

The Role of the District Committee Member In South Florida Area 15



THE D.C.M. PREAMBLE ADAPTED FROM SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL AREA 08

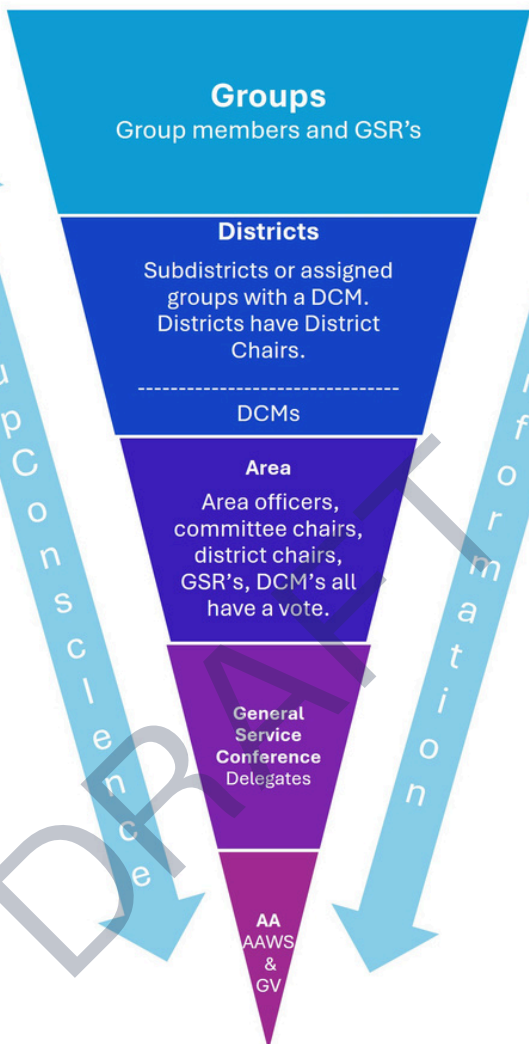
We are responsible as District Committee Members to be the communication link for the district [to the] area to the General Service Conference and the unified world of AA. Our charge is to guide, mentor, mediate, and facilitate service involvement of the groups, to attract participation in a unified A.A., and to implement and follow through on plans and actions that further the growth and health of the groups in developing an informed conscience. Let us, therefore, carry the message of A.A. by our example and actions and have the patience and tolerance to listen carefully, to speak wisely, and act always for the best of A.A. as a whole.

WHY THIS PAMPHLET?

This service piece was created to help District Committee Members (DCMs) in Area 15 to understand their roles and responsibilities. The Area 15 service structure differs from most areas in the US and Canada. In most areas each district consists of one DCM and several A.A. groups. Area 15 has much larger districts with a District Chairperson and several DCMs, as well as standing committees for various service functions. Much of the information in The A.A. Service Manual and in Flyer-12 "Your D.C.M." is not pertinent to the role of the DCM in several districts in Area 15. This pamphlet is designed to help DCMs in Area 15 to better understand their roles and responsibilities as they serve their groups, districts and area. As an elected DCM, you now represent the collective voice of your A.A. groups' consciences to your district, area, and your Area Delegate.

