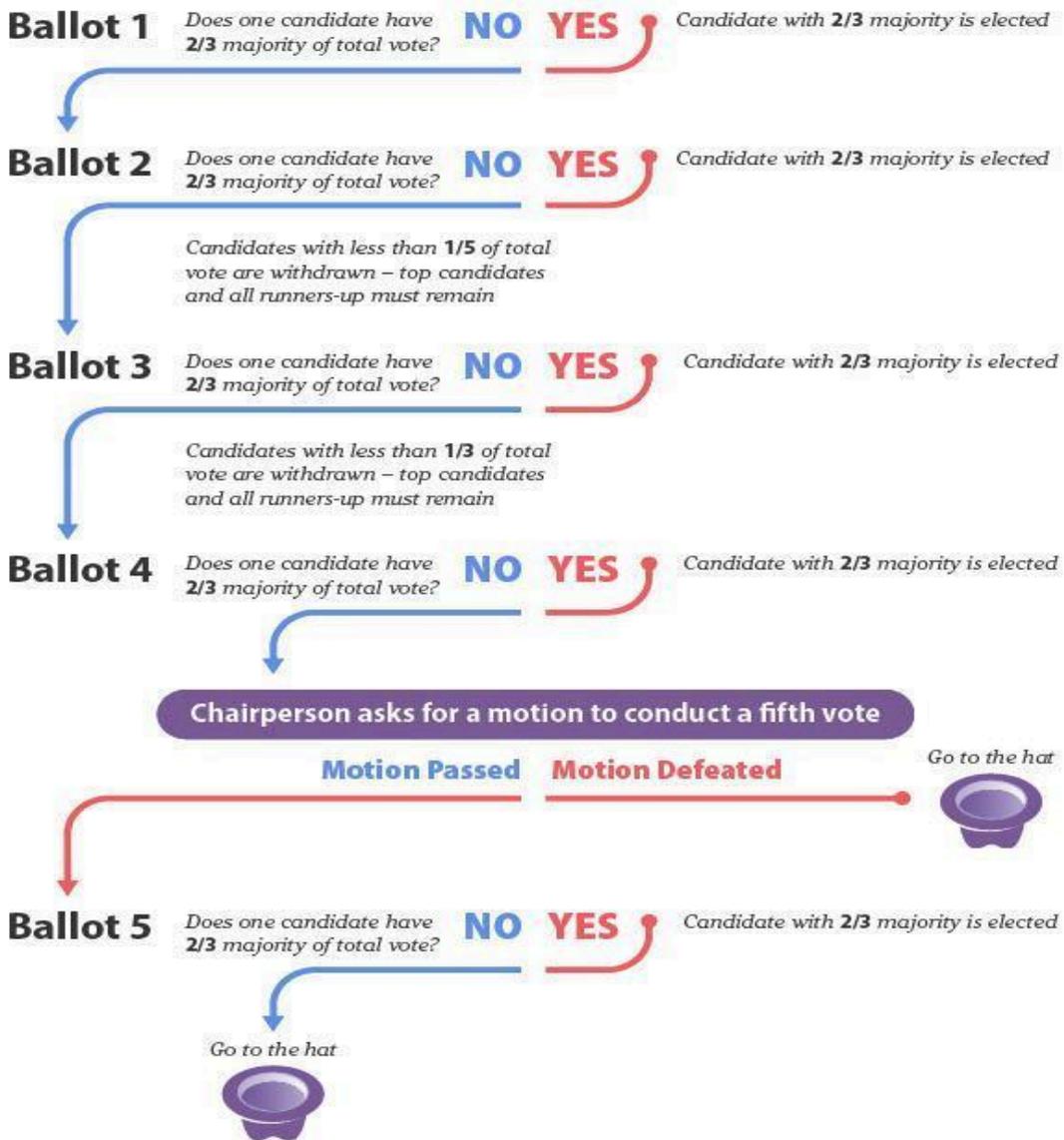
#### PURPOSE

A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

#### ▶ PROCEDURE

1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members (of the area or Conference body) cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
  - The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
2. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn — except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
3. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain.
  - At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot.
  - If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot — “going to the hat” — immediately.
  - If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
5. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.
6. Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one “out of the hat” is the delegate (or trustee or other officer).

