

Delegate Handbook

Revised September 2023

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA FELLOWSHIP of A. A.

DELEGATE

HANDBOOK

INFORMATION and SERVICE

Written and edited by: CCFAA OFFICE MANAGER and STAFF August 2006

Reviewed and edited by: CCFAA Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee September 3, 2023



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Intergroup

Bill W. helped write an Intergroup pamphlet which was published by the Intergroup Committee of New Jersey in March 1949. On the back page of the pamphlet, Bill wrote:

"Every A.A. member wants every alcoholic in the world to have the chance he had. Every A.A. member wants unity for our movement. Every A.A. member wants the good opinion of medicine, religion, and the general public. We know we must have these things or the new man may never get his chance.

"The Intergroup association is the best insurance we can have that our life lines to the hundreds of thousands yet to come will never break or tangle. Let us always be generous. Let us warmly support Intergroup."

A.A. co-founder Bill W. 1949

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK
To provide Delegates with suggested guidelines for performing their responsibilities in this area of service



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Disclaimer:

If any information here-in conflicts with CCFAA Bylaws and Operating Procedures, the CCFAA Bylaws followed by the Operating Procedures shall take precedence.



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Dear Delegate:

Congratulations on being elected as your home group's Intergroup Delegate. It can be a wonderful experience for you. Action is the magic word to insure sobriety. Your commitment and responsibility as a Delegate can be large and may vary, but your first responsibility is to your home group, so it is always best to check with them on their ideas about how they want the position to be handled.

Your responsibility is two-fold: to take information from the monthly Delegate Meeting back to your home group, and to bring the group conscience from your home group to the group conscience at the Delegate Meeting. Also your group may want the input of other Delegates in handling group issues.

There will be issues that need to have a group conscience in order to vote. A Delegate has the "Right of Decision." This means that between the time you get the group conscience at your home group prior to a vote and the time of a vote there may be some changes or new information to consider that may cause you to change your group's vote. You or your group may designate an alternate to fill-in if you can't attend a Delegate Meeting, however only one vote per group is allowed. In the interest of continuity, you should make every attempt to attend all meetings yourself.

Your home group, you as Delegate, and the Alternate Delegate (if applicable) need to register with CCFAA for your group to be eligible to vote. Registration forms are available at Central Office, on the Central Office web site at https://.aasacramento.org/other-resources, and at all in-person monthly Delegate Meetings. The registration information includes all home group officers, meeting place, time, and codes. It helps Central Office communicate with your Home Group and keep the meeting schedules accurate. The group will then be registered with CCFAA for accounts receipts [This doesn't mean that your Home Group is registered with the General Service Office (GSO) in New York. That is your General Service Rep's (GSR's) responsibility]. These forms need to be updated whenever there is a change in your Home Group information.

At the Delegate Meeting there will be copies of the previous meeting's minutes and an overview of what has transpired recently. Your group is eligible for one copy of the "By The Way" monthly at no cost to your Home Group. It has a lot of information on what is going on in the area, plus the minutes, group/individual/events donations, birthdays, events and individual letters to the Editor. The "By The Way" is mailed to your Home Group's mailing address. If your Home Group's mailing address changes, please complete a meeting update form available at Central Office, online at https://aasacramento.org/other-resources/forms-groupmeeting-update/, or at the CCFAA Delegates' monthly meeting.

But most importantly, you are instrumental in symbolizing AA to the group, CCFAA, and newcomers. The voice of the group determines how Intergroup and Your Central Office are run. The Officers and Committee Chairs do not have a vote in the Delegate Business Meeting, with the exception of committee members that also represent their home group.

Thank you for your service and good luck, C.C.F.A.A. Intergroup



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I. TRADITION TWO

For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a Loving God as He may express Himself in our Group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." (Reprinted with permission, A.A. World Service, Inc.)

"Theirs is the quiet opinion...The Group conscience decrees the terms upon which its leaders shall serve," (Pages 134-135, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Reprinted with permission, A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Many new delegates may not be familiar with the actual function and purpose of the CCFAA. This Delegate Handbook has been developed to assist you in understanding the working of the CCFAA and your duties as a CCFAA Delegate.

