

What is a Pre-Conference?

Structure of the Conference U.S. and Canada

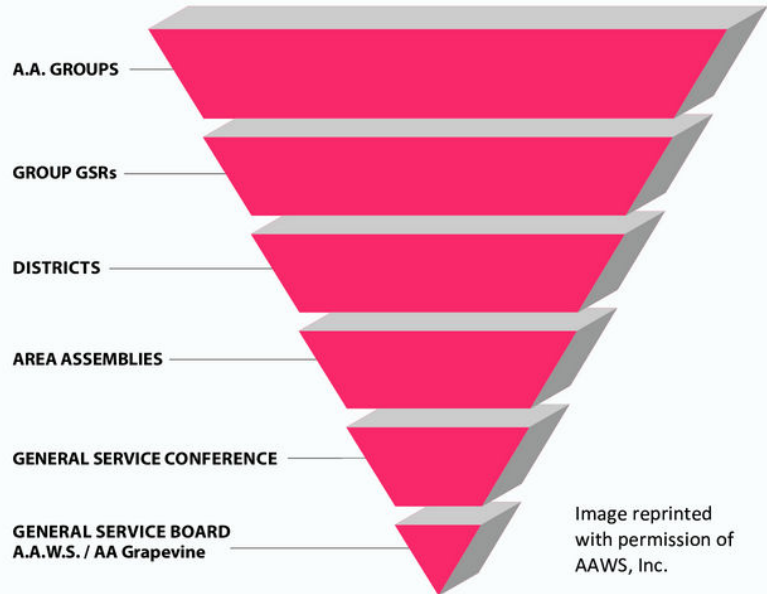


Image reprinted with permission of AAWS, Inc.

The Area 51 Pre-Conferences are events where all AAs can learn about & give their input on agenda items that will be discussed at the General Service Conference.

They provide an opportunity to involve, inform, and inspire our members with a thorough understanding of the General Service Conference structure and process. Additionally, the Pre-Cons provide feedback from our membership on the challenges and opportunities facing AA as a whole. This interactive process comes alive with participation, discussion, and debate.

What are Conference agenda items and how do we discuss them?

Items that will be covered at the Preconference are pulled from the Conference agenda. They could have originated from any level of the triangle, and from any Area in our Service Structure. Any items that originated in Area 51 may have been presented at the Area Assembly. The Pre-conferences gives us the opportunity to discuss agenda items that may have come from other areas. Short presentations will introduce the topics however the majority of the time is allocated to sharing sessions providing feedback to the Delegate.

What's the difference between the Assembly and the Pre-conference?

	Vote on Items relevant to NC or AA as a whole	Discuss items relevant to NC	Discuss items relevant to AA as a whole	Inform the Delegate	Reports from Coordinators	Workshops
Assembly	X	X			X	X
Preconference			X	X		

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is." Pg 40 2021-2023 AA Service Manual