



**WELCOME TO THE  
SEPTEMBER 2018  
GSR ORIENTATION  
PART 3**

# 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 or Part 2 in May?

# 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

# Recap of Part 2



**NOMINATING PROCEDURES  
VOTING AND ELECTIONS  
CONCEPTS III, V AND IX**

# 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 Treasurer and Secretary 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 2<sup>nd</sup> your nomination**
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  $\frac{2}{3}$  of votes or have their name drawn from the hat
- Candidates with less than  $\frac{1}{5}$  of votes are withdrawn after the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot
- After the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot, candidates with less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of votes are withdrawn except the top two candidates
- After the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> ballot.
- If motion fails, the winner will be drawn from hat. If motion passes a 5<sup>th</sup> and final ballot is collected. The candidate with  $\frac{2}{3}$  wins. If neither candidate received  $\frac{2}{3}$ , 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**

We trust our responsible leaders to decide

## **CONCEPT V – RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Minority opinion will be heard

## **CONCEPT IX – SERVICE LEADERSHIP**

We must take care in selecting our trusted servants

# Part 3



**RESPONSIBILITIES OF AREA TRUSTEES  
SERVICE SPONSORS  
GROUP INVENTORIES**



# Area Trusted Servants Office Committee



- Delegate – attends the General Service Conference in New York, attends Area events, plans the Assembly, reports to Assembly
- Alternate Delegate – contact for Prepaid Convention committees and Cluster Forums, attends Area events, available to fill in for Delegate
- Chairperson (immediate past Delegate) – plan Assembly business meeting, familiar with meeting procedures, chair the Assembly business meeting, review motions with motion makers

# Area Trusted Servants Office Committee



- Office Committee Chairperson (immediate past Chairperson) – chair the office committee meetings, supervise Area office manager on behalf of the office committee, sometimes act as parliamentarian
- Secretary – Assist with preparing Assembly agenda, keep accurate minutes of Assembly Business Mtg, attend Area events, keep up-to-date group records, back up Area Treasurer
- Treasurer – provide financial reports, monitor spending, issue expense checks, attend Area events, back up Area Secretary

# Area Special Workers



- State (Area) Office Manager – manage the office correspondence, group contributions, online and printed Area Directory, group records, Area archives, literature distribution and other
- State Office Assistant – assists manager with duties above

# Other Helpful Topics



- Service sponsors – someone that has knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties and experience in service work that can share their experience, strength and hope.
- Group inventory – a meeting to review the group’s effectiveness at fulfilling our primary purpose: to help alcoholic’s recover through the AA program. There are multiple methods for conducting a group inventory – see pamphlet, The AA Group.

# 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.

# Member of group that comes early and sets up talks to church member about politics



He had very radical views that may have been misconstrued as AA's opinion since he was the AA guy setting up the meeting.

Tradition 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

# An old timer continually bring small gifts for the new members of the opposite sex.



The old timer will call and text the newcomer asking them to go out.

Tradition 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

13 Stepping 😊



# Halfway house brings residents to meeting and they behave badly - disruptive



The meeting will have 6-10 residents that sit together and talk, get up constantly.

Tradition 1 - Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

The whole is more important than the few.

But, we can first try talking to the halfway house and then befriending the residents and kindly telling them to settle down.