

SWRAASA Talks & Workshop Descriptions



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Friday Evening

5:30 – 6:15 pm – SWRAASA, First Timers Huddle

Come get a head start and find out what SWRAASA is all about to get the most out of your experience!

6:45 – 8:00 pm – Alternate Delegate's talk on Traditions

Each delegate will speak on one of the Traditions (2 through 12) and share on how it supports Tradition 1.

8:15 – 8:55 pm – Trustee Report, Teresa J., SW Regional Trustee

Current Southwest Regional Trustee will present Trustee's Report.

8:55 – 9:15 pm – Ask a Trustee

Ask It Baskets will be placed in the front of the main ballroom for questions. Attendees may place questions in the Ask It Basket throughout the weekend. Questions will be answered Sunday morning as well. Questions may also be asked during designated times from the microphone.

Saturday

7:00 – 8:00 am A.A. Meetings

Wildflower 2: English A.A. Meeting

Wildflower 3: Spanish A.A. Meeting

Session 1 – 8:30 – 9:30 am

A.A. Service Structure: Maintaining our unity. What am I a member of?

This workshop will provide an overview of the U.S./Canada General Service Structure (upside down triangle) including its' history and development, the importance of the structure and how it ensures our unity and longevity. Also covered will be the importance of remaining unified through sharing our differing opinions and when there are changes through our General Service Conference. Discussion will include beneficial guides and actions we can implement to support our three legacies; Recovery (Steps), Unity (Traditions) and Service (Concepts) to ensure the future of our Fellowship.

Concepts 1 & 2

This workshop will provide an overview of Concepts 1 and 2, why they are important and how they are applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

Cooperation with Professionals/Public Information: The forgotten art of being friendly with our friends

This workshop will provide an overview on the primary focus and audience of the CPC and PI committees. Providing information on the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) and how Areas, Districts, and Groups can utilize the CMP in local efforts. Providing insights on the use of digital media: Meeting Guide, AAWS LinkedIn, Videos/Audios, A.A./GV/LV YouTube, GV/LV Instagram, etc. Review of recent releases: PI/CPC service cards, Press Packet, and the Membership survey. Sharing ideas on effective and inexpensive local projects that Groups and Districts can implement.

Don't Halt the Alt!

This workshop will discuss the importance of including the Alternate, so they are prepared to assume responsibilities of the position. How to collaborate with the Alternate to share service responsibilities. Discussion will additionally include why it is important to seek an alternate if you don't have one and what to look for in an alternate.

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Leading with Purpose: Area Chair

This workshop will explore strategies for effective communication, collaboration and guiding the Area towards unity and growth. Providing insight of responsibilities, practical tools that assists Area Chairs in their pivotal role of service and leadership within A.A.

Preserving Our History for our Future: Archives

This workshop will discuss the significance of Archives and the importance of collecting and preserving historic records at all levels of our structure. Providing examples of how-to record Group, District and Area history. Discussion to include how A.A. history affects today's members.

Session 2 – 9:45 – 10:45 am

Beyond the Bars: A.A. in Correctional Facilities

This workshop will share on the importance of carrying the message into correctional facilities and the positive impacts on our sobriety. How to navigate the approval forms and process, fund literature to help facilitate carrying the message and review the Corrections Correspondence and Pre-release Contact Program - Bridging the Gap.

Concepts 3, 4, & 5

This workshop will provide an overview of Concepts 3, 4, and 5, why they are important and how they are applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

Freedom from Alcohol: Our Singleness of Purpose

What is our one purpose? Why we only concern ourselves with alcoholism and ought not get sidetracked by anything else, i.e.: drugs, politics, religion, medications etc. Workshop will include less obvious ways we veer from our primary purpose and the common solution when Tradition 5 is not upheld.

From Contributions to Commitment: Treasurer

Discover the keys to financial stewardship in A.A. Learn best practices for managing funds, maintaining accurate records, and supporting the fellowship's primary purpose. Gain practical insights and tools to effectively fulfill the role as Treasurer and contribute to the unity of A.A.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: What does it mean to me!?

Respect and Safety related to: Our Unity, Common Welfare, and our Primary Purpose. The workshop will include the importance of considering the Traditions and customs of an A.A. Group. Benefits of A.A. Group Inventory and relevant topics for the Group to discuss.

The Spirit of Service (Spanish)

The Spirit of Service is the core of Alcoholics Anonymous. Trusted servants in A.A. are stewards rather than rulers within the fellowship. Explore the principles of leadership, focusing on the qualities that define a trusted servant and the importance of humility and anonymity. Central to the discussion is the spirit of rotation, which allows for the continual growth and development of members as they embark in service. Reflect on the Responsibility Statement, recognizing the commitment to maintaining unity while keeping our ego in check, which fosters an environment of shared responsibility and collective progress within A.A.

