

Welcome GSR!

You have just entered into one of the most important positions in NA service. You are the link between your home group and the Blue Mountain Area.

NA functions from the bottom up rather than the top down, which means the input from every member, is necessary to make decisions at the next level. So, when you bring to Area the opinions and concerns of the all the members of your home group, Area can send those along to Region, who sends them to World. That is how things get accomplished in NA. Every member's voice is needed, and you are the critical link in that chain.

Your position has two parts: one is your job in your home group; the other is your job as a voting member of Area. Each of these is defined separately in this package. You should have received a copy of the Guide to Local Service, which will answer any question you may have about service in general.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and we ask that you please voice any questions or problems you may have regarding your position at any time in the future. During the monthly Area meeting, there is a time set up just for that. We hope that your experience as GSR will be enjoyable, that you will feel appreciated, and that it will serve your personal recovery as well as your group and the Area.

Blue Mountain Area Narcotics Anonymous

This packet was created as an informational resource to help GSRs to more effectively serve their groups. It is not meant to be the final word or complete description of their duties but merely a suggested guide and should not override any group autonomy. We hope that this will be an inspiration to more effectively serve in the GSR position.

What is a GSR?

While GSRs are elected by and accountable to the group, they are not mere group messengers. They are selected by their groups to serve as active members of the area service committee. As such, they are

responsible to act in the best interests of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their own groups' priorities. As participants in the area committee, GSRs need to be as well informed as they can be concerning the affairs of the committee. They study the reports of the committee's officers and subcommittee chairpersons. They read the various handbooks published by the World Service Office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and what they know about how their group members feel, they take active, critical parts in the discussions which form the group conscience of the entire committee.

#### A. What does a GSR do?

A Group Service Representative (GSR) is the first line of communication between a group and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. They are the links that bind the groups together in the performance of our primary purpose, to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It is their responsibility to keep a group informed of area goings on and to express a group's conscience in all matters. In other words, they are the voice of their group. Electing GSR's who will take an active part in the business of NA is probably the most important thing we can do to improve the unity of the fellowship. Active representation, more than any other thing, can strengthen the ties that

bind us together and promote common welfare. The active participation of each group representative is essential for a successful ASC.

#### B. Why does a group need a GSR?

The GSR attends the monthly ASC meetings and speaks for their group at these meetings. The GSR takes part in the planning and implementation of many ASC functions, which affect the members of their group. As a result of their participation they can keep their group informed about what is happening in NA.

In addition to this, members of a group should always be able to go to their GSR and find out about activities, other groups, how our NA service structure works, and how they can become more involved. One resource to find out more about how the service structure works is "A Guide to Local Services in NA. "

#### C. How does the ASC help Personal Recovery?

Ask yourselves how many of us found NA through H & I, the help line or as a result of public information work at schools? How many of us have been helped by having a meeting list, a dance to go to or a convention to attend to have some fun in recovery. All these things are done at the ASC and more.

#### GSR's Roles & Responsibilities at ASC

It is important that you stay for the entire ASC meeting. It is during the second half of the meeting that the business portion and all voting takes place. You are the voice for your group. If you leave early and you are not present during this process your group loses its voice, and the effectiveness of fulfilling our purpose to serve the groups is impeded Report to the ASC the group status, donation, problems, concerns, or any changes of meetings times or locations to update the phone and meeting lists.

Bring issues from the ASC back to the group at the group business meeting for a group conscience and report back to the ASC.

Order any literature, IP's, and key tags your group may need.

Learn about NA service structure: what the ASC, RSC, and WSO are about. Learn about ASC subcommittees, what they do, when they meet, which committees need support.

It is helpful to attend at least one sub-committee meeting to familiarize yourself with the subcommittees. This experience may help you answer questions that group members may have. Study the ASC Guidelines, the Twelve Concepts, and the Guide to Local Service.

Please remember that ASC is a business meeting. Side conversations are distracting and make it difficult to hear the information being discussed.

Do not rely on the minutes to give all the information you need to report back to your groups. Take notes. Quite often information given by other members at area meetings doesn't make it into the minutes. Many times, this information can aid your group in making a more informed and responsible group conscience.

GSR's Roles & Responsibilities at the Group

**At the Next Business Meeting ...**

Be prepared to give your report on the ASC meeting. Your report should consist of highlights from each of the reports presented at the previous ASC meeting, topics under open forum, any proposals submitted at ASC, especially those needing approval by the group, and anything else that you think is noteworthy.

Make sure that any proposals needing approval by the group are brought up under new business at the group's business meeting. When these proposals are brought up at the next ASC, express the group's conscience during final approval at the next ASC.

### **How does a group take care of its business?**

At the monthly business meeting, where the recommendations are voted on for literature purchases, Area donations, rent, etc. (it is suggested that your business meeting be held the week before the Area meeting)

By group conscience

By holding elections of trusted servant positions as needed with prior notice if possible.

By sending their GSR or group representative to the ASC monthly.

By creating an ad-hoc committee when needed.

By holding special business meetings when important issue surface, like literature review, a group conscience,

The main points to remember about the group conscience process are:

Tradition two protects us from ourselves. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern!

We rely on a loving God as expressed in our group conscience, rather than on personal opinion or ego.

There is often a vast difference between group conscience and group opinion as dictated by powerful personalities or popularity.

True spiritual principles are never in conflict; they complement each other.

We have learned that for our fellowship, leadership by example and selfless service work works. Direction and manipulation fail.

Narcotics Anonymous is a God given program, and we can maintain our group in dignity only with group conscience and God's love.