

Virginia Area 2023 Fall Assembly

Virginia Area Boundary Policy

Revised Aug. 7, 2023

* To move one AFG from the VA Area to another contiguous Area, please see the *Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Policy*, approved by the VA Area Spring 2022 Assembly.

Introduction

The Virginia Area recognizes that Groups may determine, through a Group conscience, to realign their boundaries. The following is intended to provide the steps necessary to adjust boundaries between Districts due to a Group(s) realignment. This Policy also provides a procedure to change boundaries between the VA Area and another contiguous Area.

Background Information Affecting the Virginia Area Boundary Policy:

- The *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, p. 162, states: “Groups or Districts located in one Area contiguous with another Area may, through group conscience and following Area procedures, choose to participate in the second Area and give up participation in the first Area, as agreed upon by both Areas.”
- A District may belong to one Area only.
- Changes to VA Area District boundaries do not need the approval of the VA Area World Service Conference (VAWSC) or the VA Area Assembly, providing that the procedures in this Policy are followed, and that the VA Area Officers have had input.
- The layout of Districts in the Area should “make sense” with respect to travel time and distance for District Representatives (DRs) to visit Groups, and for Group Representatives (GRs) and the DR to convene for business meetings. If District meetings are to be electronic, travel time and distance for District officers and GRs may be less of an issue.
- Districts and Groups should follow the Informed Group Conscience process when considering changing District boundaries.
- GRs will be given ample notice and opportunity to participate in meaningful discussions at both the District level and at the Group meetings before any final requests are made. In keeping with Warranty Three of Concept Twelve, “...all important decisions will be made by discussion, vote, and, wherever possible, by unanimity.”
- *This VA Area Boundary Policy does not address moving an individual AFG into or out of the VA Area. That discussion was covered in the *Transforming Electronic Groups to AFGs Policy*.

Realignment of District Boundaries

If the need arises, due to the addition of or a closing of a Group or Groups within a District, the DR may request that the GRs of a District begin an Informed Group Conscience process to discuss this change to the District. This process should allow the proposed changes to be discussed at least at 2 consecutive District meetings, or more, as is needed. Finally, VA Area Officer input is required for the process to be completed.

- A. Upon approval by the Groups involved (determined by Group Conscience vote) to realign the District's boundaries, the DR of the District proposing the change will reach out via a formal written notice (email will suffice) to the DR of the adjoining District to notify him or her that a change in boundaries is being requested.
- B. The second District, the adjoining District will be given sufficient time for discussion as was the first District, the initiating District.
- C. Before putting the vote on the District(s) agenda, it is suggested that the following questions be considered during at least two consecutive District business meetings, or other events convened for the purpose of discussing the issue (i.e., an ad-hoc meeting or workshop scheduled for the purpose of discussing the proposed District boundary changes):
 - a) Will a change in boundaries enhance the DR's ability to visit every Group or a GR's ability to participate in District meetings?
 - b) Would a change be beneficial for future growth patterns?
 - c) Will a change enable better membership outreach to Groups impacted by the change?
 - d) Will a change enable better public outreach to the parts of the Area served by the District?
 - e) Is there a better way to perform the functions in the District than with a change to the boundaries, i.e. using the Alternate DR more effectively?
 - f) Will any Groups not be represented under the proposed boundary change?
 - g) What other reasons are there for proposing the change?
- D. After consideration of the above questions in at least 2 consecutive District meetings by the Districts affected by the change, votes are taken.
- E. The Districts should follow the Informed Group Conscience process and include all information presented by the DR (or GRs) as part of their discussion.
- F. A motion for a vote on the re-Districting proposal is made and seconded.
- G. The District(s) will consider the request as described above and then vote on the motion for redrawing the District boundaries.

- H. Based on the outcome of the vote, the District(s) will determine whether or not to implement a boundary change.
- I. If the result of the vote is to **Disapprove** the re-Districting request, the decision is communicated through the Links of Service to the respective Groups of the Districts involved.
- J. If the result of the vote is to **Approve** the re-Districting request, the following procedure is to be followed to notify Groups of the coming change:
- a). The DR(s) will notify the VA Area Chair to make the necessary changes in the Area database and websites.
 - b). The VA Area Chair, with assistance from the affected DRs, will identify a member or members of the VA Area to make the necessary changes to the Area graphics to reflect the new boundaries. Upon completion, the final map will be posted on the Area website and distributed through the Links of Service to all VAWSC members.
 - c). The DRs involved will provide each Group within the affected Districts with a written summary of the changes and a copy of the new District map when it is completed.
 - d). Upon notifying the VA Area Chair, the Area Chair should notify all VAWSC members through District announcements, information posted to web sites, mail sent to the CMA, and other convenient methods of communication (e.g., email or distributed flyers) of the boundary change.
 - e). The Group Records Coordinator will inform the World Service Office (WSO) of the changes to the VA Area Districts' boundaries.

