

Area 15

New Area Assembly Schedule

September 22, 2026



Purpose

- Review the proposed changes to the Area 15 assembly schedule.
- Share the feedback and experiences that informed this schedule
- Explore ways to improve participation, communication, and efficiency.

What Informed The Schedule?

- June 4, 2022: Area 15 Inventory
- October 2023: Area 15 Survey
- Survey of 13 areas across the United States and Canada
- Feedback from trusted servants and Area experience

Research On The Schedule

As part of its work, the subcommittee, through our Alternate Delegate, Donna Winchester, surveyed areas across the United States and Canada to learn how they conduct their assembly weekends. 13 areas responded: Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Florida, Eastern Pennsylvania, Northern Coastal California, Chicago, and Northwest Quebec.

Research On The Schedule

We were not looking for a schedule to copy. We wanted to understand how other areas accomplish an assembly weekend, how they get the Conference agenda in front of their groups, keep committees productive, prepare GSRs for service, and still complete the business of the Area.

Research On The Schedule

We also looked at how these areas are built, not just how they run their weekends. Most of them have districts with one DCM at the head of each. We have districts with subdistricts under them, a DCM for each subdistrict, and a district chairperson above that. Of the 13, only Northern Coastal California is structured similarly. So when another area talks about a DCM meeting, that is not always what we mean.

Research On The Schedule

Much of what we found was familiar. Every area schedules committees concurrently in designated blocks of time. Every area limits microphone participation to just a few minutes per person. Every area sets aside dedicated time on Saturday for the Delegate's report.

Research On The Schedule

The differences, however, were where the survey became most valuable. 10 of the 13 areas conduct at least some business on Saturday. Four intentionally divide the work between days, using Saturday for reports and discussion and Sunday for voting. Four areas use Friday evening for substantive committee work. Four complete their entire assembly in a single day. And five publish a specific ending time for Sunday.

Research On The Schedule

We then compared those findings to our own assembly structure. Area 15 has the longest Saturday schedule of any area surveyed: 11 hours of committees and workshops, roughly an hour and a half longer than the next-longest schedule. We are one of only four areas that reserve all business for Sunday. We use Friday primarily for the welcome and speaker meeting, with little additional work scheduled. And unlike several other areas, we do not publish a Sunday adjournment time.

Research On The Schedule

One topic stood out for Area 15: language access. We provide Spanish-language meetings and workshops alongside the English sessions, maintain a Linguistic Committee, and make ASL interpretation available upon request. None of the thirteen surveyed areas reported comparable accessibility.

Research On The Schedule

This survey is only one of several resources that informed the draft before you. It did not tell us what to do, or how to do it, but it provided other perspectives showing us what is common practice, what may simply be our custom, and what deserves a second look.

Area 15 Current Practice

Our current weekend schedule has been governed by equal parts Current Practice and little “t” tradition.

Navigating between what a weekend must have according to Current Practice with express needs made by the body has been a delicate tightrope to navigate.