**THE THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE**



Reprinted from: The current edition of the A.A. SERVICE MANUAL Combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS for WORLD SERVICE by Bill W.

## Appendix Two: Newsletter Guidelines

### NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES SARNIA LAMBTON DISTRICT 14 COMMITTEE

#### 1. The Newsletter

Name of newsletter *'The Update'*

#### 2. Duties of the Editor

To produce a newsletter, at least quarterly, that will be available on the [aasarnialambton.com](http://aasarnialambton.com) website. It will be in PDF format for online viewing, download and printing.

#### 3. Required Content

A disclaimer sentence, or two, must be included in each issue. Such as:

*"This Newsletter is a member-to-member publication and the viewpoints expressed herein do not represent those of AA as a whole."*

Although letters and articles may be published anonymously, the name of the submitter must be revealed to the Editor, who, in keeping with the Twelfth Tradition, shall respect the anonymity of all such persons. Last names and phone numbers should never be published. Permission must be obtained to publish a direct quote made by a member if citing that member's (first) name or other identifying features.

#### 4. Permitted Content

- a. Quotations from Conference-Approved Literature, which must cite the source of origin, including page numbers
- b. The long form of Tradition Eleven should always be observed:  
*"Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think AA ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as AA members ought not to be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us"* [The current edition of the AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.]
- c. Announcements regarding AA events
- d. AA Birthday Date Listings:
  - Groups are responsible for providing the current Editor with accurate Birthday data and for informing the current Editor of any changes
  - Listings are restricted to AA members who belong to a District 14 Group
  - 3 months of birthdays will be included in each publication (current plus the next two months)

#### 5. Content Not Permitted

- a. Reproduction of published material other than Conference-Approved Literature
- b. Material not relating to the disease of alcoholism
- c. Advertising material
- d. Announcements of non-AA events

# Appendix Three: New Group Form

## NEW GROUP FORM

### APPENDIX H:

#### GSO NEW GROUP LISTING GUIDELINES / FORM *U.S. and Canada*

Thank you for wanting to list your group with the U.S./Canada General Service Office (GSO). It is the practice of the GSO to list groups and not meetings. Listing provides a wider opportunity for communication between your group, GSO, and the General Service Structure which will help the alcoholic who still suffers. Before filling out the new group form below, here are a few good things to know:

