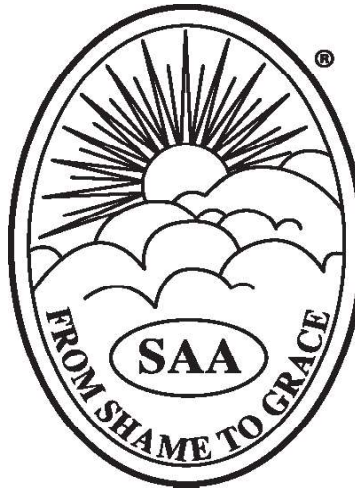


What is the Group Service Representative in Sex Addicts Anonymous?

The Group Service Representative (GSR) is an important connection between the local group and the International Service Organization (ISO) and, thereby, the rest of the Sex Addicts Anonymous fellowship.



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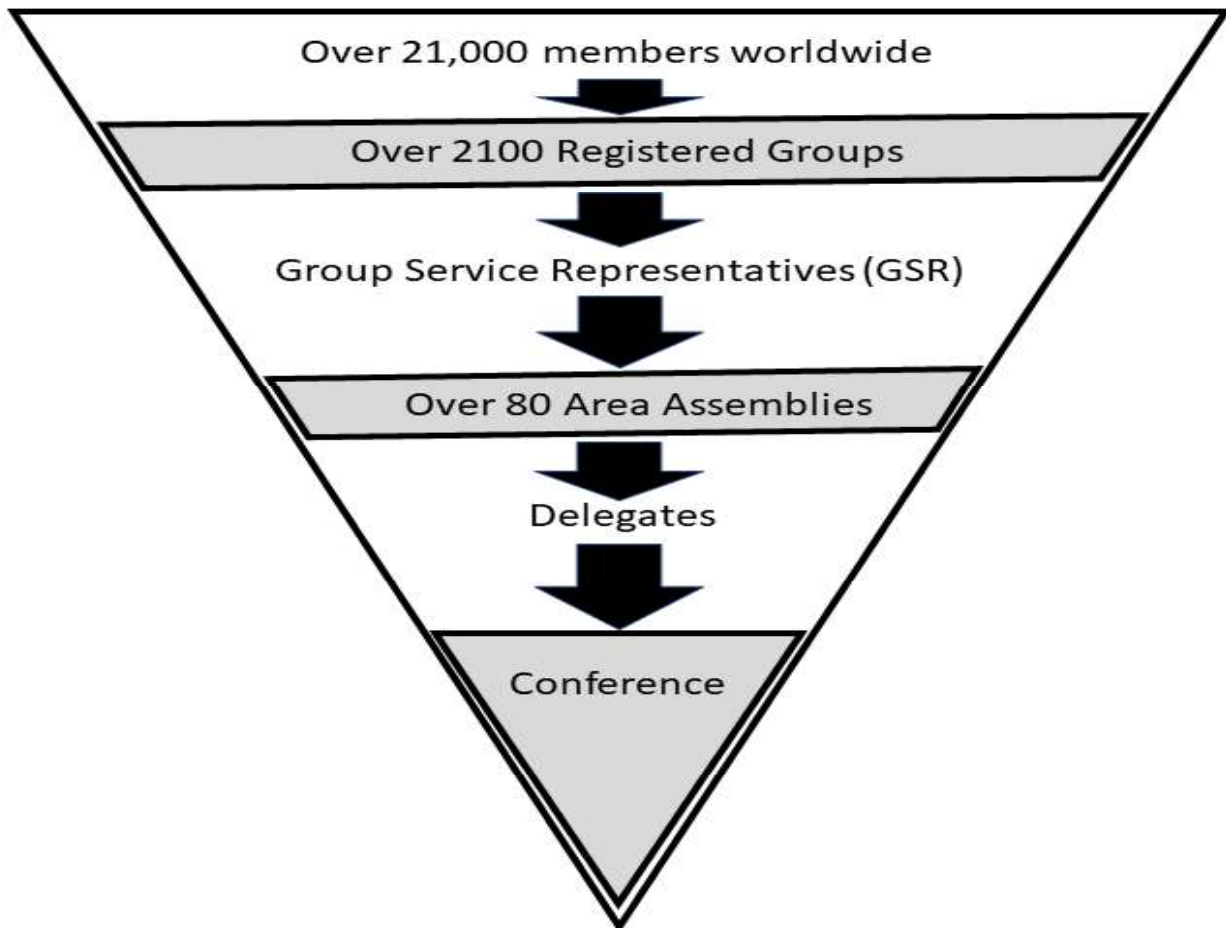
You may ask, “How is this so? Why is this important?”

