



GROUP SERVICE

REPRESENTATIVE

(G.S.R.)

ORIENTATION PACKET

This packet was created as an informational resource to help GSRs to more effectively serve their groups. It is not meant to be the final word or complete description of their duties but merely a suggested guide and should not override any group autonomy. We hope that this will be an inspiration to more effectively serve in the GSR position.

Group Service Representatives (GSR)

Each group elects one group service representative; 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 sub-committee. 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 that groups nourish and support the structure.

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 interest of NA as a whole, not solely as advocates of their groups' priorities. As participants in the area committee GSRs need to be as well informed as they can be concerning the affairs of the committee. They study the reports of the committee's officers and sub-committee chairpersons. They read the various handbooks published by the world service office on each area of service. After carefully considering their own conscience and what they know about how their group members feel, they take active, critical parts in the 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 the area committee. At group business meetings, the GSR report provides a summary of area committee activities, often sparking discussions among group members that provide the GSR with a feel for how the area can better serve the groups need. In group recovery meetings, GSRs make available flyers announcing area and regional activities.

At area committee meetings, GSR reports provide perspectives on group growth vital to the committee's work. If a group is having problems, its GSR can share those problems with the committee in his or her report. And if the group hasn't found solutions to those problems, the area chairperson will open a slot on the committee's 'sharing session'¹ agenda so that the GSR can gather the experience others have had in similar situations. If any helpful solutions arise from the sharing session, the GSR can report those back to the group.

¹ In the South Shore Area we call our 'sharing session' open forum.

GSR Orientation Sheet

What is a GSR ?

- A trusted servant of their group.
- The voice of their group at the Area Service Committee. (ASC)
- The voice of area at their group.
- The financial link between their group and the Area Service Committee.
- 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.
- An important source of information for the group about the traditions.
- The trusted servant who attends to the specific needs of the group including questions regarding Traditions, Policy, and the 12 Concepts.

How do they do it?

- Attend the group meeting regularly.
- Attend the ASC meeting monthly.
- Report to the ASC the group status, donation, problems, concerns, change of meeting time/place to update phone and meeting lists
- Bring issues from the ASC to the group for a group conscience and report back to the ASC.
- Learn about the subcommittees of the ASC.
 - What do the subcommittees do?
 - When do they meet?
 - Who may attend?
 - Which subcommittees need support?
- Attend subcommittee meetings.
- Learn the service structure.
- Learn what the ASC, RSC, WSC, WSO, etc are.
- Study the Guide to Local Service and the ASC Policy guidelines.

Qualifications for a GSR

- Is an addict.
- Attends the group they represent.
- Has a willingness to serve.
- Has one year clean time. (suggested only)
- Has knowledge of the service structure of NA or the willingness to study it.
- Has an understanding of or the willingness to learn the duties of a GSR.

GSR Orientation Sheet

How does a group take care of its business?

- At the monthly business meeting, where the recommendations are voted on for literature purchases, Area donations, rent, etc. (it is suggested that your business meeting be held the week before the Area meeting)
- By group conscience. (please see page 4)
- By holding elections of trusted servant positions as needed with prior notice if possible.
- By sending their GSR or group representative to the ASC monthly.
- By creating an ad-hoc committee when needed.
- By holding special business meetings when important issue surface, like literature review, a group conscience, etc.

Should a GSR hold more than one group office?

- It is suggested that members hold only one service position in the group. As many members as possible need to be involved in service, it is an important part of recovery!

What if the positions are at two different meetings?

- In order to provide service opportunities to more members, it is suggested that groups elect addicts who do not serve in other groups service positions.

How does a group communicate concerns to the GSR?

- The group or any member may bring concerns to the GSR's attention at that group meeting.

How do you let the group know who the GSR is?

- The secretary can introduce the GSR along with other group servants either at the beginning of the meeting or at the end when trusted servants are usually acknowledged.

What about GSR reports? How often?

