

Stand Up for Service Area 14

Panel 73 Appointed Service Positions Preview

Elections for North Florida Area Conference Panel 73 officers will take place at the October 2022 Area Assembly Sunday business meeting. Soon after, the Chairperson-elect will appoint individuals to fill the service coordinator, administrative committee, and other service positions as described in Area 14 [Structures & Guidelines](#).

If you are interested in standing for one of the appointed service positions or administrative committee chairs, here are some tips to help you decide.

- ◆ Check out the position descriptions in [Structures and Guidelines](#) on the area website to see if one interests you and if you meet the qualifications.
- ◆ Discuss your interest with your service sponsor and, if possible, talk to someone who's held the position previously to get a first-person perspective.
- ◆ If you decide to stand for a service coordinator position, download and complete the [Service Coordinator Resume](#) form from the "Documents" section of the area website and submit it to the newly-elected Chairperson as soon as possible at or after the October assembly. You will not be asked to announce your intention or read your resume to the assembly.
- ◆ If, on the other hand, you're interested in standing for an **elected officer** position, please review the position descriptions and qualifications on the Structures and Guidelines page of the area website.
- ◆ If you decide to stand for an **elected position**, download and complete the [Officer Service Resume](#) template from the "Documents" section of the area website (another good opportunity to enlist your service sponsor's help). You'll be asked to announce your intention and read your resume at the [July assembly](#) during the Sunday business meeting and to submit a copy to the secretary, who will include it in the July meeting minutes.

Appointed Service Positions

Service Coordinators

A willingness to learn and an enthusiasm to carry the message are more important qualifications than knowledge of a particular area of service. If you're interested in a position, present your name to the Chairperson-elect after the election assembly. The service coordinators are appointed by the Chairperson after the election. It is suggested that service coordinators have at least two (2) years of sobriety.

[ACCESSIBILITIES](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY \(CPC\)](#)

[CORRECTIONS](#)

[GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA](#)

[INTERGROUP](#)

[LITERATURE](#)

[PUBLIC INFORMATION \(PI\)](#)

[TREATMENT](#)

Other Appointed Service Positions

The following service positions are also appointed by the Chairperson-elect:

[PARLIAMENTARIAN](#)

[TECHNOLOGY](#)

Administrative Committee Appointed Chairs

Administrative Committees exist to assist with the business of the NFAC. The following Administrative Committee Chairs are appointed by the Chairperson-elect.

[FINANCE](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

More information

To learn more about all elected officer and appointed service positions, please visit the *Structures and Guidelines* page at www.aanorthflorida.org

Learn more about Area 14 Service

Wednesdays in June, Online, 6:00 pm EST
Hospitality 5:45 pm EST

- ◆ **June 22** Ask the Panel: Looking to the Future
- ◆ **June 29** Ask the Panel: A Glimpse at Area Service

Zoom Meeting ID 828 5682 4762

Zoom passcode: service

By phone: 646 558-8656

Phone password: 8865328

Updates at www.aanorthflorida.org

The Voices of Experience

On the following pages, current Area 14 service coordinators, administrative committee chairs, and other appointed service position holders share what's been most rewarding about serving in their positions, something they've learned they didn't know before, and advice for those considering standing for the position.

Structures & Guidelines also suggests that those seeking office "speak with the officer, holding the office you seek, to get a good understanding of what the office entails and the time the job requires."

In Their Own Words: Appointed Service Positions

Accessibilities Service Coordinator

Melanie E

What has been most rewarding about serving as Corrections Service Coordinator?

I have attended many national "all access" meetings and workshops virtually as we join together expressing our shared experiences to gain common solutions. We have many amazing stories about going to any length!

We close with the All Access Committee Responsibility Statement developed for that meeting: "We come together united in service in our efforts to ensure full and equal access to all members of our fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous with disabilities and/or special needs. For that, I am responsible."

What is something you've learned that you didn't know before?

Serving as Accessibilities Service Coordinator I have learned so much! There are challenges that apply to any alcoholic who may have difficulty participating in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Some of these challenges include, but are not limited to, blind or low vision; deaf or hard of hearing; use a wheelchair, walker, or cane; live in a healthcare facility; limited in reading or writing skills; parents unable to find suitable childcare; physical disabilities or chronic illness; and so on. Some alcoholics may experience barriers that do not allow the individual to access the AA message, twelve step work, and the service structure.

