

Three Part GSR Orientation

A year long program for new GSRs

WELCOME TO THE MAY GSR ORIENTATION - PART TWO



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AREA16

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN GEORGIA

GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Georgia Meetings and Information

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General Service Office World Services

[AA World Services, Inc. Website](#)
[AA Grapevine/La Viña Website](#)

- [72nd General Service Conference Committees](#)
- [SE REGIONAL FORUM](#)



MEETING GUIDE FROM GSO

Can't find it? Email us at webmaster@aageorgia.org

Is A.A. for You?

[Leave us a message](#)

ASSEMBLY EVALUATION

2023 Georgia State Service Assembly

DuBose Porter Center
560 Pinehill Rd, Dublin, GA 31021

January 20-22, 2023
May 19-21, 2023
September 15-17, 2023

Agenda (English)

2023 JANUARY Agenda

Orden Del Dia (Español)

Agenda enero 2023

ASSEMBLY Sleeping rooms Hampton Inn & Suites of Dublin

103 Travel Center Blvd, Dublin GA 31021

(478) 246-6055

\$139.00 + tax DBL Beds

\$159.00 + tax King Bed

LaQuinta

101 Travel Center Blvd, Dublin, GA 31021

Georgia State Service Assembly Overview

The Georgia State Service Assembly is conducted 3 times a year, scheduled around the third Saturday in the months of January, May and September. The Assembly runs for 3 days starting Friday with an Open Discussion Meeting. Saturday morning at 9:00 AM starts the business of the Service Assembly. The Georgia State Service Assembly is held at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin. The Agenda should be posted one month before Assembly.

- [Business Meeting Minutes, Delegate and Treasurer Reports](#)
(Requires standard site password)
- [Assembly Evaluation Form](#)
- [Treasurer Workshop Presentation](#)
(Requires standard site password)
- [Practicing the Principles in a Changing World GSR Workshop May 2021](#)
- [GSR 101 Part 1 - PDF - Jan 2023](#)
- [GSR 101 Part 2 - PDF - May 2021](#)
 - [Slides and Audio](#)
- [GSR 101 Part 3 - PDF -- Sept 2021](#)
 - [Slides and Audio](#)
- [How The Assembly Operates - Robert's Rules](#)
- [Voting Procedures - Third Legacy Presentation](#)



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


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 again
- Raise your hand if you are here to learn more about service work.



Three Part GSR Orientation

A year long program for new GSRs

A photograph of a bare, leafless tree with a complex network of thin branches, set against a clear, light blue sky. The tree is positioned on the left side of the slide, with its trunk and branches extending upwards and outwards.

Part 1 – January

- 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

Recap of Part 1

CONCEPTS I AND II
WHY IS THE GSR IMPORTANT?
GSR QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES
THE ROLE OF THE GSR AT GSA
THE ROLE OF THE ALT GSR AT GSSA

CONCEPTS I AND II

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.

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.

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 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

Role of the GSR & Alt GSR at GSSA

Role of the GSR

- Make motions
- Vote on all matters
- Be informed
- Nominate Area trusted servants
- Elect Area trusted servants

Role of the Alt GSR

- Attend with GSR to learn – Cannot act
- Attend in place of the GSR and assume GSR's duties

Recap Questions



Area Trusted Servant Nominations

- GSRs elect our Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, and Secretary
- The Delegate and Alternate Delegate are elected in odd years, and Treasurer and Secretary are elected in even years
- Nominations are made in May from the floor by a GSR and seconded by a GSR
- Our Delegate nominees can also come from roll call of the qualified DCMs
- This Assembly we will nominate Delegate and Alternate Delegate candidates

Nomination Procedure

- Nominate a qualified candidate
 - Qualifications are in the Georgia A.A. Service Manual
 - Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be a past DCM and meet all the other qualifications
- Make sure your candidate is available and willing to serve
- Arrange in advance a GSR to second your nomination
 - The second should be someone who supports your nomination
- Once all nominations are complete, the chairperson will ask for a show of hands to close the nominations