- This form is for the U.S./Canada Service structure. The U.S./Canada structure is just one of many A.A. entities around the world. If your virtual group is based outside the U.S. and Canada, we suggest that you contact the office in that country. If your group is based outside the U.S./Canada or your group has no geographic location, and you wish to communicate with GSO you can contact the GSO International desk.
- GSO is often asked, "Will filling out this form ensure my group appears in local meetings lists?" The answer is no. This form is only so that communication can flow between your group and the U.S./Canada Service structure (your district, your area, and your GSO). Please contact the local A.A. entity that publishes meeting lists such as your local intergroup/central office, district, or area. Many of them also share information with the Meeting Guide App.
- This form asks groups to designate their preferred district and area. The U.S./Canada structure is comprised of 93 geographic areas and each area is made up of a number of districts. In-person (including hybrid) groups generally use geographic proximity to decide their district and area. It varies for virtual groups since they are non-geographic in nature. If a group originated in a locale and feels rooted there the group may want to approach the local district about participating. Recently some areas have created non-geographic districts for virtual groups. If a group does not designate a preferred district and area, the default option will be using the location of the group's primary contact.
- Area Registrars are often a crucial first point of contact for A.A. groups. Area registrars develop and maintain records of all groups in their area through Fellowship Connection, a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and GSO. Your group's information will be entered into Fellowship Connection and is available to your area delegate and district committee member (DCM). Contact information for your area registrar and other trusted servants can be found on your area's website. List of area websites.
- Experience shows it's best if a group has a good start before asking to be listed. Many groups wait until they've been meeting for a month or two before filling out this form. The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" can be a helpful guide to groups and covers four main areas: what an A.A. group is; how a group functions; group relations with others in the community; and how the group fits into the structure of A.A. as a whole.
- GSO lists A.A. groups and not meetings. Shared experience is that holding A.A. meetings is one function of a group. An A.A. Group is a meeting that participates in the General Service Structure and provides Twelfth Step services that extend beyond the regular meetings times.
- It is good to keep in mind the long form of Tradition Three: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."
- The form asks for a primary contact. Often groups choose their General Service Representative (GSR) as the group's primary contact, but any group member can serve as the primary contact if they can provide a current email address. An email allows GSO to send the group helpful information and acknowledgements of group contributions quickly and at no cost. A group can also set up a group email address and use that for group correspondence.
- Being listed with the GSO is not an official sanctioning of a group. A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the traditional A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The GSO neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group.
- Each new group is subject to a 30-day pending period according to a 1990 Conference advisory action. Once complete information is logged by GSO or the area registrar, your group will enter a 30-day pending period to give your delegate and DCM an opportunity to welcome your new group. After the pending period a digital Group Handbook will be emailed out (in addition your group can opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook on the form below.) The Group Handbook and many other helpful resources are also available for download on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). The link below offers more information on how groups and members participate in A.A. service beyond their group: <https://www.aa.org/participating-in-aa>

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or member (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

Virtual Groups are encouraged to check with their Area Registrar regarding their preferred Area and District. List of Area Websites on [aa.org](http://aa.org)

AREA #: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT #: \_\_\_\_\_ GROUP START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP MEETING LOCATION (ADDRESS OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_

If your Virtual group does not have a specific City/Town or State/Province the Primary Contact's City/Town and State/Province will be used.

CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

LANGUAGE:  ENGLISH  SPANISH  FRENCH  TYPE/FORMAT:  IN PERSON (including hybrid)  VIRTUAL (including phone)

Does your group meet in a hospital, treatment center or detox center setting?  Yes  No

If yes, is it open to A.A. members outside the center?  Yes  No

Note: Contact information provided is used by GSO and AA Grapevine for purposes of A.A. service communication and is shared with your Area Committee.

#### PRIMARY CONTACT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) — Your Group's Link to A.A. as a whole [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-19\\_gsr/pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-19_gsr/pdf)

"The GSRs of the U.S. and Canada are the very foundation of our general service structure. Through the GSR, you can make your group's voice heard at district meetings, at area assemblies, and eventually at the General Service Conference.

GSR  ALTERNATE GSR  MAIL CONTACT  (Please check one)

To opt in to be mailed a print version of the Group Handbook please check

► Digital Group Handbook: <https://www.aa.org/conents-group-handbook-list>

► To sign up for digital delivery of Box 4-5-9 at no charge visit: <https://www.aa.org/box-459group-handbook-list>

#### THREE WAYS TO RETURN THIS FORM TO GSO:

 **GSO POSTAL MAIL**  
A.A. World Services, Inc.  
Grand Central Station  
P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163

 **GSO EMAIL**  
[memberservices@aa.org](mailto:memberservices@aa.org)

 **LOCALLY**  
Email your Area Registrar  
*List of Area Websites on [aa.org](http://aa.org)*

F-30 revised 4/2024

# Appendix Three: Group Information Change Form

## GROUP INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

**APPENDIX I:**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUP INFORMATION CHANGE FORM** *U.S. and Canada*

Group Service No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delegate Area No. \_\_\_\_\_ District No. \_\_\_\_\_

If you need help locating your area and district number, you can contact your area registrar on your area's website.  
 List of area websites

