



WELCOME TO GENERAL SERVICE!

You are now the voice of your groups' conscience and their link to A.A. and General Service. You will represent your group within your District and in all Area 05 level functions. You will be the connection between your group and the General Service Office in New York.

“The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative (GSR) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR's importance.”

Bill W.

“Remember, Bill, let’s not louse this thing up. Let’s keep it simple!”

Dr. Bob

GSR Preamble

“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the World of AA.

We realize that the Ultimate Authority is a Loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and AA as a whole.”

The General Service organizational chart is represented by an inverted triangle.
(See page S16 in the A.A. Service Manual)

The delegation of authority starts at the top of the inverted triangle with the Groups first, then the Districts, then the Area. The elected Delegate represents the Area at the annual General Service Conference in New York City carrying the Group Conscience of their Area.

At the bottom of the triangle are the two nonprofit corporations: A.A. WorldServices, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. They are overseen by the General Service Board, which is made up of 21 Trustees.

THE TRUSTEES: The General Service Board (see Chapter Nine) is made up of 21 trustees. It meets quarterly, and its actions are reported to the Fellowship through quarterly reports and also in the Final Conference Report. The board’s two operating corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc., report in the same way (see Chapter Ten). A.A.W.S. is the corporation that employs G.S.O. personnel, directs G.S.O. services, and is responsible for book and pamphlet publishing. The Grapevine corporate board employs the magazine’s editorial and business staffs and publishes A.A.’s monthly magazines (Grapevine and La Viña) and related materials.

General Service Representative Duties

- 2 Year Commitment
- Attend District Meetings
- Attend Area Assemblies
- Serve as the mail contact for the General Service Office
- Receive the General Service Office bulletin - Box 459 (Information on A.A. activities Worldwide)
- Serve as email and mail contact with your District Committee Member (DCM)
- Provide up-to-date group information through the area registrar or through the General Service Office directly.
- Review new literature, guidelines, bulletins, videos etc. from G.S.O.
- Study and learn about the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts and become familiar with the General Service Manual
- Work with your group's treasurer to develop plans for the support of the General Service Office and your District. A Regular Contribution Plan and the Birthday Plan encourage the group to support the area, the district committees and local central offices or intergroup. (Read the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix")
- Participate in District and area meetings and often help with planning for area get-togethers and conventions.
- Make regular reports to your group that require no vote but informs them of what is happening in A.A. General Service.
- Bring Information about workshops, conferences and District and Area activities to the group and invite them to participate.

See Page S26 in the A.A. Service Manual for more details.

Commonly Used Terms

- **GSR** - General Service Representative - A groups link to A.A. as a whole
- **DCM** - District Committee Member - The link between the GSR and the Area Delegate to the General Service Office
- **GSO** - General Service Office in New York - Provides services to groups in the US and Canada and publishes literature
- **AAWS** - A.A. World Services - Manual page s78 - Nine Directors, Two Trustees, two regional trustees, three non trustee directors, ne paid staff member and the General Manager of GSO (President of the corporation)
- **Area** - a geographic division within a state or province made up of Districts. (There are 6 Areas within the state of California and 93 Areas in the United States and Canada. We are - Area 05)
- **Area Assembly** - A periodic meeting with all representatives to discuss A.A. affairs of the area. In Area 05 they are presented quarterly.(During this assembly there are committee meetings.)
- **ACM** - Area Committee Meeting Another quarter meeting of all District Committee Members, District Committee Chairpersons and officers to discuss A.A. affairs of the Area.
- **Area Committee Member** - Members of the Area Committee: District Committee Member, District Committee Chairperson, Area Officers, Past Delegates and their Alternates.
- **Area and District Officers** - Elected officials of the Area and District
- **Area Committee Chairperson** - Appointed position that conducts business of the respective committee.
- **Delegate** - An A.A. member of the Area Assembly who is elected every other year to represent the are at the annual General Service Conference in New York.
- **District** - A geographical division of A.A. Groups within in area (There are 35 Districts in our Area - Area 05)
- **DCM - District Committee Member.** An experienced GSR elected by the GSR's of their district to represent the groups of that district at Area Committee Meeting and Assemblies. DCM's coordinate service activities within their districts.
- **DCMC - District Committee Chairperson** - The elected chairperson a group of Districts that have combined to perform service functions.

