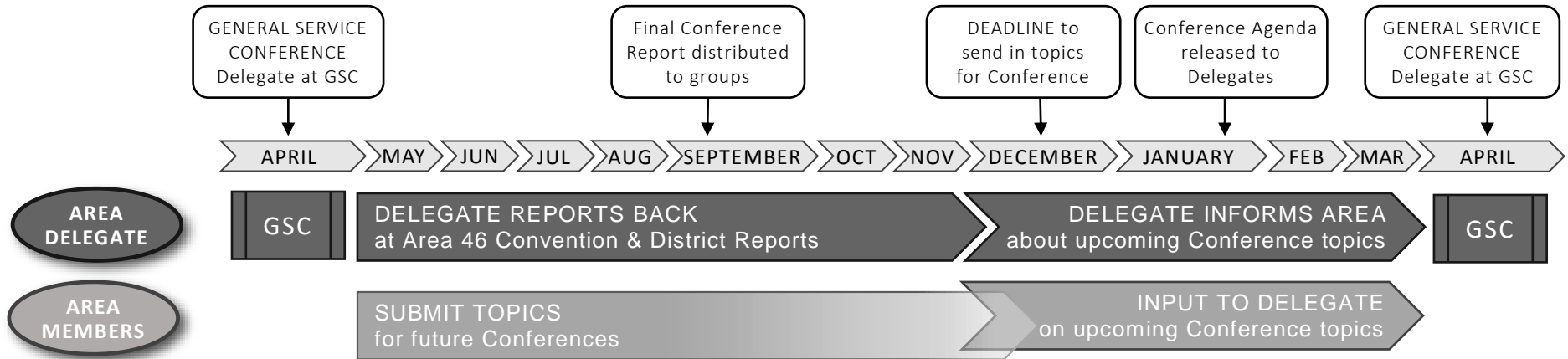
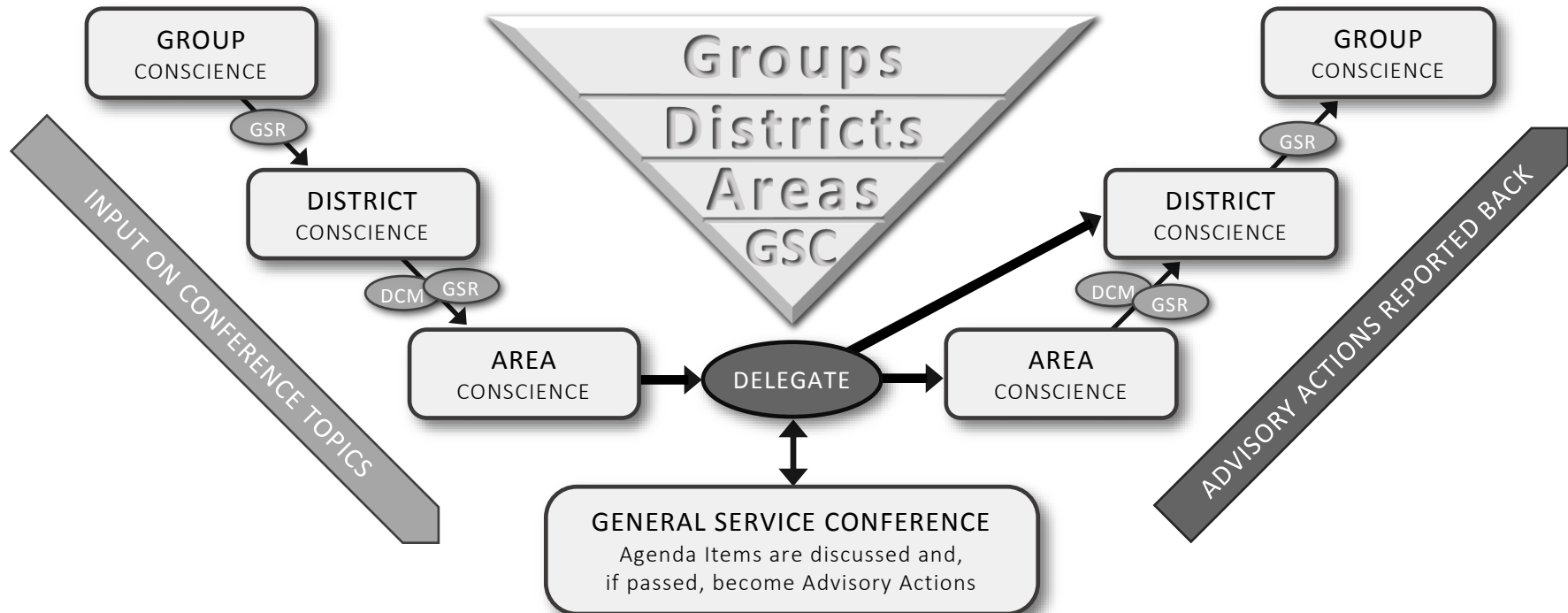


