

Why Have a GSR for Your Group?

Compiled from Service Material as Noted Below

What is a GSR (General Service Representative)?

"The General Service Representative is the group's link with the General Service conference, through which U.S. and Canadian groups share their experience and voice AA's collective conscience. Sometimes called the "Guardians of the Traditions," ... GSRs also may assist their groups in solving a variety of problems, especially those related to the Traditions. "

(excerpts from "The AA Group," pamphlet pp. 26-27)

Why do we need a GSR? Our group is already registered.

"AA runs its own affairs, without any outside interference. So each AA group needs to make its voice heard on overall AA policies. Each group has its say in worldwide AA through its ... GSR. If a group does not have a GSR, it is isolated from the rest of the fellowship. It does not participate in the group conscience of AA as a whole."

(excerpts from "Circles of Love and Service" pamphlet)

"Through your GSR, your group is strengthened by the shared experience of the other US and Canadian groups, just as your own sobriety is strengthened by the shared experience of other AA members."

(excerpts from the GSR pamphlet)

Why do we need a GSR? We have a CGR / IGR.

"GSRs, DCMs, area committees, area assemblies and the General Service Conference are concerned only with AA's worldwide affairs. Central offices, intergroups and answering services are entirely separate. These handle local service only -- such as coordinating local Twelfth Step calls and printing local meeting lists.

(excerpts from "Circles of Love and Service" pamphlet)

How does our GSR voice our group conscience to AA as a whole?

Each year, AA asks for your opinion to be voiced on many questions that affect the AA Fellowship as a whole.

For example, AA members were asked, prior to the 1995 General Service Conference, whether stories should be added or deleted from the upcoming edition of the Big Book "Alcoholics Anonymous"

Your GSR brings these questions to your group for your group's opinion or informed group conscience. As a "guardian of the Traditions," your GSR assures your group that its group conscience is carried to the DCM, whose primary purpose is to carry your message to the Area Delegate who attends the annual Conference in New York.

(excerpts from Structure of the Fellowship and Conference Advisory Actions)