

The Assembly Reporter

General Service News for the Group

JAN 2024
ISSUE

**San Diego – Imperial
Area 08 Assembly
of Alcoholics
Anonymous
(SDIAA)**

www.area8aa.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairing a Committee	1
What is an Assembly?	1
DCM District 12	2
Ways to Contribute	2
Why GSR School ?	3
Delegate Memories	3
1st Time GSR? Don't Be Left Behind	4
So Now You're a GSR	4

Subscribe to Newsletter

Send an email with
your name, home
group, district no.,
and service position
or as a member, to:

Newsletter@area8aa.org



Chairing a Standing Committee in Area 8

After about 18 month's involvement in General Service, Area 8, also known as the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly ("SDIAA" or "We"), has become another AA home. This wasn't my plan. Just like any other commitment in A.A., I stood for a position that needed somebody. I showed up at my first area assembly in June 2022 as a newly elected GSR and soon found myself a member of the Finance Committee. I joined Finance because the time was convenient and when I overheard voting members of the assembly tossing about large sums of money during their shares at the mic, I recognized that oversight was needed.

When I joined the Finance Committee we were without a chair. A brave GSR, who entered at the same time I did, won the coin toss and became our new chair. In addition to our monthly, (second Monday at 6:30 pm) meeting, I've enjoyed sitting at our Finance Committee

informational table at the Labor Day Picnic. A couple months ago, I moved into the chair position. Now, I'm learning more about our S&Gs, and conducting training on budget preparation for the Districts. Responsibilities of the Finance Committee include assisting the Area Treasurer in developing a draft budget and providing financial oversight by reviewing the finances of the Area and considering the financial impact of pending motions.

Standing Committees are composed of 9 voting members (including assigned voting members and volunteer AA members who attend regularly and consider themselves a member of the committee). We currently have openings for 3 more voting members on the Finance Committee. If you'd like to know more, please contact me at: Finance@Area8AA.org

– Link S. P74 Finance Chair

What is an Orientation Assembly?

Area 8 holds five assemblies each year. January is our Orientation Assembly and this year it will be held on January 13, 2024 at the San Rafael Parish Hall in Rancho Bernardo. For the newly arrived in General Service, know that we follow all of the A.A. Traditions. That is written right into the opening of our 34 paged Area Structures & Guidelines ("S&G"). Thirty-four pages of guidelines! What about "ought not to be organized" you might ask? Well, we are those "service boards and

committees" that Tradition 9 talks about. We're "directly responsible" to those we serve, the AA groups, and indirectly AA members and AA as a whole.

And who are these "Voting Members"? Doesn't everyone in AA get a vote? Voting Members at an Area Assembly are the Delegate and Alternate Delegate, Area Assembly Officers and their Alternates, DCMs, GSRs, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, Chairpersons of all Intergrroups, the Area Archivist, and the Area Web-

servant. A quorum requires twice as many GSRs as everyone else put together. Bottom up, right!

You can learn more about General Service, about being a GSR, and how everything works together by attending the Area 8 GSR School which happens directly before each Area Assembly. For more information see the assembly flyers on our Area 8 calendar which can be found at: <https://www.area8aa.org/sdiaa/calendars/>

A.A. Resources

box 459

GSO Newsletter

www.aa.org/box-459

**About
A.A.**

[www.aa.org/
about-aa](http://www.aa.org/about-aa)



LinkedIn

Alcoholics Anonymous
A.A.W.S.



**AAGRAPEVINE
PODCAST**

[www.aagrapevine.
org/podcast](http://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast)

**A.A. on
YouTube**

[www.youtube.com/
@alcoholicsanony-
mousworldse1373](http://www.youtube.com/@alcoholicsanonymousworldse1373)

**Text & Audio
Big Book**

[www.aa.org/the-big-
book](http://www.aa.org/the-big-book)

**Text & Audio
12 & 12**

[www.aa.org/twelve-
steps-twelve-
traditions](http://www.aa.org/twelve-steps-twelve-traditions)



My Heart Warming Experience as a District DCM

I am a rotating DCM for District 12. I want to share about the great experiences available while serving with the lovely GSRs that make up our 23 districts. As my two years conclude, I am so grateful for the love I feel for each GSR and how much they have added to my life and my sobriety.

I started off two years ago with the idea to have district meetings that weren't too long or dragging on because we all have busy lives. I tried to keep the meetings to 45 minutes. I had an agenda and kept the meetings moving. I wanted to allow each GSR to have a say and speak their thoughts about their group, about the General Service agenda items, contributing money to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Alca-

thons, helping sponsor an Area Assembly, and staging the popular Emotional Sobriety Workshop.

