



Area 16 D.C.M. Responsibilities

The 2018 A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit Report cited two areas in A.A.'s general service structure where communication seems to be breaking down. These were between: 1) the delegates to the General Service Conference and the Area Assemblies, and 2) the District Committees and the Group G.S.R.s. Here in Area 16, we are fortunate to have had a long series of delegates who have communicated very effectively with the Assembly (D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s), so this does not seem to be a problem for us. We could, however, communicate more effectively between the district committees and the groups (G.S.R.s). Our D.C.M.s can be very instrumental in improving our efforts at this level of service. This service piece is designed to make suggestions to our D.C.M.s to improve communication and the general well-being of our districts.

The heart of A.A. is the group, which elects a general service representative (G.S.R.). The G.S.R. attends district meetings that are made up of the groups in that district. The G.S.R.s elect a district committee member (D.C.M.). Thus, the D.C.M. is the vital link between the group's G.S.R., and the area service structure, including the area's delegate to the General Service Conference. The qualifications for a good district committee member are not complicated: background in A.A. service that goes with the G.S.R. job, and perhaps some central office/intergroup service; enough sobriety (say four to five years) to be eligible for election to area office; and the time and energy to serve the groups and district well.¹

Perhaps the greatest asset to a D.C.M. is a thorough understanding of our Twelve Traditions. A working knowledge of the Traditions can be developed through attending Traditions meetings, hosting Traditions workshops, studying the Traditions in Language of the Heart, and interaction with a service sponsor. Most questions that you will be asked can be easily answered by effectively using the Twelve Traditions.

The D.C.M carries the collective group conscience of the A.A. groups in the district to the area committee. Among the two-way communication responsibilities of the D.C.M. are:

- Attending and chairing regular meetings of all G.S.R.s in the district.
- Attending important area events such as Assembly, Preconference Meetings, and DCM Planning Meetings.
- Assisting the delegate in obtaining group information in time to meet the deadline for appropriate A.A. directories.
- Discussing group and district affairs with G.S.R.s and encourage group participation of G.S.R.s.
- Having a good grasp of group conscience of the district.

- Checking your district email box regularly (at least once per week). We are using email as our primary means of communication within the area now. This is important!
- Keeping G.S.R.s informed about Conference activities.
- Acquainting G.S.R.s with *The A.A. Service Manual**, Box 4-5-9, and other A.A. literature.
- Holding sharing sessions on just about any service subject.
- Ensuring that district meeting minutes are sent to the area office.
- Attending regular A.A. meetings in your district.
- And, of course, making a regular practice of talking to or visiting groups (new and old) on the responsibilities of involvement in general service. ^{1,2}

Following are some questions D.C.M.s may ask themselves to gauge how effective their districts are in carrying the message, group/district unity, and interest in general service:

1. What is the basic purpose of a district committee?
2. What additional activities can we engage in to carry the message?
3. Considering the number of alcoholics in our district, are we reaching enough people?
4. What has our district done lately to bring the A.A. message of recovery to the attention of professionals who can be helpful in reaching those who are in need of recovery.
5. Do new G.S.R.s stick with us, or does our turnover and missed meetings seem excessive?
6. How effective are we in communicating with all our groups?
7. Do all A.A.s know about district meetings and have the opportunity to attend?
8. Has enough effort been made to explain to all groups, the value and purpose of a G.S.R.?
9. Do all G.S.R.s have adequate opportunity to serve on committees?
10. Are district officers picked with care and consideration?
11. Do our groups carry their fair share of supporting the Area and General Service Office?
12. How well are our groups informed about what is happening in A.A. worldwide?
13. Does our district take time to adequately address group questions, problems, or concerns?
14. Are our district meetings informative and enthusiastic? ^{3, 4}

*Additional literature which may be of value to the D.C.M.s includes: *The A.A. Group* (P-16), *Inside A.A.* (P-18), *G.S.R. General Service Representative* (P-19), *The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated* (P-8), *Where Money and Spirituality Mix* (F-3), *The A.A. Group Treasurer* (F-96), *A.A. Guidelines from GSO* (MG-02 – MG17), and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (B-3).

Sources:

¹ *Your D.C.M* (F-12)

² *The Georgia A.A. Service Manual (Revised December 2017)*

³ *District Inventory* (F-44)

⁴ *Is Your Group Linked to A.A. as a Whole?* (SMF-104)