AREA 16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY GSR ORIENTATION -PART ONE

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Adopted at the 35th Anniversary International Convention in Miami, FL, 1970

Who do we have here today?

- Raise your hand if you are a new GSR and this is your first Assembly.
- Raise your hand if you are a 2nd year G
- Raise your hand if you are an Alt GSR.
- Raise your hand if you are a GSR agair
- Raise your hand if you are here to learn more about service work.



Three Part GSR Orientation A year long program for new GSRs



- Qualifications/Duties
- Motions at Assembly
- Concepts I and II

Three Part GSR Orientation A year long program for new GSRs

Part 2 – May

- Nominating procedures
- Voting and elections
- Concepts III, V and IX

Three Part GSR Orientation A year long program for new GSRs

Part 3 – September

- Voting and elections
- Area trusted servants
- Service sponsors and group inventories

The GSR



"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."

- Bill W. on General Service and the G.S.R.

Why is the GSR so important?



Concept I

The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. World services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. (The "upside down pyramid" concept)

Why is the GSR so important?

Concept II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

(The "delegation" concept)

THE A A SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWFIVE CONCEPTS WORI D SFRVICF by Bill W.

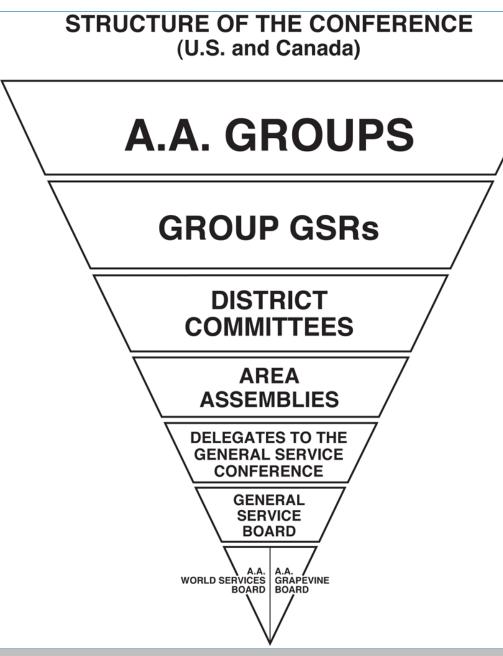
What does the GSR have to do with the General Service Conference?

- There are 93 Areas in North America. Georgia is Area 16.
 Each Area sends one Delegate to the annual Conference
- Our Delegate is elected bi-annually in September by our GSRs
- Only a GSR can nominate a qualified candidate from the floor, and only GSRs can vote in the elections
- Delegates must be a past DCM and a past GSR
- DCMs are suggested to be past GSRs

Why is the GSR so important?

GSRs are responsible for electing the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society. AND

GSRs are the group conscience of our Georgia State Service Assembly (GSSA)

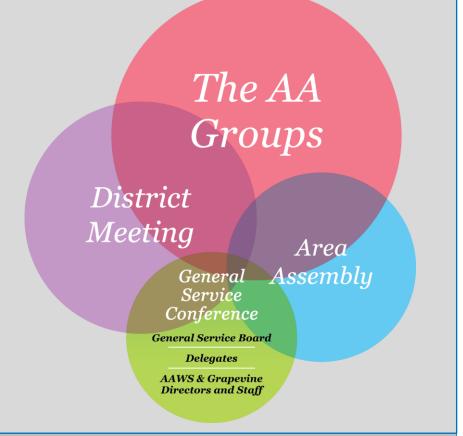


GSR and the AA Service Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the "ultimate responsibility and final authority for . . . world services" resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees of the General Service **Board or the General Service** Office in New York.

"What Hear Here Stays Here" Doesn't Apply Here

- We carry the message from our group to the Area Assembly and to our District meetings
- We mush also deliver the message from the collective group conscience of the districts and the Area 16 Assembly back to our group



GSR Qualifications and Duties

Qualifications

- Active in groups and surrounding activities
- Experienced in using Traditions to solve problems
- A desire to serve
- At least 2 years of sobriety
- Time to attend meetings
- Confidence of the group
- An open mind

Duties

- Attend District/Zone meetings
- Attend GSSA
- Group contact for GSO
- Keep group information updated with DCM
- Knowledgeable about material from GSO
- Willing to learn about the Traditions
- Participate in group steering committees and planning activities
- Participate in District service functions
- Bring your group's conscience to your District and Area 16
- Deliver the message from your District and Area 16 back to your group

