

*IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A DELEGATE REPRESENTING THE NORTH-MIDWEST REGION,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHICAGOM INTERGROUP CHAIRMAN [chairman@chicagosa.org](mailto:chairman@chicagosa.org)*

## **General Assembly Delegate (GAD) and Alternate Assembly Delegate (AAD)**

The General Delegate Assembly (GDA) provides policy guidelines for the Fellowship as a whole. In deference to the inverted pyramid and the Twelfth Tradition, the deliberations of the GDA give direction to the SA Board of Trustees, who carry out its assignments. The specific process for the effective functioning of the GDA is spelled out in the Bylaws of SA (Appendix B). The Bylaws, Article II, specify that the GDA is the policy-making body of SA. The General Assembly Delegates meet at least annually, face-to-face, or by teleconference, list serve, or any other means determined by the General Assembly Delegates. The GDA is the active voice and effective conscience of the Fellowship. It discusses and votes on issues of concern to SA as a whole. The GDA also nominates, interviews, and elects the members of the Board of Trustees. It carries out service work on a Fellowship-wide level through the Board of Trustees and the international Trustee Committees.

The General Assembly Delegate (GAD) should be an SA member with:

- a minimum of **five years'** continuous SA sobriety
- a **background of service at all levels**
- **elected or selected to represent the Region** at the General Delegate Assembly.

The responsibility of the General Assembly Delegate is to serve the worldwide Fellowship of SA. To foster and maintain SA unity it is recommended that Delegates sent to the General Delegate Assembly support and believe the SA sobriety definition.

Though the GAD votes on behalf of a certain Region, he or she does not represent the interests of that Region alone, but rather of the Fellowship as a whole. The GAD listens to all points of view during the deliberations of the Assembly, thoughtfully considers possible avenues of action, and votes in the best interest of the entire Fellowship.

In addition to meeting the sobriety requirements, the GAD is expected to have worked the Twelve Steps, be thoroughly familiar with the Twelve Traditions, and have the time and energy to serve at the international level. The GAD needs to be familiar with the principles of the Twelve Concepts of SA. GADs also need to study both the SA Service Manual and the A.A. Service Manual.

A Delegate will participate in the SA Fellowship at the group level, interact on a regular basis with a sponsor for the duration of his or her term of service, and sponsor other sexaholics. The GAD is a conduit and is the primary medium through which information is passed from the members of the Region represented to the General Delegate Assembly and back to the region. The GAD's duties are ongoing. In addition to attendance at the Assembly, he or she is encouraged to travel throughout the Region attending service meetings at all levels and become a working member of at least two Trustee committees.

### **Duties of the General Assembly Delegate (GAD) & Alternate Assembly Delegate (AAD)**

- Maintain contact with the Fellowship through attendance at Regional and, wherever possible, all other levels of service meetings.
- Attend the General Delegate Assembly fully informed and prepared.
- Prepare and distribute a report on the actions of the Assembly to the groups and Intergroups within the Region. Find out how the membership has responded to the content of these reports.
- Obtain information from the groups and Intergroups as requested by the GDA and report to the GDA.
- Visit groups and Intergroups and make every effort to attend regional events and business meetings so that contact can be made with those who might not otherwise be reached. The GAD needs to be able to explain the workings of the SA Service Structure to members and to

help groups and Intergroups within the Region communicate with each other in any way possible.

- Take part as requested in GDA teleconferences and receive and respond in an appropriate and timely manner to items on the GDA list serve.
- Be the main point of contact for the Region by telephone, email, and letter.
- Provide leadership in the use and understanding of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts in dealing with local problems.
- Become a working member of at least two Trustee committees.
- Ensure that the Alternate Assembly Delegate (AAD) is kept fully informed and involved. The AAD may replace the GAD in his or her absence. After being trained, an AAD can step into the role of GAD if elected by the Region when the GAD completes a term of service.

### **Term of Office**

The General Assembly Delegate term of office is three years. A GAD may be re-elected by his or her Region to serve an additional term of three years, for a maximum of six years.

### **Expenses**

Although financing of GAD travel is primarily the responsibility of the region, some supplemental funding for GAD travel expenses is provided by SAICO on an as-needed basis. GADs submit receipts for expenses for reimbursements by SAICO. Much of the funding for GAD travel to regional events comes from the local area hosting the event and from Regional funds. Traditionally, reimbursed GAD expenses can include registration, meals, hotel, and transportation. Alternate Assembly Delegates (AAD) are supported by their Regions.

### **Geographic Rotation within Region**

Some Regions may choose to rotate the areas within their regions from which the GAD is elected. This helps avoid domination of leadership roles by areas with the largest SA populations. It also ensures that specific identities of the area (for example, different languages and cultures as in some international regions) are recognized and represented.

### **The Alternate Assembly Delegate (AAD)**

Service as an Alternate (AAD) is invaluable preparation for the post of Delegate (GAD), and it is recommended that the Alternate start his or her term at least one year in advance of serving as a GAD to maximize continuity and experience. Many regions acknowledge the valuable assistance of an Alternate Assembly Delegate and may provide some of the AAD's traveling expenses incurred while working for the region.

The Alternate Assembly Delegate (AAD) becomes familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly Delegate (GAD) and assists the GAD in the performance of the duties of a GAD. To foster and maintain SA unity, it is recommended that Alternate Delegates sent to the General Delegate Assembly support and believe the SA sobriety definition. The AAD may attend the General Delegate Assembly and Regional Assembly. It is helpful training for an Alternate (AAD) to be able to attend Assembly meetings, either face-to-face, or by teleconference. He or she may be invited to participate in the deliberations, the hearing of reports, and committee work. When both Delegate and Alternate are present, the Alternate may speak to a motion but may not vote.