

- 1 Represent your group's conscience at all intergroup meetings. As a trusted servant of your group, you are responsible for faithfully expressing your group's opinions rather than your own.
- 2 Know your group well enough that if unexpected matters come before the intergroup meeting you have a fair idea of what your group conscience would be.
- 3 Take notes! This will mean that you have a good record of what was said, and you won't have to depend on receiving the minutes.
- Review the intergroup treasurer's report to see that your group's donations are listed correctly.
- If your intergroup produces a list of local meetings, take copies back to your group.
- Remember, when voting on business matters at intergroup, whilst you represent the conscience of your group, you should cast your vote according to the best dictates of your own judgment and conscience at that time.

You can also help your group solve problems by drawing upon the knowledge of the General Service Office staff in York, who are ready to relay helpful AA experience from all over the world.

How do I get support?

- 1 Familiarise yourself with the section describing the role of the GSR in *The Structure Handbook of AA Great Britain*.
- Speak to your sponsor.
- 3 Understand the 12 Traditions.
- Ask intergroup for a buddy or mentor.
- 5 Speak with former GSRs in your group to learn from their experience.
- 6 Share experiences with other GSRs in your intergroup.

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Now that I'm a GSR

(Group Service Representative)

What do I do?



The purpose of this pamphlet is to outline the role and responsibilities of GSR at group and intergroup level.



The Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain)1

'Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern'

(Extract from Tradition 2)

Groups

All groups are autonomous except in matters affecting other groups.

The General Service Office of AA GB supports the General Service Board and Conference. GSO also provides central support for the Fellowship as a whole with such services as literature distribution and the answering of day-to-day enquiries from the membership, professions, media and the public. There are also two satellite offices; the Northern Service Office in Glasgow and the Southern Service Office in London.

Intergroups

Intergroups. GSR's from all AA groups within specific areas meet together in order that they may co-ordinate local activities such as public information, telephone and prison services.

Regions

Regions. There are sixteen AA GB Regions. A maximum of 3 delegates from each intergroup in the region meet to co-ordinate liaison activities and select six delegates to attend the annual AA General Service Conference.

The General Service Conference acts as the

conscience of AA in Great Britain. In addition to

approving changes to literature and guidelines,

the GSC addresses issues and concerns raised by

the membership and may instruct the General

Service Board to take action as a consequence.

It is the Fellowship's ultimate service authority and is administered by a Steering Committee

comprising the annually elected Conference

Chairperson and six Conference Committee Chairpersons, two GSB Trustees, the General

Secretary and the GSO Conference Co-ordinator.

General Service Office

General Service Conference

> General Service Board

GSB Sub-Committees

A Sub-Committee of the General Service Board comprises members of the Fellowship and is chaired by a GSB Trustee. Each of the sub-committees, reporting directly to the GSB, addresses a different service area, such as AA Service News, Archives, Armed Services, Electronic Communications, Employment, Health, Literature, Prisons, Probation/Criminal Justice Services, Public Information, SHARE, Roundabout and Telephone Services.

The General Service Board executes the decision of Conference and carries out those tasks necessary as a consequence of the Board's charitable status. The GSB consists of Board Trustees from each of the 16 Regions and non-alcoholic Trustees, all of whom go through a nomination process and are ratified by Conference.

'This we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come'.

¹These two pages are taken from The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, pg. 6.

What do I do for my group?

The role of the GSR — who should have at least two years' continuous sobriety — is extensively described in The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, pages 80-82. It is suggested that you familiarise yourself with the guidance in the handbook. The following points serve as suggested practical actions, which will enable you to more effectively fulfil your role of linking your group with AA as a whole.

- Attend all intergroup meetings. If unable to attend suggest a suitable alternative rep.
- Discuss agenda items with your group prior to attending intergroup meetings.
- Submit a written report on behalf of your group to the intergroup secretary.
- If you take your group's donation to intergroup, be sure to collect a receipt from the intergroup treasurer.
- Report back to your group after attending intergroup meetings.
- Ensure that all information about your group officers is up-to-date and communicate any changes with GSO.
- Share with your group all Fellowship mail, communication and news items.
- Refer changes to group information (e.g. new time) to GSO and person responsible for local meeting list.
- Pass contact details of group members willing to go on intergroup 12-step calls to telephone liaison officer.
- Ensure that the AA Service and AA Structure Handbooks are displayed at group meetings.
- Inform your group about the Conference process and facilitate discussion of Conference questions and submission of questions for Conference.
- Share your experience of intergroup and encourage other group members to attend.