

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



AREA 67 SERVICE POSITIONS

An overview of your new responsibilities and descriptions of other service jobs in our Area

My group elected me as their new
“GSR” ...



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

“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.

What is a “G.S.R.”?

- **G.S.R.** stands for *General Service Representative*.
- A **G.S.R.** is a trusted servant for their group, who carries their group’s conscience (desires and concerns) to the district level.
- A **G.S.R.** gives an accounting to their group of district events and concerns.

What is the Area? What are Districts?



An **Area** is sub-divided by **Districts**. An Area is not necessarily a State; some Areas span different States and some States have more than one Area. Texas has 4 Areas; Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast.

Southeast Area 67 is composed of 18 Districts 5 of which are Spanish-speaking.

Click on picture for more details available at SETA Maps (“US Map Presentation“).

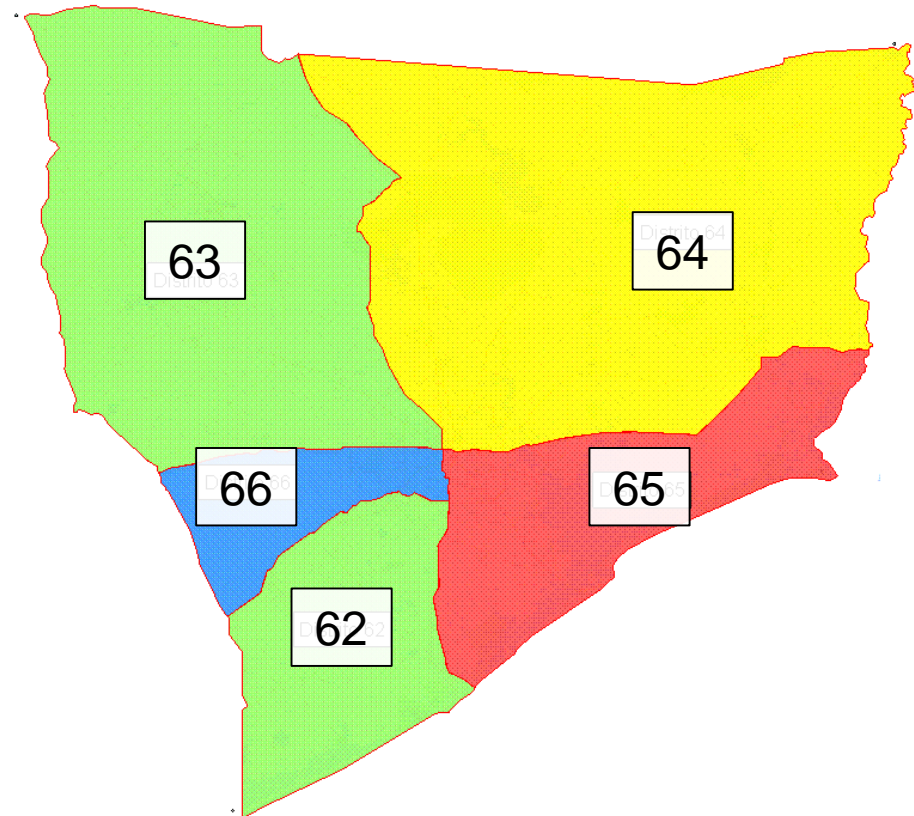
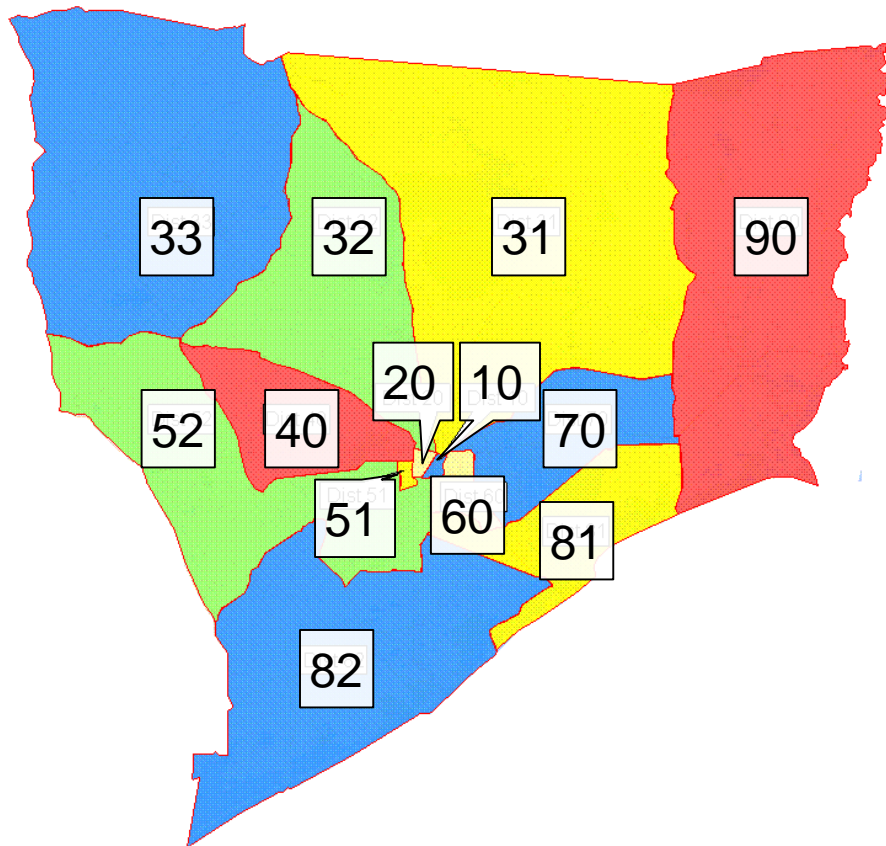
<http://www.aa-seta.org/other/maps/index.shtml>

