

Discussion Topic 2: The District Third Legacy Chair

Background Information

As the Third Legacy Chair for District 25, I have seen the value this service position can provide to a district during a rotation change and throughout a rotation. Districts can sometimes struggle after a rotation change in acclimating to the level service work at the district and area level, navigating the personalities and understanding this whole new world of an upside down, spiritually driven general service structure, all designed to support the groups in carrying the message. A District Third Legacy Chair can play a vital role in this process. And the hard work our Alternate Delegate and Past Delegates do across our Area in sharing their experience, strength and hope with incoming GSRs and DCMs is often not enough for a struggling district in their day-to-day journey. Enter the Third Legacy Chair.

As of date, 13 out of 31 districts that responded to our Chair's poll have Third Legacy Chairs. This Discussion Topic is a great opportunity for districts who don't have a third legacy chair to learn about the position and see whether it's something their district may want to consider. We would like to hear from the districts that do have a Third Legacy Chair to share their experience regarding this position.

Fun Fact: The Area email system has a Third Legacy email already set up for every District Third Legacy Chair. dist00thirdleg@area72aa.org.

Additionally, the following is a list of guidelines that a District Third Legacy Chair could use to help support their district:

- The essence of the Third Legacy Chair position is to be a resource and service sponsor to the district.
Some Suggested Duties:
- Orient, inform, and educate the incoming district committee;
- Assist the District Committee Member (DCM) and Alternate DCM in orientation and information at the Area Committee level;
- Coordinate with Home Groups and GSRs to encourage service within the District;
- Work on special projects as needed or requested by the district and DCM;
- Assist the district standing committee chairs in preparing for their Area quarterlies;
- Assist in bidding on and hosting Area Events and Area Standing Committee Quarterlies;
- Coordinate workshops and roundtables on service-related topics;
- Attend all district meetings and be available to the district committee for questions;
- Assist in all Third Legacy matters including review and updating the District Handbook;
- Chair a third legacy committee of past DCMs to advise on district third legacy matters;
- Share information and experience by making presentations and/or skits at district or group business meetings to foster an understanding of the value of service in maintaining sobriety, of A.A.'s general service structure and its various functions; and
- Assemble quarterly with other District Third Legacy Chairs to cover the gaps between the one Area Alternate Delegate and the forty-four districts.

Suggested Qualifications:

- Have a working knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts, Service Manual, and District Handbook and be able to share that knowledge in an understandable way;
- Preferred but not required, that the Third Legacy Chair be filled by the preceding District Committee Member (DCM) or have experience at the Area committee.

Compare with the Area 72 Alternate Delegate from the Area Handbook:**6.2 AREA ALTERNATE DELEGATE**

Receives all correspondence from the General Service Office on the Conference that is sent to the Delegate so they can be informed in the event it becomes necessary to assume the Delegate's duties. Coordinates with the Delegate on Area issues. Is available to chair or work on special projects as needed or requested by the Area. Historically, the Alternate Delegate has been responsible for the continued education of DCMs and GSRs (i.e. DCM/GSA Roundtables & Universities) either in person or virtually.

What problem would this help to solve?

Across the US and Canada, approximately 30-35% of the groups participate in the General Service Structure. In Area 72 we average about 40%. That means 60% of our groups are not here today. Outreach to our groups to encourage participation in our general service structure starts at the local level. If each District Third Legacy Chair in our Area was able to inspire just one home group in their district to begin participating, that would mean 44 additional GSRs would be here today learning new ways to help support their home groups carry the message.

Discussion: Questions to Answer at the Mic during discussion at the Assembly:

- 1. Does your District have a Third Legacy Chair?**
- 2. How could a District Third Legacy Chair help your District?**
i.e. What does your District need that a Third Legacy Chair could help provide?
- 3. If the Area had a Third Legacy Standing Committee, would your District consider creating a District Third Legacy Chair?**
- 4. Who at Area would you want to chair the Third Legacy Standing Committee?**
e.g. The Alternate Delegate? A Past Delegate? Someone else?

Patty S.

Third Legacy Chair, District 25

Area 72 Motion History on forming an Area Third Legacy Committee

84.4 Moved and passed that the Washington Area establish a Third Legacy Committee with an appointed Chairperson to travel throughout the Area to discuss service structure and A.A. as a whole; and to allow \$50.00 for new props.

86.1 Moved and passed to rescind the motion that created the Third Legacy Committee at the 1984 Washington Area Assembly at Pasco, Washington.

95.13 That an ad hoc committee be established to look at the need for third legacy work within the Washington Area 72. Committee work shall conclude by July _96 Quarterly.

18.A Create an Area 72 Third Legacy steering committee.

Background for 2018 Assembly Motion #1

- a. Area 72 membership requires continual and ongoing educational/informational efforts to learn about a myriad of service work positions, duties, and processes ranging from the homegroup to the general service board.
- b. Area 72 has historically addressed this need in many ways, including service sponsorship, GSR and DCM workshops, concept studies and traditions workshops. These are frequently and happily managed at the district level. (This steering committee has no intention of inferring elimination of District level events whatsoever but would naturally be available to help support such events if requested.)
- c. For the last many rotations, the alternate delegate has taken it upon themselves to organize and facilitated GSR workshops, and more recently DCM workshops as well.

Steering Committee Duties

- a. This steering committee would be responsible for organizing and facilitating GSR and DCM workshops, much in the way the alternate delegate has in the past.
- b. This steering committee could host “Third Legacy Roadshows” designed to teach members of the fellowship about the general service structure and be available for other third legacy informational activities as able.

Composition

- a. This committee would be co-chaired by the Alternate Delegate and most recent Past Delegate (in the event that the most recent Past Delegate is unavailable, the Alternate Delegate will recruit a replacement co-chair).
- b. Additional membership would need to be flexible based upon people’s schedules and lives, but we encourage at least four dedicated members.
- c. Beyond this we encourage outreach and inclusion regarding who would attend and present at various workshops on the steering committee’s behalf. IE the committee should have the flexibility to invite different DCMs, GSRs, Appointed and Elected to participate at different events in order to ensure broad inclusivity and participation.

Scheduling and Specific Events - We leave this entirely to each rotation’s steering committee.

Funding

- a. Travel Costs for Steering Committees are covered under motion 06.3.
- b. If this becomes a motion, adding “\$300 credit lined to be reviewed annually by Treasurer” may be desirable to cover printing costs.

Considerations: Step 12, Tradition 9 & 11; and Concept 3 & 12

“Hence, an AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Head-quarters for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy.”

Bill W. Grapevine, July 1955