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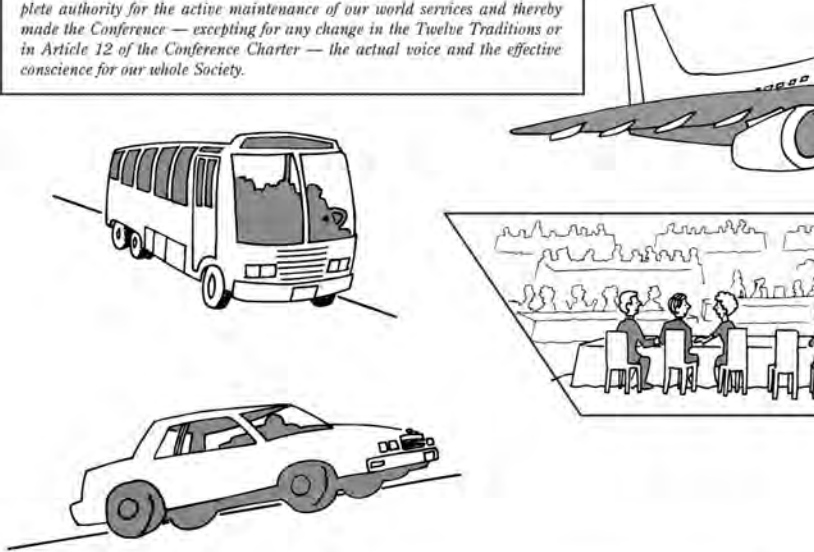


District6AA.org

# FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024

## Concept II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.



Concept I establishes the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" of the A.A. groups; but, in actual practice, how are they to manage A.A.'s service affairs? By delegation, Concept II declares.

Bill and Dr. Bob, entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and to spread the message, found nonalcoholic friends to help them. They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the AA Grapevine. However, as the trustees constantly looked to the co-founders for advice and guidance and the groups also continued to hold them accountable, it was evident that the leadership should be transferred to the

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## The Twelve Concepts for World Service

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

This is a pamphlet about the Concepts; it is NOT the Concepts themselves. They are found in the book *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and should be read by every "trusted servant."

As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups — first only a few, then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an Alcoholic Foundation, later renamed The General Service Board, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob's death and Bill's facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership which had fallen to the co-founders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the AA Grapevine, was being published.

Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their respon-

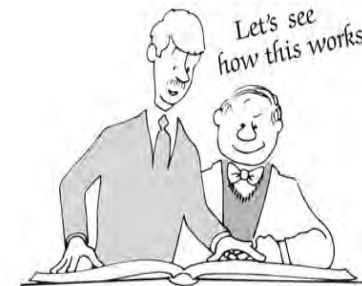


sibilities — and what were their rights? Bill W. himself was sometimes part of the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to "reduce to writing" his concepts of the "why" of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles.

As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together.

What follows in this pamphlet is an illustrated introduction to the Twelve Concepts. If it is answers or guidance you are seeking, go to the Concepts themselves.

Throughout this pamphlet, wording from the Twelve Concepts themselves (subject to some editing for clarity) is indicated by quotation marks; the rest of the text is either descriptive or explanatory.



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## CONCEPTS SCHEDULE 2024

- (I) 1/28 (II) 2/25 (III) 3/31
- (IV) 4/28 (V) 5/26 (VI) 6/30
- (VII) 7/28 (VIII) 8/25 (IX) 9/29
- (X) 10/27 (XI) 11/24 (XII) 12/29

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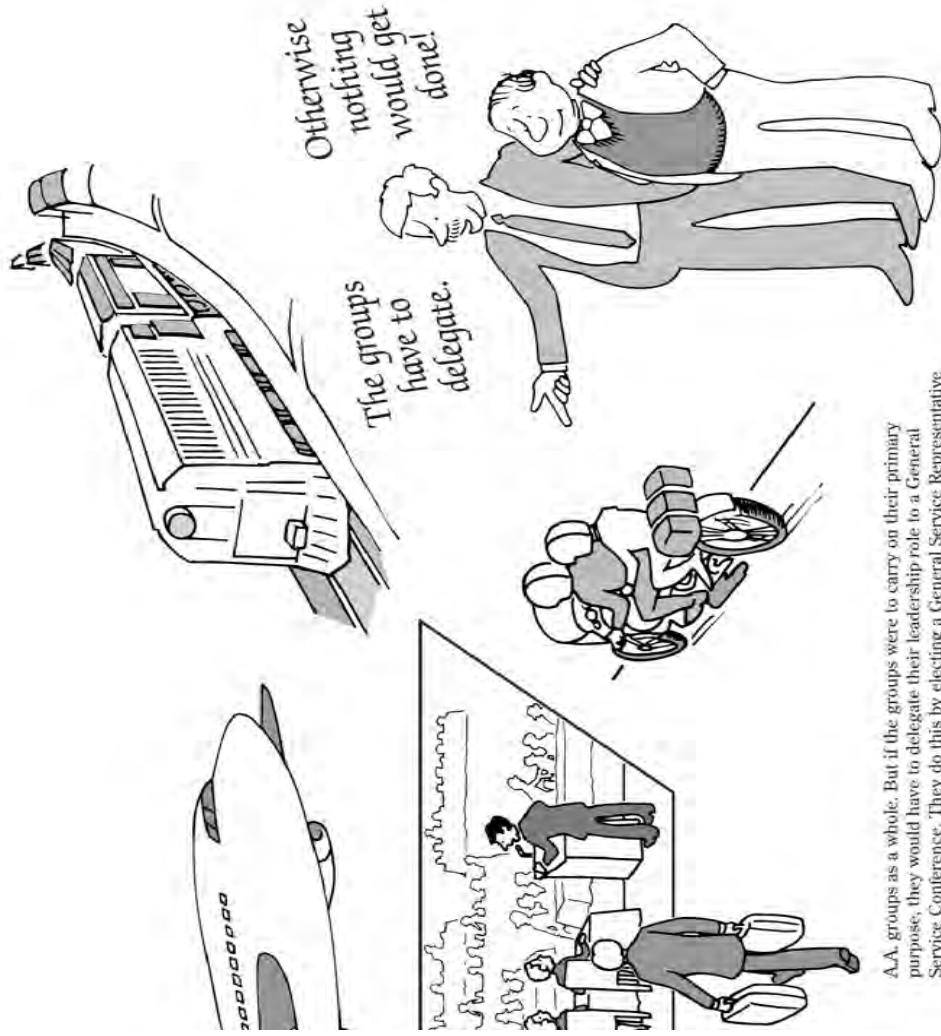


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AA groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and AA Grapevine and certain other service workers. Thus, this General Service Conference of AA is "the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs."

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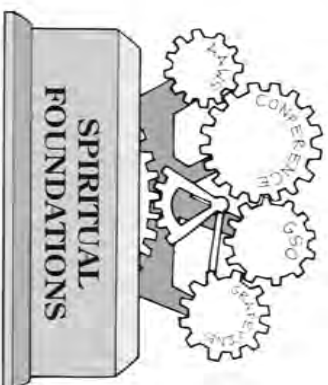
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Let's see  
how this works.



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