Old Schedule to New Schedule

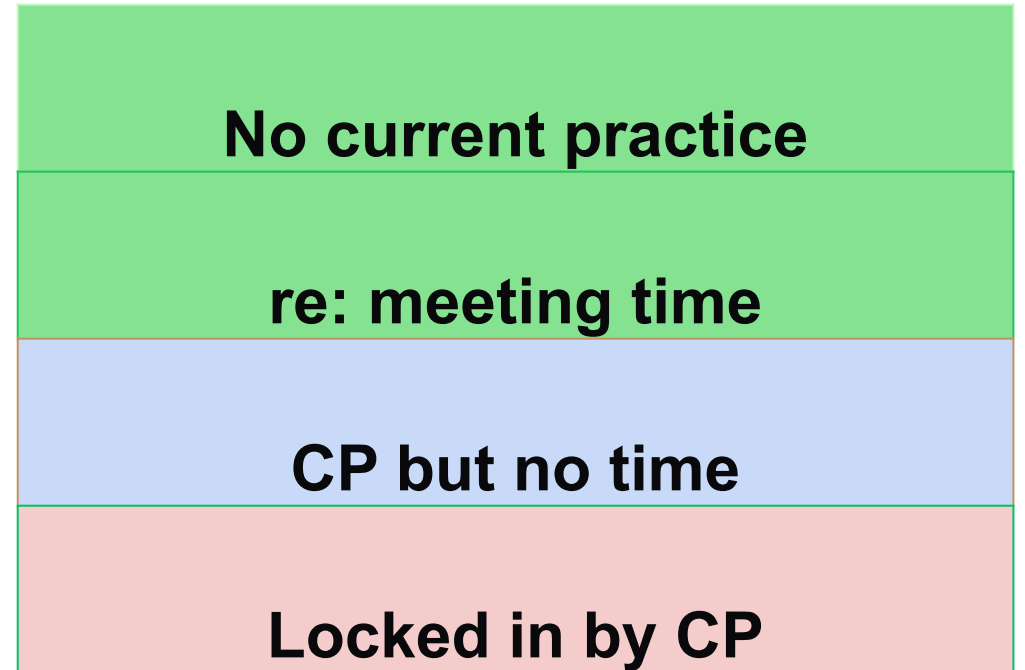
Reasoning due to Current Practices

Old Schedule

Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
Time	Meeting		Time	Meeting		Time	Meeting	
7:00PM-8:00PM	Assembly Welcome		7:00-8:00AM	Early Bird Meeting		7:00-8:00AM	Early Bird Meeting	
8:30PM-9:30PM	Speaker Meeting		7:00-8:00AM	Spanish Early Bird Meeting		7:00-8:00AM	Spanish Early Bird Meeting	
10:00PM-11:00PM	Night Owl Meeting		8:00-9:00AM	Traditions Workshop - see motion 822		9:00AM	Area 15 Business Meeting - see motion 356	
10:00PM-11:00PM	Spanish Night Owl Meeting		8:00AM-9:00AM	Spanish Traditions Workshop - see 495, 822				
			8:30-10:50AM	Treatment Facilities Committee				
			9:00-10:50AM	Remote Communities Committee - 729				
			9:00-10:50AM	Archives Committee				
			9:00-10:50AM	Current Practices Committee				
			9:00-10:50AM	Grapevine/La Vina Committee				
			9:00-10:50AM	Literature Committee - see 527				
			9:00-10:50AM	PI/CPC Committee				
			9:00-10:50AM	Accessibilities Committee - 777 *SAT AM*				
			11:00-12:30PM	Spanish Linguistics Committee - 495, 733				
			11:00-12:00PM	Concepts Workshop - see 822				
			12:00-1:30PM	Website Committee				
			12:00-1:30PM	State Convention Committee - see 575				
			12:30-1:30PM	District Chairpersons Meeting				
No current practice			12:30-1:30PM	District Treasurers Meeting				
re: meeting time			12:30-1:30PM	District Secretaries/Registrars Meeting				
CP but no time			1:00-1:50PM	Spanish Concepts Workshop - 495, 733, 822				
Locked in by CP			1:30-3:50PM	Corrections Committee				
			2:00-3:50PM	Finance Committee				
			2:00-3:50PM	Intergroup/Central Office Meeting				
			2:00-3:50PM	GSR Workshop - see 141 - NO TIME SPECIFIED				
			2:00-3:50PM	DCM Workshop				
			2:00-3:50PM	Quarterly Coordinators Meeting - see 731				
			4:00-5:00PM	Service Manual Workshop - see 186				
			4:00-5:00PM	Spanish Service Manual Workshop - see 495, 691				
			5:00-6:00PM	Whats On Your Mind? - see 276 & 696				
			6:00-7:00PM	Outreach Committee				
			7:00-8:30PM	Banquet				
			8:30-9:30PM	Speaker Meeting				
			10:00-11:00PM	Night Owl Meeting				
			10:00-11:00PM	Spanish Night Owl Meeting				

