

**North Florida  
Area Conference  
Structures and Guidelines**

**APRIL 2024**

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## 1. PREFACE

These guidelines are not intended to replace the current A.A. Service Manual. Each Area is autonomous, and these guidelines are to assist in clarifying matters which pertain specifically to the North Florida Area Conference, Inc. (NFAC). References to the A.A. Service Manual are included to make these guidelines a concise service reference for its members.

## 2. DEFINITION

In these guidelines, the following definitions apply:

- The North Florida Area hereafter known as the North Florida Area Conference; Inc. (NFAC) is the geographic region designated as Area 14 by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services.
- The NFAC Committee is made up of District Committee Members (DCMs), Service Chairpersons, Administrative Committee Chairpersons, and Area Officers.
- The NFAC Assembly is a meeting, with proper notice, of the Area Committee and the General Service Representatives (GSRs) of registered A.A. groups within the Area that desire to participate.
- The NFAC is the mainspring of the conference structure-the democratic voice of the membership expressing itself, according to the A.A. Service Manual.
- North Florida Area Conference, Inc. is the legal entity incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida through which the Assembly conducts business with the public.
- All references to the Service Manual will be to the most current revision. If the referenced language of the Service Manual changes, Structures and Guidelines will be modified to the correct language. References are to specific page and the format is: (pg.##).

## 3. MOTIONS AMENDING THE NFAC GUIDELINES

Any proposed amendment to these guidelines:

- Shall be submitted in writing to the ~~Chairperson~~
  - with a copy to the Delegate, Secretary, Parliamentarian and Translator.
- The proposed amendment may be sent to the appropriate Administrative Committee at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- The Chairperson shall include the proposed amendment on the assembly agenda.
- A two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor by the GSRs, DCMs, Officers, and Service Chairpersons present, and voting shall constitute adoption of the amendment.

## 4. ASSEMBLY FORMAT

- Saturday
  - Workshops
    - Service Chairpersons
    - DCM and Officers meeting
    - GSR workshop.
  - Workshop minutes will be taken and given to the Secretary.
  - Open speaker meeting on Saturday night.
    - Except the fourth quarter of even years when the business meeting takes place
- Sunday
  - Assembly
  - Uses Robert's Rules of Order as modified by the current revision of the General Service Conference
  - Follows Summary of Conference Procedures (Appendix A) as adopted by the body.
  - All business of the Assembly will be conducted only with members of the NFAC, or individuals approved by the Chairperson.
  - Business not on the agenda can be brought before the Assembly from the floor.
  - Any eligible voter who is not in their seat at their District table at 9 am for roll call or in the virtual waiting room by 8:45am for roll call, will have their voting privileges suspended for that Assembly.

- The Voting Assembly takes place in the fourth quarter of even years.

## 5. SCHEDULING AND NOTICE OF ASSEMBLIES (pg.20)

- The Assembly shall convene on a quarterly basis in a fixed location.
- The dates shall be determined by the Site and Agenda Administrative Committee and hotel per contract.
  - Nonelection, October Assemblies include an inventory conducted by the South Florida Area 15 Delegate or if not available as designated by Chairperson.
  - Once every two years, the Southeastern Regional Trustee will be invited to the Assembly.
  - Other meetings, sessions or committee meetings may be scheduled from time to time as decided by the Chairperson.
- Assemblies shall be scheduled for a minimum of a year and preferably for a two-year period beyond the current year.
- Consideration shall be given to any state or regional A.A. functions to avoid conflict when setting the date for assemblies.
- The Chairperson sets the agenda.
- The Registrar shall mail a notice of each Assembly to the GSRs, and the NFAC Committee, at least 30 days in advance of the Assembly.
- The mailing shall also include the minutes of the previous Assembly meeting and the proposed agenda.
- All information regarding the Assembly should be forwarded to the Secretary sufficiently in advance of the mailing deadline to ensure its inclusion in the mailing.
- The agenda mailed to the members of the Assembly shall include specific items of business scheduled to be submitted for discussion and voting.
- Other items of business brought before the Area shall be added to the agenda if appropriate.
- The order of business for the business session of each Assembly is:
  - Opening
  - Roll Call
  - Anonymity Statement
  - Short Form of the Concepts
  - Secretary's Report
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Delegate's Report
  - Alternate Delegate's Report
  - Chairperson's Report
  - Alt Chairperson's Report
  - Registrar's Report
  - Special Reports
  - Service Chairperson's Reports
    - Accessibilities
    - Archives
    - Archivist
    - Cooperation with the Professional Community
    - Corrections
    - Grapevine/LaVina
    - Intergroup
    - Literature
    - Public Information
    - Treatment
  - Administrative Committee Reports
    - Finance
    - Growth
    - Site and Agenda

- Website
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing

## 6. DISTRICTS

It is suggested that elections be held every two (2) years and that the GSRs, DCMs, and Alternates serve their terms concurrent with the NFAC Panel.

- General Service Representative (GSR) (pg. 7)
  - Link between their groups and A.A. as a whole.
  - Represents the voice of their group conscience.
  - Attends their District meeting.
    - Reports their group conscience to the DCM.
  - Attends the Assembly
    - Voting their group conscience in manners affecting the Area.(pg.7)
  - Brings information and problems which affect A.A. unity, health, and growth, as well as suggested remedies back to the group.
  - Two (2) years of sobriety is suggested.
- District Committee Member (DCM) (pg. 13):
  - Links the GSR and the Delegate
  - Served in past Group and District activities.
  - Receives reports from groups through the GSRs.
  - Makes personal contact with the Groups in the District.
  - Holds regular District meeting.
  - Attends Assemblies
    - Obtains up-to-date Group information.
    - Keeps GSRs informed about Conference activities.
  - Serves on an Administrative Committee as assigned.
  - Four (4) years of sobriety is suggested.
- Alternate District Committee Member (pg. 16):
  - The Alternate DCM should have the same qualifications as the DCM as they may be required to assume all or part of the term of office due to unforeseen circumstances.
    - Assists and participates in District responsibilities.
- Local Committee Member (LCM) (pg. 108 Appendix F):
  - If the number of groups in a district increases, the responsibilities of the DCM can be met by adding additional committee members called LCMs.
    - Does not carry a vote at the Assembly.