- Usually GSRs make one report to the group at the monthly business meeting. Most groups do not like to spend meeting time with reports.

What about ad-hoc committees?

- Sometimes ad-hoc committees are formed to take care of groups or subcommittees special business. They meet outside of the regular meeting time, usually just before or after.

What is a group conscience?

- An informed vote taken by the group as a whole.
- An expression of God's will.
- Is best for the group as a whole.
- Is the practice of placing principles before personalities. (Tradition 12)

When may a group conscience be initiated?

- A group conscience may be initiated anytime during a group business meeting if a member feels it's necessary.

How much notice should there be before a new GSR or Alternate GSR is elected?

- At least one month notice should be given before the planned election.

How does the Area donation get from the group to the Area?

- The group decides at their regular monthly business meeting if and how much of a donation they can make to the ASC. A check or money is prepared and sent with the GSR or group representative to the regular monthly ASC meeting.

GSR report: Group level-may include-

- Attendance of groups and Elected trusted servants of the ASC.
- Open positions at Area and Region.
- Motions carried back to the group.
- Points of discussions made during the ASC.
- Open positions within the sub-committees.
- Passing over the Area announcements to the group secretary.
- Announce Area/Regional Activities during the regular meeting.

Points the GSR should be mindful of at the ASC-

- The GSR orientation is designed to help GSR's better understand the ongoings at the ASC.
 - Ie. The agenda, how to make a motion, who to go to for certain questions etc.
- Does the GSR feel comfortable at the ASC.
- Are the trusted servants fulfilling their obligations to the Area. For example: Did the sub-committee chairpersons attend their respective committee meeting at the RSC?
 - If not, did the Vice Chair of the Area go in their place and submit a report?

List of suggested tools **for area service work**

- 1.) Step Work
- 2.) Prayer
- 3.) Calling Sponsor
- 4.) A Dictionary
- 5.) Twelve Concepts for NA Service
- 6.) Twelve Traditions
- 7.) A Guide Local Services in NA
- 8.) Copy of Area Guidelines / Policy
- 9.) Area Minutes
- 10.) The Group Booklet (Revised)
- 11.) IP #2 The Group
- 12.) Participation in Sub Committee Meetings
- 13.) Trusted Servant Workshops
 - a) Conference Agenda Report
 - b) Multi Regional Learning Event
 - c) Twelve Concepts Workshop
 - d) Attend Regional Assembly
- 14.) Learning Days
- 15.) Networking in the Fellowship
- 16.) Traveling outside of home area
- 17.) Phone Calls
- 18.) Unity Version of the Serenity Prayer
- 19.) Any other spiritual, creative action you can think of.

***Please note that a group may provide some of the suggested literature for its trusted servants. Service guides and pamphlets. When term is over please return them to the group.

Big Bend Area Group – MEETING AGENDA

Date: _____

Time: _____

GSR/Chairperson: _____

Voting Members Present: _____

This Months Quorum: _____ Last Months Attendance: _____

(Determined at ½ + 1 of prior months attendance)

1. Open Meeting @ _____
 - a. Moment of Silence
 - b. We Version Of Serenity Prayer
 - c. Introductions
 - d. 12 Traditions
 - e. 12 Concepts
 - f. Concept Of The Month
 - g. Determine voting members: _____
2. Roll Call of Area Officers
3. Nominations and Burning Desires for Open Position
4. Preliminary Balance: _____
5. Group Reports and Area Donations
6. Chair's Report: _____
7. Secretary's Report: _____
8. R.C.M. Report: _____
9. H&I Report: _____
10. P.I. Report: _____
11. Activities: _____
12. Policy Report: _____
13. Outreach Report: _____
14. Steering Committee Report: _____
15. Ad Hoc Committees:
 - a. _____
16. Break (15 minutes)
17. Meeting List Distribution Committee Report : _____
18. Old Business
19. Open Forum (15 minutes)
20. New Business
21. Literature Report: _____
22. Treasurers Report: _____
23. Announce Next Meeting Time and Place
24. Close Meeting w/ Just For Today and "We" Version Of The Serenity Prayer