OLD INFORMATION	NEW INFORMATION
GROUP NAME: _____	GROUP NAME: _____
TYPE/FORMAT: <input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON   <input type="checkbox"/> VIRTUAL	TYPE/FORMAT: <input type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON   <input type="checkbox"/> VIRTUAL
GROUP MEETING LOCATION: _____	GROUP MEETING LOCATION: _____
STREET: _____	STREET: _____
CITY/TOWN: _____	CITY/TOWN: _____
STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____	STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
PHONE: _____	PHONE: _____
NUMBER OF MEMBERS: _____	NUMBER OF MEMBERS: _____
<b>GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)</b>	<b>GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)</b>
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____	ADDRESS: _____
CITY/TOWN: _____	CITY/TOWN: _____
STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____	STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
PHONE: _____	PHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____	E-MAIL: _____
<b>ALTERNATE (GSR)</b>	<b>ALTERNATE (GSR)</b>
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____	ADDRESS: _____
CITY/TOWN: _____	CITY/TOWN: _____
STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____	STATE/PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
PHONE: _____	PHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____	E-MAIL: _____

**New GSR's will automatically receive a digital GSR Kit. If you require a print version, please check:**

Area registrars develop and maintain records of all groups in their area through Fellowship Connection, a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and GSO.

GSO only uses the GSR's information for communication purposes and to help foster connection within the General Service Structure.  
<https://www.aa.org/your-group-linked-aa-whole>

A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or person (living or deceased), and that the name of a group not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution.

**THREE WAYS TO RETURN THIS FORM TO GSO:**

**GSO POSTAL MAIL**  
 A.A. World Services, Inc.  
 Grand Central Station  
 P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163

**GSO EMAIL**  
[memberservices@aa.org](mailto:memberservices@aa.org)

**LOCALLY**  
 Email your Area Registrar  
 List of Area Websites on [a.a.org](http://a.a.org)

F-28 revised 4/2024

## Appendix Four: Telephone Answering Service and Chat App Procedures

### Appendix 4a - Cloud-based Phone System

#### Overview:

The Telephone Answering Service uses a cloud-based phone system as the mechanism to accept phone calls to District 14. This is an Auto-Attendant that we can configure to answer and route incoming calls, and to provide voicemail if the call is not answered. When a voicemail is left on the system by a caller, a notification of the call including the voicemail is sent to the Call- Back Pool by email and / or by text.

The Chairperson will check the TAS email every day for voicemails; all voicemails shall be responded to promptly. When the Chairperson is on vacation or otherwise unavailable, an alternate TAS volunteer will be asked to temporarily check daily emails and/or respond to TAS concerns.

#### Answering Pool

- Phone numbers of volunteers are added to the “extension” of either AA or Al-Anon
- Calls ring through to all members within the pool
- Like any phone call, we always have the option of answering the call or letting it go to voicemail

#### Call-Back Pool

- A small sub-set of the Answering Pool
- All members of the Call-Back Pool will receive notifications of all voicemails left
- Will communicate with all other members of the Call-Back Pool that they have actioned a voicemail and have successfully made contact.

#### Hours of Operation

- 7:30 am – 10 pm is Daytime – will ring through to the Answering Pool
- 10 pm – 7:30 am is After-hours – will automatically go to Voicemail