What is the Area? What are Districts? ¿Qué es el área? ¿Cuáles son los Distritos?

Southeast Texas Area 67 Districts

English

Inglés



The Monthly District GSR Meeting... *Is there more to it than just picking up the flyers?*

- Being informed about Area and District events – both past and present.
- Discovering what our various committees are doing within A.A. and the community.
- Learning about where and how our money is being spent.
- Becoming knowledgeable about our service structure as a whole on the District and Area levels.
- Voting your group's conscience on key issues and concerns.
- **BRINGING A FRIEND AND MAKING IT FUN!**



What do I do when I can't make it to the monthly meeting?

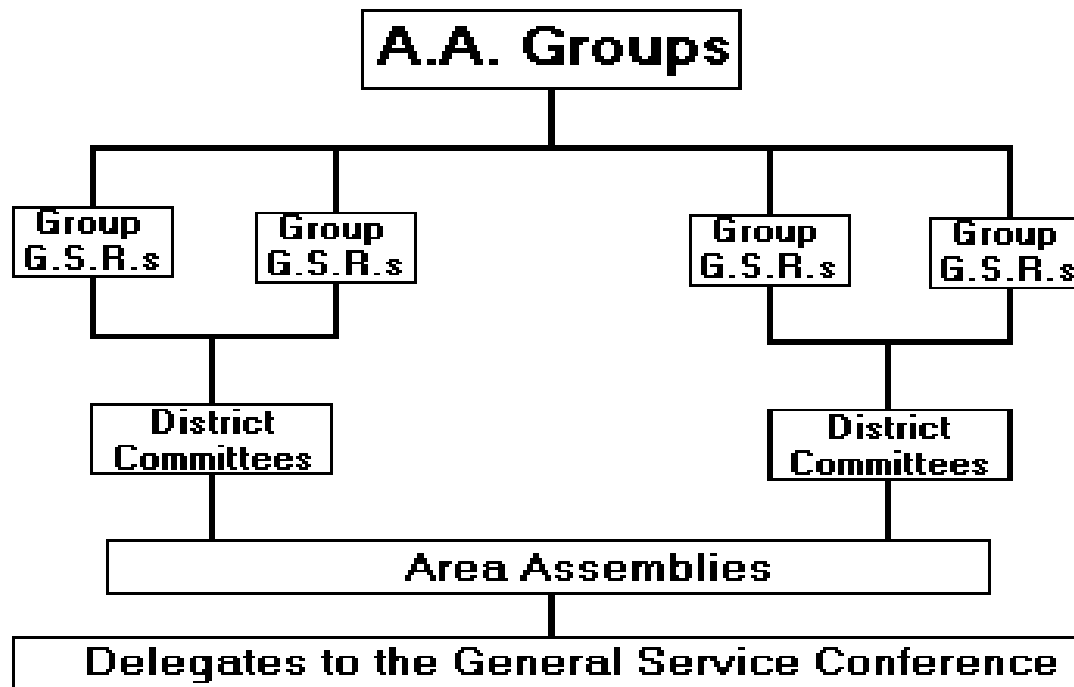
Sometimes things happen that prevent us from attending the monthly District GSR meeting. Does that mean that we are left uninformed about what's happening that month, and that our group has no say in current District business?