Big Bend Area – Proposal FORM

Presented By: _____

Seconded By: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Proposal

INTENT

SET Policy : _____ AMEND Policy : _____

REPLACE Policy: _____ DELETE Policy: _____

VOTE:

IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____ ABSTAINED _____

TABLED _____ COMMITTED TO: _____

NOTES: _____

Language / Motion Table

TYPE OF MOTION	PURPOSE	INTERRUPT	SECOND	DEBATABLE	VOTE
Adjourn	To end the committee meeting.	No	Yes	No	Simple
Amend	To change part of the language in a main motion	No	Yes	Yes	Simple
Amend by substitution	To alter a main motion by completely rewriting it, while preserving its intent.	No	Yes	Yes	Simple
Appeal ruling of chair	To challenge a decision the chair has made about the rules or order.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple
Information, point of	To be allowed to ask a question about a motion being discussed, <i>not</i> to offer information	Yes	No	No	None
Main Motion	An idea a committee member wants the committee to put into practice.	No	Yes	Yes	Varies
Order of the day	To make the committee return to its agenda if it gets onto another track	Yes	No	No	None
Order, point of	To request clarification of rules of order when it appears they are being broken.	Yes	No	No	None
Parliamentary inquiry	To ask the chair about how to do something according to rules of order	Yes	No	No	None
Previous question	To stop debate and vote right now on whatever motion is at hand	No	Yes	No	Two-thirds
Privilege, personal	To make a personal request of the chair or the committee	If urgent	No	No	None
Reconsider	To reopen for debate a motion previously passed.	No	Yes	Yes	Simple
Refer, commit	To halt debate, send motion to subcommittee or ad hoc committee before vote	No	Yes	Yes	Simple
Remove from the table	To resume consideration of a motion previously tabled before the time set.	No	Yes	No	Simple
Rescind, repeal	To void the effect of a motion previously passed.	No	Yes	Yes	Two-thirds
Table	To put off further consideration of a motion until a later date and time.	No	Yes	No	Simple
Withdraw a motion	To allow a motion's maker to take back that motion after debate has begun.	Yes	No	No	Unanimous

An overview of Consensus

A Guide to World Services in NA explains, "Consensus is based on the belief that each person has some part of the truth and no one person has all of it (no matter how tempting it is to believe that we ourselves really know best!). The consensus process is what a group goes through to reach an agreement. It is how we manifest the idea "together we can do what we cannot do alone" in a service setting."

*The flow of CBDM:

- introduce & discuss proposal
- take pulse (use cards for a straw poll; non-binding vote)
 - move to a decision
 - continue discussion
 - modify proposal
- call for consensus (use cards to test for consensus)
 - move to a decision
 - wait until next meeting
 - give the proposal to a specific body to refine

The use and meaning of the cards are as follows:

Green – Assent – "I have heard the discussion and am prepared to support the proposal". Counts towards consensus.

Yellow – Assent with Reservation – "I have mixed feelings about this proposal, but I am willing to allow it to pass." Counts towards consensus.