#### Returning a Call

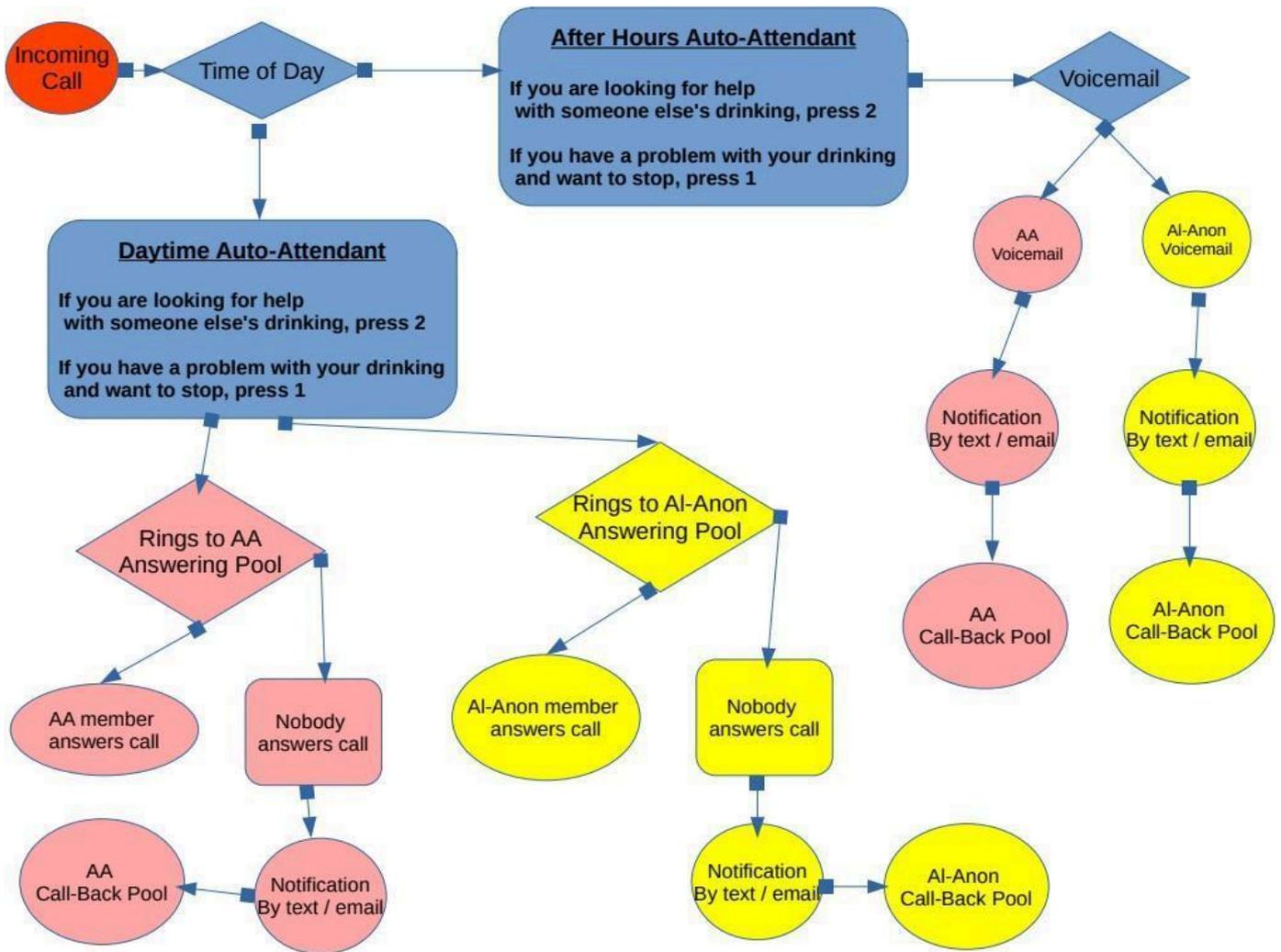
- Always ensure that you are talking to the person that left the message
- Never disclose to someone else that answers the phone that you are returning a call made to Alcoholics Anonymous, or that you are calling from AA.
- If the caller is not available, simply say that you will call back at another time.
- **Never leave a message if there is no answer.**
- It is our responsibility to protect the anonymity of the caller that left the message --- even from their family.
- To protect your number and your personal anonymity, it is a good practice to block your phone number.

If you are using a **landline** use \*67 prior to dialing the number.

If you are using a **cellular** phone dial #31# prior to dialing the number.

Instead of your phone number being displayed the receiver will see either Blocked or Private Number.

# Flow of a Call to District 14 AA



## Appendix 4(b) - Telephone Answering Service and Chat App Procedures

### CHAT RESPONDER JOB DESCRIPTION- REQUIREMENTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

#### **Purpose of role:**

The main purpose of the Tawk.to Chat App is to answer live, real time queries from the still suffering alcoholic and provide them with basic information about AA and the 12 Step Program. We strive to encourage newcomers to attend a meeting or reach out to the Telephone Answering Service.