Election Procedure and Voting

- We use the Third Legacy Procedure for our elections (p 29-31 of the Georgia AA Service Manual)
- The winning candidate must have 2/3 of the vote, or have been drawn from the hat
- First Ballot – All candidates are on the ballot, if no one receives 2/3 majority we go to a second ballot
- Second Ballot – All candidates are on the ballot, if no one receives 2/3 majority we go to a third ballot
- Third Ballot – All candidates who received less than 1/5 of the vote in the second ballot are removed, and the remaining candidates are now voted on, and if no one receives 2/3 majority, we go to a fourth ballot
- Fourth Ballot – Any candidates that did not receive 1/3 of the vote in the third ballot are removed. The remaining candidates are now voted on, and if no one receives a 2/3 majority, we go to a fifth ballot
- Fifth Ballot – Only the top 2 candidates will participate in the Fifth and Final Ballot. If neither candidate receives a 2/3 majority, their names will go to the hat and the new Delegate will be drawn from the hat.

GSRs and Voting

- Only GSRs can vote at GSSA
- If you are an Alternate GSR, and your GSR cannot be present, you may vote for your group
- There can only be one vote for each group
- GSRs must sign in at the assembly no later than 9:00am Sunday morning to be eligible to vote



GSRs and Voting



For Elections

- We currently use paper ballots for elections
- The DCM will hand out ballot sheets to each GSR in their District or Zone
- Each GSR will write the name of the candidate they are voting for on the ballot paper, fold it in half, and hand it back to their DCM
- The ballots will be carried to the podium to be counted
- Counting the ballots happens by tallying
- The chairperson will announce each ballot
- There will be one person marking the tally board and two additional counters on the podium
- You can only vote if you are in the room – if you miss the vote, there is no vote for your group

GSRs and Voting

Voting on a Motion

- For motions we vote by a show of hands
- You should vote your conscience or your groups conscience



- No District or Zone voting, meaning the DCM cannot announce that all groups are voting the same, or for the same candidate

Helpful Concepts for Nominating and Voting

- Concept III – Right of Decision
 - Concept V – Right of Appeal
- Concept IX – Service Leadership

Concept III – Right of Decision

Short form: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committee, and executives – with a traditional “Right of Decision”.

- The group has the right to give the GSR specific directives on how to vote
- The GSR has the right to incorporate new information shared at GSSA and vote his/her conscience



Concept V – Right of Appeal

Short form: Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that the minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.



- The minority is encouraged to speak if they feel the majority is in considerable error.
- This happens after a motion has been voted on and the chairperson asks for a minority opinion or report.
- Only GSRs that voted with the minority can make a minority opinion or report.

Concept IX – Service Leadership

Short form: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Bill W.'s essay, "Leadership is AA: Ever a Vital Need" – is a must read for every GSR (Handout available)
- We must take care in selecting our trusted servants
- Are we selecting the most qualified person or the most popular?



The 12 Traditions

The Traditions and Solving Group Problems

The 12 Traditions

1. Our common welfare comes 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 non-professional, 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 spirit of our foundation; it is the bond by which we may walk with the Alcoholics Anonymous world. Our address is P.O. Box 7025, Macon, GA 31209. Phone: 478-745-2588. E-mail: essan@12a.org or essan@aa.org

The group is arguing over what size coffee cup to use: 12oz or 16oz?

Problem #1: the 12oz cup – We are spending too much money on coffee. If we had smaller cups, people would drink less.

The Tradition that supports this position: Tradition 7 – *Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

*If the coffee expense is the problem, smaller cups may help reduce the expenses.

Problem #2: the 16oz cup – People will get up less often to refill their cup, so there will be fewer disruptions to the meeting.

The Tradition that supports this position: Tradition 1 – *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.*

*The group's common welfare would mean that if larger cups would minimize disruptions, that would be best.

Non-AA announcements during an AA meeting (BBQ, clubhouse events, church yard sale)

Problem: Members participate in these events and would like to announce them in the AA meeting.

The Tradition that supports this position: Tradition 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.*

Anything we announce in a meeting would have the appearance of endorsement. Newcomers may view this as affiliation with A.A.

Bringing children to open or closed meetings

Problem: Some members are uncomfortable with children in meetings. This is a common issue for groups. Closed meetings should not include non-alcoholics, but some closed meetings allow small children.

The Tradition that supports this position: Tradition 4 – *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*

This is a matter for each group to decide for themselves. Other than a closed meeting description of “alcoholics only”, children are generally allowed to attend open meetings.

Final 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)