Legend

- Green legend means there is no Current Practice governing this committee meeting
- Blue legend means there is Current Practice but no time restrictions
- Pink legend means it is locked in by Current Practice



List of Motions for each Current Practice

- **141 10/1982** There be a 2-hour GSR Sharing Session chaired by a GSR, strictly for GSRs to share problems, questions, and other wonderful things that come out of this kind of workshop.
- **186 03/1985** The Service Manual Workshop be made a permanent meeting or function of the South Florida Quarterly meeting or Assembly. This meeting be held on Saturday and, if possible, meeting should be conducted by a former Delegate from the South Florida Conference.
- **276 07/1994** A 1-hour sharing session—"What's On Your Mind?"—be placed on the [Quarterly] agenda at a time not to conflict with any other meeting.
- **356 10/1997** In the interest of time and to make our Sunday morning business meeting the same starting time all the time, I propose we start at 9:00am for all Sunday morning business meetings.
- **495 01/2004** At future South Florida Area Quarterlies weekends, that the host district provide meeting space for the Spanish Speaking Workshops (Concepts, Traditions, Service Manual), Linguistic District Representatives and officers that meet and that information about the meetings be included in the South Florida Area Agenda.
- **527 01/2005** That Area 15 Literature Committee requests a meeting time of 9 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on Saturday morning at all Quarterlies.

List of Motions for each Current Practice

- **575 01/2006** State Convention Committee meets every quarterly on Saturday. (Note: this is not the full motion)
- **589 04/2006** That the Current Practices Committee automatically updates the South FL Area 15 Quarterly Meeting Agenda as made necessary by motions passed by the Area 15 body.
- **639 07/2008** That South Florida Area 15 Linguistic Committee meets from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. (Note: this is an outdated motion)
- **691 07/2022** Recinded - see motion 826
- **696 07/2012** That in October of even years (voting assembly) the Service Manual Workshop & What's On Your Mind? workshop formats be changed to a review of the Third Legacy Procedure and Area officers descriptions. The Service Manual workshop will review the Third Legacy Procedure in Chapter 1 and the What's On Your Mind? Workshop will be chaired by the outgoing Delegate where the current Area officers will review their job descriptions and share needed experience with each position.
- **729 01/2015** Remote Communities - 9:00am-10:50am

List of Motions for each Current Practice

- **731 01/2015** That the starting time of the Quarterly Coordinator Committee meeting on the Area 15 Agenda be moved from 3:00 pm on Saturday to 2:00 pm on Saturday. The meeting would still conclude at 3:50 pm.
- **733 07/2015** That the time slot of the Spanish Linguistic Committee meeting be changed to 11:00 am- 12:30 pm and that the time slot of the Spanish Traditions Workshop be changed to 1:00 pm- 1:50 pm.
- **777 10/2018** (Note: not full motion) - The budget includes interpreter services when requested at the quarterly assembly for the Friday and Saturday night speaker meetings, the Saturday morning Accessibilities meeting and the Sunday assembly.
- **822 07/2022** Traditions 8:00am and the Concepts 11:00am - alternate every other year. Spanish workshop time 8am concepts and 1pm traditions. Note - not full motion
- **862 07/2024** (Note: not full motion): The Outreach Committee shall meet at least four times a year on Area Committee meeting dates, if and when they occur, and Area Assembly weekends.

List of Motions for each Current Practice

Considerations

- **625 01/2008** The South Florida Area 15 Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous conducts all Area Business Meetings in Assembly to allow full participation of the groups General Service Representatives.
- No motion stating the conference agenda review must be Saturday afternoon - see 276

- Some committees that were not governed by Current Practice that are similar or are somehow affected by another committee was taken into consideration
- Some changes were made due to the configuration of the rooms

What Are We Trying to Accomplish?

- Improve the use of assembly time.
- Create meaningful opportunities for committee and district reports.
- Support trusted servant development and communication.
- Reduce meeting-room requirements.
- Make Sunday business more focused and predictable.
- Continue responding to member feedback.
- Provide a cost-effective plan for reducing costs for groups, members, and Area 15.