Sometimes I had ideas on how I thought things should go, but I have learned through experience in service about the group conscience and how it works. Listen to everyone, take a vote and learn something. I learned that district money is to be used to help the groups and events in the district as well as to support the Delegate and Area Assembly. I learned it wasn't my money and I didn't have to worry about it.

When it came time to start planning the Emotional Sobriety Workshop after Covid-19 stopped it for several years, I asked the GSRs if they would commit to helping and they really stood up and took com-

mitments. James helped me go to Costco, Becky got paper goods and her Senior group made cookies. Demessis and Kimber got raffle tickets and name tags, Janet made table markers and got Grapevine subscriptions, Kerrie-Ann and Demessis donated Emotional Sobriety books. Aaron and his son made coffee and everyone helped set up and break down. And if a GSR could only come to the District meeting and nothing else they were still part of our district and had a say.

These wonderful trusted servants, your GSRs, helped me open my heart and give and receive love which is what every alcoholic really needs.

—Maren, DCM, District 12

Ways to Contribute to SDIAA Area 08

San Diego Imperial Area Assembly accepts contributions from A.A. Members, A.A. Groups, Area 08 Districts, and A.A. related entities such as roundups, and conventions. Contributions to the Area can be made one of three ways: Mailed to P.O. Box 3670, San Diego, CA 92163; via Venmo @SDIA.A.-AreaEight; or using the new drop box at San Diego Central Office (checks only, no cash please). The Area Treasury team also accepts contributions to the Area's twenty-three Districts using any of these methods if needed, however it's best to send directly whenever possible. We do not accept contributions to G.S.O.

A contributions form is available on the Treasurer's page on Area 08's website www.area8aa.org, although not required, it does provide the information needed to correctly process contributions. Also on this

page is the handout "7th Tradition Handout" which lists ways to contribute to other A.A. entities, such as G.S.O., San Diego Central Office, North County San Diego Central Office, etc. Soon, this form will be updated to include Area 08 District contributions information.

Also on the website is the Group's contributions report which is updated monthly after it has been reviewed at the Area Committee Meeting. It's important that groups receive credit for their contributions; we ask it to be shared widely with the fellowship. We welcome questions, and suggestions on how we can better serve the Area. As trusted servants, it's important that we have complete transparency in everything we do. Email: treasurer@area8aa.org.

—Rob Rubright, Treasurer – SDIAA Area 8 – Panel 74

Why Should GSRs Attend GSR School?

Why do GSRs attend GSR school? There could be many reasons on why to attend and why not to attend. During the past two years I was privileged to meet many GSRs in person, virtually, by text, phone calls and by emails. Believe it or not, each time a GSR reached out to me, it filled my heart with gratitude for AA and the service I was providing to our area. It meant so much to me for a GSR to take their time and be interested in learning more about their service, our Area 08 Service or AA as a whole.

Being that link to what is happening in AA is very important, conveying what goes

on at each one of our five assemblies, our area is also very important to your home groups. It was always a great feeling to see familiar faces, new faces and even those who would just check in to ask me if they could participate in one way or another in GSR school or even to just be part of the attendance. It was wonderful to see GSRs back in the room after they attended their five sessions, received their GSR Star pin and continued to support other GSRs by their continued participation.

Thank you for the love and support to GSR school, to the GSRs, to our area and to AA. I will never stop emphasizing that you are never alone in

AA! Regardless of where you go, you will be among friends. In GSR school you will have year-round support by many of us. We are always there to assist and help. And when I don't have the answer to something, someone else around me will. Forty-five minutes of your time before each assembly is well invested time amongst great general service servants and alcoholics.

I will dearly miss being at GSR Orientation/School. Don't miss the opportunity to learn how to serve your group best. With Love and Service, Richard O. Panel 74 Delegate, Area 08

"By choosing its most qualified member as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future, and the future of A.A. as a whole."

(The GSR Pamphlet)

The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance. -Bill W.

Hold on and Enjoy the Ride!

"Hold on, Monty, and enjoy the ride." When I first became a Delegate for Area 08, I kept hearing this phrase. I had no idea what they meant. As it turns out, it was much more than resting on my laurels or overloading my life with work and AA. It's about taking one step at a time and taking it all in. There are times where you might not agree with everything being said but I can listen and learn. This role has given me an opportunity to meet so many wonderful people that have allowed me to be me. There is something fascinating about the work of AA and how that work keeps AA safe and here for the countless alcoholics that

are yet to come.

