

## **A Glossary of Terms, Abbreviations and Acronyms (Alphabet Soup)**

**AAWS**— Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (Inc.)— A corporation of the General Service Board overseeing the operations of the General Service Office and serving as the publishing company for Conference-approved and service literature, all non-Grapevine literature published by AA at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**Accessibilities**— Broadly, a term applied to those who may have more than the usual barriers to accessing the AA message or meetings. The term is also applied to the extra efforts made within the fellowship to recognize and to counter those barriers.

**Assembly**— The gathering of all area GSRs and the area committee for the purpose of sharing information, discussing service topics, and making decisions.

**Area**— A geographical division entitled to elect a delegate to represent it at the General Service Conference, also assuming some responsibility for AA service activity in its geographical division.

**Box 4-5-9**— Periodic newsletter published by the General Service Office (GSO). It is sent out to all registered group and service group representatives and is also available by subscription.

**Bridging the Gap**— Programs coordinated under AA's CF and TF committees (see below) providing support to AAs making the transition from AA in prison or jail (CF) or inpatient settings (TF) to AA in the open community.

**CCS**— Corrections Correspondence Service— A program linking incarcerated AA members with community-based AA members for the purpose of exchanging correspondence on the AA program.

**Corrections**— A service committee concerned with carrying the AA message to incarcerated alcoholics and/or with working cooperatively with correctional professionals toward that end. (The committee is now renamed simply "Corrections" in SENY.) Most also handle some aspect of the CCS and "Bridging the Gap/Re-Entry" programs (see above).

**Class A Trustee**— Non-alcoholic trustee elected by the General Service Board to serve on AA's General Service Board and standing trustee committees, usually drawn from the ranks of professionals who support the AA recovery program.

Class B Trustee— AA member trustee elected either regionally (Regional Trustee), nationally (Trustee at Large for the United States or Canada) or from among current or past non-Trustee directors at AAWS or the AA Grapevine (General Service trustee).

CNY— Central New York– Area 47 of the General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, one of the four areas in NY State. Includes Ithaca, Rochester and Syracuse, NY. [aacny.org](http://aacny.org)

Committee— The gathering of area district, county, standing committee chairs, elected officers, and past delegates. These members are charged with handling day-to-day service activities for the area subject to the approval of the area assembly.

Conference-approved— Material approved by the General Service Conference for production and release through AAWS, Inc. These materials carry the label, “This is AA General Service Conference-approved literature.” The AA Grapevine cannot be Conference-approved since the magazine is a monthly periodical and the Conference meets only annually. However, in 1986 the Conference formally recognized the Grapevine as the “international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

CPC— Cooperation with the Professional Community– A service committee concerned with carrying the AA message through working with professionals who may have contact with alcoholics.

DCM— District Committee Member– The chair of a local district committee; the district’s voice in area committee and assembly meetings.

DCMC— District Committee Member Chair– The chair of the local county committee/assembly; the county’s voice in area committee and assembly meetings.

FNV— Fellowship New Vision– The AAWS/GSO Records Department’s group database (GSO is currently updating this system).

GSB— General Service Board– The service entity with responsibility for custodial oversight for all AA service activities through AAWS, Inc., the AA Grapevine, Inc., and the trustees’ committees.

GSC— General Service Conference– The service body representative of the membership which is “the guardian of world services and of the

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous”;<sup>33</sup> the guiding conscience of the fellowship, also the annual meeting in New York City of that service body.

GSO— General Service Office— The business office of AA in the US and Canada, located in New York City.

GSR— General Service Representative— An AA group’s representative and link with the rest of AA as a whole, the voice of its group conscience.

Grapevine— The monthly journal of AA, “Our Meeting in Print;” also a service committee concerned with carrying the AA message through publicizing and making available the two periodicals, the Grapevine and La Viña, and related literature and other items.

Group Conscience – The group conscience is a majority of well-informed members with a conscious awareness that a loving God may express Himself in a minority voice. Each question must be well debated, and every member and group have an equal opportunity to express their experience and opinion on a subject so that a real sense of the group may be known.

Group Inventory – Many groups periodically hold a ‘group inventory meeting’ to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through AA’s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery.” Most area, district, county, and intergroup officers are available to assist GSRs and their groups in moderating an inventory.

