

Intergroup and General Service – the purpose of each (6-24-2017)

Basically Intergroup serves groups in its local community while General Service connects groups nationally and worldwide. However specifics may vary widely throughout North America. Let us be reminded that “all parts of our Fellowship – group meetings, committees, offices, Conferences, and group jobs – share one common purpose: to help the alcoholic who still suffers “ - Circles of Love and Service (P-45)

“A central office (or intergroup) is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community ...it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” - A.A. Guidelines Central or Intergroup Offices (MG 02)

General Service is a “...system of communication for finding out how A.A. as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate. For A.A. to run its own affairs, each A.A. group needs to make its voice heard on overall A.A. policies.” Circles of Love and Service (P-45)

“Central offices and general service area committees are complementary, rather than competitive, A.A. operations. Both exist to help insure A.A. unity and to fulfill A.A.’s primary purpose of carrying the message. ... It is important to share ideas and discuss activities so as to avoid duplication of effort. It is not important who does the work (the General Service Committee or the Central Office or Intergroup Committee in your area)...” A.A. Guidelines Central or Intergroup Offices (MG 02)

In Contra Costa Intergroup and District 08 are both awesome. Many Contra Costa groups are supportive of both spiritually with contributions and service.

Contra Costa Intergroup publishes the meeting schedule, has a store at its office to sell books and literature, maintains the phone and hot lines, publishes a monthly newsletter of AA events, holds trainings on group operations (secretary/treasurer) and sponsorship among others, holds 4 themed events yearly with a fundraising element under AA guidelines, and sponsors a Summer

Unity Picnic with participation from District 08. Intergroup is the visible service for most AA members.

District 08 keeps groups (via GSRs) informed about GSO, the service conference, and the Area. It encourages groups to take consciences on matters that may be important to them. The District coordinates Bridging the Gap and Archives along with an Agenda Topics Workshop and a Fall Unity Day with panels and speakers.

In Contra Costa, Intergroup handles Public Information while District 08 does Cooperation with the Professional Community. The last three years both committees have met together a few times each year – sharing ideas, training, and presenters.

Specific Intergroup and General Service responsibilities may vary in different parts of Area 06. There are no rules. What is important is both services communicate and cooperate with each other. Our past Pacific Region Trustee, Madeleine, said in her closing remarks at the 2013 Fall Assembly “Service is not just that with the word General in front of it.”