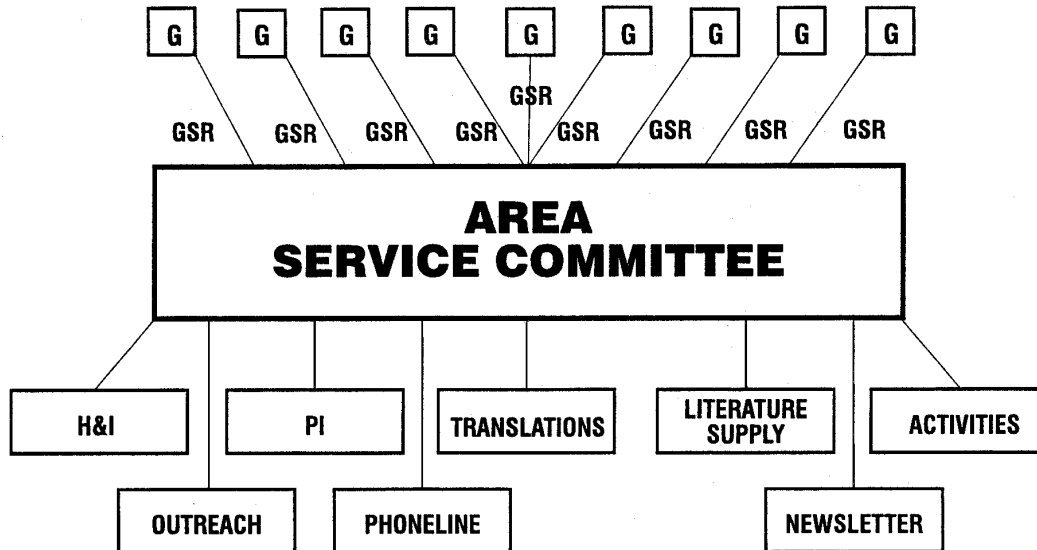
Orange – Stand Aside – "I am against and/ or do not support this proposal." Counts against consensus.

Red – Block – "I cannot support this, it is against our principles".* Counts against consensus.

***Consensus** – Consensus is achieved when an established majority, as outlined below, of GSR's present indicate Assent or Assent with Reservation. The number for consent will be announced at the conclusion of Roll Call at the start of the ASC.

- i. With 10 or more groups present, the established majority for consensus is at least 80% of the eligible members.
- ii. With more than 4 but less than 10 GSR's present, the established majority for consensus is at least $N - 2$ where N is the number of GSR's present. For example, if 7 GSR's are present then consensus is achieved when at least 5 members indicate Assent or Assent with Reservation.
- iii. With 4 GSR's present, the established majority for consensus is at least $N - 1$ where N is the number of GSR's present. iv. With less than 4 GSR's present, all proposals shall be tabled to the next area.

***At any time prior to consensus being reached, a GSR can request that the proposal be allowed to go to groups for discussion and support.**



The ASC is responsible not only to develop and maintain subcommittees in each field of service but to coordinate the work of each of those subcommittees with the work of the others. For these reasons, all area committee participants need to become as informed as they can possibly be about subcommittee activities. Area committees devote significant portions of their meetings to reports from subcommittee chairpersons and discussions of subcommittee activities. Handbooks are available from the World Service Office for most of the subcommittees listed below. Specific directions for subcommittees in your area can be found in your log of policy actions and (if applicable) your area guidelines.