The spiritual principles of the twelve-step program of recovery, as set forth in the steps, traditions, and concepts, call us to service—concern for and support of sex addicts at home and throughout the fellowship. To take full advantage of this guiding principle of service, the GSR serves a vital role in bringing forward the concerns and opinions of local groups.

SAA Service Structure

Our service structure is often represented as an upside-down or inverted triangle, to reflect the fact that local groups hold the ultimate responsibility and final authority for service at every level. As depicted in the diagram below, local groups send GSRs to their respective area assemblies, where ideas, issues, and concerns of the groups can be discussed. In turn, area assemblies elect delegates to represent them in meetings of the ISO Conference. The Conference addresses matters of concern to SAA as a whole and provides guidance for the ISO, including the Board, Literature Committee, office, and various other committees.

This diagram clearly illustrates the importance of local groups in bringing concerns of the SAA fellowship to the ISO.



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The Conference Brings Fellowship Opinions and Concerns to the ISO

Prior to the annual meeting of the Conference, members of the area leadership team (e.g., chair, secretary, and delegate) are responsible for informing the GSRs about the motions on the Conference agenda, and for seeking input from local groups. After the GSRs discuss these issues with their respective groups, they report their group conscience to the area delegate.

At area assemblies, GSRs discuss the issues with GSRs from other groups in the area and with the area delegate to form a consensus, if possible, on each issue. Informed by these discussions, area delegates attend the annual meeting of the Conference, where they have the opportunity to discuss the various issues with other area delegates and then vote on the motions. Thus, GSRs are meaningful participants in the two-way communication between local member groups and the ISO, allowing the ISO to better serve the fellowship as a whole.

To participate actively in service beyond the local level, each group should elect a GSR, and each GSR should proceed to get involved:

- Register with the ISO. The registration form is available at *www.saa-iso.org*, or from the ISO office at (713) 869-4902.
- Attend their area assembly, which should meet at least once per year. The ISO office can tell the GSR which area the group belongs to and who the members of the area leadership team are.
- Provide mailing address, phone number, and email address, since the GSR becomes the primary point of communication between the local group and the ISO.
- Discuss group concerns with GSRs from other groups and determine whether other groups share similar concerns.

Guidelines for Service as a GSR

In choosing a GSR, a group should review the recommended service guidelines posted on the SAA service website at *www.saa-iso.org*. While the guidelines are not absolute requirements, they do indicate the desirability of having local trusted servants who have service experience and who are sober. Each group must consider the candidates available and choose the person best able to serve.

Past service experience at the group and intergroup level is desirable. In addition, a GSR should have enough time in the fellowship and enough time in sobriety to be capable of this level of commitment.

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities

At the area level:

- Attend the area assembly.
- Participate in election of an area delegate and other area officers.
- Discuss Conference agenda items with their local group and report the discussion to the area delegate and fellow GSRs.
- Bring group concerns to the area, to determine whether other groups might be facing the same questions or problems.
- Consider being nominated to serve as area delegate.

At the local group level:

- Serve as point of contact with the ISO office and the Conference.
- Serve as a point of contact with the area.
- Carry news and event information from the area and the ISO office to the group.
- Carry news of ISO needs for volunteers or funds to the group.
- Become familiar with the traditions, concepts, and other service literature, and serve as a resource for the local group, assisting the group in being faithful to our spiritual principles.

For the new structure of the ISO approved and implemented over the past few years to function optimally and for the ISO to be able to function effectively under the guidance of the fellowship-at-large, the GSR must be engaged—locally, within the area, and, thereby, within the ISO Conference.

For questions about the duties of a GSR, please contact the ISO office at *info@saa-recovery.org* or by telephone at 713-869-4902.

The Twelve Traditions of SAA

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon SAA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for SAA membership is a desire to stop addictive sexual behavior.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or SAA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the sex addict who still suffers.
6. An SAA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the SAA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every SAA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Sex Addicts Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. SAA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Sex Addicts Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the SAA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.