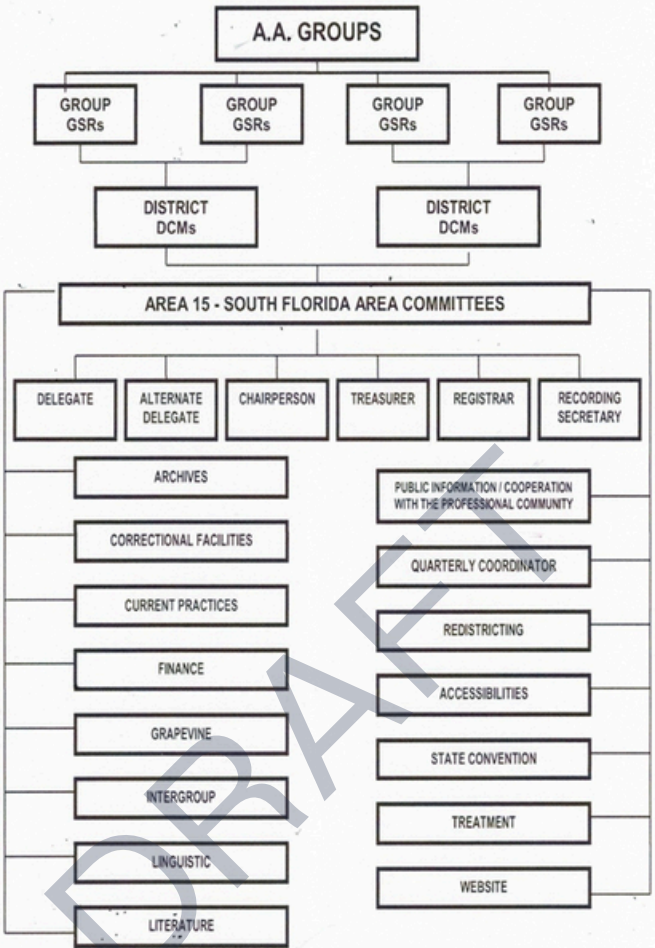
This handbook is meant as a helpful resource. As often heard in A.A., one feels they have learned their role around the time they are to rotate out. If you feel unsure or frustrated as a DCM, please reach out to other DCMs, your service sponsor, or district chair. There are always hands of A.A. willing to help.

Area 15 Service Structure



Area 15's Service Structure differs from most other areas in that in most districts a DCM is given several groups or a subdistrict for which they represent.

SERVICE STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP



Alcoholics Anonymous Acronyms
 AAWS-Alcoholics Anonymous World Services
 GSR-General Service Representative
 DCM-District Committee Member
 ACM-Alternate DCM
 Alt-DCM-Alternate DCM
 GSO-General Service Office
 GV-Grapevine

WHAT IS A DCM?

A District Committee Member, or DCM, is a vital link between groups, their General Service Representatives (GSRs), the District, Area 15, and the General Service Conference. A DCM informs groups of area and district activities, gathers and conveys group conscience, and represents their groups at the Area 15 Assembly as a voting member. In some districts, DCMs are assigned to subdistricts; in others, to specific groups. Elected by the GSRs and possibly other district members with voting privileges, DCMs assist, when requested, in applying the Traditions and Concepts and help groups understand the AA service structure.

As stated in The A.A. Service Manual, a DCM who can set their own opinions aside to listen to and support the district's GSRs, and to understand and advance the conscience of the district's groups, is practicing two important principles of leadership in A.A.: leading by example and serving with humility.

DCM QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Have served as a GSR.
- ✓ Have at least 4-5 years of sobriety.
- ✓ Be familiar with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
- ✓ Have the time and stamina to serve the district well.
- ✓ Be familiar with the General Service Office.
- ✓ DCMs usually serve a two-year term. Often the term coincides with the panel of the area delegate's term of service.

DCM DUTIES

- Builds relationships with GSRs, groups and meetings by periodically visiting them.
- Assists and advises GSRs in their duty to relay information from District, Area, GSO, and AAWS to their Group.
- Regularly attends and participates in district meetings and area meetings. Votes the group conscience of their groups whose GSR can't attend or who don't have a GSR.
- Shares news or concerns from their GSRs and groups to the district, area, or delegate.
- Communicate group/meeting, mail contact and GSR changes to District Registrar.
- Represents the District as a voting member at Area 15 Quarterly Business Meetings.
- Attends DCM Sharing Session at Area 15 General Service Assembly.
- Keeps groups informed about Conference-approved books and pamphlets.
- Regularly keeps in touch with alternate DCM.