## 7. SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS AND OTHER SERVICE POSITIONS

A willingness to learn, and an enthusiasm to carry the message are more important qualifications than knowledge of a particular area of service. Those interested in a position should present their name to the Chairperson after the election assembly. The Service Chairpersons are appointed by the incoming Chairperson after the election. It is suggested that Service Chairpersons have at least two (2) years of sobriety.

- The duties of the Service Chairpersons are:
  - Select an Alternate Service Chairperson to serve concurrently with them.
  - Create, conduct, and facilitate a workshop at each Assembly.
    - Will chair first workshop at the first meeting of the following year
- Temporary Service Chairpersons, if required, may be appointed by The Chairperson to assist the Panel in the performance of their duties.
  - The position automatically ceases to exist upon completion of their prescribed service assignment.

- Additional Service Chairperson's position may be authorized by following the procedure for amending these guidelines.
  - Requests for authorization of the position will be referred to the Growth, Site and Agenda, Finance, and the Website Committees.
  - If the Committees agree, the matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Assembly.

**The Assembly includes the following Service Chairperson positions:**

- **Accessibilities**
  - Coordinates the work of individual A.A. members and groups in carrying the message to those who have problems which limit their attendance at regular A.A. meetings.
    - Enlightens A.A. members and groups to their special needs.
- **Archives**
  - Conducts workshops and displays on A.A. and NFAC history
- **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**
  - Recommends activities that will help carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic through third party professionals such as probation officers, clergy, doctors, etc.
- **Corrections**
  - Encourages A.A. members to assume responsibility for carrying the message to those in jail or prison.
- **Grapevine/La Vina**
  - Coordinating the operation of the Grapevine/La Vina bookstore and bookstore raffle during Area 14 Conferences/Assemblies
  - Working with Districts and other Service Chairpersons to educate the membership about our Meeting in Print.
  - Offering a Grapevine/La Vina information table.
- **Intergroup**
  - Serves as a liaison between Intergroups and the members of the NFAC, facilitating "sharing common problems and solutions" (pg. 24).
- **Literature**
  - Informs Groups, Districts or Area members through displays or other suitable methods, of all available Conference Approved Literature, audio visual material or other special items.
- **Public Information (PI)**
  - Creates greater understanding of—and preventing misunderstanding of—the A.A. program through the public media.
  - Educates A.A. members and groups about Alcoholics Anonymous.
  - Is in charge of the video library.
- **Treatment**
  - Coordinates the work of individual A.A. members and groups in carrying the message to clients of treatment centers and other recovery institutions.

**The Assembly includes Other Service Positions:**

- **Archivist**
  - Voted on in non-electoral years for a two (2) year term not to exceed six (6) years.
  - Voted on by voting members of the Assembly.
  - Attends Assemblies
  - Works closely with the Archives Service Chairperson
  - Duties for this office include:
    - Preserving the documents, artifact items and maintaining the physical integrity of the collection.
    - Collects, organizes, and preserves material of historic interest to the Area.
    - Works closely with the Archives Service Chairperson to ensure the integrity of the Area Archives inventory.
    - Maintains and updates the Archives inventory and assisting accumulation of historical material and information pertaining to the Area.
  - Qualifications for this office:
    - Should be knowledgeable of the NFAC history.
    - Should have experience with archival and conservation procedures as well as handling of historical records.
    - Should be thoroughly familiar with our primary purpose and our A.A. Traditions so as to ensure privacy and protect anonymity of the members whose names are included in the collected documents.
    - Should be an A.A. member.
  
- **Parliamentarian**
  - This appointed office will be for a two (2) year term, to coincide with the current rotation.
  - This position is appointed by the incoming Chairperson.
  - Does not have a vote at the Assembly.
  - Receives lodging for one night at the hotel/motel where the Assembly takes place.
  - Receives mileage reimbursement for the Assembly only.
  - Duties for this office are, but not limited to:
    - Be present at the Saturday/DCM Officers meeting at the Assembly.
    - Be present at all Sunday business meetings of the Assembly.
    - Assist the chairperson in keeping the Assemblies operating within Robert's Rules of Order as amended by the General Service Conference and the Structures and Guidelines.
  - Qualifications for this office include:
    - Should have a good working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order as amended by the General Service Conference.
    - Has the time and desire to be present at the Assemblies.
    - Has, or is willing to gain, a good working knowledge of the area Structures and Guidelines.
  
- **NFAC Convention Oversight Committee**
  - Provides oversight of the Florida State Convention when it occurs geographically within the North Florida Area. *The Convention scope and procedures are set forth in the Advisory Actions under the Structures and Guidelines April 2006 and revised January 2014.*
  
- **Technology**
  - Composition:
  - There are not more than seven voting members of this committee and non-voting volunteers as needed. These should consist of the Chair, and five (5) additional members. It is suggested that all members of the Committee have demonstrated knowledge and experience in service and technology areas that are of benefit to the tasks at hand or demonstrate a willingness to learn.

- The Chair will be appointed by the Area Chairperson, as a voting member of Area 14. The remaining members will be selected by the Committee Chairperson and approved by the Area 14 Chairperson. The Area 14 Chairperson will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Scope:

- The Committee will be a permanent, non-administrative committee. The Committee will act to ensure continuity with technology used by Area 14 and will consult with other Area Committee members in planning, selecting, obtaining, maintenance and use of technology.

