

ARIZONA FALL REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Group Service
Representative
Orientation



NA SERVICE PRAYER

GOD, GRANT US THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE MAY ACT
ACCORDING TO YOUR DIVINE PRECEPTS. INSTILL IN US A SENSE
OF YOUR PURPOSE, MAKE US SERVANTS OF YOUR WILL AND
GRANT US A BOND OF SELFLESSNESS THAT THIS MAY TRULY BE
YOUR WORK, NOT OURS, SO THAT NO ADDICT, ANYWHERE, NEED
DIE FROM THE HORRORS OF ADDICTION.





INTRODUCTION

This workshop is intended to help NA members better understand the group service representative (GSR) commitment and to more effectively participate in the work of a local service body.

NA communities have the ability to organize their services in the way that best serves them locally, and the responsibilities of the GSR may vary accordingly.

This session is to try and capture some of our common experience and outline the basic tasks of the GSR position. It does not contain specifics about the policies adopted in individual service bodies as it is intended to be used in any NA community.



WHAT IS A GSR?

GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The Group Service Representative (GSR) is a trusted servant of the group.

They are:

- An active member of an NA Home Group who is elected to represent the group at local area service meetings.
- The voice of the group at the Area Service Committee (ASC)
- The communication link between the ASC and their group
- The group's main source of information about service, activities and events in the Area and other areas
- An important source of information for the group about the traditions, concepts and Area policies



WHY BE A GSR

- A Vision for NA Service reminds us that our commitments should offer “spiritual growth and fulfillment.”
- A GSR commitment is where many of us first begin to learn how NA services are structured outside of our groups. We come to understand how spiritual principles guide our service work and support our primary purpose.
- We may learn skills and discover abilities during the course of our service, and we learn to use those abilities in other areas of our lives. This is part of the reason why some of us talk about the privilege of being of service.
- Being a GSR is one way to express the gratitude we have for NA and the life that it has given us



GSR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A GSR votes or participates in consensus on behalf of their Home Group, representing the group's decisions and bringing its group conscience to discussions at the Area Service Committee (ASC) meeting.
2. A GSR is responsible for the two-way communication between the Home Group and their ASC's.
3. Written reports should be provided on the status of the Home Group which could include the # of meetings, average attendance, the number of newcomers, and any ASC Donation.
4. GSR's should attend all ASC meetings and stay for the duration of each meeting.
5. Report any concerns the Home Group may have.
6. A GSR trains and is a resource for the GSR Alternate.



DISCUSSION

- A GSR votes or participates in consensus on behalf of their Home Group, representing the group's decisions and bringing its group conscience to discussions at the Area Service Committee (ASC) meeting.
- The Group Booklet of Narcotics Anonymous states that "While GSR's 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 own groups' priorities." (Group Booklet, pg. 14)
- Question: How does a GSR navigate between home groups' priorities and acting in the best interest of NA as a whole when those two concepts may not align?



REPORTS TO HOME GROUP

1. A GSR reports back to their Home Group on matters affecting NA at the Area, Regional, and World Service Conference levels, helping keep the group informed and connected to the larger NA service structure.
2. GSR's should keep their Home Groups informed about ASC finances and fund flow.
3. The GSR's should carry back any proposals or Idea Requests that were referred to the Home Groups or to Areas from Region.
4. The GSR's should have discussions with the Home Group about any topic needing input, discussion or feedback from the ASC or the RSC (Regional Service Committee)



DISCUSSION

- A GSR reports back to their Home Group on matters affecting NA at the Area, Regional, and World Service Conference levels, helping keep the group informed and connected to the larger NA service structure.
- Question: From the supplied set of minutes, what information would you report to your Home Group?



HELPFUL KNOWLEDGE SKILLS

1. Get to know other GSR's as well as the Administrative Committee in your Area.
2. Attend Regional Assemblies, this will help develop relationships with other trusted servants in your Region.
3. Gain knowledge of fund flow, how your groups 7th Tradition works in the ASC, the RSC and the WSC.
4. Get involved with your Area's subcommittee work. Join H&I, PR, Outreach or Activities to gain a stronger understanding of how the service structure works.
5. Work closely with your Home Group. Strong Home Groups develop strong GSRs; strong GSRs build strong Areas; and strong Areas help build strong Regions. It all begins with the Home Group