SERVICE COMMITMENTS AND TERMS

- **GSR - General Service Representative** - An individual elected by an A.A. group to represent that group in A.A. General Service.
- **GSO - General Service Office** - Our A.A. Headquarters in New York City.
- **GSC - General Service Conference** - An annual meeting of 93 Delegates from Areas in the United States and Canada, Trustees and GSO Representatives, to discuss and vote on approved agenda items.
- **GSB - General Service Board** - A group of 21 Trustees who oversee the two nonprofit corporations. A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- **Pacific Regional Forum** - A regional meeting with GSO and A.A. members.
- **PRAASA - Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly** - An annual assembly hosted by one of the 15 areas in the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous each year and it therefore moves around the region.
- **SCAAN - Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter**
- **Trustees** - Regional elected representatives to the GSB. There are 8 regions in the U.S. and Canada
- **Third Legacy Procedure** - The election voting process. See page S21 in the A.A. Service Manual for more details.
- **Twelve Concepts of World Service** - An interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure.

AREA 05 COMMITTEES

- ACCESSIBILITIES
- AREA ARCHIVES
- AUDIO VISUAL
- COOPERATION WITH THE ELDER COMMUNITY
- COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)
- CORRECTIONS
- FINANCE
- GRAPEVINE/LA VINA
- GUIDELINES AND POLICIES
- SPANISH SPEAKING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
- INTERPRETATION
- LITERATURE
- NEWSLETTER (SCAAN)
- PUBLIC INFORMATION (P.I.)
- REGISTRATION
- TRANSLATION
- TREATMENT FACILITIES
- WEBSITE/TECH (AREA05AA.ORG)
- Spanish Speaking Women's Workshop Ad-hoc
- Cooperation With the Young Community Ad-hoc

** See Area Guidelines and Policies for details regarding Area 05 Committees, which is located on the Area 05 website.

WEBSITES

aa.org - General Service in New York. (GSO and World Services)

area05aa.org - Southern California Area Assembly (Area 05)

aagrapevine.org - A.A. Grapevine (A.A.'s monthly Magazine. A journal of A.A. stories and articles of interest.)

aagrapevine.org/espanole- A.A. La Vina (A.A.'s Spanish Language Magazine)

HOW TO MAKE A GSR REPORT

It's important to get your group used to hearing a GSR report. We suggest your report be weekly and brief.

Break down the information you get from your monthly District meeting and quarterly Area Assemblies into short bullet points. Think about your group and what might interest them and report those items to them. Commonly, you'll only need to report one or two of these bullet points each week. Use your Box 459 newsletter and the SCAAN (Southern California A.A. Newsletter) newsletter for interesting things going on in Area 05, GSO (General Service Office) and AAWS (A.A. World Services). Often there will be things of interest to your group in these publications.

If there are items that require an informed group conscience, its suggested that you hold a separate business meeting to discuss them and vote. It is best to plan for and announce this business meeting, as well as the topics to be discussed, at least 2-3 weeks ahead of time so members can think about them and plan t attend. This also applies to your conference agenda item presentations. A business meeting may be the perfect place to talk about those items.

These are guidelines designed to help you be a successful GSR. Use the approach the suits you and your group's needs best.

INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE GUIDELINES

When tasked to get an informed group conscience on the conference items you'll receive these guidelines may help you with your group.

Ask your meeting if they will allow you to talk about the items with tim before or after the meeting. If there is no enthusiasm for this you can as them t come to coffee and discuss the items there. You may also want to just mention the items in your weekly report, a few at a time and ask for people to talk to you about them after the meeting.

If there are other items from the area that are not involved in the conference that need to be addressed, here are some guidelines.

Before you start:

Thoroughly explain the voting process. You may want to use a poster board or a paper.

Ask for a motion:

Allow time for discussion:

You may want to limit the discussion to 3 Pro's and 3 Cons but the goal is to get an informed group conscience so be sure you hear everyone's ideas.

Call for a vote:

The vote should show substantial unanimity (all or almost all in agreement), usually 2/3's.

After the Vote:

Ask for MINORITY OPINION. If someone on the minority side would like to speak to why they voted the way they did, this is their time to speak.

Motion to reconsider:

This motion must be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but may seconded by anyone.

All Vote on whether to re-vote:

If a simple majority votes for a revote, a second vote on the motion is taken. This is only done once.

If time does not allow, you can announce that the issue will be voted on at the next meeting and consider bringing someone with more information in the issue to speak at the next meeting.

FOR MORE GUIDANCE - SERVICE SPONSORSHIP

It is highly recommended that each GSR find a "Service Sponsor" to help with additional questions and problem solving. Ask an experienced member of the Area 05 Committee to

be your sponsor or for their suggestions on who might be a good Service Sponsor for you.

More information on Service Sponsorship can be found in A.A.'s Questions & Answers on Sponsorship pamphlet: P-15

— SERVICE MATERIAL FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE —

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE (SHORT FORM)

The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience. The short form of the Concepts reads:

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

5. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, ² exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;

that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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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.