CCFAA was started in 1957, incorporated under the non-profit laws of the State of California in 1965, and the Bylaws were adopted in 1988 as required by the Articles of Incorporation. The first Operating Procedures document was created by the founders of the CCFAA. They have been amended and adapted by the Delegates through the years. Because we are obligated to operate within the realm of the Bylaws and Operating Procedures, it is important that you are familiar with them. They are available online at https://aasacramento.org/about-ccfaa/.



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II. CCFAA

CCFAA is the embodiment of all registered member groups in its service area and expresses the collective conscience of these groups. CCFAA has established a Central Office and has designated that the office be managed by an Office Manager with oversight by the Board of Directors, in accordance with the Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

CCFAA was originally formed to connect a relatively small number of groups scattered over a large area and to unify these groups to better provide help to the suffering alcoholic in a way that could not be as effectively provided by individual groups alone.

The geographic area served is now smaller due to the addition of other Intergroup Offices in the surrounding areas, but the number of member groups has increased. There were about 80 groups in 1969 and currently approximately 290 are hosting over 1,150 meetings per week. Each registered group in the area is entitled to send a Delegate to the monthly Delegate Meeting to vote their group's conscience, and/or introduce new business motions for the Delegates' consideration.

The various groups and individuals associated with the CCFAA financially support the Central Office. The basic reason for the Central Office is to assist AA groups and their members in carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Most of the work done by the Central Office staff is clerical in nature. Most AA service work is performed by volunteers, as our twelfth step work ought never be paid.



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III. COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CENTRAL OFFICE AND THE CCFAA

- SCHEDULES: Over 1,150 weekly meetings are listed. It takes much time and energy to coordinate meeting information to provide updated schedules. These schedules are available in print and online at https://aasacramento.org/meetings/. The online meeting directory is updated continuously. Printed schedules are updated monthly.
- "BY THE WAY": One way members of our groups can communicate with each other is through our monthly newsletter, the "By The Way." Every registered group may put their events, birthdays, meeting information, speaker meetings, and special events in the newsletter. See the "By The Way" Policy to find out what can and/or cannot be printed.
- GROUP FLYERS: Another way members of our groups can communicate with each other is through Central Office's mailing list for flyers. As stated in CCF's Flyers Policy, "Every registered group may bring in their flyers to be mailed to all registered member groups, or have the Central Office develop them for a small fee." See the Flyers Policy for more information.
- TELEPHONE: The office staff and volunteers answer hundreds of calls from AA members needing a meeting or other A.A. information, as well as placing calls for help from Twelfth Step volunteers. Out of town visitors frequently say that the Central Office is the first place they call upon arrival in our area. Many visitors also call from their home to get meeting information and directions.(916 454-1100 for A.A. help or information; 916 454-1771 for the business office line.)
- E-MAIL: Email: centraloffice@aasacramento.org for group information, ordering literature, and various other requests.
- WEB SITE: Central Office maintains a web site, <u>www.aasacramento.org</u>, to post relevant information for the use of our member groups and the AA community at large. This site is kept up-to-date only if the groups and their officers report group information changes promptly as they occur. Groups can submit changes using the online Group Updates form. Groups listed in the meeting schedule are registered members of the Central California Fellowship of AA. The Newsletter "By The Way," minutes from the meetings of the Board of Directors, and group events are available on the site.
- FAX: Central Office maintains a fax line for its groups and members to communicate information about group events, birthdays, etc. The fax number is 916 452- 9132.



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III. COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CENTRAL OFFICE AND THE CCFAA (continued)

- LITERATURE: Central Office maintains a large complement of AAWS books and pamphlets for sale to local AA groups.
- TELESERVICE: Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. all information calls on the HOTLINE are answered at Central Office by volunteer AA members. Teleservice is a closely coordinated network of volunteers who answer after hours calls to A.A. that are forwarded to their homes when the office is closed. In this way the CCFAA provides twenty-four hour phone coverage by AA members for Twelfth Step calls and meeting information.
- TWELFTH STEP WORK: Teleservice volunteers contact the Twelfth Step Volunteers when they receive Twelfth Step requests. These volunteers then visit with or talk to the caller at length.
- PUBLIC INFORMATION/COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONALCOMMUNITY (PI/CPC): Central Office receives calls from schools or private groups wanting information about Alcoholics Anonymous. The office staff relays the request for speakers to the PI/CPC Chair who schedules AA members to make these talks. Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community pamphlets about AA are in stock at Central Office.
- UNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS: The CCFAA holds an annual picnic celebration. Other special events or programs may also be organized by the Special Events Committee.



