

New GSR Orientation Guide

I. Introduction to the NA Service Structure

a. Diagram of Service Structure (attached)

II. The Groups and the Area Service Committee

a. The NA Group (Recommended: IP #2 – The Group)

NA groups are local associations of recovering addicts, usually individual meetings or sets of meetings.

“They are the **foundation** of the NA service structure. Groups are formed for the primary purpose of carrying the NA message of recovery, and all their activities should reflect that purpose.” Regular Narcotics Anonymous meetings are the main activity of an NA group. “The group may conduct its own affairs in whatever way seems fit to its members, provided the group's actions are consistent with NA’s Twelve Traditions, and do not adversely affect other groups or the entire NA Fellowship. In the conduct of the affairs of NA as a whole, the groups delegate to the rest of the service structure the responsibility for the fulfillment of NA services.” In other words, area and regional committees answer to the groups, not the other way around. Group service representatives (GSRs) are elected to participate on behalf of the groups in the area committee and the regional assembly.

****Quotations taken directly from the Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous****

b. The Area Service Committee (ASC)

The area committee is the primary means by which the services of a local NA community are administered. The area committee is composed of group service representatives, area trusted servants (chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer), subcommittee chairpersons, and the area's regional committee members. The area committee elects its own officers, subcommittee chairpersons, and RCMs.

III. What do GSRs do?

a. What is a GSR

- i. GSRs are “the link that binds the groups together in the performance of our primary purpose.”
- ii. GSRs act as a resource to home group members by being well informed about most aspects of service in NA and by helping to guide members into the different branches of service available in which all may participate.

b. Duties of a GSR

- i. GSRs of all the groups attending present group reports at the area meeting that may include the following information: group news and activities, group problems/strengths, location/time/format changes, donations to the ASC, group size, and subcommittee sign-up sheets.

- ii. GSRs may order literature at the ASC meeting for the group. Another important function is to verify that the group is listed on the area and regional meeting lists and is registered with the USSC.
- iii. GSRs report matters dealt with at the ASC back to the group at the monthly business meeting. Such matters may include: other group news; elections/vacancies; subcommittee activities; ASC financial status; subcommittee sign-up sheets; area activities, workshops, conventions, camp-outs, retreats, etc.; regional and world level service information; business items referred to the group's monthly business meeting for group conscience; and shared solution to group problems.

****Taken directly from NA Outreach Service Bulletin #4 – How to Be a GSR****

IV. What is a group conscience?

- a. "Group conscience is the means by which we collectively invite the ongoing guidance of a Higher Power into our decision-making process. A group conscience is when addicts whose individual consciences have been awakened come together to consider service-related questions. This conscience is demonstrated when group members listen to one another and make compromises. Calm discussion, mutual respect, and a reliance on the group's conscience helps groups fulfill their primary purpose."
- b. Often, disagreements arise over issues that need decisions. "We sometimes use the vote as a rough tool for translating that spiritual guidance into clear, decisive terms. Many times a vote is not needed after a thoughtful and attentive discussion because the group's conscience becomes perfectly apparent." No matter how a group decides to conduct business, either with or without voting, taking time to openly discuss group matters is essential.
- c. "One of the best ways a group can solve the various issues that may arise is to remain focused on our primary purpose of carrying the NA message of recovery to addicts who still suffer. Practicing the spiritual principles contained in the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Steps can solve most groups' problems."

****Quotes taken directly from the Group Business Meetings service pamphlet****

Suggested Literature for New GSRs

1. IP #2 – The Group
2. Group Business Meetings service pamphlet
3. NA Service Bulletin #4 – How to Be a GSR
4. A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous Service Structure

