

Discussion Topic #1 – Area Third Legacy Standing Committee

Letters of Support

Letter of Support by Paul A., Third Legacy Chair, District 36:

District Third Legacy Chairs are standing committee positions the districts have created to help their district (and by extension Area 72) expand group participation at the GSR level, district level, and area level. More than one-third of all districts within Area 72 have Third Legacy Chairs and the number is growing.

Unlike other standing committees, Area 72 does not currently facilitate collaboration and exchange amongst these district Third Legacy Chairs. One district has taken it upon themselves to facilitate this collaboration through a monthly virtual roundtable. Since the Third Legacy Chair of that district is rotating out, there is danger of this forum ending.

Area 72's District Third Legacy Chairs believe their collaboration and exchange to be a legitimate area function – no different than Archives, Young People, or other standing committees – and are asking Area 72 to take on the function of facilitating monthly or quarterly virtual Third Legacy Committee meetings. It seems clear that State-wide collaboration between districts is not the function of any one district or group of districts.

From the resulting questions and discussion, it seems this basic facilitation request to Area 72 from its districts has been interpreted as a proposed change to area structure and area officer responsibilities. We believe the question of who facilitates Third Legacy Committees from the area should not take precedence over Area 72 being responsible for facilitation altogether.

No change to GSR or DCM schools or voting positions is being proposed. This is not a matter of duplicating, reshuffling, or creating redundancy at the area level. Rather, the hand of AA is reaching out to Area 72 to facilitate this evolving effort at the district level of helping restore our groups' general service tradition and our collective responsibility to AA. For that we hope that Area 72 will be responsible.

Letter of Support by Rose B., DCM, District 7:

Alcoholics Anonymous was built on three legacies. Recovery, Unity, and Service. Within Area 72, a quiet but meaningful movement has been growing to protect and expand that third legacy. District Third Legacy Chairs have emerged as vital servants, educating and mentoring those entering district service such as DCMs, GSRs, and committee chairs, grounding them in the Traditions, Concepts, the Service Manual, and district handbooks. More than one-third of Area 72's districts have already created this position, and that number continues to grow. This is the fellowship itself, group by group and district by district, recognizing a need and responding to it. That kind of organic growth deserves to be taken seriously.

Recently, one district stepped up to host a monthly virtual roundtable bringing Third Legacy Chairs together across district lines. That was never a single district's proper responsibility to sustain. Now, with that district's chair rotating out, the forum faces collapse. The request to Area 72 is simple: facilitate monthly or quarterly virtual meetings among these chairs, just as it does for Archives, Young People, and other standing committees. No GSR schools are being changed, and no voting positions created. It is merely a request for the area to do what areas are uniquely positioned to do, which is to support collaboration that crosses district boundaries by creating a Third Legacy Chair position within the Area 72 structure.

The growth of the Third Legacy Chair position across Area 72 reflects a genuine, felt need within the fellowship. It is a recognition that service must be taught, modeled, and supported if it is to endure. These chairs are not asking for resources, authority, or recognition. They are asking only for the basic facilitation that makes their work sustainable and connected. The hand of AA is reaching out to Area 72. It would be a profound disservice to the groups, districts, and members who depend on this work to leave that hand unanswered.