Archives Service Coordinator

Bob C

What has been most rewarding about serving as Archives Service Coordinator?

Discovering the rich history not only of AA, but also of Area 14. Also, enjoyed researching and looking into different districts' histories and how the area was basically formed into what it is today.

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

My service work in the past has been centered around corrections work (service coordinator, taking meetings into prisons etc.) A past Archives Service Coordinator asked me if some material that belong to the area could be passed on to me, to which I said please do.

What I received was newsletters from the early 1970s that AAs in prison created from Union Corrections Institute. I personally did not know of this group (the New Hope Group), but have been told it was one of the oldest prison groups in AA. I have had the newsletters on display and have gotten very positive comments on them,

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

Be prepared to attend workshops and help/guide other archivists to setup their district/group archives. With the pandemic, I was challenged in how the area fellowship could view the traveling archives display, especially with the assemblies conducted virtually. I decided to follow the lead of District 28 by placing our traveling display on a PowerPoint presentation so it can be seen on a virtual meeting or the website. My suggestion is to come into the position with fresh ideas on how Area 14 and/or AA history can be presented so all of the fellowship can see how AA was formed.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Service Coordinator

Tom S

What has been most rewarding about serving as CPC Service Coordinator?

The most rewarding moments of this service position were when CPC committee members "caught fire" and embraced the opportunity to get involved in their communities with CPC activities. Their outreach invigorated them and me, and I felt our HP making things happen.

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

One somewhat disheartening thing I have learned during my CPC journey is that the old "80/20" rule seems to be alive and well. We have some 30 districts in our North Florida Area, but more than half of these districts are, for all intents and purposes, inactive or not active at all.

There seems to be little or no initiative in many of the remaining half of these districts, despite numerous emails from me to the DCMs and alternate DCMs. I have seen perhaps only five or six districts take any kind of active role in AA volunteerism. Perhaps we are still suffering the effects of a COVID hangover, or perhaps it is more serious than that.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

My advice to my successor is to gather the latest email addresses of the DCMs and alternate DCMs in the area, as well as any district CPC contacts. Reach out with introductions, and follow up, especially if there has not been a reply.

Be persistent. I found that I had to be! I made that my first order of business, yet it still took me some four to five months to get current, updated contact info. There seemed to be a lot of confusion in the early months of the new panel, and I guess much of that is unavoidable, given that there is a whole new group of AA volunteers assuming their new positions.

In Their Own Words: Appointed Service Positions

Corrections Service Coordinator

Nanette L

What has been most rewarding about serving as Corrections Service Coordinator?

I have served as the Area 14 Corrections Service Coordinator since January of 2021. Along this service journey, I have found that the most rewarding part was the incredible people who serve our “inside” AAs by carrying the message of love and hope to the suffering alcoholic.

What is something you’ve learned that you didn’t know before?

Before starting this position, I was clueless about the how, when, and why of this position. It has been a slow growth process.

Due to COVID, the past twelve months have found most of the AA meetings in jails shut down. This dilemma made service work very difficult. But we as a team persevered.

Everywhere I turned, there were dedicated, solid people in AA who stood up and taught me what I needed to know about the service work that surrounds corrections. Opportunities abound in helping others through the jails and institutions, but the real secret was learning to listen to our active members, who were my teachers.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

My advice to the next Corrections Service Coordinator? Have an alternate coordinator experienced in corrections, excellent networking skills, and a strong love for Alcoholics Anonymous? Thanks to my alternate for being that person. I am forever grateful and honored to serve Area 14 in this position.

Grapevine/La Viña Service Coordinator

Linda G

What has been most rewarding about serving as Grapevine/La Viña Service Coordinator?

The most rewarding thing that I have learned is the history of how *Grapevine/La Viña* came about and how many people it reaches. The history has been amazing.

What is something you’ve learned that you didn’t know before?

What have I learned that I did not know? The first thing is that Grapevine offers three skits that groups or service committees can use to inform and motivate people to read. And that *Grapevine/La Viña* is considered our meeting in print.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

For the person wanting to be the next service coordinator, the first thing is to have fun. The next is to know a little about the books and things you are making available, like the slogans and when the next book may be out. But remember, we are not a glum lot!

