

Excerpts from 'Is Your Group Linked to A.A. as a Whole?'

Most groups in the United States and Canada choose to be linked to A.A. as a whole by listing the group with the General Service Office (G.S.O.), as well as with the Area Assembly, district and local central/intergroup office.

To participate fully, a group lists itself –

1. With the general service structure (G.S.O., Area and District)
2. With the local intergroup / central office

Tradition 1 states – “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity”

Tradition 9 states – “AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve”

Excerpts from 'A.A. Guidelines – Central or Intergroup Offices'

A central office or intergroup is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community – just as A.A. groups are partnerships of individuals.

Functions of a Central Office

Basic services a Central Office might offer:

1. A.A. Inquiries – telephone answering service
2. Office Facilities
3. Meeting Lists and Other Literature
4. Information Exchange
5. Local Committees or Public Information (P.I.) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.)
6. A.A. in Correctional and Treatment Facilities
7. Local A.A. Events
8. A.A. Bulletin or Newsletter
9. Special Needs Services

Excerpts from 'Circle of Love (AA pamphlet P-45)'

Central Offices are different – because they fill a different need

G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, area committees, area assemblies and the General Service Conference are concerned with only AA's worldwide affairs. Central offices (C.O.'s), intergroup and answering services are entirely separate. They handle local services only – such as coordinating local Twelfth Step calls, printing meeting lists and in some places furnish public information speakers for non-A.A. groups and for A.A. meetings in institutions