Hardware and Software:

- Maintains records of technology equipment and software, including those assigned to Area Panel members, and oversees transfer of equipment at beginning of each panel. Provide an inventory of all equipment and software licenses to the Area 14 Finance Chair at the beginning of each panel.
- Receives all requests for use of technology equipment for use at assembly and other Area 14 events. Provides AV and Virtual support as requested, and oversees AV support, providing equipment set-up and securing outside resources as deemed fiscally responsible.

Virtual Needs:

- The Area Chairperson will maintain “ownership” status of any Area 14 virtual accounts with Zoom or other providers. The Committee Chair, or their designee, will administer the accounts, assigning user levels, scheduling meetings, etc. A roster of members available to provide virtual hosting and other support for virtual/hybrid events and other necessary administrative functions will be maintained.
- Evaluates Area 14 immediate and future needs for equipment, software licenses, for production or contractor outside help, including securing and evaluating bids in order to make fiscally responsible purchases.
- Considers future technology, equipment and software needs including integration of other Area functions within the committee, such as website and/or communications.

Short and Long-Term Planning:

- The Committee will be responsible for evaluating Area 14 immediate and future needs for equipment, software licenses, for production or contractor outside help. Including, securing, and evaluating bids in order to make fiscally responsible purchases.

## 8. QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- These are common qualities that each person seeking office should possess:
  - Ability to work well with others.
  - Time and willingness to do the job effectively:
  - Suggest that you 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.
    - Many of the Officer’s jobs require additional technological skills.
    - It is suggested that those considering standing for office have the ability to operate a computer.
    - Computer skills are necessary for:
      - Performing many job tasks
      - Communicating with other panel members
      - Communicating with the fellowship in general.
  - Any Officer who is given Area equipment is responsible for that equipment.
    - Must give an inventory to the Area Finance Chair.
  - Each Officer has the responsibility of submitting:
    - Reports timely to the Secretary after each Assembly
    - Budgets to the Treasurer on or before the April Assembly.
- DELEGATE (pg. 34-38)
  - Duties:



- NFAC Representative to the annual General Service Conference.
- Works with the Chairperson in preparing the agenda for Assemblies.
- Delivers Conference reports to District meetings when requested.
- Participates in Area or District activities if called upon.
- Attends:
  - Florida State Convention
  - Southeastern Delegates "Get Together" in Atlanta.
  - Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly
  - Southeastern Regional Forum
  - International Convention
- Provides or participates in:
  - Leadership
  - Training
    - Especially for new GSRs and DCMs,
  - Workshops whenever possible.
  - Service talks.
- Delegate Elect attends the Southeast Regional Forum
- If the Delegate is unable to attend the General Service Conference the elected Officers, in the following order will assume this duty as long as otherwise qualified including having served as DCM:
  - Alternate Delegate
  - Chairperson
  - Alternate Chairperson
  - Treasurer
  - Registrar
  - Secretary
- Qualifications:
  - Time and desire to serve.
  - Must be a past DCM.
  - Offer and accept suggestions as well as criticisms.
  - Have knowledge of A.A. affairs
  - Not final authority on all A.A. matters, be aware of where to locate the correct information.
  - Know the 12 Traditions and how they apply to local needs.
  - Be able to organize and lead.

- ALTERNATE DELEGATE (pg.34)

The Alternate Delegate should have the same qualifications as the Delegate as they may be required to assume all or part of the Delegate's term of office due to unforeseen circumstances.

- Duties:
  - Attends Assembly meetings, becomes familiar with assembly topics.
  - Attends the February mini-conference Southeastern Delegate "Get Together" in Atlanta
  - Should be prepared to replace the Delegate at anytime.
  - Chairperson of the Growth Committee
  - Chairperson of the Florida State Convention Oversight Committee.

- CHAIRPERSON (pg. 26)

- Duties:
  - Acts as administrative officer of the Assembly.
    - Responsible for overseeing all Area operations.
  - Conducts the Assembly business session in an orderly manner.
  - Prepares the agenda for Assemblies with assistance from the Officers.

- Provides agenda to Secretary at least 30 days prior to the assembly,
- Appoints the Service Chairpersons, Parliamentarian, Finance Chairperson, and Website Chairperson
- Chairperson Elect attends the Southeast Regional Forum
- Qualifications:
  - Should have the time and desire to serve.

- ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON (pg. 29)

The Alternate Chairperson should have the same qualifications as the Chairperson as they may be required to assume all or part of the Chairperson's term of office due to unforeseen circumstances.

- Duties:
  - Assume the Chairperson's duties in the Chairperson's absence.
  - Assist and support the Chairperson in carrying out duties as needed.
  - Serve as Chairperson of the Site and Agenda Committee
  - Oversees the Scholarship Fund
    - Serve as contact person for DCM's that have an eligible voting member requesting a room for Saturday night.
    - helps in booking the room for eligible voting members.
    - keeps track of the balance in the Scholarship Fund (\$3,000 per year)

- TREASURER (pg. 28)

- Duties:
  - Receives and records contributions from A.A. groups and other sources.
    - An Excel database from the Registrar is used to help credit Group Contributions.
  - Serves on the Finance Committee
    - Gives access to the Finance Chair to the online checking account "view only."
  - Managing the Area's monies
    - Maintains a record of all monies received and dispersed.
    - Requires the ability to do monthly bank reconciliation, preferably making weekly deposits,
    - Settles all bills with the hotel where each assembly is located.
    - Issues checks for expenses.
  - Maintains a bank account.
    - be aware of the bank's guidelines.
  - Maintains a savings account for the prudent reserve.
    - Researches the best interest rates for the prudent reserve.
  - Must have a signature card signed by the Delegate, Chairperson, and Treasurer
    - All checks shall require the signature of two of the above
    - All online payments, written or electronic, require review of the invoice and approval by two of the signors prior to disbursement.
  - Provides a financial report at each Assembly.
  - Provides an annual written in-depth report of all transactions.
  - Prepares a one-year proposed budget to be presented to the body for approval.
  - Monitors expenditures by Committees to help ensure spending is within budget limits.
  - At the first Assembly of each year, presents to the Finance Committee a report of "large differences" between actual costs for the prior year and the approved budget for that year, for review and consideration by the Committee.
  - Files Sales Tax and Corporate Annual Tax reports online
  - Speaks with Group Treasurers that need advice or help and attend District Workshops if needed
- Qualifications:
  - Should have the time and ability to keep accurate records