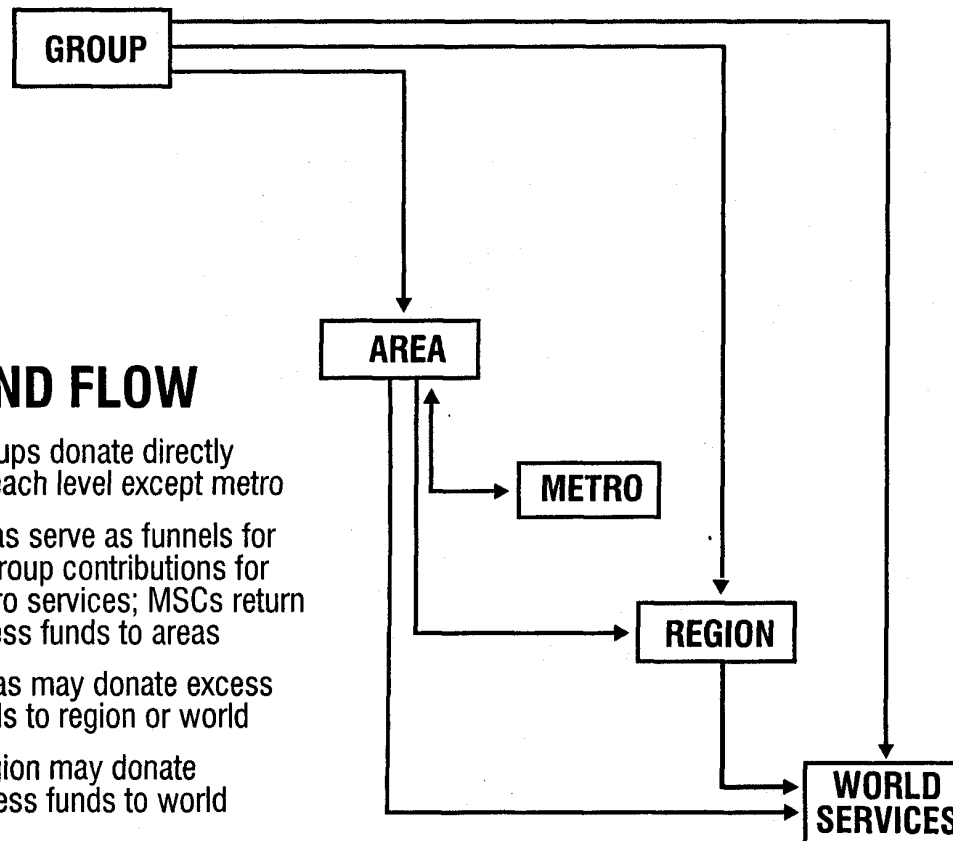
Most newly formed area service committees will probably not be able to support the same wide range of subcommittee services as a longer-established committee. Rather than attempt to set up all their subcommittees at once, it's recommended that new area committees take their time. Make sure the responsibilities of new subcommittees are well coordinated with those of existing ones. Bring subcommittees on line one at a time and give a great deal of attention to developing each subcommittee before bringing on another.

At least once a year, the group service representative attends the regional assembly. Each group is encouraged, if at all possible, to take the necessary steps to cover the expenses associated with its GSR's attendance at the regional assembly. Some groups will choose to set aside money each month toward this expense.

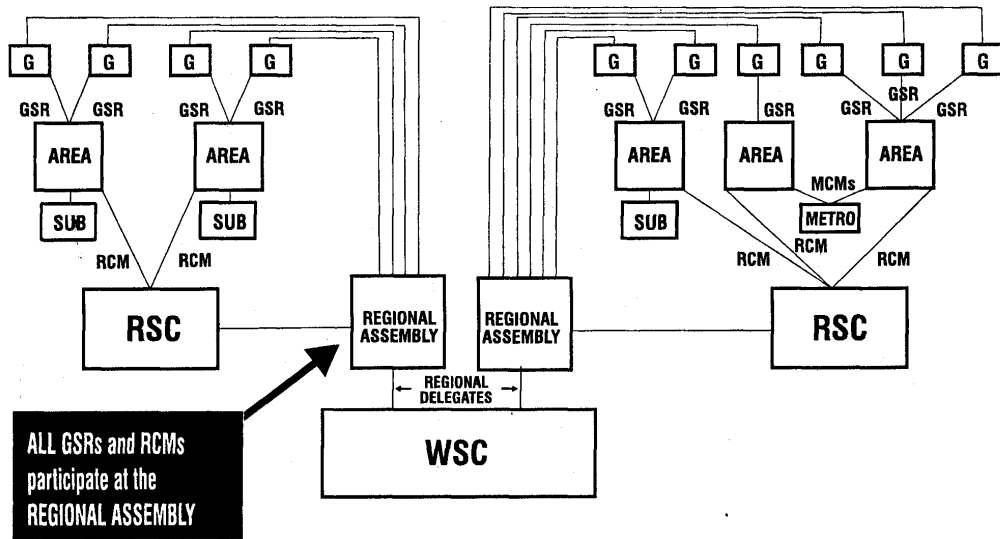
After paying expenses and setting aside a small emergency reserve, most groups contribute their surplus funds directly to the area committee, the regional committee, and Narcotics Anonymous World Services. For more discussion of the principles underlying group contributions to the rest of the service structure, see the essay on our fellowship's Eleventh Concept for Service elsewhere in this guide. For assistance in managing the details of direct contributions, see the *Group Treasurer's Handbook*, available from your area committee or by writing our World Service Office.