*The answer to that question is most definitely NO... for just such reasons we should elect an Alternate GSR**.

*Alternate GSRs are elected by a group to serve in the absence of their regular GSR. They do not have a vote at the District or Area meeting unless their GSR is not present, but they are encouraged to attend any meeting the GSR attends.

What is this “Service Structure” I hear so much about?

**How The A.A. Group Fits Into
The Structure of the Conference**
(United States & Canada)



What am I supposed to do?

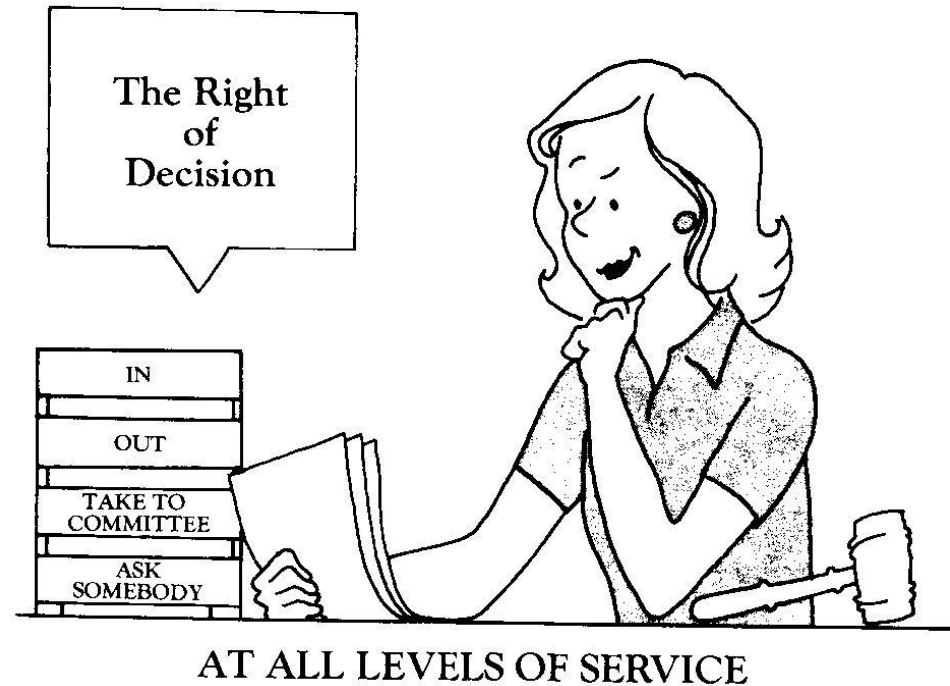


- The GSR has the job of linking their group with AA as a whole.
- The GSR has the responsibility of representing their group at District and Area functions.
- In most cases, this requires the GSR to report their group's conscience based on an informed discussion of the issue.
- In other cases, usually minor business known as housekeeping issues, GSRs make decisions based on knowledge of their group's will. This is commonly referred to as **Right of Decision**.
- The GSR also brings information regarding service opportunities to the group.
- It is suggested that a GSR or Alternate get a **Service Sponsor**.

What is the “Right of Decision?” (Concept III)

You may exercise your
“Right of Decision” if:

- ✓ A vote has to be taken immediately, due to time constraints.
- ✓ You may vote contrary to your group’s conscience if new information is presented that you feel would sway their decision.