Intergroup Service Coordinator

Lyndi J

What has been most rewarding about serving as Intergroup Service Coordinator?

The most rewarding aspects were not just gaining a better understanding of how an AA intergroup functions, but also an understanding of the heart of intergroup trusted servants.

They are much like the general service trusted servant, but aiding the sick alcoholic in the trenches looking for help and working to understand and fellowship with groups and AA individuals. Intergroup trusted servants have some of the same problems and solutions as other facets of AA service, as well as ones that are unique to them.

What have you’ve learned that you didn’t know before?

Before serving as the Area 14 Intergroup Service Coordinator, I did not know that this position was a result of the endorsement of intergroups, from the Report and Charter Committee at the 1990 General Service Conference.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

To anyone considering this position for the future, I encourage you to do so. It is a different view of the fellowship from general service. I am grateful to have had my mind opened and my views softened as a result of having had this opportunity to serve.

In Their Own Words: Appointed Service Positions

Literature Service Coordinator

Nina V

What has been most rewarding about serving as Literature Service Coordinator?

What an unexpectedly wide, deep opportunity to learn and to give back! I learned more about AA, its history, its current challenges, and more about the literature than I ever imagined.

I had no idea that greater self-knowledge and personal growth are also part of this rewarding service position. I am sorry my term is ending. I loved this job.

What have you learned that you didn't know before?

I now understand the process by which AA literature is inspired, actually created, edited, adapted from international resources, and published. I was amazed by how one person's or group's idea can move the whole body of AA and how deliberative the process is. I also learned how extensive the reach of AA literature is worldwide, including oral recordings for a culture with only spoken language and sign language videos for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

Get ready for a great ride! Preparing your literature workshops will probably take more time than expected but will always be a more creative experience than you ever imagined.

You will, of course, learn much more about AA than you knew before. Interacting with Area 14 officers and other service coordinators, you will also learn a great deal about yourself. The challenge of the position and the time you will need to dedicate to it are well worth the new knowledge you will gain and the fun you will have.

Public Information Service Coordinator

Tim S

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

Public information takes many forms—the simple sign outside a meeting place that says, "AA meeting tonight," a listing in local home directories, distribution of AA literature, and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques.

Whatever the form, it comes down to "one drunk carrying the message to another drunk," whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media." (Borrowed from aa.org)

Rule # : The quality of the information being put out is critical. Bad information is just that. Bad!

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

For someone considering being the Public Information Service Coordinator, I will say that this is a fun job compared to some others. Keep an open mind that it probably isn't the way you think it is and be willing to talk to people. If in doubt, refer to Rule #1.

Treatment Service Coordinator

Carson F

What has been most rewarding about serving as Treatment Service Coordinator?

Service in treatment started when I attended meetings at treatment facilities. I quickly realized that recovering AAs have a powerful message to carry to people in treatment.

There are clients who have never heard of AA, NA, or other programs. Service in treatment is like shining a bright light on what has been a dark path. The reward is to see someone grab hold of recovery and watch the "light" come on in their eyes as they take off on the recovery road.

What have you learned that you didn't know before?

What I've learned—and continue to learn—is that members who attend area assembly are interested in learning about treatment and the other service areas in the workshops offered by area. I interact with our members who serve in their local districts in the treatment area, and I hear great ideas for how treatment works in other places. It is a valuable time of sharing and learning

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

Being a service coordinator opened a new level of service for me. I've met people from all over the North Florida Area Conference at assemblies. New friendships are precious!

Also, it is a wonderful opportunity to see how AA works for the individual and the local groups. I was nervous at first. That eased as I realized that officers and other coordinators were there to help and support me.

In Their Own Words: Appointed Service Positions

Parliamentarian

Terri C

What has been most rewarding about serving as Parliamentarian?

Being of service to Area 14 and assisting the area Chairperson during the assembly business meeting.

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

Being Parliamentarian is more involved than I thought. It isn't just a Sunday morning business meeting position. And every assembly presented a different challenge.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

Parliamentarian is appointed by the area Chairperson. Be familiar with the AA General Service Modified Robert's Rules of Order and be willing to learn the Area 14 Structures & Guidelines.