- Computer skills
  - Ability to be firm and diplomatic.
  - Working knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel or be willing to learn
  - Knowledge of double entry bookkeeping
- REGISTRAR (pg. 27)
    - Duties:
      - Maintains the database: GSRs, DCMs, Service Chairpersons, Officers, Past Delegates and Groups
        - mailing labels and roster
        - for the use by the NFAC Committee
        - correspondence and reports
        - voting members in the North Florida Area Conference, Inc.
      - Assists the GSO Records department to keep their records up to date.
      - Conducts the roll call at the Assembly Business meetings.
      - Gives the official count to the Chairperson.
      - Submits the Registrar's and Attendance Reports to the Area Secretary
    - Qualifications:
      - Should have the time and ability to keep accurate records.
      - Computer skills
      - Cognizant of the confidentiality of all information
        - to be used only for NFAC business
        - Any other distribution must be approved by the Assembly.
      - Maintain accurate records.
- SECRETARY (pg. 27)
    - Duties:
      - Responsible for keeping accurate minutes.
        - Of the Assembly
        - Quarterly officers' meetings when held.
        - Prepares these minutes to be mailed and emailed.
          - To all GSRs, DCMs, Service Chairpersons, Officers, Past Delegates
          - Any A.A. member who requests a copy.
          - The mailing will include:
            - The meeting agendas for the next Assembly
            - The Florida State Convention flyer
            - Any other material, as directed, if submitted in time.
          - Requests the mailing addresses from the Registrar.
          - Delivers the minutes to the Post Office to be mailed within at least thirty (30) days prior to the next Assembly.
      - Prepares the motions after each Assembly.
        - Emails to the Webmaster in adequate time that they can be posted on the North Florida Website, within ten (10) days following the Assembly.
      - Updates electronic documents per all motions passed:
        - Advisory Actions
        - Structures and Guidelines
    - Qualifications:
      - Should have the time and ability to keep accurate minutes
      - Prepare minutes in a publishable format in a timely manner.
      - Be able to organize a filing system and be prepared to find past procedures

## 9. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Administrative Committees exist to assist with the business of the NFAC. All motions from Administrative Committees are seconded and ready for discussion when brought to the floor.

- The Administrative Committees Chairs are appointed by the Chairperson
- Additional Administrative Committees may be authorized by following the procedure for amending these guidelines.
  - Requests for authorization of Administrative Committees shall be referred to the Growth, Site and Agenda, Finance, and the Website Committees.
  - If the request receives favorable consideration by the Committee, the matter shall be considered a proposed amendment and be placed on the agenda for the next Assembly.
- Finance
  - Review the budget prepared by the Treasurer before it is submitted to the Assembly.
  - Reviews the Treasurer's quarterly report and any proposals that may require funding to:
    - Provide financial guidance.
    - Make recommendations.
    - Encourage the development of long-range financial policies.
    - Monitor expenditures as compared to the approved budget.
    - Maintain a current inventory of Assembly property.
- Growth
 

The Committee, with an eye always on the future of the NFAC, monitors and helps manage growth to keep the NFAC as inclusive as possible.

  - Receives and reviews requests for changes in District boundaries.
  - Provides suggestions for effective management of Districts as an alternative to splitting the district
  - Each January reviews the references in Structures and Guidelines to page numbers in the Service Manual and provides the Secretary with a list of the changes for Structures and Guidelines. Such changes will be made without the need to publish and vote.
- Site and Agenda
 

This Committee is an Administrative Committee comprised of several DCMs selected by the Chairperson. The Committee votes on which Site and Agenda business to bring to the Sunday meeting. The prior Panel Committee solicits, obtains, and reviews bids from hotels/motels willing to provide facilities for NFAC Assemblies. All hotel bids need to be finalized and submitted to the Site and Agenda Committee by the first Quarter Assembly. The Site and Agenda Chair negotiates the hotel bids once submitted. It is suggested that the Site and Agenda Chair should present the Committee's recommendation at the 2nd Quarter Assembly. After the site is chosen by the body, the Alt. Chair negotiates the new hotel contract with legal assistance & subject to the Area Chair's approval. The logistics include the following:

  - Assembly
    - Responsible for overseeing the logistics of each Assembly.
    - Develops written procedures and guidelines for future Assembly hosts.
    - Arranges for a Spanish Translator and/or ASL for the Assembly weekend.
    - Coordinate and conduct the GSR afternoon Workshop on Saturday.
    - Develops the Saturday agenda with the Area Chair to meet the needs of the Panel and the Assembly attendees.
  - Host Hotel
    - Works with the hotel to set up and sign the Banquet Event Orders
    - Acts as the liaison between the A.A. Fellowship and the host hotel
    - Settles the Assembly bill with the Area Treasurer.
  - Hotel Bidding

- Hotel bids need to be finalized and submitted to the Site and Agenda Committee by the first Quarter Assembly.
- The Site and Agenda Chair negotiates the hotel bids once submitted.
- It is suggested that the Site and Agenda Chair present the Committee’s recommendation at the 2nd Quarter Assembly held in April.

