

In 2010, just a year into my sobriety, my home group elected me to be their GSR. I was very enthusiastic– but completely clueless as to what I was supposed to do. I heard a lot about being the voice for my group – but what was I supposed to say?

And then suddenly, General Service started getting active. In mid-February, we traditionally receive a list of Agenda Topics (named because they are literally the agenda for each committee meeting at the Conference) – and some of these topics would be interesting to the average AA member like me, and to average AA members like the people I had now been entrusted to represent.

Luckily, there's lots of help. Each District Committee Member Chair (DCMC), local District Committee Members (DCMs), and even other GSRs (past and present) can share how they obtain group consciences. Many Districts also hold Agenda Topics Workshops, that will help familiarize members with the background material and provide tools on how to facilitate a sharing session. Larger events, like the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, held the first weekend in March each year (this year, it is in Los Angeles, and next year, it's in San Francisco), can provide even more support. The Area Officers also write summaries of the background material, and those summaries will be available in early March. The entire background will also be available on a password-protected part of the Area website. [https:// www.cnca06.org/](https://www.cnca06.org/)

The best advice I got as a new GSR was that even if I made a mistake, I could not break AA. The only thing that can truly break AA is if we stop communicating or sharing with one another and stop participating. Decisions made through this process of sharing can create or maintain our literature or other services, and these decisions ensure that future alcoholics looking for a way out can find what we have found and recover.

Yours in service, Eric L.  
Panel 73 Delegate