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IV. THE DELEGATE'S ROLE

- The Delegate's job is two-fold: to carry the informed group conscience from your home group to the Delegate Meeting where a collective group conscience is taken, and to take information from the Delegate Meeting back to your home group. The Delegate gives a thorough and accurate report of the issues raised at the CCFAA Delegate Meeting at his/her group's business meeting. The issues are discussed, votes taken and the group conscience carried back to the next Delegate Meeting. It is also within the spirit of the Twelve Concepts that Delegates should be able to make decisions based on additional information that was not available when the group conscience was taken or if an emergency situation arises.
- CCFAA urges all Delegates to become familiar with its Bylaws and Operating Procedures. This will enable the delegates to be of maximum service to their respective groups. The Delegates through the collective CCFAA group conscience and CCFAA Bylaws and Operating Procedures have formulated policy for the management of the Central Office.
- CCFAA encourages Delegates to attend all Delegate Meetings, participate in discussions and vote the conscience of their respective group. It is also suggested that any group concerns be brought to the attention of the CCFAA by the Delegates.
- The CCFAA Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the financial and operational management of the Central Office. The Board of Directors hires the Office Manager to manage the day-to-day operation of the Central Office and implement policies adopted by the Delegates. The Office Manager may hire additional people to help fulfill the functions of the Central Office.



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V. LIST of OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- Board of Directors:
 - Board Chair.
 - Delegate Chair.
 - CCFAA Delegate Chair.
 - CCFAA Assistant Chair/Area Liaison.
 - Recording Secretary.
 - o Treasurer.
 - o Four (4) Delegate Representatives to the Board.
 - The Board Chair is elected from the four Delegate Representatives.
- CCFAA Officers:
 - CCFAA Delegate Chair.
 - o CCFAA Delegates Assistant Chair.
 - CCFAA Recording Secretary.
 - CCFAA Treasurer.
- Standing Committees:
 - Teleservice and Special Needs Committee.
 - Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee.
 - Birthday Club and Faithful Fivers Committee.
 - Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Committee.
 - Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Liaison.
 - Annual Picnic Committee.
 - o Special Events Committee.
- Ad-Hoc Committees:
 - Annual Election Committee.



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VI. CCFAA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR QUALIFICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY, EXPERIENCE, AND BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTIONS (SEE BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETE DETAILS).

- CCFAA Chair:
 - Qualifications: Five (5) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group Secretary within CCFAA, or as Group Delegate to CCFAA.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession.
 - Job Description: Preside over and set agenda for CCFAA regular and Special Meetings. Familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, CCF Bylaws, and Operating Procedures. Serves on the Board of Directors.
- CCFAA Assistant Chair:
 - Qualifications: Five (5) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group Secretary within CCFAA, or as Group Delegate to CCFAA.
 - o Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Prepares agenda for and resides over the New Delegate Meeting. Shall act as a source of information for new Delegates. Assists CCFAA Delegate Chair as needed. Act as CCFAA Liaison to CA Northern Interior Area (CNIA). Assume position of CCFAA Chair in their absence, removal, demise, or resignation. Serves on the Board of Directors.
- Recording Secretary:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group Secretary within CCFAA, or as Group Delegate to CCFAA.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Record minutes for Delegate Meeting and The Board of Directors meeting. Records all votes taken by the Delegates. Serves on the Board of Directors.

Treasurer:

- Qualifications: Five (5) years of continuous sobriety. Knowledge of bookkeeping and office experience is desired.
- Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
- Job Description: Oversees prudent reserve, reports to the Delegates on financial status of CCFAA. Serves on the Board of Directors.
- Teleservice and Special Needs Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served at least six (6) months as a member of the Teleservice Committee.
 - o Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Oversee operation of twenty four (24) hour Hotline, appoints a Special Needs Coordinator, and reports monthly to the Delegates.
 - Special Needs Committee Coordinator:
 - Qualifications: Two (2) years of continuous sobriety.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession.