Virginia Area Boundary Changes

Following are procedures for a District leaving the Virginia Area and a District moving into the Virginia Area.

A. For a District leaving the Virginia Area

- The new Area that the VA Area District wishes to join must be a recognized member of the World Service Conference (WSC).
- The new Area the departing District wishes to join is contiguous to the VA Area, either an Area that borders Virginia geographically, or the new Global Electronic Area, which is considered contiguous to every other WSC Area.

- The departing District has held a Group Conscience over a minimum of two District meetings and the members agree to this process. VA Area Officers have had input into the process.
- The departing District petitions the VA Area and is granted approval to leave the VA Area. The VA Area sends a letter to the Area Officers of the Area the leaving District wishes to join, indicating that the VA Area agrees to this process.
- The departing District agrees to give up participation in the VA Area once it is accepted into the new Area.
- The departing District petitions the new Area for approval to join. The new Area sends the VA Area a letter indicating that the departing District is accepted into the new Area.
- A change in the VA Area's boundaries will require a vote at all levels, specifically, the departing District, the VA Area Officers, the VAWSC, and the VA Area Assembly.
- *Upon notifying the VA Area Chair of the coming departure of the District joining a new Area, the VA Area Chair should notify all VAWSC members through District announcements, information posted to web sites, mail sent to the CMA, and other convenient methods of communication (e.g., email or distributed flyers) that the boundary change will be voted on at the next VA Area Assembly.
- The VA Area Chair will recruit a member or members from the VA Area to realign the Area boundary, based on the geographic vacancy left by the departing District. This should be done in cooperation with the Area that the departing District is joining.
- The VA Area Assembly will vote on the new VA Area boundary changes at the following Assembly.
- The Group Records Coordinator will inform the World Service Office (WSO) of the changes to the VA Area Districts' boundary changes.
- If the move to another Area includes an Alateen Meeting, that Alateen meeting will need to abide by the new Area's Alateen policy.
- If the move to another Area includes Al-Anon Member(s) Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), the AMIAS(s) will need to abide by the new Area's Alateen AMIAS policy.

B. For a District moving into the Virginia Area

- The District wishing to join the VA Area is from an Area that is a recognized member of the WSC.
- The incoming District petitions the VA Area for approval to join. The Area of the petitioning District sends the VA Area a letter indicating that their District wishes to join the VA Area.
- The Area that the departing District wishes to join is contiguous to the VA Area, either an Area that borders Virginia geographically or the new Global Electronic Area, which is considered contiguous to every other WSC Area.
- The departing District has held a Group Conscience and the members agree to this process.

- The Area that a District is leaving petitions the VA Area to seek approval for the District to join the VA Area. The VA Area sends a letter to the Area the District wishes to leave, indicating that the VA Area will discuss and vote on this petition.
- If **Disapproved** by the VA Area, the VA Area Chair sends a letter to the Area Chair of the District seeking inclusion to notify them of the result.
- If **Approved** the following will be adhered to:
 - The VA Area Chair sends a letter to the Area Chair of the District seeking inclusion to notify them of the result.
 - The incoming District agrees to give up participation in the former Area once it is accepted into the VA Area.
 - The incoming District agrees to abide by the VA Area's guidelines for participation in that Area.
- A change in the VA Area's boundaries will require a vote at all levels, specifically, the VA Area Officers, VAWSC, and VA Area Assembly.
- Upon notifying the VA Area Chair, the VA Area Chair should notify all VAWSC members through District announcements, information posted to web sites, mail sent to the CMA, and other convenient methods of communication (e.g., email or distributed flyers) that the boundary change will be voted on at the next VA Area Assembly.
- The VA Area Chair will recruit a member or members from the VA Area to redraw the new Area boundary, based on the geographic change created by the joining District. This should be done in cooperation with the Area the joining District is leaving.
- The VA Area Assembly will vote on the new VA Area boundary at the following Assembly.
- The Group Records Coordinator will inform the World Service Office (WSO) of the changes to the VA Area boundary.
- If the District moving to the VA Area includes an Alateen Meeting, the meeting will need to coordinate with the VA Area Alateen Coordinator and abide by the VA Area's Alateen policy in order to meet.
- If the District moving to the VA Area includes Al-Anon Member(s) Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), the AMIAS(s) will need to be certified by the VA Area's Alateen Coordinator and abide by the VA Area AMIAS policy in order to serve in that capacity.