HMB— Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire— Area 48 of the General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, one of the four areas in NY State. Includes Albany, Poughkeepsie and Utica, NY [aahmbny.org](http://aahmbny.org)

Link, The— SENY’s periodic newsletter. The Spanish edition is El Enlace.

La Viña— The Spanish language counterpart of the Grapevine. [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

NERAASA— Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly— The Northeast Region’s annual weekend gathering to discuss General Service Conference-related and other topics touching AA’s Three Legacies.

NERD— Northeast Regional Delegate— Any past or present delegate

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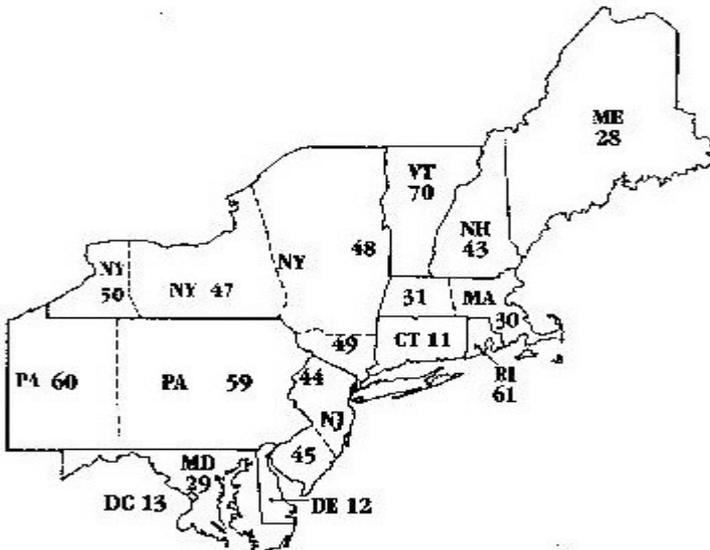
<sup>33</sup> From, The AA Service Manual, page S98.

from the Northeast Region; also, the annual meeting of that group of members.

**NERF—** Northeast Regional Forum— A biennial regional weekend sharing and informational session designed to help the General Service Board, AAW S, the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office staff stay in touch with members in the region.

**NERT—** Northeast Regional Trustee— The Class B trustee representing the northeast region. See also below, Northeast Region.

**Northeast Region—** Our region in the General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, one of eight regions (six in the US and two in Canada). The region includes the 18 areas in Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts (2), New Hampshire, New Jersey (2), New York (4), Pennsylvania (2), Rhode Island and Vermont.



Map of the Northeast Region

**NYSIW**— New York State Informational Workshop— An annual service weekend sponsored by the four areas in NY State and hosted by each in turn, supporting the discussion and sharing of experience by the fellowship’s main service committees.

**PI**— Public Information— A service committee concerned with carrying the AA message to the public, often working with the media.

**PSA**— Public service announcement— Brief, Conference- approved audio/video spots aired on radio or television providing information about finding AA. Some PSAs may also be produced locally.

**Quorum**— The minimum number of members required in attendance at a meeting in order to conduct business. See Article XI in the By-laws for the area committee. No quorum is defined for the area assembly.

**Right of Decision, Participation and Appeal**— Reflected in Concepts III, IV, and V respectively of The Twelve Concepts for World Service, these “rights” in brief seek to support effective leadership, representation, and a consideration of minority views in decision-making.

**RLV**— Representante de La Viña— See, GVR.

**SENY**— South Eastern New York (Area Committee and Assembly of AA)— Area 49 of the General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, one of the four areas in NY State. Includes New York City, five counties immediately north of the City, Long Island, and a non-geographic linguistic county. (See the detailed SENY area map inside the back cover of this handbook, [www.aaseny.org](http://www.aaseny.org)).

**TF**— Treatment Facilities— A service committee concerned with carrying the AA message to alcoholics in institutions and/or working cooperatively with treatment professionals toward that end. Most also handle some aspect of the “Bridging the Gap” program (see above).

**WNY**— Western New York— Area 50 of the General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, one of the four areas in NY State. Includes Buffalo and Jamestown, NY. [area50wny.org](http://area50wny.org)

**YPAA**— Young People in AA— Part of the name given to local, state, or regional service committees reaching out to younger alcoholics. In New York City, for example, the committee is called NYCYPAA (New York City Young People in AA), on Long Island it is LICYPAA. (Long Island Conference of Young People in AA).