

# PRAASA 2011 Honolulu, Hawaii

March 4, Friday @8:00pm  
General Service Representatives-GSR Roundtable

Moderators: David F (18) ID and Ed H(72) WW  
Secretary: Cindy P-C (18) ID

Opened Roundtable with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Ed started the Roundtable by asking the attending GSRs for topics they wished to discuss.

## 1. How to encourage Home Group Member participation in Business Meetings?

Promote having a Service Sponsor and how a Service Sponsor can help with understanding service positions. (You don't have to do this alone)

A GSR can sign their group up for events without having a group conscience and thusly get the group involved.

Sometimes using a controversial topic for discussion at the Business Meeting will inspire participation.

As a GSR one should exude excitement and fulfillment of doing service and how wonderful it is to meet other members from outside one's Home Group, district, and even area. The fellowship that is experienced within the realms of service can be just as important as the fellowship experienced at the group level.

Service has often kept some of us from going back out. Service work propels our program so it will be here for others.

Group Inventories can help make clear what service work needs to be done for the group; effective and clear communication is a must.

Having food and timely meetings can encourage participation as well as sending out Meeting Agendas ahead of time. Let members know this is where their voice can be heard.

Make sure you, as a GSR, take your service position seriously. Be a "right" example.

One group has three to four short meetings within the month instead of one longer meeting.

## 2. Timely Sharing

Robert's Rules

This is discussed further in #9.

### 3. Service Sponsorship

A Service Sponsor will help navigate the ins and outs of different positions in service as well as the service structure of AA.

It is suggested to bring your Service Sponsor into your life as you would your AA Sponsor.

Don't be afraid to ask questions; this is how to gain knowledge and understanding. The only dumb question is the one not asked!

It is suggested to get a Service Manual and go through it with a Service Sponsor.

Having a Service Sponsor and being a Service Sponsor are other forms of fellowship within our AA program. This will help with knowing what to bring back to the Home Group from Assemblies, District Meetings, Pre-Conference Meetings, and PRAASAs.

A Service Sponsor can teach how to run a Business Meeting and how to write an Agenda.

Can my AA Sponsor be my Service Sponsor as well? Yes, however if your Sponsor is a member of your Home Group their opinion could be swayed by emotion instead of just the facts. Find someone who is currently in the service position desired and ask what is involved with that position.

Things gleaned from Service Sponsors: bringing a sponsee to an event (Assembly, PRASSA, Roundup, etc), going to Dark Groups and sharing about Service and how it works, learning how and when to say "no".

### 4. How to write inspiring reports.

Ask your Service Sponsor, DCM, or Delegate what information should be taken back to your Home Group.

Write out the Service Report and run it past your Service Sponsor, DCM, or Delegate.

Do something off the wall at an event and add that to your report, for example go to PRASSA in Hawaii and don't wear a shirt the whole time you're there. Make your report sexy.

Let the Home Group members know this is what part of their 7<sup>th</sup> tradition is used for.

Speak from you heart!

Use the twelve Concepts in learning how to live and work together; use that for inspiration in writing a report.

Tell your Home Group members in your report how each of their opinions helped you, as the GSR; hear what needed to be heard. Let your energy shine through in your writing. BE EXCITED!

### 5. How do I assimilate information to my Home Group?

Having a service sponsor and being a service sponsor are other forms of fellowship within our AA program. This will help with knowing what to bring back to the Home Group from assemblies, district meetings, Pre-Conference Meetings, and PRAASA's.

Some groups have special meeting and discuss what kind of information is wanted or needed.

Take notes, report on key issues or items, and ask your higher power to for guidance.

#### 6. Agenda items

Handling Agenda items in three meetings:

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting give out copies of the topics.

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting discuss what to discuss

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting further discussion on key items, give pros and cons and vote.

Have a Special Meeting for Home Group members to discuss Agenda Items. Make it a potluck Meeting to discuss the Agenda Items and send out the information to Home Group Members a few days before the meeting.

Don't forget about inviting those who may have in-depth knowledge to the Special Meeting meeting.

Pre-Conference Workshop-make it relevant to sobriety, use Robert's Rules, make sure minority opinion is heard.

Need to let Home Group members know what is going on.

Password protected e-mail can be utilized in order to have discussion, thus making it available to all Home Group members.

#### 7. How can I get members to attend District meetings?

Communicate the times of the District meetings as well as making sure there is an open invitation.

Personal invitations will sometimes inspire participation.

#### 8. GSRs to attend District meetings

There was no expansion on this topic.

A big part of the GSR's service is to attend the Districts meetings, as they are the link between the Home Group and the District. In my home group we usually have an active alternate GSR who will attend District meetings in the GSR's stead if he/she is unable to attend. -Cindy P-C

#### 9. How to keep sharing in meetings going

Have the person sharing choose the next person to share; play tag.

Hand our numbered tickets and if there is a lull call out the numbers in a random order.

Give sharing some direction by having the chair choose a topic.

Read from the Big Book or the Traditions to find relevant topics for group discussion.

Use the time for meditation, after taking a group conscience.

In general discussion there were several ideas that were shared repeatedly.

Acceptance

Speak from the heart

Love Service work

Be an example      Service keeps me sober  
Keep it attraction; not promotion  
Service Manual      Learn to ask for help  
Be a part of and not a part from

Gratitude for Service work  
Service Sponsors

We closed the GSR Roundtable with the Responsibility Statement.

Thank you for letting me serve,

Cindy P-C  
GSR for Rule62 of Middleton, Idaho