

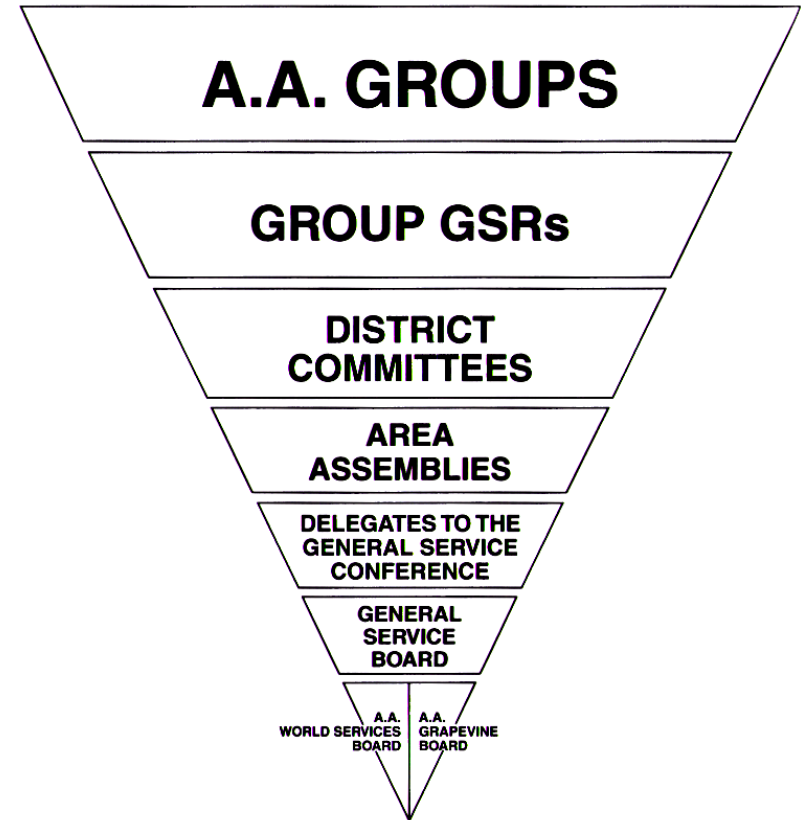
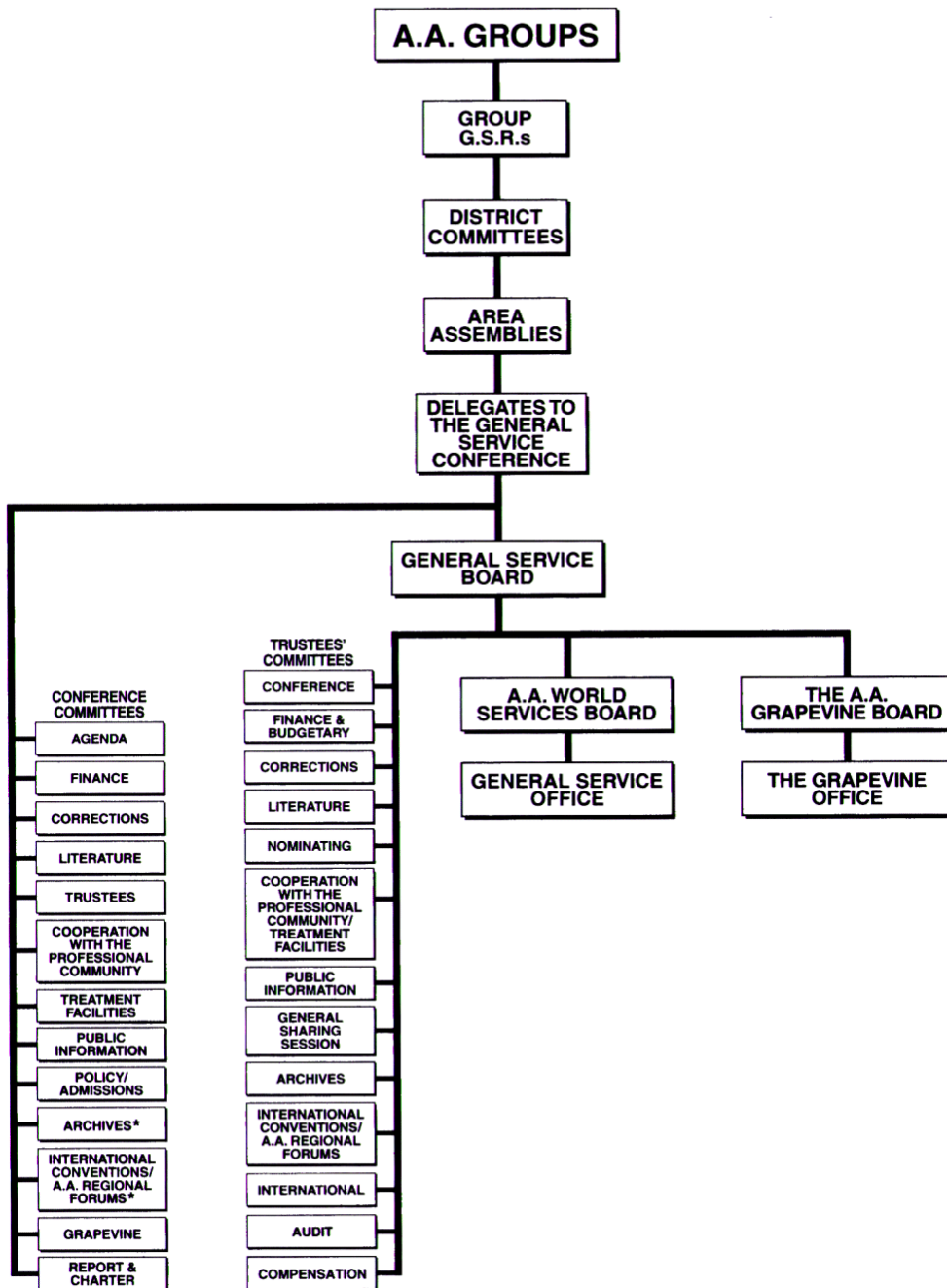
# Unofficial 12 Concepts Cheat Sheet – SWRAASA 2008