Session 3 – 11:00 – 12:00 pm

Anonymity- it's not just yours'

What is anonymity at the personal and public level. Discussion will include the public nature of social media; what is considered public. The importance of anonymity and how it protects Alcoholics Anonymous.

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Carrying a Pathway to Recovery: Treatment

Discussing the importance of carrying the message into treatment facilities and the positive impact it has on our sobriety. Including how Treatment representatives may work with other committees such as Accessibilities, CPC, Literature, Grapevine/La Viña. Discussion to include utilizing the treatment kit, what is Bridging the Gap and how to set it up in District and/or Area.

Concepts 6 & 7

This workshop will provide an overview of Concepts 6 and 7, why they are important and how they are applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

Ensuring Accountability & Fostering Unity: Secretary & Registrar

This workshop will include the role and responsibilities of the Secretary and Area Registrar and practical tools and insights to effectively fulfill responsibilities. Why efficient and cohesive minutes are vital to Groups, Districts and Areas.

The Home Group: A.A.'s Heart & Strength

Where the foundation of recovery starts and where we can learn about unity and service. Discussion to include how in being connected to District, Area, and A.A., strengthens a group with understanding and effectiveness.

Words of Connection: Literature & Newsletter

This workshop will cover items published in a newsletter for Districts and Areas, along with examples and how newsletters may be distributed to the fellowship. The do's & don'ts regarding reprinting A.A. publications, articles that increase interest, and examples of thinking outside the box - new article topic ideas. Sharing on how Literature can enhance recovery and service: where can we find it? Benefits of both digital and print. The use of pamphlets to engage the newcomer. Bangin' Displays!

Session 4 – 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Concepts 8 & 9

This workshop will provide an overview of Concepts 8 and 9, why they are important and how they are applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

Grapevine & La Viña: It's not just a magazine

A description of how GV & LV representatives can help individuals, Groups, Districts and Areas utilize the Grapevine/La Viña websites and apps. What is the Grapevine app and how it can be useful. Discussion to include how to create presentations about the GV/LV history, Grape-a-thons/Workshops, how to encourage story contribution from A.A. members and other methods to provide information on the GV/LV. Ideas for utilizing the GV/LV in other service positions such as Accessibilities, Treatment, Corrections, PI/CPC.

Intergroup/Central Office: On the Firing Line

Central Offices and Intergroups are a service entity that involves a partnership of cooperation. Discussion will include how Intergroup and Central Offices are a vital link among groups and within the community. Providing examples of how to fulfill the responsibility.

Service Evolution: Leading with Action

This workshop will discuss A.A. principles in service roles, how this inspires others through personal commitment and dedication at all levels of service. Sharing how service aligns with Recovery, Unity and Service. When we serve, we become living examples of A.A.'s guiding principles, fostering a stronger and purposeful fellowship. How personal experience and participation in service has provided greater understanding and effectiveness in all we do.

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Trustees- One Purpose: Serving the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

Defining a trustee and their significance in Alcoholics Anonymous. What is their impact to the fellowship. The workshop will touch on core responsibilities both legal and spiritual within the fellowship.

Workshops 101: How and Why

Discussion will include suggested workshop formats. Sharing how to utilize guidelines created by GSO to gain ideas about an A.A. workshop topic. How to utilize literature to achieve greater understanding of a topic. Providing information on what to discuss and how much. How to combine personal experience with A.A. published literature. Why it is important to allow time for questions and answers?

Session 5 – 2:45 – 3:45 pm

Concepts 10 & 11

This workshop will provide an overview of Concepts 10 and 11, why they are important and how they are applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

Remaining One Fellowship (Spanish)

Workshop will cover remaining One Fellowship within the English and Spanish-speaking communities of A.A. Explore the significance of active participation in the service structure and define the crucial role of the GSR. Discover strategies for fostering integration, inclusivity, and collaboration between English and Spanish speakers, overcoming barriers such as language and cultural differences. Explore how we can unite as one fellowship, embracing diversity and together enhancing our common journey in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sharing our 3 Legacies of A.A. - Am I Responsible?

Workshop will discuss how to acquire the knowledge of our 3 Legacies. What it means to embrace personal desire and commitment to support our 3 Legacies. Practicing the application individually and at the Group . Sharing the 3 Legacies with Others: Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship and/or Mentorship. Utilizing the 3 Legacies for continued growth.

Strengthening the Chain: General Service Representative & Alternate General Service Representative

Workshop to discuss why the GSR is the link between the group and A.A. as a whole. This link is the channel through which information, opinions and ideas can flow back and forth. Discussion will include how the GSR gives the group a voice in the affairs of the fellowship. Helpful tips on how the Alternate GSR can be encouraged to share the responsibilities of the GSR in the Group, District and Area.