Being of service has allowed me to be right and wrong. While not having all the answers, life's moments continue to happen with many amazing perks. I love learning. Learning allows me to rethink what I thought I knew or find the true definition of words or phrases. This was a pattern that would repeat itself throughout my time as Delegate.

I have grown up in General Service. It has given me some of the best times in my life. I have been able to share them with others and experience others' love and pain. This humanizes me and allows me to be more flexible. Listening for the solution and only

responding when asked was something I learned here.

Having to remember Rule 62 – not to take myself so seriously, allows me to not get wound up and take things personally. I get to listen and apply what works and discard the rest. It made my job easier to apply this rule in my life.

Being of service has changed my life. I am grateful that I hung around long enough to receive this wonderful gift. I didn't think it was possible. Now I get to pass this along to new Delegates as it was passed along to me. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

—Monty Cavalier, Area 08 Past Delegate P72

**"Oh, my Lord."
—Monty C. Past
Delegate, P72**

First Time GSR? Ask Questions or Be Left Behind

I was a new GSR for a full rotation, which is 2 years, without attending one assembly. I did not know what an assembly was. I never asked questions, and no one guided me in my role. I do not think there was one person in my group who even knew or wanted to know what made up the role of a GSR. I never gave a report, I never knew about the Conference, I did not know who the Delegate was, and I had no idea about PRAASA.

When I was voted in for another rotation, because no one in the group knew about the “spirit of rotation,” I found myself wondering about what this job really entailed. Then I heard someone mention “the assembly” at

another meeting—probably the GSR—and my ears perked up. After the meeting I went up to the GSR and asked one question: How do I find out about the assembly? He had a flyer!

I was not new to A.A. but the Assembly was something I never imagined in A.A. I was very active in the program in a variety of ways, particularly with the Young People’s groups, but this was a whole different world.

Over 20 round tables were surrounded by a variety of long tables, full of people who seemed to be very busy. There were several microphones and speakers and tables on a stage with lights and cords everywhere. When the assembly was called

to order they read the Traditions in English and Spanish then began a systematic roll call that I couldn’t understand. I was in awe.

The people up on the stage were well dressed and well spoken. They used phrases like, “The GSR is the most important person here,” and “The GSR is the voice of the groups.” Everything that was said was translated by Spanish speaking interpreters and ASL interpreters. That was a wonder to me. The most incredible thing that happened that day is that I fell in love with A.A. again. I became willing in a way I had never been willing before. I was a GSR. —Roxane, Area 8 Literature Chair

So Now You’re a General Service Rep

For most A.A.s, membership in a home group is one of the keys to continuing sobriety. In a home group, they accept service responsibilities and learn to sustain connections with other recovering alcoholics. The home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure. While many A.A. members attend other groups as well, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote. The role of the general service representative, or GSR, is essential to the purpose of general service. Bill W. wrote in Concept I of The Twelve Concepts for World Service: “The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services.” The role of the GSR is essential to ensuring that groups can fulfill that responsibility. Only when a GSR keeps the group

informed and communicates the group conscience can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible not only for bringing forward the group’s voice, but for taking back to the group Conference actions that affect the Fellowship’s unity, health and growth. So what is the role of a GSR?

The GSR is the link between the group and “A.A. as a whole.” This link becomes a channel through which news, information, opinions and ideas can flow back and forth. Importantly, this also gives the group a voice in the affairs of the Fellowship. The GSR is that voice. There is more than one way for GSRs to express their group’s thoughts and wishes — their conscience — in general service.

When the GSR is present at assemblies, the group’s voice is heard. The presence of a GSR says their group cares about what’s going on in the Fellowship and wants to learn and make its concerns and suggestions

known. When the GSR participates, the group’s voice is heard. It can be through a GSR sharing the group’s concerns across a conference table from other GSRs in a district meeting. It can be through questioning a budget item or proposing an idea important to the group at an area assembly. It can be through making an impassioned plea about an agenda item to the delegate on the eve of the annual General Service Conference meeting. When the GSR votes, the group’s voice is heard. The GSR votes on the trusted servants to lead the district and the area as well as the delegate to represent the area at the annual General Service Conference meeting. The group’s voice is heard when the GSR votes on how best to use Seventh Tradition contributions to carry out Twelfth Step services. What’s important is to participate. (Excerpt from AA Service Manual, page 7)

[**The GSR Pamphlet**](#)

CLICK HERE