

## **Group service representative (GSR)**

**Each group elects one group service representative (GSR); 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 out 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 sometimes joining in the work of an AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE.**

### **GSR HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1.) GSRs are elected by their Homegroup as trusted servants.**
- 2.) These GSRs form the foundation of our service structure. GSRs provide constant, active influence over the discussions being carried on within the service structure.**
- 3.) Each group should send active GSRs to participate in the Area Service Committee on the group's behalf.**
- 4.) Each group should consider how best to provide the funds the NA service structure needs to do its work.**
- 5.) Conducts monthly business meetings. This can include making literature orders and reporting the Area Service Committee minutes to their home group.**
- 6.) Takes group donations to Area.**
- 7.) Complete a literature order form.**
- 8.) Attends monthly Area Service Committee meetings. Position guidelines state that they must attend Area Service Committee meetings from the beginning to the end.**
- 9.) Brings group problems or topics to the Area for discussion on behalf of their Group**

If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will certainly be sound. From this solid 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 held 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, 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"<sup>2</sup> 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.