The Chat App is not meant to be a replacement for a 12th Step Calls; it is meant to make 12th Step Calls possible.

We do not provide technical support via the Chat App.

#### **Requirements:**

2 years continuous sobriety is recommended as well as a good understanding of the AA Program and AA Traditions, 12th Stepping and the AA Service Structure and the Tawk.to Chat App Guidelines.

Attend at least one training session per year. Attend feedback meetings with the TAS Chairperson to help further develop the app and guidelines based on experiences using the app.

Be familiar with the resources available on the AA World Services website (aa.org) in order to refer people there.

Volunteers should have a sponsor.

The Tawk.to Chat App service uses a live chat box to respond to any enquiries, so working knowledge of and ability to operate a device (computer, cell phone, tablet etc.) and access the internet is expected. Good communication skills, spelling and grammar are also important.

#### **Responsibilities:**

You will be part of a team to answer chats. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.

When a chat request comes in, all those on duty will be notified by their tawk.to apps. Each responder should attempt to immediately respond, unless they see that another responder has already answered. If a Responder has already joined the chat, the others will back off (See How to Answer a Chat Request document). Only one Responder is able to “join” the chat. Others may watch the chat conversation without joining. Other Responders who are watching may “whisper” to the Responder if it is necessary to provide information to that responder.

When answering a chat, you will be able to see what the person is typing before they send it. Please wait for them to send their message before responding, and do not respond to anything they started to type but did not send.

Each Responder should be able to answer chat requests for most of their shift, but may be unable to respond for brief periods. *If you cannot serve a shift, please notify the Telephone Answering Service Chair immediately.*

## Appendix Five: Expense Voucher for the District

### EXPENSE VOUCHER

Name:		Service Position:	
-------	--	-------------------	--

TRAVEL	Purpose of Trip:	Date(s) of Trip:
Location	From:	To
	Accommodations Cost:	
	Fuel Cost:	
	Meals:	
	Travel Total:	

EXPENSES	Description:	Amount
Stationery/ Photocopy/Supplies		
Literature ordered		
Other (Specify)		
	Expenses Total:	

	GRAND TOTAL:	
Signature:	Date:	
Approved by:		
Cheque and Date		

**Appendix Six: Contribution Form District 14**



**CONTRIBUTION FORM  
AREA 86 - DISTRICT 14  
Sarnia Lambton**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Cash       Cheque  # \_\_\_\_\_      E-transfer

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Reg # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_      District #14

Receipt required: yes \_\_\_\_\_      no \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to: Sarnia Lambton GSR

E-transfers can be sent to: [treasurer@asarnialambton.com](mailto:treasurer@asarnialambton.com)

\*(if sending an e-transfer, please send an email to the treasurer and provide group information, or attach this form)

## Appendix Seven: District Inventory

### District Inventory

#### Purpose:

- to identify what is working well within District 14
- to identify where District 14 could improve
- to identify any shortcomings within District 14 that should be addressed

#### Steps to organize the District Inventory:

1. DCM to advise the District Committee that our SOPs state that a District Inventory shall be conducted in the fall of the odd numbered year and ask that an ad hoc committee be formed to make arrangements for the event. It is recommended that this ad hoc committee be formed by July in order to allow time for planning.
2. Ad hoc committee and DCM to pick an appropriate date – suggested as a Saturday in September or October.
3. Ad hoc committee to secure a venue to hold the event.
4. Ad hoc committee to make arrangements for food, refreshments, hall setup and cleanup, etc.
5. Ad hoc committee to ensure that flyers are printed and distributed within the fellowship. The event should be included on the District Website. The committee should strive to encourage maximum participation across the fellowship. Each member has an equal voice and everyone will be heard.
6. DCM to select and enlist a Past Delegate from outside of District 14 to conduct the District Inventory. The person selected will determine the format, questions or topics, and other aspects of how the inventory is conducted.
7. DCM to ask Past Delegate what supplies they will require to complete the inventory. The ad hoc committee is responsible for providing the supplies.
8. DCM and ad hoc committee should present the findings and recommendations of the District Inventory to the District Committee within one month at the District Committee Meeting.
9. The recommendations of the District Inventory shall be addressed by the District Committee.

