

GSR TRAINING

Greater Orlando Area of
Narcotics Anonymous

This document and presentation is in no way meant to replace the service literature that is currently available to our fellowship. It is our hope that it will inspire further research and discussion by all of those in attendance today. All quoted material is presented 'as-is', there has been no attempt to correct usage, syntactical or grammatical errors.

Why are we here?

- Gain information on GSR...
 - Responsibilities
 - Tools
 - Communication Skills
 - Benefits of Service

What is a GSR?

- The Group Service Representative is the go-between each Narcotics Anonymous Group and the various levels of our service structure.

GSR...

- GSRs provide constant, active influence over discussions being carried on within our service structure.

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.

Responsibilities

Participate in:

- Area service committee meetings,
- Attend forums and assemblies at both the area and regional levels;
- Joining in the work of an ASC subcommittee.

Responsibilities

“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.”

Guide to Local Service pg. 36

RESPONSIBILITIES...

- Communicator for the group
 - Group service representatives (GSRs) are elected to participate on behalf of the groups in the area committee and the regional assembly.

Guide to Local Service pg. vii

Responsibilities...

The GSR is the formal line of communication whose purpose it is to represent the groups conscience in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.

IP#2 The Group

Examples of Group Issues

- Atmosphere of Recovery
- Donations
- Support
- Experience
- Commitment-Home Group Members

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Communicator for the ASC
 - “Provide information to the group about developments in the worldwide NA fellowship and to share with the area any activities, strengths or problems of the group.
 - It is important that the GSR not break the chain of NA communication.”
- **IP #2 The Group**

Responsibilities

- Reporting to the Group
 - Activities – Previous & Upcoming
 - H&I – Current
 - Literature – Purchase, Area Lit Decisions
 - PR – Current and Projected Plans
 - Web – Address & Info (birthdays, etc)
- Current and Proposed Happenings
 - Policy issues...
- Subcommittee Openings
- Issues at Area and Region

Examples of Area Issues

- Getting bogged down with policy
 - Some area committees have found themselves so tangled in discussions of service policy and area guidelines—sometimes for months or even years at a time—that they have been sorely hampered in providing the services they were created to deliver in the first place.

Issue Considerations

- Points to consider when entering into policy discussions
 - The concepts speak to the subject of delegated authority
 - ...according to the concepts, when groups want the area committee to perform services on their behalf, they delegate to the committee sufficient authority for the work to get done.

Issue Considerations...

- A regularly updated log of area policy actions can be of tremendous help. When confronted with a policy question, area committees can consult it to see what decisions have already been made regarding it.
- Guide to Local Service p.58**

Examples of Region Issues

- Area Communications
 - i.e., Group withholding funds
- Regional Subcommittee
 - H&I – Panels not following guidelines
 - PR – Purchase of presentation boards
 - FRCNA/FRC, Inc. – Tax issues
- Regional Needs
 - Positions Open – Alt. Sec
 - i.e., RCMAs

Examples Worldwide Issues

- Literature
 - New...Living Clean text
 - Service Pamphlets
- Communications
 - Within our country and with other countries
 - Language (Translations)
 - Customs (Iraq – women in meetings)
- Fellowship Support
 - Financial (basket)
 - Resources, i.e., input

Tools

- Guide to Local Service (GLS)
- 12 Traditions
- 12 Concepts
- The Group Booklet
- IP #2 The Group
- Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities Service Pamphlet
- Area Policy
- Understanding business guides
 - Consensus Based Decision Making
 - Parliamentary Rules

GLS

- Information on
 - 12 Concepts
 - Developing NA Communities
 - NA Group
 - Area Service Committees
 - Dividing Area Service Committees
 - Metropolitan Service Committees
 - Regional Service Committees
 - Local Service Centers
 - Sample Rules of Order

GLS

- Glossary
- Index
- **Listing of bulletins, handbooks, and other service-related materials available from the World Service Office**
- **Twelve Concepts and Twelve Traditions summary pullout sheet**

Traditions that support Area Service

- 1- To maintain unity - As a service committee we are committed to communicate between the group down to world services the needs of the addict.
- 2 – Group conscience of a group chooses effective leaders as trusted servants.
- 5 – Service Committees free the group to carry the message to the individual addict.

Traditions that support Area Service

- 9 – Service boards and/or committees are formed to perform duties for groups & NA as a whole.
- 10 - Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11 – Anonymity is maintained for individuals in the groups by giving service committees the authority to perform services and duties that they cannot perform as individuals.

Handouts

- Alphabet Soup
- GSR Helpful Hints
- GSR Orientation Pamphlet
- GOASCNA Quick Literature Order Form
- GOASCNA Group Report Form

Benefits of Service

- Fun
- Building Relationships
- Commitment
- Selflessness
- Practicing Spiritual Principles
- Patience
- Unconditional Love
- Give back to the fellowship

Questions