The Georgia A.A. Service Manual



Revised November 202

Only GSRs can make motions

- We have a motion forms available online and at the registration desk. GSRs are encouraged to put their motion in writing
- Submitting your motion in advance will allow the Assembly Chairperson to review it
- Wording is very important
- All motions must be seconded by another GSR
- Sometimes a study committee is appointed



Study Committee

- Required when a motion can change the Georgia AA Service Manual
- Sometimes used for a matter of substantial importance

Motion Takes Three Assemblies

- 1st Assembly The motion is made, discussed, tabled, and the Delegate appoints a Study Committee
- 2nd Assembly The Study Committee reports their findings and makes a recommendation for or against the motion. There is discussion, and then it is tabled.
- 3rd Assembly There is discussion, and then there is a vote. A majority of 2/3 is required for a manual change.

On all matters requiring a vote, only the GSR can vote. If you are an Alternate GSR, and your GSR cannot be present, you may vote for your group. However, the registration requirements are the same.



- Only GSRs can vote (on all matters requiring a vote)
 GSR (or Alt. GSR) must register with G.S.S.A. as the group's GSR at least 1 week before Assembly.
 GSR (or Alt. GSR) must sign in at the Assembly registration desk no later than 9:00am Sunday morning to be eligible to vote
- Along with the responsibility to vote comes the responsibility to have an informed group conscience

What is an informed group conscience?

Here a prost-formations, Phylor as got size service

From "The AA Group" pamphlet –

- Group conscience is the collective conscience of the group
 Being fully informed requires the sharing of full information, individual points of view, minority opinions and the practice of AA principles.
- On sensitive issues, the group works slowly prerogative of the Assembly chair to slow down a process – discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges.
- Implication that all the pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard.

The role of the Alternate GSR at GSSA

- If a GSR cannot be present at the Assembly, the current registered Alt GSR can step in as GSR and fulfill the duties discussed.
- The Alt GSR can attend the Assembly along side the GSR to learn in preparation of becoming GSR but cannot exercise any of the responsibilities of the GSR – one group, one vote.

Resources

 Your D.C.M.
 Bill's essay on leadership, "Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need", Concept IX, page C29
 Discuss handout



Leadership in A.A.: Concept 9 in Action

Dear Members of Area 56,

What I dissurration make a good AA lander? Denous 60 Ba Asia McMair Carlorman in Depter on Danlay Wards 22, We will talk about that makes agood burded 3A special.

On Seadory assuming, the service Conference will, have an open rate discussion shows (and/order) in A.R. Concept H in Action. Our Xiandy Marching the Seadory morning seators, Feld in Seador the Seadory morning seators, Feld in seadord B with the Informative Way sea. Phone inform.

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people 3.5 logility results.

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Concept IX

Good service leaders, ingether with award and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all invels indispensable for our future functioning and safrity. The primary world service leadership over exercised by the foundary of A.4, must reconstrily be assumed by the Transform of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I hope to have an informative discussion. Loaders in AA, from Comp Datignment and Einsteil hervice Representative Views Providers and Province, all waters that the doors of AA will sensitive part of the solution of alcoholes despetate bit the views. Useds forward to begin a war-year low two classes.

With Continuir and Lorse, Namy E, Delegate

Bill on Leadership



- Seek advice
- Take criticism
- Encourage compromise
- Exercise vision
- Become flexible
- Develop vision
- Surrender personal ambitions
- Be tolerant
- Accept responsibility
- Listen, Listen, Listen

A Checklist of Helpful Materials

✓ GSR Pamphlet ✓12 Concepts Illustrated Pamphlet ✓The DCM Leaflet ✓ How the Assembly Operates ✓ Motion Form ✓ Group Change Form ✓AA Group Pamphlet ✓ Georgia Service Manual



The Twelve Traditions Solving Group Problems

- Our common welfare comes first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
- For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
- 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

The Twelve Traditions Solving Group Problems

- 5. Each group has but one primary purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- 6. An A.A group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

The Twelve Traditions Solving Group Problems

- 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the

A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

- 11.Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
- 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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Questions?

AA Responsibility Pledge

"I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible."

(Toronto International Convention 1965)

