



**THE
BALTIMORE AREA
SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

**THE GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
(GSR)**

SERVICE GUIDE

*Revised and Submitted by:
The Policy Committee
March 2007*

The idea behind this proposed service guide is to put all information regarding what a Group Service Representative is, and their responsibilities in one place.

The Policy Committee of the Baltimore Area Service Committee put much of this information together. This guide of information was a compilation of documents from The Northeast Freedom Area of the Freestate Region of the NA Group Service Representative (GSR) Service Guide.

Our 3rd Concept of Service states, "Delegating authority can be risky business unless we do so responsibly. To make Concept Three work, other concepts must also be applied consistently. Most importantly, we must give careful attention to the selection of trustworthy trusted servants. We cannot responsibly delegate authority either to those who are fundamentally incapable of administering that authority, or to those who are not willing to account fully for their actions. However, if we select our leaders carefully, choosing those who can be trusted to responsibly exercise delegate authority in fulfilling the tasks we've given them, we can feel much more comfortable with the concept of delegation." The GSR is one of these selected servants.

SUBCOMMITTEES

In NA anyone can participate in the service structure. The Subcommittees announce the date, time and place of their meetings, and whoever shows up on that date, time and place is considered a participating member of the committee.

It is suggested that each GSR participate in the activities of one of the Area Subcommittees.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The Literature Subcommittee keeps the Area inform of World and Regional literature news; and holds workshops, when needed, to review and input literature. This Subcommittee also assembles a monthly, "Together We Can" newsletter and a schedule of meetings in booklet form.

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

carries the message of recovery to those who cannot get it otherwise. They take speakers, literature and the NA message of recovery into hospital, jails and other institutions.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Provides entertainment alternatives to the members and also provides support for the other Subcommittees when they hold events such as workshops and learning days.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Information is to inform the general public that NA exists and recovery from addiction is possible through the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Policy Subcommittee serves to provide research and guidance in better understanding the Narcotics Anonymous Traditions. This subcommittee is also responsible for compiling and maintaining guidelines for the ASC. These guidelines will define the purpose of the ASC and its subcommittees, the duties and responsibilities of the ASC Officers, and will include procedures of the ASC. Will have on hand listed motions made policy.

HOTLINE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Hotline Subcommittee sets up a direct telephone connection between the suffering addict and a recovering addict to help the still suffering addict to reach the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous by carrying the message of Narcotics Anonymous.

SOME COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING MOTIONS

- QUESTION: What is a motion?
- ANSWER: A motion is an idea or concept that a voting member of the Area Service Committee wishes to put into action. A motion is the means by which the ASC makes a decision and sets policy.
- QUESTION: Who can make a motion?
- ANSWER: Any voting member.
- QUESTION: Who are the voting members?
- ANSWER: Any GSR (or GSR Alternate in his/her absence); The RCM (or RCM Alternate in his/her absence); the Area Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson in the event of a tie.
- QUESTION: Who can second a motion?
- ANSWER: Any of the previously listed persons.
- QUESTION: How does a motion become Area Policy?
- ANSWER: When a motion is approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting members present at the time a vote is taken, it is then considered Policy.
- QUESTION: Who decides whether the motion should go back to the Groups?
- ANSWER: The body of voting members by a simple majority.
- QUESTION: What happens after a motion passes?
- ANSWER: If a motion passes, it is then considered part of the Area Policy.

WHAT'S A REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND WHY DO I HAVE TO ATTEND?

Regional Assembly

At least one time per conference cycle, usually two or three months prior to the meeting of the World Service Conference, the regional committee organizes an assembly of group service representatives. Regional assemblies bring representatives of NA groups together with RCMs and the regional delegate for the purpose of developing a collective conscience concerning issues affecting Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. That direct contact between the groups and the conference helps keep our world services attuned to the needs of our fellowship. Without the kind of primary foundation provided by the regional assemblies, it would be much more difficult for the World Service Conference to effectively address the concerns of the NA groups. Regional assemblies are a key ingredient in the maintenance of the NA groups' final responsibility and authority for our fellowship's services, spoken of in our Second Concept.

Most regional assemblies start with all participants—GSRs, RCMs, and the regional delegate gathered together for an opening address. Then the assembly usually divides into smaller groups of between seven and fifteen people each so that everyone can take a meaningful part in discussions. These discussion groups, led by RCMs, consider a variety of issues related to world service. Some of these are issues covered in pre-conference mailings from world services, including the approval of new NA literature and other proposals that would affect NA as a whole; some of subjects of RSC has raised for discussion; others come from individual GSRs in each group. When panel discussions conclude, all the GSRs and RCMs gather in a large group to hear reports from spokespersons selected by each panel. A sharing session, in which all participants are encouraged to speak their mind, follows the reports. These discussions give the delegates clear indications of the region's collective conscience concerning world issues, indications that will guide the delegate when participating in the world conference. If the assembly wishes, it can formalize its conscience regarding world service affairs by passing resolutions on issues of particular concern,

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