The Delegate's Role & Impact in our Future

The workshop will review the role and significance of the Delegate in the A.A. Service Structure. How Delegates have an active role in shaping A.A.'s future direction while upholding the principle of Unity, representing the conscience of the Area and advocating for the best interest of the fellowship as a whole. How A.A. Members travel down the triangle: Who can be a Delegate? Why is it important to elect the best candidate for this position? What service experience is suggested? Personal story of becoming Delegate.

What's the Issue? Inside or Outside?

Workshop will cover what the terms Inside vs Outside Issues really mean. Difference between a Group opinion and a member sharing personal experience? What falls under the Group responsibilities. What actions Groups can take to address when outside issues are causing disunity in a Home Group, District or Area. Workshop will include methods that can be utilized to build a culture that limits outside issues from causing distraction in carrying out our primary purpose.

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Session 6 – 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Concept 12

This workshop will provide an overview of Concept 12, why it is important and how it is applicable at the Home Group, District, and Area.

District Committee Member (DCM) Role in A.A. Unity

This workshop will cover the DCM's service responsibilities, effective communication and how to maneuver through group dynamics. Suggestions on how to navigate relationships and challenges within Groups, Districts, and the Area. Experience and suggestions on how to foster GSR growth in service through District Committee Meetings.

Does Service Help Me Stay Sober? (Spanish)

This workshop covers the relationship between service and sobriety within Alcoholics Anonymous. Sharing how a Service Sponsor or 3 Legacy Sponsor can bring experience, discuss commitment and responsibilities of positions. How active involvement in the General Service Structure not only helps A.A. function but also fosters personal growth through a deeper understanding of A.A. Overall question: Can service in A.A. reinforce sobriety and deepen our commitment to recovery?

Inclusivity Matters: Accessibilities

The workshop will explore ways to ensure A.A. is inclusive and accessible to all members, regardless of background or ability. Providing insights into practical strategies for ensuring that everyone can fully participate in meetings, events, and service opportunities. Including who can benefit from the efforts of an accessibilities committee.

Tech Talk: Technology

The workshop will cover leveraging technology to ensure inclusivity within Alcoholics Anonymous. Exploring how technological advancements can improve accessibility for individuals with varying needs, enhancing their engagement and participation in A.A. meetings and service. Sharing practical strategies to utilize technology for ensuring the fellowship remains accessible and accommodating for all members, regardless of their circumstances or challenges.

Your Ego is not your Amigo! (Spirit of Rotation)

This workshop dives into the principle of service rotation. Exploring how the concept embodies humility, fosters fresh perspectives, and sustains the fellowship's vitality by ensuring diverse leadership, offering a deep understanding of its importance and impact within A.A.'s guiding principles.

6:45 – 7:30 pm – Panel 'What Service Means to Me'

A panel of three A.A. members will share on the topic "What Service Means to Me". Each speaker will speak up to 10 minutes. There will be one speaker who will share in Spanish and interpretation will be provided in English.

7:40 – 9:15 pm – Delegate Presentations

The current Delegates for the SW Region will speak on various A.A. topics.

A.A.: Society of Alcoholics in Action (3 Legacies)	Area 4, Arkansas
Accountability to the Fellowship in Service	Area 10, Colorado
Self-Support...It's not just the "\$\$\$"!	Area 25, Kansas
Communication - The Key to an Informed Decision	Area 38, Eastern Missouri
The Group Conscience - Where Humility and Leadership Meet	Area 39, Western Missouri
Why Learn the Concepts - Importance of Concepts	Area 46, New Mexico
Sponsorship - The Privilege of Passing it On	Area 57, Oklahoma

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A.A. Service - When Does it End?	Area 65, NE Texas
Service - Vital to Our Growth (SWRAASA Theme)	Area 66, NW Texas
Minority Opinion - Concept 5	Area 67, SE Texas
What is Our Common Welfare? How can we incorporate through service	Area 68, SW Texas

Sunday

7:00 – 8:00 am A.A. Meetings

Main Ballroom: English A.A. Meeting

Main Ballroom: Spanish A.A. Meeting

Main Ballroom

8:30 – 9:30 am Trustees Panel

Looking Ahead, Chair, Teresa J., SW Regional Trustee. Past Trustees in attendance share experience, strength, and hope.

9:30 – 10:00 Ask a Trustee

Current and past Trustees answer questions from the fellowship. Questions will be taken from the Ask it Basket and from the floor.

10:15 – 12:00 SWRAASA Business Meeting

A.A. members in attendance are encouraged to stay and participate in SWRAASA business meeting.