TIMELINE	ACTIONS	BY DATE
January, February, March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive incoming bid packets and enter them into the comparison sheet.</li> <li>• Send out bid packets for the uncontracted 2-year period.</li> <li>• When Bid Packets are returned:</li> <li>• Collect the data from the bid packets and enter them into the comparison sheet</li> </ul>	APR 1
April, May, June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use comparison sheet to select a hotel by the Committee. Recommend hotel at the April Site and Agenda meeting.</li> <li>• Present recommended hotel to the body at Sunday’s business meeting.</li> </ul>	2nd Quarter Assembly
April, May, June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign a contract with a winning hotel in the 2nd quarter.</li> </ul>	JUL 1
July, August, September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the second year, send out Bid packets for next uncontracted 2-year period</li> </ul>	OCT 1
October November, December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand off the returned bid packets to the next Site and Agenda Committee, Alt Chair</li> </ul>	JAN 1

● Website

- This committee will review and select the preferred candidate for the position of Webmaster.
  - The contract for the Webmaster’s Services will be executed by both the Website Chairperson and the NFAC Chairperson.
- Ensure Advisory Actions and Structures and Guidelines per all motions that have passed are updated on the website.
- Website Chairperson
  - Will be appointed by the NFAC Chairperson and attend Assemblies.
  - Responsible for setting up the meeting and coordinating information within the committee.
  - Ensure that the Website (aanorthflorida.org) meets the recommendations of the Committee and/or the Assembly.
- Webmaster
  - Maintain the Website and only add or remove data when directed by the Website Committee and/or Assembly.
  - Responsible for the bulk emailing of the minutes 30 days before the next assembly.

**10. ELECTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY TO STAND**

All candidates should have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the A.A. Steps, Traditions and Concepts and be prepared to place principles above personalities at all times.

- The NFAC shall convene at the Assembly every even year to elect the Officers.
- Unless directed otherwise by the General Service Conference, all Officers of the NFAC Committee shall be elected at this time in the manner described in the A.A. Service Manual (pg. 19).
- The terms of office for all Officers shall be concurrent and of two years ‘duration.

- Assembly Prior to the Election Assembly
  - All current and past DCMs and Alternate Delegates shall be queried to determine if they would be available to stand for Delegate.
  - All current and past DCMS shall be queried to determine if they would be available to stand for Alternate Delegate.
  - All current and past DCMs, GSRs and elected officers shall be queried to determine if they would be available to stand for any of the other Area offices.
- Eligible individuals may indicate their willingness to stand for office at the Election Assembly.
- Others may stand, if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.
- The voting body should have a choice of at least two candidates for each office whenever possible.
- Eligibility
  - The following are eligible to stand for offices:
    - For Delegate and Alternate Delegate
      - All current and past DCMs and Alternate Delegates
      - For all other elected offices.
        - All current and past DCMs,
        - All current and past GSRs,
        - All elected Officers.
      - Others may stand, if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly at that time.
      - It is strongly suggested that candidates have at least five (5) years of continuous sobriety.
      - It is also strongly suggested that the spirit of rotation prevails.

## 11. VOTING ELIGIBILITY AND PRIVILEGES

- Eligibility
  - GSRs or their alternates,
  - DCMs or their alternates,
  - Chair, Technology,
  - Administrative Committee Chairs,
  - Service Chairpersons,
  - Archivist,
  - Officers.
- Privileges
  - Starting with the April 2024 Business Meeting, Area 14 will provide a virtual meeting platform for login to the business meeting, including voting capabilities for those who are voting members of the assembly according to voting privileges as set forth in Structure and Guidelines.
  - Only GSRs from groups registered with the NFAC Registrar shall be eligible to vote.
  - A person may cast only one (1) vote.
    - If the DCM is also a GSR or Service Chairperson, only one vote may be cast.
    - Allow the alternate DCM, alternate Service Chairperson or alternate GSR to register and cast the other vote.
  - Absentee ballots and proxy voting are not permitted (pg.20).
  - Any eligible voter who is not in their seat at their District table at 9 am for roll call or in the virtual waiting room by 8:45 am for roll call, will have their voting privileges suspended for the assembly.
- Procedures to qualify persons eligible to vote:
  - A separate voter registration table will be set up and staffed by members of the host Districts.
  - The Registrar shall provide the elections Chairperson with a roster of registered groups.
  - Eligible voters will sign the roster of groups and then be given a colored tag or sticker which must be displayed on the name badge of each voter.
  - Only persons wearing a name badge bearing the appropriate tag or sticker will be eligible to vote in elections held Sunday morning.

## 12. VOTING PROCEDURE

- Non-Election Assembly: The Summary of Conference Procedures, Appendix A, will be followed.
- Election Assembly:

- All voting will follow the Third Legacy Procedure set out in the A.A. Service Manual (pg. 110 Appendix G).
- Names of persons standing for office will be posted on the blackboard at the front of the room.
- Voting will be by written ballot.
  - It is suggested that different colored paper be used for each ballot.
- Ballot Handlers
  - Selected by election Chairpersons from non-voting A.A. members prior to the elections to equal approximately one (1) handler for every forty (40) qualified voters.
  - Will be assigned specific areas.
  - Give one (1) ballot to each qualified voter, as designated by the tagged name badge who is in the room at the time of the vote.
  - Collect the ballots and give them to the election Chairperson or designated counterstotally.
- It is suggested that past Delegates present at the election assembly be asked to tally the ballots.
- The number of ballots cast for each candidate will be displayed on the whiteboard.
- Third Legacy Procedure will be followed:
  - The first candidate to receive two-thirds (2/3) of the total vote cast in that ballot selected.
  - On second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and subsequent ballots, the candidate list will be shortened
  - Up to five (5) ballots may be required to determine the winner, if any.
  - If no one receives two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the fifth ballot, the winner will be decided by lot (drawn from a hat by a non-voting member of A.A.).
- The order of the election of Officers is at the Chairperson's discretion.
  - The following order is suggested:
    - Delegate
    - Alternate Delegate
    - Chairperson
    - Alternate Chairperson
    - Treasurer
    - Registrar
    - Secretary

### **13. VOTE FOR TRUSTEE NOMINEES AND NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

The term of office of Trustees is set in the Bylaws of the General Service Board, Inc. as published in the A.A. Service Manual (pg. 129 Appendix O)

- NFAC may choose to make nominations for Southeastern Regional Trustee and Trustee At-Large U.S.
  - How to make this selection will be determined by the Area Committee?
  - Nominations will be held at the fourth (4th) meeting in every second (2nd) even year.
  - Candidate selection is made either at the NFAC Committee meeting or at the Assembly.
  - Third Legacy procedures should be used in voting.

