



**WELCOME TO THE
MAY 2021
GSR ORIENTATION
PART 2**

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 an Alt GSR?
- Raise your hand if you are here to learn more about service work?
- Raise your hand if you attended GSR Orientation Part 1 in January?

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)
 - Recap voting and elections
 - Area trusted servants
 - Service sponsors and group inventories

Recap of Part 1



CONCEPTS I AND II
WHY IS THE GSR IMPORTANT?
GSR QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES
THE ROLE OF THE GSR AT GSSA
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 ... thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and ... the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

Why is the GSR important?



- GSRs are responsible for electing the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society – our Delegate (a Conference member).

AND

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

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

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

The AA Service Manual

Role of GSR and Alt GSR at GSSA

Role of GSR

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

Role of Alt GSR

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

Area Trusted Servant Nominations



- GSRs elect our Delegate, Alt Delegate, Treasurer and Secretary
- The Delegate and Alt Delegate are elected in odd years and Treasure and Secretary 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 Alt Delegate candidates

Nomination procedure



- **Nominate a qualified candidate**
 - Qualifications are in the Georgia AA Service Manual
 - Delegates and Alt Delegates must be a past DCM and meet all other qualifications
- **Make sure your candidate is available and willing to serve**
- **Arrange in advance a GSR to 2nd your nomination**
 - The 2nd should be someone that supports your nomination
- **Once all nominations are complete, the chairperson will ask for a show of hands to close nominations**

Election Procedure and Voting



- We use the Third Legacy Procedure for our elections
 - See pages 29-31 Georgia AA Service Manual
- The winning candidate must have $2/3$ of votes or have their name drawn from the hat
- Candidates with less than $1/5$ of votes are withdrawn after the 2nd ballot
- After the 3rd ballot, candidates with less than $1/3$ of votes are withdrawn except the top two candidates
- After the 4th ballot, candidates with the smallest number of votes are withdrawn except the top two candidates, at that time the chairperson will ask for a motion to move to the 5th ballot.
- If motion fails, the winner will be drawn from hat. If motion passes a 5th and final ballot is collected. The candidate with $2/3$ wins. If neither candidate received $2/3$, the winner will be drawn from the hat.

GSRs and Voting



- Only GSRs vote at GSSA
- GSR must sign in at the Assembly no later than 9:00am Sunday morning to be eligible to vote
- Currently use paper ballots for elections
- Ballots are hand counted and a white board is used by counter, 2 other counters appointed
- You can only vote if in the room – if you miss the vote, no vote for your group
- For motions, we vote by show of hands
- Vote your conscience or that of your group
- No District or Zone voting (everyone for same candidate per DCM)

Helpful Concepts for Nominations 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.
- Mutual trust is key!

Concept V – Right of Appeal



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

- The minority is encourage 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 in AA: Ever at Vital Need" – a must read for every GSR!
- We must take care in selecting our trusted servants
- Are we selecting the most qualified person or the most popular?

The Traditions and Solving Group Problems



The Twelve Traditions



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.

The group is arguing over coffee cup size 12oz or 16oz – what is the problem?



For 12oz cup – we are spending too much money on coffee, if we had smaller cups, people would drink less

Tradition 7 – Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting.... The group should keep it's expenses within its means from voluntary contributions. If the coffee expense is a problem, smaller cups may help reduce the expenses.

For 16oz cup – people will get up and refill less and disrupt meeting less

Tradition 1 – Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity. The group's common welfare would mean that if larger cups would minimize disruptions, that would be best.

Non – AA announcements during meeting – BBQ, clubhouse events, church yard sale



Members participate in these events and would like to announce in meeting

Tradition 6 – An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise....

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

Bringing children to open or closed meeting



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

Tradition 4 – Each group should be autonomous except in matter affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

This is a matter for group preference. Other than a closed meeting description of alcoholics only, children generally ok to have in open meetings.