

Discussion Topic #1 – Area Third Legacy Standing Committee

Background Information

Presented by the Third Legacy Chairs from Districts 10, 11, 14, 25, 27, 28, 36 and 42 and DCMs from Districts 7, 10, 12, 14, 25, 27, 28, 35 and 42.

Proposed Motion For Discussion Purposes:

Move that Area 72 create an appointed Third Legacy Chair position to support the District Third Legacy Chairs. The Committee chair will be selected using the established process for appointed officers. The committee shall function like other standing committees at the Area level.

(Format based on text of Motion 19.1 – Area Young People's Standing Committee)

The Case for an Area Third Legacy Standing Committee...

Service is A.A.'s Third Legacy, and it is how our message travels to the alcoholic who still suffers. The work of a Third Legacy Committee is straightforward: encourage members to try service at the group level and help grow that participation into district and area service over time. It is the work of building and sustaining the service pipeline that makes everything else in A.A. possible.

That pipeline needs tending. Filling service positions at the group and district level is more challenging than ever. Members are busy. Life is full. And for many, including newer district members, the concept of 3rd Legacy work is often unfamiliar. You cannot fill a role people have never heard of. Awareness has to come first, and awareness requires dedicated, focused effort.

At the district level, that effort is already underway. District Third Legacy Chairs across our Area are doing meaningful work, and doing it well. This is not a case built on failure. It is a case built on possibility.

Today, Third Legacy Chairs are active in roughly 40% of our Area's districts, a number that has grown organically, district by district, over time. Our goal is to reach all of them. But the challenge is two-fold: first, establishing awareness of the role itself, and then finding someone to step into it.

With Area-level standing, we gain greater visibility and legitimacy across the full body, the kind that helps a district DCM say with confidence, "this matters, and here's someone who can help you get started." A recognized committee, formally "stood upright" and supported by this body, carries greater weight than ad hoc effort alone. A Standing Area-level committee is how we accelerate both.

We also gain representation, greater access to the Area's collective knowledge, experience, and historical context, and a connection to the broader service conversation, and the ability to work deliberately and consistently across district lines.

We are not here because we are struggling. We are here because we believe in this work, and we want to do more of it, with your support behind us.

We ask that this body recognize a Standing Third Legacy Committee at the Area Level. We are ready to serve.

John K., DCM 35

What problem would this help to solve?

- Low participation by groups at district and area levels.
- Help to alleviate the fear of service.
- Support for our existing District Third Legacy Chairs.
- Encourage, educate and advise those entering or interested in our Third Legacy.
- A place for existing District Third Legacy Chairs to share ideas across districts.
- Committee work to support the Area.

Across the US and Canada, approximately 30-35% of the groups participate in our 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.

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ANNUAL BUDGET: Area Third Legacy Standing Committee Chair:

○ Quarterly Travel, Meals, Lodging:	\$ 1,060
○ Assembly Travel, Meals, Lodging:	\$ 700
○ Standing Committee Quarterly Travel:	\$ 400
○ Standing Committee Chair Discretionary:	\$ 200
○ Printing:	\$ 150
○ <u>Zoom Account:</u>	<u>\$ 240</u>
Total Annual Cost:	<u>\$ 2,750</u>

(Based on 2026 Budget allocation per Appointed Trusted Servant)

Proposed Duties and Responsibilities: Area Third Legacy Standing Committee Chair

1. Facilitate Area Third Legacy Standing Committee Quarterlies to improve communication between District Third Legacy Chairs and provide summaries of these meetings to the Area Committee.
2. Communicate with the Area Committee the needs of the districts and groups regarding service opportunities for new members.
3. Help coordinate service workshops and roundtables at the District level as requested.
4. Attend all Area Business Quarterlies and Area Assembly.
5. Give written and verbal reports at Area Business Quarterlies and the Area Assembly.
6. Submit monthly newsletter articles.
7. Expenses/Reimbursement same as/equal to other appointed committee officers.

Example District Solution:

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 of 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.

