

GSR ORIENTATION DOCUMENT

WHAT IS A GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)?

Very simply, a GSR is a trusted servant who represents an NA Group at the Area Service Committee. A GSR is the communication link between the NA Group and the rest of NA as a whole.

WHAT IS THE NIAGARA AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE (NASC)?

The Niagara Area Service Committee is like a group business meeting, except it focuses on the Niagara Area and all the NA Groups within it. The Area only exists to serve the needs of the groups. Here are some of the services that the NASC provides:

- They sell NA literature to groups.
- They serve as a resource pool of trusted servants.
- They serve as an open forum for GSRs to discuss group issues.
- They provide reports and updates to GSRs about NASC subcommittees, local activities, Area finances, etc.
- They serve as a communication link between the next level of service (the Ontario Region).

The NASC meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at a time specified by the NASC, at 4750 Zimmerman Avenue in Niagara Falls. There is no cleantime requirement to attend this committee. You are free to show up, ask questions, and participate. However, only GSRs (Group Service Representatives) are allowed to vote.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A GSR?

As a GSR, you are responsible for:

- Communicating your group meeting changes, format changes, and concerns to the NASC.
- Carrying your group's conscience on NASC matters to the NASC.
- Reporting on relevant NASC activities to your group.
- Submitting literature orders to the NASC and picking up literature ordered from previous months.
- Voting on NASC business such as elections and other matters that don't necessarily get sent back to the groups for voting.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR NEW GSRs ATTENDING THE AREA MEETING

- When you arrive at the NASC meeting, there should be a table with announcements, flyers, minutes from the previous month's Area meeting, and other helpful handouts. Feel free to take whatever you need for yourself and your group.
- There is no such thing as a stupid question here. The other members of the committee would be happy to answer any questions or direct you to the appropriate person when asked.
- You will be asked to provide a GSR report on behalf of your group. **DON'T PANIC!** It is very informal. Simply report on how your group has been doing, if you've had any challenges, any upcoming anniversaries or announcements, and whether or not you have a financial contribution for Area.
- The NASC meeting is where you place a literature order for your group to be picked up at the following NASC meeting. Payment must be in advance. Payment can be made by cheque or money order, but not cash. Alternatively, your group's treasurer can make a deposit in the NASC bank account and give you the receipt. After you show the receipt to the Literature Person at the NASC, the Literature Person can process your order. Order forms are available on the table at the Area meeting.
- Motions must be submitted in writing on the forms provided with the name of the person making the motion and the name of the person seconding the motion. You must also write the intent of the motion and the financial impact, if any. For more information on motions, see the NASCNA Policies & Procedures Appendix B: WSO Parliamentary Authority of Order.

OTHER RESOURCES

Please note that this orientation package is only meant to serve as a brief introduction to GSR service. For more complete information, including fundamental service principles, you may wish to read the following literature:

Available at the NASC meeting, and at www.na.org:

- Niagara Area Service Committee Policies & Procedures
- The Group Booklet
- The Twelve Concepts for NA Service
- A Guide to Local Service in Narcotics Anonymous