You have to remember you have no voice or vote, and at that can be frustrating.

Technology Committee Chair

Katie P

What has been most rewarding about serving as Technology Committee Chair?

Leading up to this position in 2020, I rotated out of my position as District 15 DCM then became a member of the Ad hoc Technology Committee. It has been rewarding to help launch the committee after the Area 14 body voted to establish it and to begin to build its future.

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

Since this is a new service position, there is an opportunity to learn throughout—trying to learn how technology fits with the “that's the way we've always done it” mentality.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

The committee is still in its infancy so continuing to shape the committee and being adaptable are key. The next panel will be the first full two-year term for this position, so being comfortable not only with Area 14, but also with short- and long-term planning, hardware/software needs, and budgeting is important.

Since this is a new service committee, get creative with recruiting members. Be prepared to provide detailed responses about your qualifications, such as:

- Why you would like to serve as Technology Committee Chair
- Service position history
- Your technology skills in general
- Technology projects you have managed or coordinated
- Your familiarity and/or specific experience with
 - * Internet-based meeting tools
 - * Operating systems
 - * Organizational platforms and messaging tools
- Hardware and infrastructure knowledge
- Skills related to A/V projects you have been involved with
- List A/V equipment and your familiarity with each element

Finance Committee Chair

Bob E

What has been most rewarding about serving as Finance Committee Chair?

The most rewarding thing about serving as Finance Committee Chair is the opportunity to become acquainted with the people most involved with the operation of the area, and the skills and attributes that each brings to the fellowship. The chance to work with such a wide range of personalities presents a unique opportunity for personal growth and understanding.

What have you learned that you didn't know before?

I've learned, or at least begun to learn, the ways in which the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* can be applied to the everyday operation of this fellowship. They provide a firm foundation on which to build, just as the traditions and steps do. They help explain why things are done the way they are done within our entire organization.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

I would advise someone considering standing for the position to examine the motive for doing so carefully. This is not a policy-making position, nor one which can exercise control or authority over the financial operation of Area 14.

Rather, it provides an opportunity to increase the level of cooperation and information-sharing within the service structure by offering explanations and clarifications of policy to interested parties. Decisions regarding budgets and policy are typically made at the level of the Treasurer and other elected officers.

In Their Own Words: Appointed Service Positions

Website Committee Chair

Kevin B

What has been most rewarding about serving as Website Committee Chair?

The most rewarding part of being a committee chair is leading and directing a team. Sometimes, this can seem like extra work having to seek out people to do the different jobs and then following up to ensure success. But it is rewarding in that any accomplishments are actually measured by the committee's accomplishments. In my opinion, this is the true spirit of servant leadership.

What have you've learned that you didn't know before?

Our website is a very dynamic place with a lot of moving parts. There are so many things we can do with it in the future, and I hope that I was able to lead the committee to make good progress from where we started.

One thing I learned was I did not understand that so many of our members thought that being on the Website Committee meant they had to know how to run a website. That is not the case at all. In fact, those with the least experience with websites are exactly who we need as part of the team because they can tell us when our website does not make sense or is not easy to use. This enables us to make improvements.

On a side note, a fun fact is that the page on our website that gets the most hits (for many years running) is our translation of the steps, traditions, and concepts into Spanish. Most of the visitors appear to come from Central and South America. Apparently, our translator (webmaster) has done a much better job than a lot of other websites in translating our information into conversational Spanish.

What would you say to someone who is considering standing for the position?

Leading a committee is exactly what Bill W wrote about in his leadership essay that was published in the *Grapevine* in 1959 and is in Concept IX. I feel like I get to be a service sponsor to a whole team once a quarter.

The administrative meetings are run very similarly to our Sunday morning business meeting complete with an agenda and time constraints as the committee vets area business before it is presented to the body.

Specifically for the Website Committee Chair position, have your service resume ready at the October assembly and hand it to the newly elected Chairperson ASAP. In your resume, talk about any ideas you have for improving communications throughout the area and how you believe the website could be used to accomplish that. If you are lucky enough to be appointed, then lead your committee to do those things and suggestions that come out of committee meetings and from other members of the body. Most importantly, have fun!