FUND FLOW

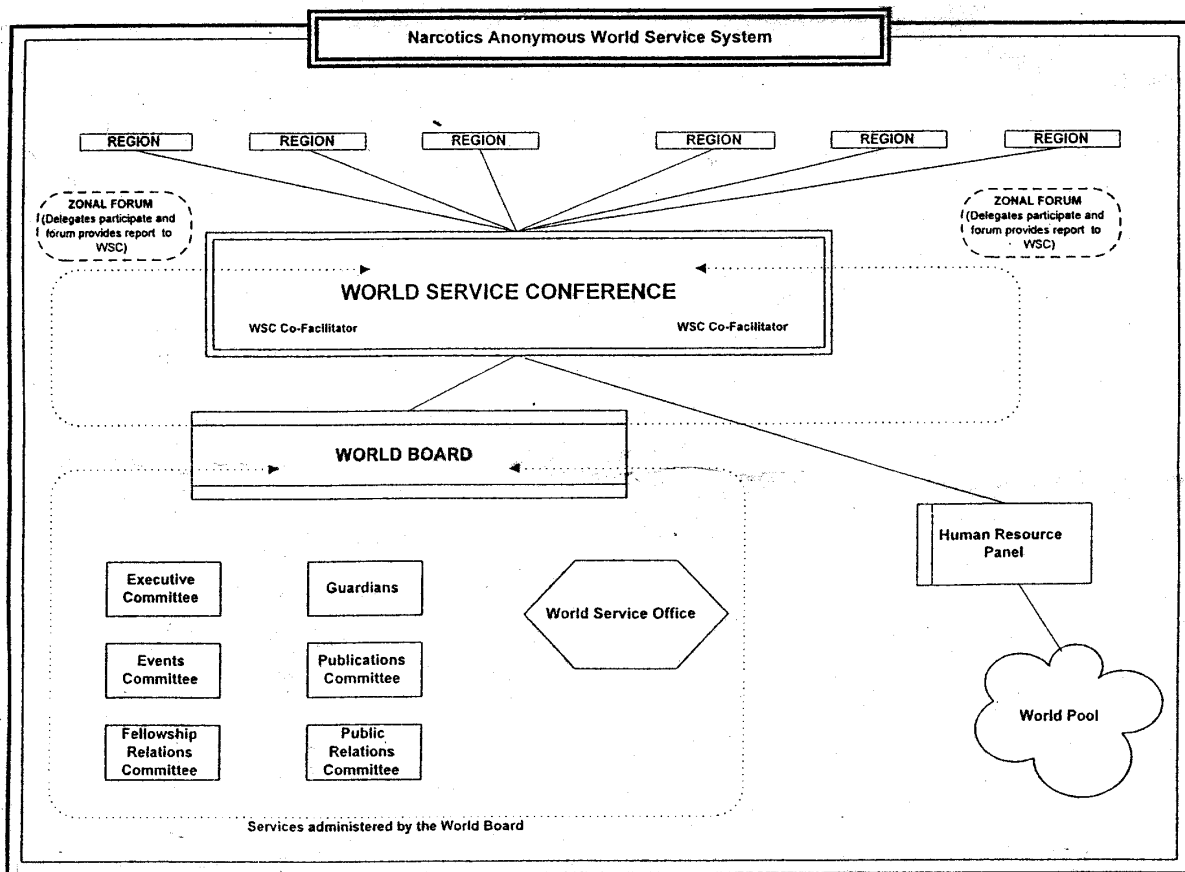
- 1) Groups donate directly to each level except metro
- 2) Areas serve as funnels for all group contributions for metro services; MSCs return excess funds to areas
- 3) Areas may donate excess funds to region or world
- 4) Region may donate excess funds to world



NA SERVICE STRUCTURE



Reproduced from unknown origin.