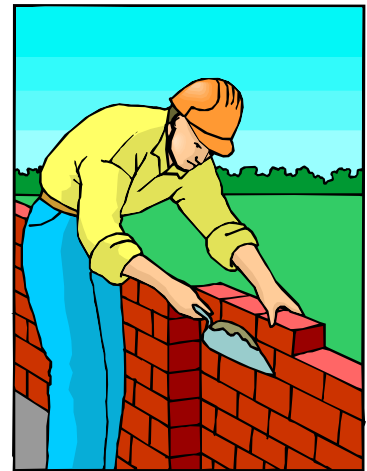



Somebody suggested I get a “*Service Sponsor.*” I already have a *Sponsor* – Why do I need another one?

- A **Service Sponsor** is not a replacement for your regular A.A. Sponsor – he or she should be somebody who has been involved in service a while and is well-versed in the **Traditions** and **Concepts**.
- A **Service Sponsor** is simply somebody you can ask questions about service-related issues and seek the guidance that only personal experience can provide.

What about the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts?

- AA's 12 Traditions are the guidelines to help the groups function effectively.
- AA's 12 Concepts were developed as a framework for the World Service Board and Service Structures alike.





GSRs work closely with other A.A. members who are Committee Chairs, Representatives, or serve in other vitally important capacities. We'll briefly explain what these terms mean and how they benefit our fellowship as a whole...

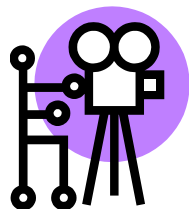
- District Committee Member - DCM
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Corrections Facilities Chair - CFC
- Treatment Facilities Chair - TFC
- Public Information Chair - PI
- Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair - CPC
- Grapevine Rep - GV
- Archives Rep
- Convention Chair
- Information Technologies Rep (website & email)

What do the abbreviations mean? What function do the other positions perform?

P.I. stands for *Public Information*...

A. A. Public Information has one ultimate goal, and it is the same as every A.A. Group and type of service work: To carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Public information reaches the alcoholic in three ways:

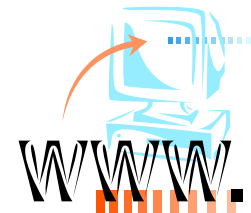
- ✓ By informing the public about the AA program.
- ✓ By informing “the third person” whose work is or may be involved with the active alcoholic.
- ✓ By keeping the fellowship well informed, so that members and groups may carry the message effectively.



The Information Technologies Website Rep...

- ✓ Attends the regular monthly meeting of the Area Information Technologies Committee.
- ✓ Reports regularly to the district anything relevant and carries the District’s conscience to the Committee.
- ✓ Offers input on content and design to the Committee.

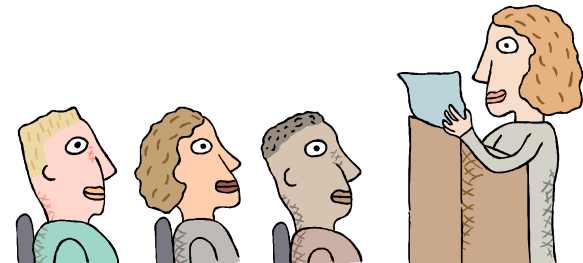
Area 67 Website URL is www.aa-seta.org. It’s a great source for upcoming events, committee information, and meeting schedules!



What is a “*D.C.M.*?” What are the duties of the *District Committee Member*?

D.C.M. is an abbreviation for District Committee Member. They are elected by the **GSRs** in a District. Their function is:

- ✓ To provide two way communication between the District and the Area Committee, including the Area Delegate.
- ✓ They also talk to groups about the responsibilities of general service work.
- ✓ They assist with various group problems upon request.
- ✓ The DCM is the link from the District to the Area and vice versa.
- ✓ Chairs the monthly District GSR meeting!
- ✓ Prepares the monthly meeting Agenda.
- ✓ Contacts Committee Chairs and district Officers throughout the month with any pertinent District business that needs to be considered between meetings.
- ✓ Reports District activities to the Area Assembly during each quarterly meeting.



What does a *Corrections Chair* do? How about the *Treatment Chair*?

The Corrections Chair ...

- Works to provide meetings regularly at local correctional facilities as liaison to the prison, getting volunteers to “sponsor” meetings on a regular basis..
- Orders literature from GSO and distributes it to the institutions as needed.
- Reports regularly to the District on meeting status and any issues that may arise.

The Treatment Chair ...

