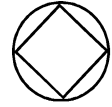


# Basic Information for the Group Service Representative (GSR)



*Excerpted from A Guide to Local Services in NA (page 36)*

*Each group elects one group service representative; even those groups hosting more than one recovery meeting elect just one GSR. GSRs provide constant, active influence over the discussions being carried on within the service structure. If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will almost certainly be sound.*

*Group Service Representatives bear great responsibility. While GSRs are elected by and accountable to the group, they are not mere group messengers. They are selected by their groups to serve as active members of the area service committee. As such, they are responsible to act in the best interest of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their groups' priorities.*

## **GSR Orientation:**

### **What is a GSR ?**

- A trusted servant of the group;
- A leader and communicator;
- The voice of the group at the Area Service Committee (ASC;)
- The voice of the Area Service Committee at the group;
- The link between the group and the Area Service Committee;
- The group's primary source of information about service, activities, and events;
- The group's primary source of information on how to get involved in service work;
- An important source of information for the group about the traditions;
- The trusted servant who attends to the specific needs of the group including questions regarding the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and Policy;

### **Qualifications for a GSR** (Including but not limited to) :

- Is an addict;
- Attends the group they represent;
- Has a willingness to serve;
- Meets the clean time requirement, as determined by the group;
- Has knowledge of the service structure of NA or the willingness to study it;
- Has an understanding of, or the willingness to learn, the duties of a GSR;

**The GSR's Role at Area Service** (Including but not limited to) :

- The GSR is the voice and vote of the Group – Carries the group conscience of the group;
- To participate in discussions and all group conscience decisions;
- To take notes for the report to the group;
- To purchase literature for the group (receipts to be returned to the group Treasurer;)
- To make the group donation to the Area (receipts to be returned to the group Treasurer.)

**Duties and Responsibilities of a GSR** (Including but not limited to) :

- Attend the group meeting regularly;
- Attend the ASC meeting monthly;
- Facilitate the group's business meeting (some group's business meetings are facilitated by the group Secretary, this is determined by the group;)
- Report to the ASC: the group status, problems, concerns, change of meeting time/place to update phone and meeting lists;
- Bring issues from the ASC to the group for a group conscience and report back to the ASC;
- Learn how and where to obtain information in NA;
- Learn about the subcommittees of the ASC;
  - ❖ What do the subcommittees do?
  - ❖ When do they meet?
  - ❖ Who may attend?
  - ❖ Which subcommittees need support?
  - ❖ How can members of our group participate?
- Make the ASC minutes available to the group;
- Attend subcommittee meetings;
- Learn the service structure;
- Study the Guide to Local Service and the ASC guidelines.

**Tools and Resources:**

- 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts;
- Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous;
- Area Service Committee Guidelines;
- Group Contact List
- Experienced Members, other Trusted Servants, Sponsor.

### **GSR Report: Group level – May include:**

- Report on the proceedings of the most recent group business meeting;
- Open positions at Area and Region;
- Decisions made at the ASC;
- Discussions to be carried back to the groups;
- Points of discussions made during the ASC;
- Open positions within the sub-committees;
- Announce Area/Regional Activities during the regular meeting (optional.)

### **GSR Report: Area level – May include:**

- Mention any changes or updates to meeting information, such as time or location (for the meeting list, websites, and phone line.)
- General health of the group;
  - ❖ Average number in attendance;
  - ❖ Financial stability – Is the group self supporting?
  - ❖ Trusted Servants – Open positions?
- Group concerns – Anything the group wishes to be brought to the Area;
- Announcement of group activities;

### **How does a group take care of its business?**

- Most groups hold a monthly business meeting, where recommendations are voted on for literature purchases, Area donations, rent, supplies, etc. (It is suggested that your business meeting be held the week before the Area meeting.)
- All decisions are made by group conscience.
- By holding elections of trusted servant positions as needed with prior notice if possible.
- By sending their GSR or group representative to the ASC monthly.
- By holding special business meetings when important issue surface, like literature review, a group conscience, etc.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## **Should a GSR hold more than one group office?**

- It is suggested that members hold only one service position in the group. As many members as possible are encouraged to be involved in service, as it is an important part of recovery!

## **What if the positions are at two different meetings?**

- In order to provide service opportunities to more members, it is suggested that groups elect addicts who do not serve in other group service positions.

## **How does a group communicate concerns to the GSR?**

- The group or any member may bring concerns to the GSR's attention at that group meeting.

## **What about GSR reports? How often?**

- Depending on the Group Conscience, a GSR report can be made each week during the meeting or at the monthly business meeting. Some groups do not like to spend meeting time with reports.

## **What is a group conscience?**

- An informed vote taken by the group as a whole;
- An expression of God's will;
- Is best for the group as a whole;
- The practice of placing principles before personalities (Tradition 12.)

## **When may a group conscience be initiated?**

- A group conscience may be initiated anytime during a group business meeting if a member feels it's necessary.

## **How much notice should there be before a new GSR or Alternate GSR is elected?**

- At least one month notice should be given before the planned election.

## **How does the Area donation get from the group to the Area?**

- The group decides at their regular monthly business meeting if and how much of a donation they can make to the ASC. Ideally, a check or money is prepared and sent with the GSR or group representative to the regular monthly ASC meeting.

## **Points the GSR should be mindful of at the ASC:**

- Does the GSR feel comfortable at the Area Service Committee meeting?
- Does the ASC adhere to the principles of the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts?
- Does the ASC maintain an atmosphere of service?
- Are the trusted servants fulfilling their obligations to the Area? If not, did the Vice-Facilitator of the Area go in their place and submit a report?
- How do the decisions made by the ASC affect the groups?