### **14. CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDING**

The North Florida Area Conference, Inc. in accordance with the Sixth Tradition will not finance, affiliate with, or lend the A.A. name to any enterprise that is not part of the NFAC.

- To provide necessary funds to enable the North Florida Area Conference, Inc. to fulfill its responsibilities.
  - It is recommended that all Groups contribute monthly or quarterly.
  - Contributions are not dues or fees but are voluntary contributions.
- Necessary funds must be available to the
  - Delegate and the Alternate Delegate
  - In the event the Delegate is unable to attend any of the above functions, the Alternate Delegate will receive the Delegate's funding to attend unless the Alternate Delegate is already funded to attend.
    - Provide for mailing and other expenses as approved by the Assembly.
    - Provide expenses for the Assembly meetings (pg. 35)

- Receive expenses for attending Assemblies.
- Receive allocated funds to defray expenses!
  - General Service Conference in New York
  - Report on the General Service Conference to Districts
  - Delegate "Get Together" in Atlanta,
  - Southeastern Regional Forum,
  - International Convention
  - Florida State Convention.
  - Southern States Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly
- Officers, Administrative Committee Chairs, Service Chairpersons, Parliamentarian, and Archivist
  - Reimburse for telephone and mailing expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
  - To defray expenses for attending the Assemblies,
    - Lodging for one night reimbursed at the assembly rate at the contract hotel.
    - Alternate Chair, Grapevine and Archives Service Chairpersons which will receive two nights lodging.
    - Mileage reimbursement at a rate set from time to time, by the Area.
- To pay the Webmaster \$150.00 per month.

### 15. PRUDENT RESERVE

- Prudent Reserve shall be between 9-12 months of the annual budget, including cash on hand.
- An overage or shortfall evaluation shall be made by the Treasurer at the end of each calendar year after all bills are paid.
  - Any overage or shortfall shall be reported to the body at its next Assembly.
  - Any such overage or shortfall shall be reported in the minutes from that Assembly.
    - Distribution of the overage or shortfall shall be decided at the following Assembly by the body.

### 16. NORTH FLORIDA AREA MAP

The NFAC is divided into Districts as described in Appendix B

- a Hispanic Linguistic District is area wide.
- A Virtual District is area wide.

### 17. REDISTRICTING

- When a District has grown such that the DCM can no longer effectively serve all groups (thirty (30) or more)
- The District may petition the Assembly (pg. 108 Appendix F) to elect multiple DCMs (one for each fifteen (15) groups).
  - The petitioning DCM must receive approval from the Groups involved.
  - The DCM then petitions the Growth Committee
    - If approved, the petition will be taken to the Assembly business meeting for a final vote.
  - The multiple DCMs will perform all the duties of a DCM and will have a vote at the Assembly.
- When district(s) want to change their boundaries
  - a letter from each District's DCM stating the change
    - Approved by the Districts involved
    - Sent to the Growth Committee for review
  - brought to the floor as a motion from the Growth Committee for approval by the Assembly.

### 18. ASSEMBLY PROPERTY

- Property owned by the Area, may be assigned to the appropriate elected or appointed members of the Area who require the use of the property to fulfill their assigned duties including but not limited to



- Computers
- Printers
- recording equipment
- other office equipment
- Archives and fireproof containers,
- Property is under control and direction of the Finance Committee
- The location of such property is determined by the needs of the person who assumes possession and responsibility for same.
- At the end of their term, all property should be turned over to their successor or the NFAC Chairperson.
- It is suggested that any trusted servant receiving possession of Area property have a minimum of two (2) years sobriety.

# How the Conference Operates

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceeds on an informal basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

## Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum — two-thirds of all registered members — is required to conduct Conference business.

## Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Members are encouraged to trust the process. Each Committee has considered carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded. Members are asked to refrain from spontaneously amending the work of the Committee; there are no "friendly" amendments under Robert's Rules.

## Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, a *two-thirds majority*. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a *two-thirds majority*. Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds majority" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.

## Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with two-thirds vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak.

Remember that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is no rebuttal, is a time-waster, for it can force the Conference body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.

## General Rules of Debate and Voting

*(Agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)*

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the chair.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- *Full* discussion of a recommendation should take place *before* each vote.
- Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.
- Our experience is that premature actions such as amend-

ing motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question can divert attention from the subject at hand, confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

## Motions Made During Conference

When making a motion, come to the microphone and address the chair. There are various types of motions we use to help reach an informed group conscience. The specific rules governing each are on the next page.

## Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion postpones discussion to a later time during the same Conference.

## Motion to Recommit

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the respective trustees' committee or appropriate corporate board for further consideration. A motion to recommit must be seconded, is debatable and can be amended.

## Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate.