The Updated Schedule at a Glance

- **Friday:** Orientation and officer meetings
- **Saturday:** Committees, workshops, Brown Bag session, and reports
- **Saturday evening:** Banquet or future food-and-beverage alternative
- **Sunday:** Area 15 business meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Friday Evening

7 – 7:50 p.m.

- New Trusted Servant Orientation ran by QCC Quarterback Program
- Officer meetings: District Chairs, Treasurers, Registrars, Secretaries

8:00 – TBD

Discretionary for Hosting District

Friday Evening

Orientation with the Quarterly Quarterback Program

- Only for New Trusted Servants
- Introduction to the Quarterly Quarterback / Rookie Program
- Clarifying service roles and expectations

Why Move Officer Meetings to Friday?

- Allow District Officers to participate in other committees.
- Creates an opportunity to attend the Saturday Brown Bag session.
- Allows non-voting trusted servants to travel home earlier.

Saturday

8 – 8:50am

Concepts • Spanish Concepts

9 – 9:50am

Treatment Facilities • Remote Communities • State Convention
• Current Practice • Technology • Literature

10 – 10:50am

Archives • Finance • Grapevine/LaVina • PI/CPC
• Quarterly Coordinator * Spanish Linguistics

11 – 11:50am

Website • Correction • Central Office/Intergroup • Outreach •
Accessibilities

12 – 12:30pm

BREAK: (Will be used to change room layouts)

12:30 – 1:20pm

Conversation with the Delegate session
• Traditions • Spanish Traditions

1:30 – 2:20pm

GSR • DCM

Saturday

2:30 – 3:20pm

Service Manual

3:30 – 4:20 pm

What's On Your Mind

4:30 – 6 pm

Standing Committee Reports • District Chair Reports

6 – 7 pm

BREAK (Used for now to prepare for banquet)

7 – 8 pm

Banquet

8 pm - TBD

Discretion of the Hosting Committee

Saturday

- 'Brown Bag' sessions allows for a food purchase option
- Creates 'Conversation with the Delegate' session to provide useful learning and communication opportunities
- Provide dedicated time for standing committee and district chair reports
- Give trusted servants a consistent opportunity to share updates.
- Allow members to hear and engage with reports without a crowded Sunday agenda.
- Preserve Sunday for motions and necessary deliberation.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

The volume of motions on the current panel's agenda, combined with the discussion required to address them responsibly, has significantly limited the time available for district and standing committee chairs to present verbal reports. As a result, only one assembly could hear these reports before the body.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

Moving the reports to Saturday afternoon would ensure that district and standing committee chairs have a consistent and meaningful opportunity to communicate important updates, accomplishments, and issues to the assembly. It would also allow members to hear and engage with these reports without the pressure of an already crowded business agenda.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

Most importantly, this change would preserve Sunday's business meeting for its primary purpose: considering motions, conducting necessary deliberation, and completing the assembly's business. Setting aside dedicated time for reports on Saturday would create a more predictable schedule, reduce time pressure on Sunday, and ensure both organizational reporting and assembly business receive the attention they deserve.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

Feedback over several years has consistently identified the length of Sunday's business meeting as a concern. During the June 4, 2022, Area 15 Inventory, members noted the long Sunday schedule, particularly for those facing a four- to five-hour drive home. Concerns also arose about setting an end time for the business meeting and the overall time commitment required of GSRs to participate fully over the weekend.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

The October 2023 Area 15 Survey reflected similar concerns. Members identified lengthy committee reports as contributing to meeting length and supported having only motions on Sunday's agenda, voting on motions before committee reports, and shortening the Sunday meeting.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

These concerns have grown more significant because of the volume of motions on the Quarterly Area 15 Business Agenda and the discussion needed for the body to give each motion appropriate consideration. When verbal committee and district reports compete with motions for limited time on Sunday, the reports are shortened or omitted, motion consideration is compressed, or the business meeting runs later into the day.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

Moving Committee Chair and District Chair verbal reports to Saturday afternoon would give those trusted servants dedicated time to inform the body while allowing Sunday to focus exclusively on Area 15 business and motions. This change would address concerns raised in both the 2022 Inventory and the 2023 Survey, make better use of the weekend schedule, and reduce the time commitment required on Sunday.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

A more focused Sunday agenda would also provide greater predictability for members traveling home—particularly those with four- to five-hour drives—and increase the likelihood that the business meeting can conclude in the early afternoon without sacrificing meaningful discussion or participation in Area 15's decision-making process.

