



**WELCOME TO THE
JANUARY
GSR ORIENTATION –
PART 1**

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. depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Who do we have here today?



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

GSR Orientation



- Three parts – January, May and September
- A year long program for new GSRs
- Part 1 – January
 - Qualifications/duties
 - Motions at Assembly
 - Concepts I and II
- Part 2 – May
 - Nominating procedures
 - Voting and elections
 - Concepts III, V and IX
- Part 3 – September (election Assembly)
 - 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 Wilson

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)

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



- Georgia is Area 16 of 93 Areas in North America – we send one Delegate to the 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 are suggested to be a past DCM and 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.

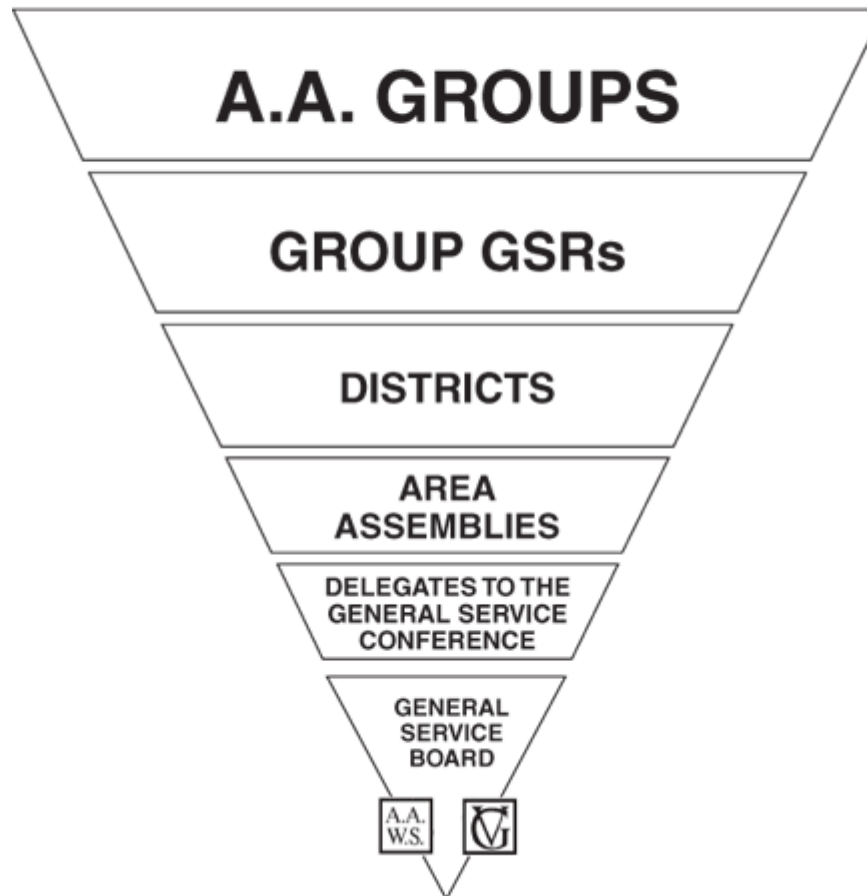
AND

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

GSR and the AA Service Structure



STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



“What You Hear Here Stays Here” Doesn’t Apply Here



- We carry the message from our group to the Area Assembly and the district meetings
- We must 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 group and surrounding activities
- Experienced in using Traditions to solve problems
- A desire to serve
- At least 2 years of sobriety
- Time to attend meeting
- Confidence of group
- Open mind

The AA Service Manual

Duties

- Attend district/zone meetings
- Attend GSSA
- Group contact for GSO
- Keep DCM updated on group information
- Knowledgeable about material from GSO
- Willing to learn about Traditions
- Participate in group's steering committee or 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 to your group

The role of the GSR at GSSA



- **Only GSRs can make motion**
 - We have a motion form to encourage putting the motion in writing
 - Submitting it in advance will allow the Assembly chairperson to review it
 - Wording is very important
 - It must be seconded by another GSR
- **Sometimes a study committee is appointed**

The role of the GSR at GSSA



- **Study committee**
 - Required when a motion can change the Georgia AA Service Manual
 - Sometimes used for a matter of substantial importance
- **Motion takes 3 Assemblies**
 - 1st Assembly – motion is made, discussed, tabled and Delegate appoints a study committee
 - 2nd Assembly – study committee reports their findings, discussion, tabled
 - 3rd Assembly – discussion and vote

The role of the GSR at GSSA



- Only GSRs can vote
 - On all matters requiring a vote
- GSR must register with GSSA as the group's GSR at least 1 week before Assembly
- GSR must sign in at the Assembly 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?



- 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

Role of the Alternative GSR at GSSA



- If a GSR cannot be present at the Assembly, the current registered Alt GSR can step in as GSR and fulfill all 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 DCM
- Bill's essay on leadership, "Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need", Concept IX, page 36
- Discuss handout

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



- GSR - May be the most important job in AA
- 12 Concepts Illustrated
- The DCM
- How the Conference Operates
- Motion Form
- Group Change Form
- AA Group
- Georgia Service Manual

The Twelve Traditions

Solving Group Problems



1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. 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.
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 nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
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.

AA Responsibility Pledge



“I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.” (Toronto International Convention 1965)