#### Expenses:

1. The District Inventory is included as an expense item in the annual forecast presented by the District Treasurer.
2. The Past Delegate asked to conduct the District Inventory is reimbursed for their expenses to attend. The DCM should be mindful of these costs when selecting the Past Delegate as some will incur more expenses than others due to travel distance.
3. A 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition for lunch, coffee, etc. should be collected.
4. Hall rental should be paid.
5. The District Inventory should be free for all AA members to attend --- and should be limited to only AA members.
6. The ad hoc committee as part of their report shall include a financial report for costs incurred and paid out, and for monies collected. Any surplus is to be turned over to the District Treasurer.

## Appendix Eight: Information Days

### Purpose:

- to encourage participation in service through presentations and displays intended to inform and educate members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the benefits of service work and the functions of the District Committee. This event is for any AA member and is not open to the public.

### Steps to Organize Information Days

1. DCM to advise the District Committee that our SOPs state that a District Information Day shall be held in the spring of the even numbered year and ask that an ad hoc committee be formed to plan for the event. It is recommended that this ad hoc committee be formed in February at the latest.
2. Ad hoc committee and DCM select a date which does not interfere with other District or Area activities – suggested as a Saturday in May or June.
3. Ad hoc committee to secure a venue to host the event. Insurance is obtained if required by the venue.
4. Ad hoc committee to make arrangements for food, refreshments, set-up and clean-up, etc.
5. Ad hoc committee to create an agenda for the day, including speaker(s), presentation(s), and displays providing information on the various positions of the District Committee and sub-committee.
6. Ad hoc committee to print and distribute flyers within the fellowship. The event should be included on the district website. The ad hoc committee should encourage maximum participation from all groups of the district.

### Expenses:

1. Information Day is included as an expense item in the annual forecast presented by the District Treasurer.
2. A 7th Tradition to offset refreshment costs, etc. should be collected.
3. Rental fee for the venue shall be paid.
4. Information Days shall be free to attend for all AA members.
5. The ad-hoc committee shall submit a financial report outlining costs incurred and funds collected. Any surplus is to be remitted to the District Treasurer.

## **Appendix Nine: Transition Handover List From Current To Incoming District 14 Committee**

### **WEBMASTER**

- Provides the District 14 Website password to incoming DCM.

### **DCM**

- Provides District meeting blank agenda forms to incoming DCM
- Provides contact information for meeting location to incoming DCM
- Schedule and confirm with the selected venue the monthly district meetings for the upcoming year each December

### **DCM and TREASURER**

- Provide Bank Access/Debit Cards to incoming DCM and Treasurer

### **TREASURER**

- Arranges change of signing authority for Bank Account, Bank Access card
- Provides other Banking documents including; Cheque books, Receipt books; Bank account statements, together with cash on hand, to the incoming Treasurer
- Provides post office box keys to the incoming Treasurer

### **TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE**

- Current TAS chair provides the cloud-based phone system password to incoming DCM, Treasurer and TAS chair
- Current TAS chair provides Tawk.to Chat Admin password to incoming DCM, Treasurer, and TAS Chair

### **SECRETARY/REGISTRAR**

- Current Secretary/Registrar provides incoming Secretary/Registrar with the following:
- Motions Journal
- District Contact lists
- District Roll call and sign in sheets
- District SOPs
- Group change forms and New Group forms (F28 and F30)
- DCM change forms (F-43)

### **LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE**

- Current Literature/Grapevine Chairperson provides incoming Chairperson with the following:
- Literature AAWS online Bookstore login details
- Literature on hand
- Cash on hand
- Current information on price lists
- Printable Meeting List Template
- All Display materials for Literature and Grapevine