Saturday: Committee & District Chairperson Reports

Can the QCC change the agenda for Sunday on it's own?

No.

The Chair of the Area sets the Sunday agenda.

We have carved out the time with the hopes it will be utilized by the incoming chair in the new panel.

Conversation With The Delegate

- Timely messages from the General Service Office
- Updates from AA World Services, the Grapevine, and the General Service Board
- Information about submitted proposed Conference agenda items
- An opportunity for questions and ongoing two way communication

Conversation With The Delegate

Conversation with the Delegate will be an informal session with the current delegate to better inform members of the conference process. This will be a time where the current delegate can discuss current messages from the General Service Office, AA World Services, The Grapevine, and the General Service Board. It will serve to get information out soon rather than in a later form of communication. An example would be the Proposed Agenda Items for the upcoming conference.

'Brown Bag' Sessions

From roughly 12 - 1:30 p.m., there will be some sort of setup where lunch will be available for purchase. This is part of a larger plan to move the area away from reliance on a banquet.

New Way To Cover F&B Requirement

In an effort to ultimately eliminate the banquet on Saturday evening, we must consider alternatives to satisfy the Food & Beverage financial requirement. That requirement pays for our meeting space. Providing an option to purchase lunch on Saturday is one way to accomplish this while making it easily accessible for attendees. Each hotel would have a slightly different setup. Those details would be worked up in better detail as we bid out new contracts that do not include a banquet.

Future of the Banquet

- Long-term goal: move away from the Saturday evening banquet.
- Previous surveys and inventories identified interest in alternative options.
- Explore contracts beginning in April 2028 without a banquet.
- Consider Saturday and Sunday bag lunches.
- Explore purchased coffee and potential ice cream socials.

Efficiency of Meeting Times

- 50-minute committee, GSR, and DCM sessions
- 10-minute breaks between sessions
- Fewer overlapping start times
- More committee meetings in fewer rooms
- Greater flexibility for trusted servants

Efficiency of Meeting Times

The new schedule has changed the meeting times for nearly every session. Committee meetings, GSR sharing, and DCM sharing have been reduced to 50-minute sessions. A 10-minute bathroom break is included in between each session. The change in times answers two concerns. The first: repeated surveys have indicated a concern that current meetings are too long to sit through.

Efficiency of Meeting Times

The second is logistical: by shortening meeting times, we are able to fit essentially the same schedule into far fewer meeting rooms. Using fewer meeting rooms opens us up to meeting in smaller, more cost-effective venues and will also lower the cost of our food and beverage commitment as venues will be able to rent unused spaces to other functions.