Suggested Business Meeting

Date: _____

For Month of: _____

A. Treasurer's Report:

We had a donation \$ _____ sent to area last month. Delivered by _____.
(ex. GSR or group rep)

\$ Prudent Reserve/
Balance _____
(Carried over from last month / may be \$0.00)

\$ In Account: _____
(7th tradition / end of month balance)

\$ Literature Requests: _____
(orders from group members or individuals) →

\$ Sub Total A: _____
(carry to 'BALANCE BOX')

Names and items ordered for individuals:		
Name	Item	Amount
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Literature Request Total		\$

\$ Rent: _____

\$ Literature Requests: _____

\$ Group Literature: _____

\$ Miscellaneous: _____
(new business' expenses, prudent reserve, etc)

\$ Sub Total B: _____
(carry to 'BALANCE BOX')

'BALANCE BOX'
Sub Total A: \$ _____ . ____
Minus Sub Total B: \$ _____ . ____
Total: \$ _____ . ____

\$ Total from 'Balance Box': _____
\$ Area Donation: - _____
\$ Prudent Reserve/ Balance _____ (Carry over to next month / may be \$0.00)

Treasurer's Report Accepted: _____ Yes / _____ No

B.GSR'S Report:

Proposals Brought From Area For Groups:

#1 _____

For ____ OPP ____ ABS ____ (Group Vote For Area)

#2 _____

For ____ OPP ____ ABS ____ (Group Vote For Area)

#3 _____

For ____ OPP ____ ABS ____ (Group Vote For Area)

Pertinent Facts To Take To Area Meeting:

GSR's Report Accepted: _____ Yes / _____ No

C. Old Business: (Thank chairperson, keychain person, etc.)
(Check previous months "New Business Report)

D. New Business:

Elections for positions for the following month:

Chairperson: _____

Other positions where applicable:

Key-tag Person: _____

Greeters: _____ / _____ / _____

Coffee Person: _____

Elections for group trusted servants positions:

Position:	Name if filled	Held position since	If not filled, covered by
Secretary:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
Treasurer:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
GSR:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
Alternate GSR:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
*H&I Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
**P.I. Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
Activities Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
Helpline Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
Policy Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____
_____ Group Rep:	_____	___ / ___ / ___	_____

* H&I stands for Hospitals and Institutions

** PI stands for Public Information

For more information on these positions please see a trusted servant or attend the Area Service Committee meeting.

Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Celebrating</u>	<u># of years</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number of Cards Needed _____

Proposals: Only 3 For and 3 Opposed / Keep discussions short:

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

#6 _____

Good Questions To Discuss With Others

- 1.) Why do we have suggested clean time with positions?
- 2.) If you were asked to express your feeling of what group conscience means to you, what would you say?
- 3.) What are your priorities at a meeting of the Big Bend Area Service Committee?
- 4.) What is the group open sharing for? And is it just for GSR's?
- 5.) Do you understand what discussion on a proposal is for? If yes, write it out.
- 6.) How do your principles influence your voting?
- 7.) What are the reasons for abstentions? List them.
- 8.) What are my expectations before, during, and after an ASC meeting? List them.
- 9.) Is policy important? Why?
- 10.) Do I get confused at an area meeting? If so, how can we change that?
- 11.) What is the purpose of having an Area Service Committee?
- 12.) What is the C.A.R. and how are you involved as a member of N.A.?
- 13.) What is the role of the 7th tradition in the area and N.A. as a whole?
- 14.) What are the responsibilities of your position? List them.
- 15.) Where do spiritual principles play a part in service?