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VI. CCFAA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR QUALIFICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY, EXPERIENCE, AND BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

- Job Description: To help members groups to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics with Special Needs and must meet once quarterly or more often when needed.
- Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: Five (5) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group secretary or Group Delegate to the CCFAA, familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order is helpful.
 - Term: one (1) year year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Review and/or recommend changes to CCFAA Articles of Incorporation, CCFAA Bylaws, Operating Procedures, and policies. Serves on the Board of Directors.
- Birthday Club and Faithful Fivers Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group secretary or Group Delegate to the CCFAA.
 - o Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Oversees solicitation of funds for Birthday Club and Faithful Fivers. Submits a monthly article for the "By The Way."
- Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession
 - Job Description: Provide A.A. speakers to carry the message to outside enterprises and professional groups. Is Liaison to CNIA for PI/CPC. Responsible for news releases concerning CCFAA.
- Four (4) Delegate Representatives to the Board of Directors:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety.
 - Term: two (2) years, staggered (two Delegate Representatives elected each year); no more than two (2) terms in succession.
 - Job Description: Represents CCFAA Delegates on the Board of Directors, attends all regular and special Board of Directors meetings.
- Board of Directors Chair:
 - Qualifications: Three (3) years of continuous sobriety and a Delegate Representative to the Board of Directors.
 - o Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession.
 - Job Description: Preside over and set agenda for Board of Directors regular and special meetings, familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order, CCFAA Bylaws, and Operating Procedures.



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VI. CCFAA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR QUALIFICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY, EXPERIENCE, AND BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

- Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Liaison:
 - Qualifications: Five (5) years of continuous sobriety, shall have served as Group Secretary within CCFAA, or as Group Delegate to CCFAA.
 - Term: two (2) years, no more than two (2) terms in succession.
 - Job Description: Act as Liaison to NCCAA., attends all Conferences and related functions. Expenses to attend may be reimbursed, but not to exceed amounts budgeted.
- Annual CCFAA Picnic Committee Chair:
 - o Qualifications: Two (2) continuous sobriety.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession.
 - Job Description: Shall determine the demand for planning, organization, promotion and conduct of the event. Submits final accounting to the delegates upon conclusion of the event.
- CCFAA Special Events Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: Two (2) years of continuous sobriety.
 - Term: one (1) year, no more than two (2) years in succession.
 - Job Description: Shall determine the demand for planning, organization, promotion and conduct of special events. Upon conclusion of events shall report the final accounting to the delegates.



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VII. Ad-Hoc Committees: SPECIAL PROGRAM EVENTS

- Annual Election Committee Chair:
 - Qualifications: The CCF Delegate Chair has the option of serving as the Election Chair or selecting another person with experience with Third Legacy procedures to act as Election Chair (see Operating Procedures Section 17.2 for details).
 - Term: No term established.
 - Job Description: The Annual Election Chair is in charge during the full election proceedings at November Delegate Meeting. May select delegates or members at large as needed to assist with the election process.

If you are qualified, and are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Central Office and leave your name, phone number and position desired. A member of the Board of Directors will contact you. Nominations will be submitted to the Delegates in October. Nominees are expected to attend that meeting. Elections will occur at the November Delegate Meeting



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VIII. MASTER CALENDAR OF DUTIES & HOLIDAYS: CCFAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY:

- NEW OFFICERS ASSUME OFFICE, NEW BUDGET IN EFFECT, TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT.
- HOLIDAYS: NEW YEAR'S DAY, MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY.

• FEBRUARY:

- o NO SCHEDULED DUTIES.
- HOLIDAYS: PRESIDENTS DAY.

• MARCH:

- INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT.
- HOLIDAYS: CESAR CHAVEZ DAY.

• APRIL:

- CCFAA ANNUAL REPORT, TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT.
- HOLIDAYS: NONE SCHEDULED.

MAY:

- o NO SCHEDULED DUTIES.
- HOLIDAYS: MEMORIAL DAY.

• JUNE:

- NO SCHEDULED DUTIES.
- o HOLIDAYS: NONE SCHEDULED.

JULY:

- TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT.
- o HOLIDAYS: INDEPENDENCE DAY.

AUGUST:

- REVIEW ADVERTISING FOR CCFAA DISCUSSION.
- HOLIDAYS: OFFICE CLOSED DAY AFTER PICNIC.

