

**PRIMARY PURPOSE AREA
SERVICE COMMITTEE
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

GSR ORIENTATION PACKET

Welcome to the regular monthly meeting of the Primary Purpose Area of Narcotics Anonymous Service Committee (PPA-ASC) meeting. If you have never attended an area service committee meeting before, you may be feeling a bit confused. You may be asking yourself questions like: "What is going on here?" and "What am I supposed to do?" At this point, we suggest you sit back, relax and take a deep breath. An area service committee meeting is nothing more (and nothing less) than a long and complicated business meeting. Once you become familiar with the meeting format and operating guidelines, what is happening here should soon start to make sense.

You are holding in your hands a GSR orientation packet designed to answer many of your questions. It contains the basic tools you will need to be an effective group service representative. Your packet should contain:

1. GSR Orientation Sheets
2. PPA-ASC Vision Statement
3. PPA-ASC Guidelines
4. NA Service Glossary
5. Sample Rules Of Order
6. Motion Tables
7. NA New Group Registration/Group Update Form
8. Group Report Form
9. Motion Presentation Form
10. Nomination Form

You should also obtain a copy of the minutes of the last PPA-ASC meeting from your group's previous GSR or the PPA-ASC Secretary. You may also wish to obtain copies of *A Guide To Local Services In Narcotics Anonymous* or the booklet: *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*.

As a newly elected Group Service Representative, or GSR Alternate, you form the foundation of the NA service structure. You serve as the link between your group and the rest of Narcotics Anonymous. You help to communicate the wishes of your group to the NA service structure and, in turn, bring back to your group information about what is happening in Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

As a voting participant at PPA-ASC meetings, you will take an active part in making the decisions affecting the kinds of services provided to the groups that are part of our Area. You will be asked to carry your group's conscience on matters involving the Area's

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finances, policies, events, and elections, and on matters affecting NA services at the regional and world level. Your group will also expect you to make certain decisions on its behalf. You may take part in discussion and debate on the Area floor and even make motions for the committee to consider and vote on.

It may take you some time and effort to digest the information in this packet. NA service is a growing and learning experience for all who perform it. No one learned how to be an effective GSR all at once. So, easy does it!

At first, you may find it helpful to sit with a more experienced _ GSR so that, as the meeting progresses, you can get immediate answers to your questions. You may also raise your hand and ask questions of the PPA-ASC Chairperson.

Remember that PPA-ASC exists to serve your group. Without your active participation, this cannot happen.

WHAT IS A GSR?

an elected trusted servant of their home group
a voting participant at PPA-ASC regular meetings
the voice of their home group at PPA-ASC meetings
the voice of PPA-ASC at their home group
the link between the group they represent, other NA groups, and the rest of the NA service structure

WHAT DO THEY DO?

attend their home group meetings regularly
attend PPA-ASC meetings regularly
make reports to PPA-ASC on their home group's status, donations, problems, needs, and concerns
make reports to their home group on matters discussed at PPA-ASC meetings concerning
the health, unity, and growth of the NA Fellowship and NA services at the area, regional and world level
assist PPA-ASC in carrying out its stated purpose by carrying the conscience of their home group on some matters, voting their informed personal consciences on others, making motions, submitting nominations, participating in discussion and debate on the Area floor, and possibly serving on one of the Area's subcommittees

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

study the materials in the GSR Orientation Packet, the 12 Concepts for NA Service booklet, the Traditions portion of *It Works: How & Why*, and relevant NA service manuals
learn about PPA-ASC subcommittees-when and where they meet and what they do
learn about the issues and problems surrounding the growth and delivery of NA services at all levels of the service structure

