

New Group Service Representative (GSR) Packet

To be distributed to all GSRs

What is a GSR?

- A trusted servant of their group
- The voice of their group at the Mountain Area Service Committee (MASC)
- The voice of MASC at their group
- The financial link between their group and MASC
- The group's main source of information about service, activities, and events
- The group's source of information on how to get involved in service work
- A group's source for questions regarding Traditions, Concepts, and Policies

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 on 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 ASC subcommittee. If we are vigilant in choosing stable, qualified leaders at this level of service, the remainder of the structure will almost certainly be sound. From this strong 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.

What are the responsibilities of a GSR?

- Attendance at their group's regular meetings and business meetings
- Attendance at the MASC monthly meeting
- Reports to MASC: group status, donations, problems, concerns, change of meeting time or place so that phone and meeting lists may be updated
- Bring issues from MASC to the group for a collective conscience
- Learn about the subcommittees of MASC; what they do, when they meet, who may attend, which ones need support
- Attendance at subcommittee meetings
- Learn the service structure; Learn about MASC, VRSC, WSC, WSO
- Study the Guide to Local Service and MASC Guidelines
- Other tasks as assigned by the groups they represent

Group service representatives bear great responsibility. While GSRs are elected by and 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 as a whole, not solely as advocates of their own group's priorities. As participants in MASC, GSRs need to be as well informed concerning the affairs of the committee. They study the reports of committee officers and subcommittee chairs. They read the various handbooks published by the World Service Office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and that of their group members, they take active roles in 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 MASC. At group business meetings, the GSR report provides a summary of MASC activities, often sparking discussions among group members that provide the GSR with a feel for how the area can better serve their group's needs. In group recovery meetings, GSRs make available fliers announcing area and regional activities.

At MASC meetings, GSR reports provide perspectives on group growth vital to the committee's work. If a group is having problems, the GSR can share those problems with the committee verbally and in submitted written reports. The GSR may request time during the meeting in order to gather experience that others may have had with similar situations reporting any helpful solutions back to the group.

What about Alternate GSRs?

Groups also elect a second representative called an alternate GSR. Alternate GSRs attend all the area service committee meetings (as nonvoting participants) with their GSRs so that they can watch and learn how the committee works. If a GSR cannot attend the MASC meeting, the alternate GSR participates in the GSR's place. Alternate GSRs are encouraged to serve on area subcommittees. Subcommittee experience gives alternate GSRs added perspective on how area services are delivered. That experience and perspective makes them more effective area committee participants.

Monthly Meetings of Mountain Area Service Committee (MASC)

According to current policy, the MASC regular monthly meeting occurs on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00pm. If needed, the date may be changed to avoid conflicts with holidays. The location of the meeting rotates each month between the locations of member groups. Beginning at 1:00pm, before each regular MASC meeting, subcommittees meet briefly to educate new members and finalize any last-minute business or motions to be presented to MASC. You are encouraged to attend subcommittee meetings. You, or another group representative, are required to attend MASC meetings to maintain your group's status as a voting member. Arrive early and stay late. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn from other recovering addicts who share your desire and willingness to be of service.

What to Bring to the MASC Meeting

- Do not be late! If you miss roll call, you and your group will be recorded as absent.
- Your method of choice for recording information (notebook, laptop, etc.)
- Guide to Local Services
- Current MASC Policy
- Latest version of Roberts Rules of Order (condensed version is fine)
- Minutes from previous month
- Completed group report
- List of events to be added to website
- Fliers for your group's upcoming events
- Donation to be offered to MASC
- Completed motion forms (if needed)
- Group conscious on motions and nominations from previous month
- Proxy representatives must bring a verifying document signed by Group GSR or GSR-Alt
- Experience, Strength, Hope, Creativity, Patience & Tolerance

What to Take Back to Your Group

- Meeting scheduling updates and news from other groups
- Newly printed meeting schedules
- Event fliers and details of Group, Area, and Regional events
- Highlights from admin committee reports
- Highlights from subcommittee reports
- Dates and locations of next subcommittee meetings
- Highlights from the Regional Committee Member's quarterly report
- Area Financial Data - collections, expenses, and current balance
- Regional Financial Data - collections, expenses, and current balance (available quarterly)
- Relevant information explaining intent for motions submitted for vote
- Service resumes' of nominated trusted servants
- Results of votes on motions and nominations from previous month
- Matters discussed during old and new business
- Date and location of next MASC meeting
- You should receive an emailed copy of the previous month's minutes to aid you in reporting information to your group, but you should be prepared to report back to your group without the minutes.

Typical MASC Meeting Agenda

1. Chair calls meeting to order at scheduled starting time
2. Meeting opens with moment of silence followed by Serenity Prayer
3. Read: 12 Traditions; 12 Concepts; Purpose of Area; Function of Area
4. Group roll call
5. Recognition of new groups: Pledge to follow Six Points; Two-thirds majority vote required from GSRs; Given printed copy of policy
6. Secretary's report: Motion to accept; second; vote
7. Treasurer's report: Motion to accept; second; vote
8. RCM's report
9. Subcommittee reports: Activities; H&I; Literature; Outreach; P&P; PR
10. Group reports
11. Old Business
12. Nomination & Elections
13. New Business
14. Region Donation: July; October; January; April; vote to approve
15. Collection for meeting host to cover refreshment costs
16. Confirm time, date, and location for next meeting: primary & backup
17. Motion to adjourn, second, and vote; Close with Serenity Prayer

Enclosures:

MASC Guidelines

Group Report Form

Motion Form

Nomination Form

Group Proxy Vote Form