<u>Breakdown*</u>	<u>Summary*</u>	<u>Conference-approved Short Form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service</u>
<i>The "setup": Groups are "in charge", but this is not practical for daily affairs.</i>	1. The groups have ultimate authority & responsibility. 2. Active, effective authority & responsibility delegated to the Conference.	1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. 2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
<i>Three traditional rights...</i>	3. Right of Decision: Trusted servants decide what to bring back to groups for guidance. 4. Right of Participation: A proportionate vote given to workers at each level. 5. Right of Appeal: Listen to minority opinion and appeals.	3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision." 4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge. 5. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
<i>Relation of the Conference to the Trustees,  and....  Relation of the Trustees to the corporate boards.</i>	6. The Conference delegates to the Trustees. 7. The Trustees have legal authority; the Conference has tradition & purse strings. 8. The Trustees delegate to the corporate boards (AAWS & Grapevine).	6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board. 7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness. 8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
<i>Workers and staff...</i>	9. We need good leaders at all levels of service. 10. Authority should match responsibility and be clearly defined. 11. Corporate systems & staff policies are important.	9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees. 10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined. 11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
<i>The "result" or "Bill of Rights"...</i>	12. The Six Warranties: no perilous power; prudent finances; no unqualified authority; substantial unanimity; no punishment or controversy; no government, always democratic.	12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

\*The "breakdown" and "summary" are unofficial and not Conference-approved.

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# The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



**I am responsible...**  
 When anyone, anywhere  
 reaches out for help  
 I want the hand of AA always to be there.  
 And for that, I am responsible.

Diagrams from pages S16 & S18,  
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