GSR QUALIFICATIONS

an addict working a program of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous a suggested minimum one year clean time ' should attend the group they represent
have the desire and willingness to serve
have a working knowledge of the NA Steps, Traditions and Concepts, or willingness to

study them

have knowledge of the NA service structure or willingness to study it

have an understanding of, or willingness to learn, the duties of a GSR

Group Service Representative

Each group elects one group service representative; even those groups hosting more than one recovery meeting elect just one GSR. These GSRs form the foundation of our service structure. GSRs provide constant, active influence over the discussions being carried on within the service structure. They do this by participating in area service committee meetings, attending forums and assemblies at both the area and regional levels, and by sometimes joining in the work of an ASC subcommittee. If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will almost certainly be sound. From this strong foundation, a service structure can be built that will nourish, inform, and support the groups in the same way that the groups nourish and support the structure. Group service representatives bear great responsibility. 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. 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. As participants in the area committee, GSRs need to be as well informed as they can be concerning the affairs of the committee. They study the reports of the committee's officers and subcommittee chairpersons. They read the various handbooks published by the World Service Office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and what they know about how their group members feel, they take active, critical parts in the discussions which form the group conscience of the entire committee. Group service representatives link their groups with the rest of the NA service structure, particularly through the information conveyed in their reports to and from the area committee. At group business meetings, the GSR report provides a summary of area committee activities, often sparking discussions among group members that provide the GSR with a feel for how the area can better serve the group's needs. In group recovery meetings, GSRs make available fliers announcing area and regional activities. At area committee meetings, GSR reports provide perspectives on group growth vital to the committee's work. If a group is having problems, its GSR can share those problems with the committee in his or her reports. And if the group hasn't found solutions to those problems, the area chairperson will open a slot on the committee's "sharing session" agenda so that the GSR can gather the experience others have had in similar situations. If any helpful solutions arise from the sharing session, the GSR can report those back to the group.

Alternate GSR

Groups also elect a second representative called an alternate GSR. Alternate GSRs attend all the area service committee meetings (as non-voting participants) with their GSRs so that they can see for themselves how the committee works. If a GSR cannot attend an area committee meeting, that group's alternate GSR participates in the GSR's place. Alternate GSRs, along with other members, may also serve on area subcommittees. Subcommittee experience gives alternate GSRs added perspective on how area services are actually delivered. That perspective helps make them more effective area committee participants if their groups later elect them to serve as GSRs. from **A Guide To Local Services In Narcotics Anonymous**, pp. 36-37, *copyright 1995 by World Service Office, Inc.*

Primary Purpose Area of Narcotics Anonymous

Service Committee

Vision Statement

Our vision is to see each area service committee in the area:

- serve effectively as forums for member groups to express their needs, desires and concerns to the service structure.
- establish a broader base of communication between groups and members to better carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering addict.
- furnish greater opportunities to lead by example, education and inclusion.
- function with renewed enthusiasm helping to attract more NA members to service and strengthen NA unity.
- make sure that every addict in an institution has a chance to hear the NA message before leaving that institution.
- make sure that every addict calling the helpline has a chance to hear the live voice of a recovering addict.
- provide sufficient human, spiritual and financial resources for every service need.
- give the NA Fellowship within the area wider representation throughout the service structure to better reflect the group conscience of its members.
- bring our local public image into accord with the WSC vision that NA have "universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery."

Our area committees can begin to realize this vision by:

- setting mutually agreed upon boundaries.
- establishing subcommittees.
- developing a mechanism for fair representation and full participation in any shared services subcommittees.
- conducting area activities that help remind us that we are but one Fellowship with one primary purpose.
- striving our utmost to work through our differences in a spirit of trust, goodwill, self-restraint and mutual respect.

THE TWELVE STEPS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

- 1) We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable
- 2) We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 3) We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
- 4) We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
- 5) We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
- 6) We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
- 7) We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
- 8) We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
- 9) We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
- 10) We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- 11) We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we *understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
- 12) Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

- 1) Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.
- 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
- 3) The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
- 4) Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.
- 5) Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
- 6) An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- 7) Every group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8) Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- 9) NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10) Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11) Our public relation policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
- 12) Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR NA SERVICE

- 1) To fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.
- 2) The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.
- 3) The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.
- 4) Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.
- 5) For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.
- 6) Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.
- 7) All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes
- 8) Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.
- 9) All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all view points in their decision-making processes.
- 10) Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.
- 11) NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.
- 12) In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government