• SEPTEMBER:

- BOARD PRESENTS BUDGET IN WRITING, TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER
 "BY THE WAY," NOMINATIONS SUBJECT TO DELEGATE APPROVAL.
- HOLIDAYS: LABOR DAY

• OCTOBER:

- BOARD PRESENTS LIST OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN WRITING, ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS TAKEN, PUBLISH ABSENTEE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER "BY THE WAY," PRINT OFFICIAL BALLOT PRIOR TO NOVEMBER MEETING, TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT.
- HOLIDAYS: COLUMBUS DAY

NOVEMBER:

- ANNUAL MEETING (ELECTION/BUDGET APPROVAL), DISTRIBUTE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED DELEGATES, OFFICER ELECTION, VOTE ON BUDGET, PUBLISH RESULTS IN THE DECEMBER "BY THE WAY."
- HOLIDAYS: VETERAN'S DAY, THANKSGIVING AND THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DECEMBER:.

- NO SCHEDULED DUTIES
- o HOLIDAYS: CHRISTMAS DAY.



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IX. CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE

The following is taken from the A.A. publication, "Service Material from the General Service Office. Conference-Approved Literature," F-29.

"Conference-Approved"—What It Means To You

"The term 'Conference-Approved' describes written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference for publication by G.S.O. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with AA principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the AA Fellowship.

"The term has no relation to material not published by GSO. It does *not* imply Conference disapproval of other material about AA. A great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others, and A.A. does not try to tell any individual member what he or she may not read.

"Conference-approved assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of AA's from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production.

"How to tell what is and what is not Conference-approved.

"Look for the statement on books, pamphlets, and audiovisual materials: 'This is AA General Service Conference-approved literature.'

"Not all "AA Literature" is Conference-approved

"Central Offices and Intergroups do write and distribute pamphlets or booklets that are not Conference-approved. If such pieces meet the needs of the local membership, they may be legitimately classified as 'A.A. literature.' There is no conflict between A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.- publishers of Conference-approved literature), and central offices or intergroups - rather they complement each other. The Conference does not *disapprove* of such material.

"G.S.O. does develop some literature that does not have to be approved by the Conference, such as the General Service Manual, Guidelines and bulletins.

"Available at Most A.A. Groups

"Most local AA Groups purchase and display a representative sample of Conference-approved pamphlets, and usually carry a supply of hardcover books. Conference-approved literature may be purchased at Central Office, or it may be ordered directly from GSO. Groups normally offer pamphlets free of charge, and the books at cost.

"Copyright

"Conference-approved literature is copyrighted with the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., U.S.A. To ensure the continued integrity of A.A. literature, and to make sure the A.A. recovery program will not be distorted or diluted, permission to reprint must be obtained from A.A.W.S. in writing. However, A.A. newsletters, bulletins, or meeting lists have blanket permission to use the material, providing proper credit is given to insure that the copyrights of A.A. literature are protected. The Steps and Traditions should be followed by these words:



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X. BRANCHES OF SERVICE

The AA Group

General Service Rep (GSR)	CCFAA Delegate		NCCAA Delegates	H & I Rep
District Committee Member (DCM)	CCFAA Delegate Mtg		NCCAA District Committee	Area Committee
Area Committee	CCFAA		NCCAA Zone	Regional Chair
	Board of Directors		Comm. Chair.	
CA Northern Interior Area CNIA Assy	Central Office		NCCAA Steering Committee	Northern California General Chair/Committee
Delegate to General Service Conference	•	•	NCCAA Conference* Includes Corresponding Coastal Area	

This chart displays the relationship of the CCFAA to the other branches of AA service throughout our area. These include General Service, Hospitals and Institutions and the Northern California Council (Conference Committee).

CCFAA - Central California Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

NCCAA - Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

(Conference Committee)

H & I - Hospitals and Institutions



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Dr. Bob

Dr. Bob was not only a supporter of the Intergroup/Central Office concept, he was an active participant in the Akron Central committee. In "Dr. Bob And the Good Oldtimers," his involvement was discussed in some detail by Dan K., an early Akron A.A.

"Doc used to play an important part in the Central Committee." said Dan K. "That was the Steering Committee for the Office. We'd meet the first Monday of every month and he always attended. There'd be a member from each group.

"During the meetings, sometimes, the words would fly like you were in a Barroom. I'll never forget the time Dr. Bob got up. He put up his hands. You know–enough, stop? He said, 'Gentlemen please. We're still members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let's carry the principles of A.A. into these business meetings. You are servants of your group, here to take the ideas formulated by the committee. Let one man talk at a time, and let us conduct this business meeting as a service to the Lord and a service to our fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous."

"Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers," page 289.