

Role of a General Service Representative (GSR)
Notes from the GSR Roundtable at NERAASA
(Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)
2/21/25 - 2/23/25

How can we prepare ourselves to be the best trusted servants we can be?

- *Read about the position in the Service Manual or Handbook
- *Read pamphlets included in the GSR Kit from General Service Office
- *Ask questions
- *Get a service sponsor
- *Be diligent about my own Step work before standing for a position.
- *Consult sponsor/service sponsor to see how much our sobriety can handle in a service position.
- *Not letting our own character defects get in the way is a huge part of being a trusted servant.
- *Come as you are. No one knows what they're doing until it's time to rotate out of a service position. You're not alone unless you don't connect with the others in AA who are like you, learning what you're learning.

How can we effectively transmit information to our groups about what's going on in A.A. at all levels of the inverted service triangle?

- *Folder or binder to hold all reports, flyers, Group Inventory
- *Keep a calendar of regular home group business meetings, District Meetings and Area Assemblies
- *ATTEND home group business meetings District Meetings and Area Assemblies
- *Methods of Communication: WhatsApp, GroupMe, in person bulletin board, email, group texting
- *Always have hardcopies available when sharing info/flyers

How can we speak about A.A. finances in ways that are meaningful to our group members?

- *discuss options on how to use the 7th Tradition contributions - develop a group conscious
- *treasurer can offer a report day before business meeting to make time for ppl to come up with any questions
- *make a list of the home group's priorities (prudent reserve, coffee, rent, literature, service entities)
- *reference our available literature (Where Money and Spirituality Mix - to understand the deeper spirituality of how money and self-supporting matter to the home group)
- *reminders about the future alcoholics who depend on AA to be here
- *stand to be Treasurer of your home group or District and stay informed

How can we determine what our group conscience has to say about current issues in A.A.?

- *Conduct a Group Inventory - consider a moderator
- *Get involved in the Pre-Conference Activities (District and Area events) and discuss at business meetings
- *have a group conscious meeting about the Agenda Items
- *GSR can volunteer to participate in Agenda Week
- *For a small or disinterested group, GSR's can have 1:1 convos with individuals to be aware of what fellows value.
- *Make service attractive but walking the talk.
- *Share about the importance of all three legacies playing a role in my recovery. Asking others 'how well do you want to be?' Be an example by attending District Mtgs, Area Mtgs, Service Assemblies, Conferences, join a committee, get to HG early and stay late, chair and be willing to do anything it takes. Regular business meetings. Fun outside of the regular meetings.

How can we efficiently communicate our group's conscience to our District Committee Member and to our Area Delegate?

- *Complete the Delegate's Questionnaire (share group conscience).
- *GSR has a vote at District Meetings and Area Assemblies (must be present to share your voice).
- *Learn to communicate. GSR is the lifeline of a home group; they are a highway/bridge for information.

What can we do to attract other members into service beyond the group level?

- *invite a fellow home group member or sponsee to attend a district meeting or an assembly with you (maybe with promise of ice cream or pizza afterwards)
- *Stand By the Door poem, by Sam Shoemaker
- *Consistently hold business meetings and provide a Good Simple Report. Reports can include info learned from most recent District Mtgs and Area Assemblies. A verbal report: only on Top 3 Highlights. Submit a written report with more detail and make it available to all home group members.
- *Newcomers are AA's children. Some children hear what you say, some children do what you say. All children do what you do.
- *Someone is watching and wants what you have. Show them - be the example you can be!

NERAASA RECAP for GSR's

To share at next business meeting

- 1) There were 6 ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS - what GSR's are struggling with across the Region
 - a) Discussion/responses attached above
- 2) Why don't people get involved in General Service?
 - a) Fear
 - b) Fear that you wouldn't want my help, Fear of failure, Fear of commitment
- 3) Important for every member to know how their home group participates in the General Service Conference Agenda Items
 - a) How is information received by delegate, area, district?
 - b) How is your home group sharing its group conscience?
- 4) Bringing information back to my HG without overwhelming them?
 - a) Binder/Folder
 - b) VERBAL REPORT at every business meeting: Top 5 highlights
 - c) WRITTEN REPORT: detailed and available to home group members
 - d) Provide printed copies of current group inventory, flyers and ALL GSR reports in a shared folder.
 - e) Consistently hold business meetings to share what was learned at the District and Area meetings.
 - f) Provide opportunity for participation
- 5) No one knows what they're doing until it's time to rotate out. You're not alone unless you don't connect with the others in AA who are like you, learning what you're learning. Be real about that.