## Reconsideration

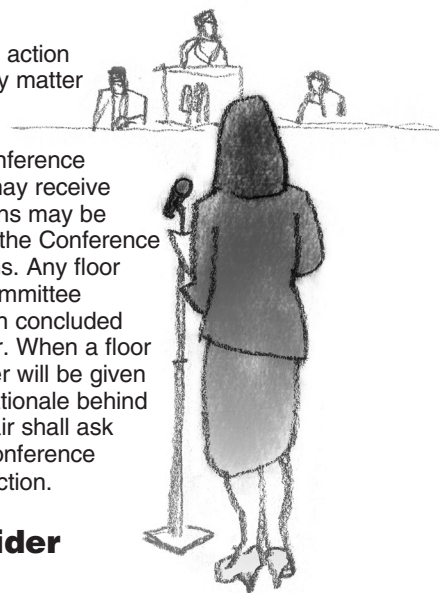
A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and cons, is resumed.

## Floor Actions

It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action.

## Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment.



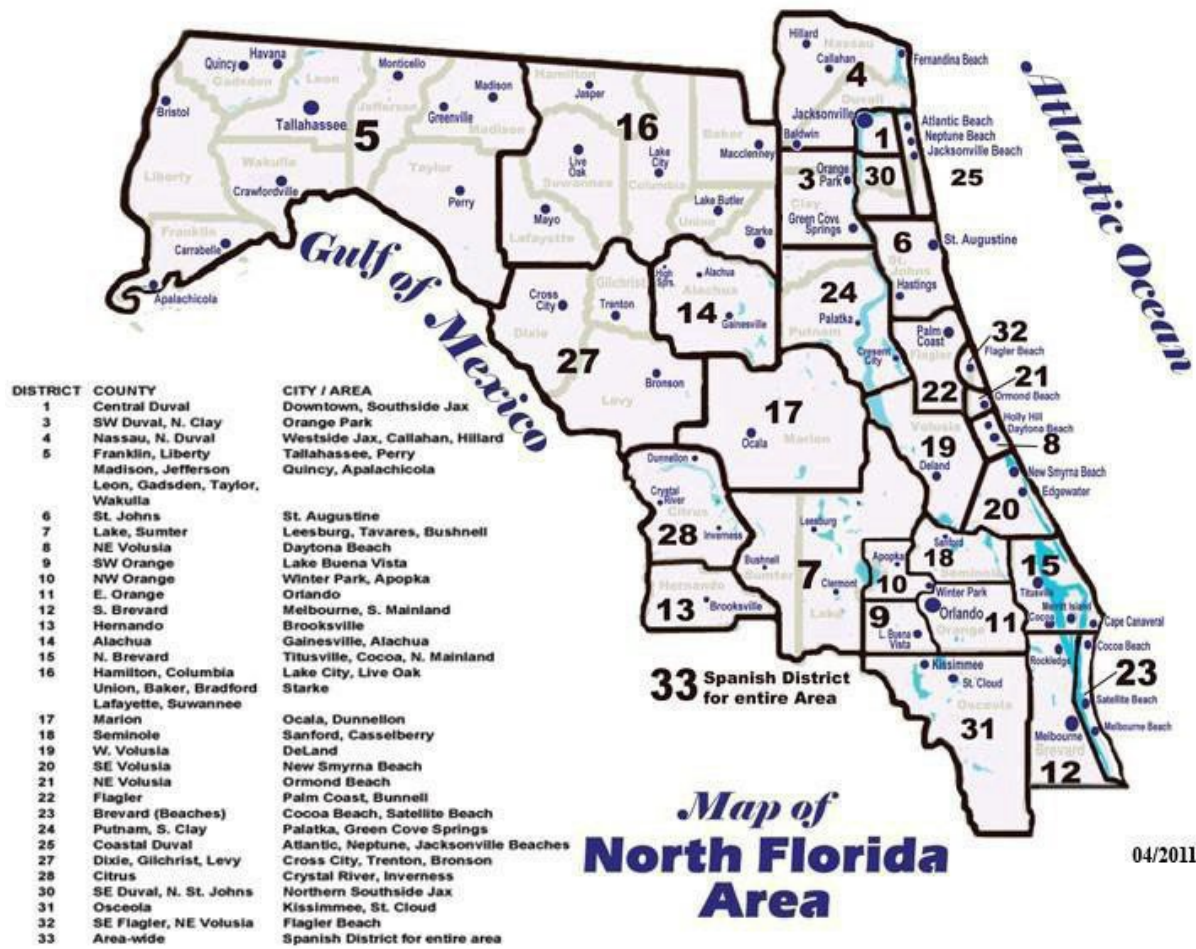
# Summary of Conference Procedures

## Remember:

- Motions must be made in order at the microphone.
- Address motions to the chair.

MOTION		Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
<b>Committee Recommendation</b>	Presented in the committee report.	Automatically seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Amending a Motion</b>	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it.  The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Tabling a Motion</b>	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
<b>Moving to Recommit</b>	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
<b>Calling the Question</b>	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
<b>Reconsidering a Vote</b>	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side.  No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES  May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
<b>Making a Floor Action</b>	Made without comment.  Introduced any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions.  Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
<b>Declining to Consider a Floor Action</b>	Made without comment.  May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO

# Appendix C – North Florida Area Map



## Appendix D – Computer Use Policy

Computers assigned to officers, committee chairs or assembly members at large, when deemed necessary by the Area Chair will be subject to reading and understanding the computer usage policy outlined below.

It is mandatory that prior to release of equipment, a form affirming receipt of same will be completed. The form will be so arranged to facilitate checking out equipment from the Finance Committee, while transferring from past user to current user. The form will have spaces for serial numbers that must be filled out in order to enable the Finance Committee to accurately track the location of specific equipment.

Computers, which are North Florida Area property, are limited in use solely for purposes of the Change of NFAC preferred software NFAC. It will be agreed by trusted servants that preferred or personal software will not be installed on NFAC equipment, thereby compromising possible errors between dissimilar file formats.