Example District Third Legacy Chair Duties and Responsibilities:

The purpose of the Third Legacy Chair is to encourage, educate and advise those entering or interested in group or district service. The Third Legacy Chair assists DCMs, GSRs and committee chairs in understanding their roles and responsibilities. Other examples of Third Legacy Chair responsibilities may be to coordinate with GSRs and committee members to encourage service within the District or work on special projects; coordinate workshops and roundtables; and attend all district meetings and be available for questions. They are familiar with the Traditions, Concepts, Service Manual and District Handbook. It is 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.

Final Thoughts

As of date, 17 out of 44 districts now have Third Legacy Chair positions, up from 14 districts since discussion began at the October 2025 Assembly. Several of these chairs and DCMs are attending a monthly roundtable hosted by District 25's Third Legacy Chair. The roundtables are intended to create a supportive environment where District Third Legacy Chairs can share their experience, strength, and hope with each other as they fulfill their responsibilities, i.e. encouraging service work within their districts and assisting its committee members with the various challenges of general service work. Many District Third Legacy Chairs are past DCMs with experience at the Area Committee level that can benefit an incoming District rotation. We believe the District Third Legacy Chair can be a valuable position for any district. We ask that the Area support our existing District Third Legacy Chairs with its own standing committee.

FAQs and Additional Considerations on next page

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Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. How will this help current District Third Legacy Chairs?** Job duties and experience for the District Third Legacy Chair position varies across districts with some districts filling the position with a past DCM for their experience. Tasks and challenges varied across districts. A quarterly committee meeting for all Third Legacy Chairs would provide a place for connection, shared experience, ideas and direction so anyone serving in this position would have more access to information, education and resources.
- 2. Would the creation of the committee replace or reduce the role of service sponsors?** NO. The experience of districts with experienced Third Legacy Chairs indicates they are more likely to introduce the concept of a service sponsor. Demand for service sponsors has often increased in these districts.
- 3. I am concerned that the District Third Legacy Chair may duplicate existing support provided by past delegates, service sponsors, elder statespersons ... and is therefore redundant.** It is true there may be redundancy, especially in urban Districts with higher populations who have easier access to multiple Past Delegates, service sponsors and area officers. The fact remains that most districts, even with access to this support, still suffer from low participation at the district level. The District Third Legacy chair is one of many ways to inspire participation in our structure and through the barriers to service such as fear.
- 4. Is there is a demonstrated Area-wide need, considering existing GSR schools and DCM roundtables and the fact that service sponsorship already exists.** Currently there are 17 Districts with Third Legacy Chairs positions. There were 16 District Young People's Chairs when the Area Young People's Standing Committee motion was passed in 2019. Now they have 24.
- 5. Why is there nothing in the A.A. Service Manual on Third Legacy Chairs.** Our limited research of other areas indicates that this position may only exist in a few Areas. In Area 72 it originated primarily in rural districts out of necessity due to challenges with inconsistent participation, experience and continuity across district rotations. The vision is that this service position could be a way to inspire participation in general service across all districts.
- 6. Isn't this premature until more than 16 districts adopt a Third Legacy Chair?** A responsive question to this is: How will districts know about the benefits of a District Third Legacy Chair without an Area Third Legacy Standing Committee? Just since this Discussion Topic began last year two areas have created a third legacy chair position in their district with two others in discussion. Another example is that in 2019, this Area voted to form the Area Young People's Standing Committee to support the then 16 Districts that had Young People Chairs. Now, 24 districts have Young People's Chairs and momentum and enthusiasm is growing.
- 7. Our District is already struggling to fill our existing committee positions, how are we going to sustain filling this position?** That depends on your District. Assuming your District is at least consistent in filling the DCM position and your District has past DCMs still available for service, one option is to fill the Third Legacy position with the outgoing or a past DCM who knows the district and could assist the DCM in outreach. This position is designed to educate and inspire service. A Third Legacy Chair could be helpful to a district with low participation.

Additional Considerations:

1. 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 1996 Quarterly.

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

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2. Background for 2018 Assembly Motion #1 [Motion Failed]

- 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 home group 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 facilitate 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