

## GENERAL SERVICE

The next level of service found in N.A. is General Service. In 1969, N.A.'s first committee, specifically designed to fill our General Service needs, was established. This group and others like it have contributed greatly to the growth of N.A. However, today it is no longer enough to have a few members getting together to keep their groups going. N.A. has grown and is continuing to grow. General Service provides the support necessary for groups of N.A. members so that they can work together for their common welfare.

General Service is divided into sections, the Area and the Region. These are both geographic and functional designations. The Area is designed to provide service to individual groups with specific needs and the Region is established to serve many groups with common needs. This difference in function is important to keep in mind as we discuss in the following sections these two levels of service because in many ways they provide very similar services.

Our experience has shown that from time to time our groups have problems which they can't handle on their own. In the spirit of our fellowship, we, as individuals seek help from one another to deal with our living problems; just so, groups can find help from other groups. For this reason General Service Committees have been established. However, most of the problems a group faces are of such a nature that another group located many miles away can be of little assistance. Only a nearby group can help and for this reason our General Service structure is made up of both Regional and Area Committees.

A "Designated Area" within N.A. is any local area, community, or town with a significant number of N.A. meetings. We have found it convenient to think of a area as any community or communities which comprise a single telephone directory. This concept seems adequate within definable geographic boundaries who need to function together as an area can be a designated area.

The "Designated Region" is a border geographic unit made up of one or more areas. Normally we consider a region to be any state within the United States or any foreign country. Again, the definition of a region is ultimately one of need, any N.A. areas which can show this need can be considered a designated region. A good example of this as it exists today, at the time of this printing, are Northern and Southern regions of N.A. in California. In the future, it may be necessary to break this down even further. We feel it necessary to stress that for the purpose of N.A. the designations of area and region should always be based on specific needs rather than resentments, insanity, or personalities.