THE YEAR-ROUND CONFERENCE PROCESS

TIME LINE



CONFERENCE PROCESS



THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A.A.'s GROUP CONSCIENCE

The General Service Conference (GSC) is the forum at which the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada is heard regarding the direction of our World Services. At the GSC, policy matters of importance to the Fellowship as a whole are considered and discussed. Even though the GSC is held during just one week in New York, the work of the Conference is a year-long process, and every member of A.A. is entitled to participate.

DISCUSSING CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS

The final Conference agenda is set at the January meeting of the General Service Board (GSB) and is published as soon as possible thereafter. Once the agenda is published, discussions on the agenda items may begin throughout the Area, even though background material may not yet be available. When the Delegate receives the background material, a decision is made by the Delegate as to how the material should be distributed (some of the material may be confidential).

A.A. members participate in the Conference process by discussing items on the Conference agenda, along with any available background material, and then passing the results of their discussions on to the Delegate. These discussions can be held at the Group, District and Assembly levels, as well as in workshops and other forums.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CONFERENCE

At the annual GSC meeting in April, agenda items are generally first considered and discussed by one of the standing Conference committees. Then they are brought to the full Conference in the form of committee recommendations. Recommendations may also originate from floor actions. All Conference members then have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the recommendations before they are

voted on. Recommendations that are approved become Conference Advisory Actions and are referred to the General Service Board for further action/implementation.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

Beginning in May or June after the Conference, the Delegate begins giving Conference reports to the districts. GSRs can then report the outcome of agenda topics to their groups. Later in the summer the *Final Conference Report* is published which includes a complete record of all the reports, discussions, workshops and actions of the Conference. A copy of the report is available to every A.A. group that wishes to have one.

SUBMITTING A TOPIC TO THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Any individual A.A. member, Group, District, Assembly, Intergroup or Central Office may submit an item for consideration by the GSC. It is often advantageous to discuss and obtain feedback about the proposed topic from your Group, District or Area before submittal. Sometimes a proposed item is shared with other A.A. entities throughout the US and Canada, such as Assemblies in other Areas, in order to inform them and possibly to solicit comment.

Proposed Conference agenda items, along with supporting material, are submitted to the Conference Coordinator at www.aa.org or P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. **The deadline for submitting proposed items is December 15.**

Proposed items received by the Conference Coordinator are then studied by the GSO staff and forwarded to the Trustees Conference committee or appropriate Conference committee for further consideration and possible inclusion on the final Conference agenda. If a proposal does not concern overall policy, or it can be resolved at the local level, it will be routed to the most appropriate part of the service structure.

WE ARE A.A.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CONFERENCE PROCESS

This pamphlet describes the year-round General Service Conference (GSC) process and how every group can participate in that process.

Suggestions for DCMs and GSRs preparing for the General Service Conference:

At your December business meetings:

- Review this pamphlet so everyone understands what happens and when.
- Discuss how groups, the GSC and A.A. as a whole benefit when we discuss Conference agenda items and provide feedback to our delegate.

DCMs

- At your January district meeting, use a Conference agenda item, and its summary background material, from a previous GSC to demonstrate how GSRs might lead discussions on Conference agenda items with their groups.
- In February, hold a special district meeting to discuss the Conference agenda items.

GSRs

- If you do not have email, get a hard copy of the Conference agenda from your DCM (available by early February).
- If any agenda item is unclear, ask your DCM, the area committee chairpersons or our area delegate for more information.
- Schedule a special meeting with your home group (apart from your monthly business meeting) to discuss the Conference agenda items and obtain your group's conscience.