Alternate DCM

The alternate DCM acts as a backup for the DCM. Should the DCM be unable to attend a district meeting or area assembly, the alternate DCM can step into the role. The alternate may vote in place of the DCM during an area assembly business meeting. If DCM resigns or is unable to fulfill their duties, the alternate typically steps in. The specific procedures for this transition are determined by each district. The qualifications for Alternate DCM are also set by each district.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Get a copy of the flyer, “Your DCM” from your Central Office or online. This flyer will help you begin to get familiar with the role of the District Committee Member.
- Review a list of materials that are included in the DCM Kit. You do NOT need to wait for your DCM Kit to come from the General Service Office. You can start reading the contents of the kit right now.
- Get a copy of the A.A. Service Manual from your Central Office/Intergroup or read it online. Pay special attention to the chapter about the District Committee Member but consider working your way through the entire manual.
- Let your district registrar know you are serving as DCM for your district. Ask the registrar to update the Area 15 database accordingly so that you will receive information from Area 15.
- Help your GSRs become acquainted with The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service. Introduce them to Box 4-5-9 and service material from the General Service Office. Alert them to new literature, service materials and technology applications from GSO and Grapevine.
- Be prepared, when your district registrar requests your assistance, to provide the registrar with updates (groups no longer active, changes in GSRs, etc.) to ensure that the area database is an accurate reflection of reality.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Visit and encourage groups in your subdistrict that do not have a GSR to elect one. Provide those groups with information about the role of the GSR and why it's important for groups to have one. Revisit the pamphlet, "GSR: Your Group's Link to A.A. As a Whole," if you need a refresher. If a group is not interested in electing a GSR, encourage the members to name a group contact with whom you can keep in touch.
- Be prepared to conduct a group inventory should a GSR request it. You can learn about group inventories in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins".
- Make a commitment to attend your district's business meeting every month. Plan to stay for the entire meeting. Encourage the GSRs in your subdistrict to attend as well. If your district offers a DCM sharing session, attend it.
- Make a commitment to attend the Area 15 General Service Assembly in January, April, July and October. You can find information on area assemblies at area15aa.org. Encourage the GSRs in your subdistrict to attend as well and share the link above.
- When you are at the area assembly, attend the DCM workshop, but find other sessions to attend. Pass on everything you learn to the GSRs in your subdistrict and encourage them to join you when you attend sessions at assemblies. Make plans to attend the Sunday business meeting with the intention of staying for the entire meeting.

DATA STEWARDSHIP

Area 15 and the General Service Office (GSO) each maintain databases of A.A. groups, contacts and trusted servants. Area 15 uses Airtable, while GSO maintains records in Fellowship Connection.

As a District Committee Member, you are uniquely positioned to know when new groups form, when GSRs are elected or change, and when a group's status becomes active or inactive. This information is essential to maintaining accurate records and may not always be known to the district registrar. For this reason, close cooperation between DCMs and registrars is critical.

To support accurate information and effective communication, GSO provides DCMs with read-only access to Fellowship Connection. This access helps facilitate exact information, stronger communication, and responsible use of A.A.'s resources. It also allows DCMs to observe the 30-day delay period for new group registrations, during which they may welcome new groups and share service structure information.

Read-only access also enables DCMs to review reports such as group contact and service position reports.

*Excerpted from "Suggested Activities for District Committee Members," © Area 15 General Service Assembly of A.A.

DATA STEWARDSHIP TIPS

- Obtain your sub-districts or group list from the district registrar
- Verify meeting locations, times, contacts, and active status
- Report inconsistencies, corrections or changes to the registrar
- Some DCMs regularly cross-check Fellowship Connection, and the Meeting Guide App to ensure accuracy.
- See the following documents for more information:
 - [“Registrar Facts-Area 15”](#)
 - [“DCMs and Fellowship Connection”](#)



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to A.A.W S., District 6 of Area 15, San Diego Imperial Area 8, and Area 15 for use of their material in the making of this pamphlet. Thank you to the Area 15 Literature Subcommittee, the Area 15 Registrar, and the many DCMs who contributed their time and suggestions for all their hard work.