All documents created for, or containing official business of the NFAC will be on the current preferred software of the NFAC. To this end, documents will be cross compatible. Data on computers shall be considered the intellectual property of NFAC therefore falling under the ultimate stewardship of the Finance Committee.

As the NFAC is compelled to upgrade software, care must be taken to save copies of the software for archival purposes. It is not prudent to rely entirely on "reverse" compatibility: for opening existing files. Hardware, software, and data files require climate control. Hardware is susceptible to electronic damage and data corruption. Software is subject to physical damage and/or data loss.

Historically, the NFAC has intentionally selected the simplest software to complete the job at hand. The purpose being to make service positions where computer use is necessary to be available to as many assembly members as possible. Should the preferred software be changed, updated copies of old software shall be implemented into the NFAC archives for simplest method of opening backed-up documents or originals off disk.

## Appendix E – Computer Sign Out Sheet

I, the undersigned do hereby declare that I have read, understood, and will adhere to the NFAC computer use policy. I understand all the responsibilities within the policy and will perform them bound by this document and the role of Trusted Servant for the NFAC.

Position	Name	Date Out
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Position	Name	Date In
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Computer Description	Serial Number
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Monitor	Serial Number
---------	---------------

Printer	Serial Number
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Miscellaneous Items:

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Maintenance Warranty	Policy Number	Expiration Date
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Cleared by Finance Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: Finance Committee Chair	Date
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## Appendix F – Revisions Table

The following revision table is updated with a date when the section is changed by an Advisory Action. The historical revision table contains the old headings and old dates; the current revision table contains the new layout by the IFF Crew.

### Current Revision Table

<b>HEADINGS</b>	<b>REVISIONS MM/YY</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	
<b>DEFINITION</b>	
<b>MOTIONS AMENDING THE NFAC GUIDELINES</b>	<i>9/20</i>
<b><i>ASSEMBLY FORMAT</i></b>	<i>04/23 04/24</i>
<b>SCHEDULING AND NOTICE OF ASSEMBLIES</b>	<i>04/23</i>
<b>DISTRICTS</b>	
<b>SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS AND OTHER SERVICE POSITIONS</b>	<i>10/21, 01/22, 04/23</i>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS</b>	<i>10/21, 01/22, 04/23</i>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</b>	<i>10/21</i>
<b>ELECTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY TO STAND</b>	<i>04/23</i>
<b>VOTING ELIGIBILITY AND PRIVILEGES</b>	<i>10/21, 01/22, 04/23 10/11 4/24</i>
<b>VOTING PROCEDURE</b>	
<b>VOTE FOR TRUSTEE NOMINEE AND NOMINATION PROCEDURE</b>	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDING</b>	<i>01/21</i>
<b>PRUDENT RESERVE</b>	
<b>NORTH FLORIDA AREA MAP</b>	<i>04/23</i>
<b>REDISTRICTING</b>	
<b>ASSEMBLY PROPERTY</b>	
<b>APPENDIX A – HOW THE CONFERENCE OPERATES</b>	<i>05/22, 11/22</i>
<b>APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEDURES</b>	

<b>APPENDIX C – NORTH FLORIDA AREA MAP</b>	<i>04/23</i>
<b>APPENDIX D – COMPUTER USE POLICY</b>	<i>05/22</i>
<b>APPENDIX E – COMPUTER SIGN OUT SHEET</b>	

## Historical Revision Table

<b>HEADINGS</b>	<b>REVISIONS MM/YY</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	
<b>DEFINITION</b>	<i>4/17, 1/18</i>
<b>MOTIONS AMENDING THE NFAC GUIDELINES</b>	<i>10/97</i>
<b>NFAC ASSEMBLY FORMAT (MEMBERSHIP &amp; MEETINGS)</b>	<i>1/98,4/17, 10/11</i>
<b>NFAC SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS / ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</b>	<i>10/98, 1/99, 7/99, 3/04, 1/05, 3/06, 10/08, 4/09,3/13,7/13,1/14,10/14,7/16, 4/17,1/19</i>
<b>SCHEDULING &amp; NOTICE OF NFAC ASSEMBLIES</b>	<i>7/96, 1/99, 7/99, 10/99, 1/05, 4/09, 3/13, 4/1, 1/19</i>
<b>NFAC ELECTIONS</b>	
<b>ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR NFAC OFFICE</b>	<i>1/05, 4/17</i>
<b>VOTING PRIVILEGES</b>	<i>7/96,4/17, 10/11</i>
<b>VOTING PROCEDURE</b>	<i>7/96, 4/16,1/19. 10/11,</i>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS &amp; DUTIES OF NFAC OFFICERS</b>	<i>7/95, 7/96, 1/99, 7/99, 10/99, 1/03, 1/12, 4/12, 7/12, 4/17, 9/18, 1/19.</i>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS/DUTIES OF SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS</b>	<i>1/05</i>
<b>DISTRICTS</b>	<i>1/19</i>
<b>NFAC MAP</b>	<i>3/04, 4/11, 4/23</i>
<b>NOMINATION PROCEDURE AND VOTE FOR TRUSTEE NOMINEES</b>	<i>1/05</i>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDING ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES</b>	<i>1/19</i>
<b>NFAC OFFICER FUNDING</b>	<i>4/95, 7/95, 1/05, 10/10, 4/11,1/13, 4/17</i>



<b>NFAC PRUDENT RESERVE</b>	<i>10/01</i>
<b>REDISTRICTING THE NFAC</b>	<i>7/96</i>
<b>ASSEMBLY PROPERTY</b>	<i>7/99 &amp; 7/00</i>
<b>HOW THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OPERATES</b>	<i>4/17</i>
<b>NORTH FLORIDA NFAC MAP</b>	<i>4/17, 4/23</i>
<b>COMPUTER SIGN OUT SHEET</b>	<i>4/17</i>
<b>COMPUTER USE POLICY</b>	<i>4/17</i>