

Area Boundary Policy & Procedures

Why do we need a policy?

1. Links of Service

2. Improve communication

1. A District is no longer active and may be dissolved. Existing Groups would join a contiguous District.
2. A District has grown too large and can no longer effectively support the Groups within its boundaries, or there is a commonality between groups and an Overlay District is being proposed.
3. A Group or Groups may determine that links of service will significantly improve if aligned with a different contiguous District or Overlay District.
4. The District demonstrates that communication and links of service will significantly improve with long term affects if aligned with a different contiguous Area.

Background

Changes to District or Area boundaries must demonstrate that the links of service will significantly improve.

The primary risk of changing boundaries is that communication will be broken.

Dissolving a District

A District can be dissolved because it is no longer active, and GRs within the District do not attend Area Assembly. Dissolving a District may be proposed by the GRs or Area Chair.

1. The GRs or Area Chair may call a group conscience to discuss dissolving the District.
2. Groups will propose joining contiguous District(s), based on geographical considerations.
3. The contiguous District(s) will be notified by the Area Chair and asked to conduct a group conscience.
4. The GR(s) in the contiguous District(s) will conduct a group conscience with their respective Groups.
5. The distribution of assets, funds, CAL, and other District items will be decided.
6. The contiguous DR(s) will propose a timeline to the Area Officers.
7. The Area Officers will review the request and make a motion to retain/dissolve the District to the VAWSC.
8. VAWSC will vote on the motion to retain/dissolve the District, and present the outcome to Assembly. A two-thirds majority is required to dissolve the District.
9. If the District is dissolved, changes to the District map will be made by the Area Chair, and posted on the VA Al-Anon website.
10. Area Group Records will reassign the Group(s) to the approved District(s) in the Area and WSO databases.
11. The Area Chair and Delegate will notify the Associate Director/Conference at WSO that a District has been dissolved.

Dividing a District

In the event that the District has grown too large based on the number of meetings, or there is a desire to create an Overlay District, the GRs or the DR may request that there be a change in the District boundaries or an Overlay District created.

1. The DR or a GR may propose that the District boundaries be changed or an Overlay District created. The DR will then conduct a group conscience at the District level.
2. Each GR will conduct a group conscience with their respective Groups to determine if their members support changing District boundaries or creating an Overlay District.
3. If the decision is to change the District boundaries and create a new District, either geographic or Overlay, a full slate of officers for both the current District and the new District is recommended, with a minimum of District Representative and Treasurer.
4. If the proposed changes to the District are geographic, they must include new boundary lines. All Groups affected by the new boundaries must agree to be associated with the appropriate District.
5. The proposal to change District boundaries or create an Overlay District will be made to the Area Officers, who will review the request and resolve any issues prior to making a motion to the VAWSC.
6. If VAWSC approves the motion, the Assembly will vote with a simple majority. The vote and minority opinion will be recorded.
7. Upon approval by Assembly, any geographical changes to the District map will be made by the Area Chair, and posted on the VA Al-Anon website.
8. Area Group Records will reassign the Groups to the approved District(s) in the Area and WSO databases.
9. The Area Chair and Delegate will notify the Associate Director/Conference at WSO that a District has been added.

Groups Changing Districts

Group(s) may petition the Area to be moved to a contiguous District under the following conditions:

- The Group(s) aligns more closely geographically with another contiguous District.
 - An Overlay District exists that has a commonality with the Group(s).
1. The GR(s) will conduct a group conscience with their respective Groups to move to the proposed contiguous or Overlay District.
 2. The decision of the Group(s) will be presented to the Group's current DR. If there is no DR, the proposal goes directly to the Area Chair.
 3. If the change is geographic, the District boundary must be continuous and include all Groups within the proposed new boundary.
 4. The current DR (or Area Chair) will conduct a group conscience at the District level to accept/deny the change. If the result is to allow the Groups to change Districts, the outcome will be presented to the Area Chair.
 5. The Area Chair will contact the DR of the proposed District to present the petition of the Group(s) to move to the proposed District.
 6. The DR of the proposed District will conduct a group conscience at the District Level to accept/deny the Group(s) petition and present the outcome to the Area Chair.
 7. If the decision is to change the geographic boundary, changes to the District map will be made by the Area Chair, and posted on the VA Al-Anon website.
 8. Area Group Records will reassign the Groups to their approved District(s) in the Area and WSO databases.

Changing Virginia Area Boundary

The Area may recommend changes, however, the final determination is made by WSO.

Every attempt should be made to accommodate the needs of all Districts within the Area to prevent changing the Area boundaries, including:

- Online VAWSC meetings, officer meetings and Assemblies
 - Online District meetings
 - Participation in service at the Area level.
1. The District requesting to join a contiguous Area must have an active DR who has been unable to attend VA Area meetings either in person or electronically for two Panels. Every attempt must be made to overcome an obstacle for the DR to attend VA Area meetings.
 2. The Groups in the requesting District must have active GRs who have been unable to attend VA Area Assemblies either in person or electronically for two Panels. Every attempt must be made to overcome any obstacle for the GRs to attend VA Area Assemblies.
 3. All Groups within the District must agree to leave the VA Area, following a group conscience within the Groups.
 4. The District must unanimously agree to leave the VA Area, following a group conscience within the District. Individual Groups cannot join a contiguous Area.
 5. The recommendation to leave the VA Area is presented by the DR of the requesting District to the Area Officers at the Area Officers meeting. The Area Officers will determine whether the request to leave the VA Area be added to the VAWSC agenda, or whether additional information is needed to make a decision.
 6. If added to the VAWSC agenda, the DR of the District requesting to leave the VA Area will present the request to VAWSC.
 7. VAWSC will review the request and recommend or deny it with two-thirds of the vote.
 8. If approved, the VA Area Assembly will review the request and recommend or deny it with two-thirds of the vote.
 9. If approved, the VA Area Delegate will propose the new boundary lines to WSO for final approval.
 10. Every attempt will be made to maintain the existing VA Area boundaries to prevent any disruption in the links of service.