

The GSR Report

“The General Service Representative has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole. The GSR represents the voice of the group conscious, reporting the group’s thoughts to the DCM and to the Delegate, who passes them on to the Conference”

General Service Manual page S26

One of the main duties of the GSR is to keep their Group informed, and the primary instrument is the GSR report. A GSR report should be given as often as the group conscience dictates. It is the responsibility of the GSR to provide information in a timely, informed, and concise matter. What follows are suggestions for a successful GSR report.

The GSR report should be kept simple and short. Stand up. Speak clearly. Maintain eye contact with your group. Show enthusiasm. When you take your report seriously, your group will also. When you practice a program of attraction, the group’s ears will perk up.

A simple GSR report has five basic segments: introduction, purpose, topic, service opportunity, and closing. Depending on how much time is spent on presenting a topic, a good GSR report can be done in as little as one or two minutes. Remember the three service Bs: Be Enthusiastic, Be Brief, and Be Seated.

Introduction

Introduction Say who you are and express gratitude that you serve your group. Minimize abbreviations and specialized vocabulary since people tune out things they don’t understand. Example: “My name is ____ and I am delighted to be your alcoholic General Service Representative!”

Purpose

Tell what General Service is and what we do. Don’t assume that everyone knows. There is a lot of misinformation, ignorance, and prejudice in the Fellowship regarding General Service. Example: “AA’s purpose is to care the message of recovery, and General Service carries the message in ways that individuals and groups can’t, in order to preserve the future of Alcoholics Anonymous.” You might provide further illustrations such as publishing literature, negotiating with the prison system for meeting privileges, etc.

Topic (think of this as a Teaser Trailer)

Talk about what is going on in General Service, not what is going on in General Service meetings! Be a messenger of hope, service, and Unity, NOT a messenger of confusion, annoyances, or disagreement. (When you come to better understand the Concepts, you will come to experience what seems before like arguments and politics as loving discussion in the service of determining the best possible future for AA.) Tell what various committees are doing. Examples: an update on the next edition of the Big Book, or a progress report on the public service announcements the Public Information committee provides to local cable TV companies. Service Opportunity Let your Group know there are always opportunities to help! A member of your Group may have a particular interest, expertise, or desire to perform one of the many services. Part of your mission is to help others to be of service.

Closing

Tell your Group you are available after the meeting if they have any questions and thank them sincerely for the opportunity to be of service.

Sample GSR Report
(Suggestions Only)

My name is _____ and I serve this group as your elected General Service Representative, or GSR.

Our Group is part of District _____, which is located in North Florida, Area 14. Our District meeting is monthly on the _____. The Area 14 Assembly meets quarterly.

Here are some highlights from the last District Meeting/Assembly that I attended:

These are upcoming District or Area activities you may want to attend:

And here are upcoming District or Area Service Opportunities you might want to take part in:

Our District received \$_____ total this month in donations. Our group contributed \$_____.

Please remember to support our Group, our District and our Area through 7th Tradition Donations, as it is fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in Service Work, please see me after the meeting. Thank you so much for allowing me to be of service to our Group!

Responsibility Statement

I am responsible.

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help

I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that; I am responsible!