- Is the liaison to local treatment facilities, working to provide regular AA meetings for patients by finding volunteers to chair and speak at them.
- Provides new and used literature whenever possible to people in hospitals and treatment centers.
- Reports regularly to the District on meetings in the facilities and any problems or concerns

What does *Bridging The Gap* Chair take care of?

The Bridging The Gap Chair...

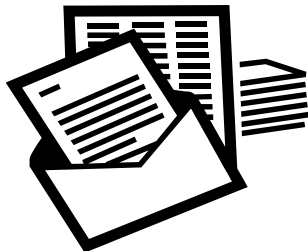
- The *CFC Committee* provides assistance to newly-released inmates by getting volunteers to take them to meetings and introduce them to their local A.A. community. The *TFC Committee* provides assistance to those leaving treatment centers by getting volunteers to take them to their local A.A. Community.



What does the District *Secretary* do?

The District Secretary...

- Maintains a current listing of all the A.A. meetings and GSRs in the District
- Forwards new meeting information and GSR changes to the Area Registrar and General Service Office.
- Handles all miscellaneous correspondence.
- Records and transcribes the minutes of the District meeting.
- Provides copies of the monthly minutes, group donations, and District Service Guidelines.
- Takes roll call at the monthly District meeting.
- Publishes the District Newsletter
- Is responsible for maintaining an accurate list of meeting times and locations for groups in the District, reporting changes to the Area Registrar and local Intergroup.
- Reports to the monthly GSR meeting.



What exactly is an *Archives Representative*?

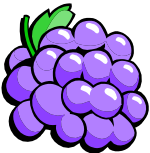
How about the *Grapevine Chair*?



- **The Archives Rep** attends the Area Archives Committee meetings and District GSR meetings. They report regularly to the District GSR meetings. *The Archives* are where our history is kept, including such things as the history of our groups and other important writings.



- **The Grapevine Chair** attends the district meeting and reports on the status of Grapevine sales and representation at various functions and events. For more on the Grapevine and its many publications, visit www.aagrapevine.org.



Cooperation With The Professional Community...



The C.P.C. Chair is responsible for making information available to professionals, such as Psychiatrists and Physicians, or other organizations who may come in contact with people in need of the type of help that A.A. offers. This information may be in either printed form or the relating of the personal experiences of A.A. members.



What does the **District Treasurer** do?

The District Treasurer...

- Deposits and maintains records of all money received and dispersed.
- Balances the checkbook and reports to the monthly GSR meeting.
- Is prepared for the annual review of records by the Finance Committee.
- Chairs the annual District Budget meeting.



Other important commitments for *Special Events*...

Area Gratitude Dinner...

Your District's Representative should help with the planning of the annual Area Gratitude Dinner. The Alternate Delegate will contact each District Committee requesting commitment for participation. Money, manpower, food, setup and cleanup or just some of the things each District is asked to help with....this is a "WE" program in all areas of service.

Area Convention...

The Southeast Texas Area Convention shall be supported by the Southeast Texas Area Assembly and held annually in January. The location shall rotate among Houston, Beaumont, Galveston and Bryan/College Station. GSR's and members from all parts of Southeast Texas Area are encouraged to help put this event on.



Other Important Considerations in your District...

The AA Group...



- ✓ What is an AA Group?
- ✓ Difference between Open & Closed meetings
- ✓ The Home Group
- ✓ The Seventh Tradition
- ✓ Naming an AA Group
- ✓ What is an informed Group Conscience?
- ✓ AA Group Inventory
- ✓ What is the function of the Intergroup Office?
- ✓ What AA does Not Do
- ✓ Cooperation not Affiliation
- ✓ Are we Carrying the Message?

More detailed information on the many Service Opportunities in our fellowship may be found in the AA World Service Manual and Area 67 Policies and Procedures Manual.



The GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of AA. We realize the ultimate authority in AA is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they may reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen to others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.

A parting thought...

As you grow in your new responsibility, your scope of the Fellowship will broaden, you will make many friends, and your sense of Gratitude will deepen. While all this might be new and confusing, stay with us for awhile, give us the opportunity to help you understand. You might be surprised to see, that through it all you are not only enjoying yourself, but also feel that you are truly a part of the whole, in a different kind of Twelfth-Step work.