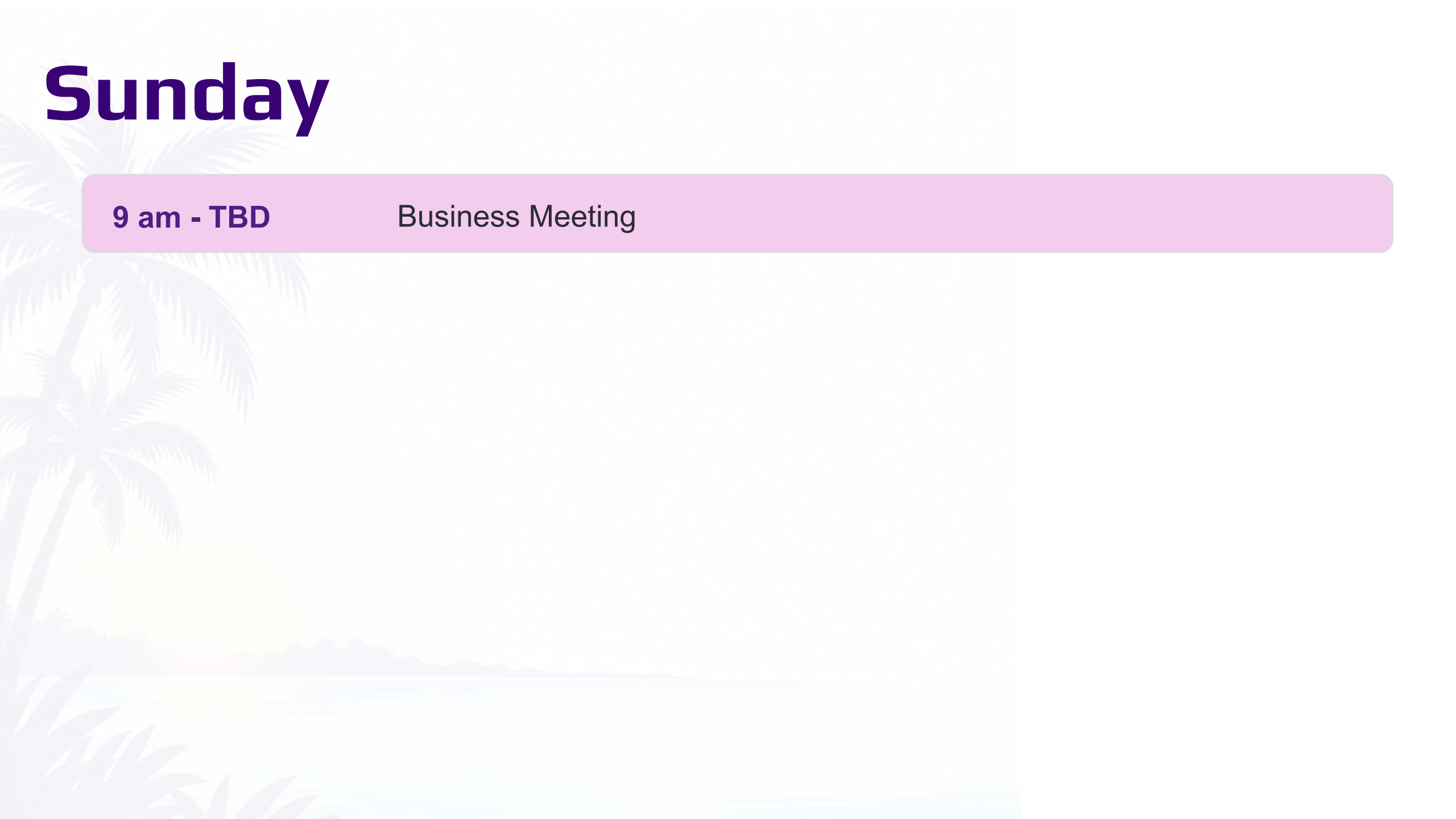
Efficiency of Meeting Times

The shorter times have allowed for the stacking of committee meetings into three sessions, allowing trusted servants to attend a more varied selection of committee meetings. Overlapping start times for meetings have also been eliminated.

What About Conference Agenda Review?

Annual Conference Agenda Review would continue to be scheduled with consultation from the Delegate. Existing current practice still requires that What's On Your Mind and the Service Manual workshop to convert to Agenda Review on Saturday at April assemblies.

Sunday



9 am - TBD

Business Meeting

Sunday

Includes:

- Area 15 Officers' reports
- Delegate Report
- Alternate Delegate Report
- Motions on the Agenda
- Any actions requiring a vote or disapproval by the body.

What's Next: A Living Document

- The schedule will continue to evolve with Area experience.
- Gather feedback from trusted servants and members.
- Identify what works and what needs adjustment.
- Incorporate collective experience into future revisions.
- Continue shaping the schedule to meet changing conditions.

Area 15

Questions?

