

Alcoholics Anonymous in the U.S. and Canada Welcomes New Board Chairperson

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Attention: Journalists, Producers, Editors, News Media

Subjects: Alcoholism and Addiction, Health and Wellness, Recovery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[New York, NY] Linda Chezem (nonalcoholic), of Plainfield, Indiana, has been selected as chairperson of A.A.'s General Service Board, replacing outgoing board chair Michele Grinberg. Trained as a lawyer, Linda spent 22 years serving as a judge, beginning as the first female Circuit Court judge in Indiana followed by a decade on the Indiana Court of Appeals.



A.A. has always relied on its many nonalcoholic friends to provide professional expertise, sound business judgment and balance to the dedicated group of trustees who donate their time and interest in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Importantly, of the 21 members of A.A.'s General Service Board, seven are specifically designated as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees and can provide services that the 14 Class B (recovering alcoholic) trustees cannot, particularly in the area of providing public information about A.A. where they can face the camera head-on or use their last names without concern about anonymity. While Class A trustees do not serve as spokespeople for the Fellowship, they are available as representatives of A.A. for interviews about A.A. across multiple communications platforms -- in TV, public Media, e-radio and podcasts. (For more information about A.A.'s principle of anonymity, you can watch a [brief video](#) from A.A.'s General Service Office.)

For Linda, becoming chairperson provides a humbling opportunity, a chance to help

spread the particular hope she has witnessed in the eyes of A.A. members as they recover. While still a trial court judge, Linda spearheaded the first certified court alcohol and drug program in Indiana, serving on a state substance abuse advisory council along with state legislators and A.A. members. In the mid-1990s, she served on the board of an Indianapolis treatment center where the chief executive was also an A.A. member.

Also joining the board this year are two new Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees who will serve the Fellowship over the next six years: Kevin Prior, Senior Director of Finance for the Catholic Health Association of the United States, of St. Louis, Missouri; and Molly Anderson, Executive Director for the Center of Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness at the University of Buffalo, of Williamsville, New York.

To learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous, please visit www.aa.org or the A.A. World Services LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aaworldservicesinc>.