

# GSR News

## Coffee Hour Recap

April 2023

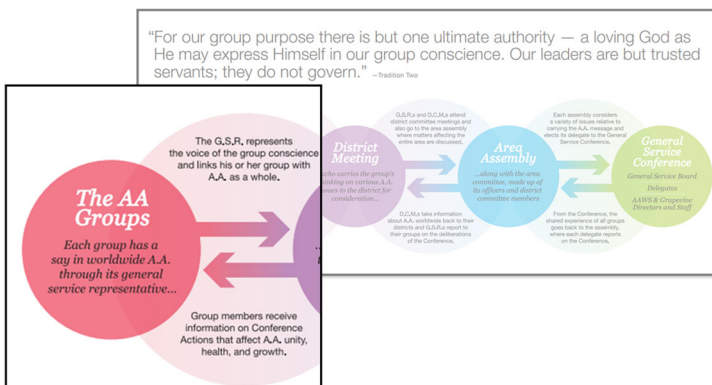
*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*



### Linking your Home Group to A.A. as a Whole

The General Service Manual lists the responsibilities of the GSR on page 8. Many of these involve communication and this month we focused on three aspects of that communication. Linking the group to A.A., Reporting to your home group and the group conscience. Please read on for contributions from our committee members on these topics including resources to help.

*This graphic is from the pamphlet  
"Circles of Love and Service" (p-45)*



### Next Coffee Hour

May 1, 7 pm

819 8956 5200

Password: service

### Resources:

- [Area50WNY.org](http://Area50WNY.org)
- [AA.org](http://AA.org)
- [Buffalo Intergroup buffaloany.org](http://Buffalo Intergroup buffaloany.org)
- [Gen-Wyoming Intergroup genesee-wyomingcountyaa.org](http://Gen-Wyoming Intergroup genesee-wyomingcountyaa.org)
- [Niagara Falls Intergroup niagarafallsnyaameetings.com](http://Niagara Falls Intergroup niagarafallsnyaameetings.com)
- [NY-PENN Intergroup nypennintergroup.org](http://NY-PENN Intergroup nypennintergroup.org)

### Linking your home group

#### Are you a new group?

Once an AA group has established its basic structure and format, an important next step is registering with its local General Service Office. GSO connects a group to information from its Area Assembly and local District and can provide guidance to a group as they begin to participate in the General Service Conference structure. Creating this line of communication will allow a group to elect a primary contact; the General Service Representative. The GSR will gather and share information between the home group and GSO by attending General Assemblies and District meetings. Having a known presence and a voice at the Area and/or District level is why the #1 Concept of World Service states, "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship". We, as active members of A.A., have the privilege to participate in the growth, maintenance, and stability of

Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### Are you an established group?

Has your Delegate come to your home group recently? Are you in contact with other GSRs in other districts as well as your own? Do you know what Box 4-5-9 is? Have you read the Group Handbook? Who in your group could you see as the next GSR? It's easy to fall into a routine of attending District meetings, business meetings, and fulfilling home group responsibilities, that enthusiasm and motivation can run low. There are several easily accessible resources that can be a spring board for your group to be informed and involved. It should be the responsibility of the GSR/Alt GSR but the weight can be carried by everyone in the group. It's important to keep in mind your time of service in this role is limited. Keeping group members informed and encouraging them to know more will strengthen your group consciences and your group's legacy.

*Contributed by Patrick L.*

### Next General Assembly:

**Saturday June 17,**

**10 am- 2 pm**

**Love Joy Church**

**5423 Genesee St,**

**Lancaster, NY 14086**

**Online:**

**993 4272 4284**

### CONTACT ME:

*Amy H. GSR Education Chair*

**P72GSREducation**

**@Area50WNY.org**

## Reporting to your home group

Your group is counting on you to keep them informed of what is going on in A.A. How and what you decide to report is up to you, but there are many helpful resources to draw information from. Here are some tips.

### Tips:

- ✓ Be brief
- ✓ Be informed
- ✓ Report can be oral or written

### Things to include:

- ✓ Things the group can relate to or is interested in
- ✓ Updates on literature and service material
- ✓ Issues that may require a group conscience

### Sources of information:

- ✓ GSO Quarterly Report Box 459
- ✓ Reports from your Delegate and District
- ✓ "What's New" button at AA.org and Meeting Guide App
- ✓ Meeting Lists or Newsletter from Central Office

*Contributed by Megan C.*

## Upcoming Topics

- **Area Committees**

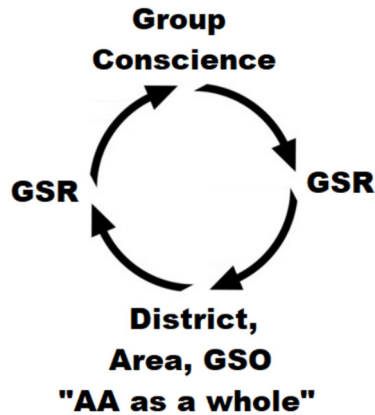
*What are they and how can you your group get involved?*

- **The 7th Tradition**

*Where does the money come from for service and who decides how it is spent?*

## The Group Conscience

All throughout A.A. we hear the words "group conscience"...but what is it really? What does it even mean? How does one get formed? And almost more importantly, how does it work? One definition of a group conscience is that it is the collective conscience of the group members. This definition goes on to say that an informed group conscience implies that pertinent information has been studied and that all views have been heard, before the group votes (Area 57 Document, "Informed Group Conscience"). This suggests just how important it is for a GSR to take information from the District and Area level, and return that information back to the group, thus allowing the



group to become informed. Once this information is returned to the group, major and minority opinions are heard, and a vote is taken, and the substantial unanimity of the group then becomes a part of the "group conscience". It is also important to remember that just as in our individual recoveries, sometimes the "best" decision isn't always the "right" one. But in all cases, the group conscience is always good, when it is informed. In one of Bill's writings in the Grapevine (found in Language of the Heart) on Tradition Two, he states "the group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous."

*Contributed by Jen W.*

## Completing the Circle of Communication

We complete the circle of information when we return our group's conscience to others through participation in your local District, the Area Assembly and informing our Delegate of our group's conscience regarding agenda items up for vote at the General service Conference each April.

### Sharing your group's conscience



Anytown Group

With your District  
– by attending  
your district  
meeting



Countywide Districts

With your Area –  
by attending the  
General Service  
Assembly



Your Area

With A.A. as a  
whole- by filling  
out the Delegate's  
Questionnaire



General Service Conference  
U.S./Canada

## Sources:

- The A.A. Service Manual
- (F199w) Group Handbook contents available at [aa.org](http://aa.org)
- Box 459 available here: <https://www.aa.org/box-459>
- The A.A. Group: *Where it all Began* (p-16) [aa.org](http://aa.org)
- Language of the Heart pg72
- Area 57 Document "Informed Group Conscience" <https://aaoklahoma.org>
- G.S.R. (p-19) [aa.org](http://aa.org)
- GSR survival guide booklet (Area 69)
- DISTRICT 90 GSR ORIENTATION GUIDE1 (Area 6)