

aaHG Group Conscience

minutes

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 8:30pm EST

Chair: Ash Megan

Opening Prayer

Set aside Prayer, led by Monica Mc.

Tradition of the Month Reading

Tradition 11: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." - p. 180, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Jeff gave a brief elaboration on this, including maintaining anonymity on social media which wasn't present when the traditions were first written.

Steering Committee Members Present

Ash Megan, Big Bob, Jo Unicorn, Angela R., Monica Mc., Albert C., Melody, Ryan M., Deron W., Nicole C., Celina, Brent W., Duane, Rantine and Tracey Mc.

Other AA Home Group members were in attendance in support of our Group Conscience.

Reports

These were not presented due to focusing on the GSR motion discussion.

Ash starts by welcoming the new members of the Steering Committee and thanking those that previously served for their time and dedication to the group. Ash continues by going through what the purpose and expectations for the Steering Committee are:

“The purpose of the AAHG Steering Committee is to ensure that our meetings and activities stay true to AA’s traditions, mission, and principles, providing effective support to the AAGH stability and continuity, creating a structured and welcoming place where members can focus on their recovery. The AAHG Steering Committee places AA’s values and purpose above individual perspectives. Each committee member brings distinct responsibilities and manages specific areas, yet we work together to meet the group’s needs and strengthen our unity. “Principles before personalities” is more than a guideline – it’s the foundation of how we serve our fellowship.

We serve our fellowship by:

- Overseeing finances. We maintain transparency, uphold sound financial practices and handle contributions responsibly to support the group’s self-sustaining approach.
- Resolving Group Issues and Conflicts. We address challenges in line with AA’s principles, fostering a harmonious and supporting fellowship.
- Guiding Operations. We address organizational and logistical needs, such as training trusted servants, coordinating schedules, determining the best practices for the safety of our group, and managing our technical resources.
- Upholding AA Traditions. We advance AA’s primary purpose of helping alcoholics achieve sobriety and support AAHG’s mission to provide 24/7 online meetings, as outlined in our bylaws.
- Working Together. By working together with shared dedication and accountability, we strengthen our group’s foundation, ensuring it remains a reliable and welcoming space for all seeking recovery and mutual support.

Ash concludes by proposing the upcoming dates for business meetings.

Motion:

Monica Motions to approve the Group Conscience dates (see below), 2nd by Celina.

Yes 24, No 0, Abstain 0, Motion passes.

December 2025	Saturday, 20th	8:00pm EST.
January 2026	Monday, 12th	7:30pm EST.
February 2026	Friday, 20th	7:30pm EST.
March 2026	Saturday, 21st	3:15pm EST.
April 2026	Saturday, 21st	8:00pm EST.
May 2026	Wednesday, 20th	8:00pm EST.
June 2026	Saturday, 21st	6:00pm EST.

GSR Recommendation

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

Motion

The ad hoc GSR Discussion committee makes a motion to amend the aaHG Bylaws to include two new Steering committee positions for a General Service Representative (GSR) and an alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR).

Background

The ad hoc GSR Discussion committee met 4 times to consider whether to recommend that the AA Home Group expand the Steering committee to include a GSR position and an alternate. The committee, chaired by Carla, Member at Large, reviewed the recommendation submitted by Ato H., aaHG Safety chair, and Jeff B., a member in service to aaHG as a Chair and Host (see appendix). The committee discussed the benefits to aaHG of having a GSR and an alternate and considered the possibility of having our current IGR (OIAA Intergroup Rep) also serve as the GSR. There was extensive discussion by the ad hoc committee including a review of the history of the IGR and GSR position at aaHG. In the end, the ad hoc committee voted 7 – 1 to recommend this motion be sent to the Steering committee.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

Motion to Amend the aaHG Bylaws to Add a General Service Representative (GSR) and an Alternate To the Steering Committee

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

The following are the proposed changes to the aaHG Bylaws:

1. Section 2, paragraph 3 be amended to **ADD** the General Service Representative (GSR) position to the list of Steering committee members to be elected in October.
2. Section 2, paragraph 4 be amended to **ADD** the alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) position to the list of Steering committee members to be elected in January.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws (cont'd)

3. Section 3, paragraph 1 be amended to **ADD** the GSR and Alt. GSR to the list of Steering committee members.

SECTION 3: OFFICERS

1. The aaHG SC shall consist of all elected positions including the Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Information Technology Chair, Information Technology Co-Chair, Intergroup Service Representative, Assistant Intergroup Service Representative, Scheduling Committee Chair, Communications/Literature Committee Chair, (5) Members at Large, (2) Safety Committee Co-Chairs, ~~and~~ (2) Training Committee Co-Chairs, **General Service Representative and Alternate General Service Representative**. All SC members are requested to attend all bi-monthly meetings of the SC.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws (cont'd)

4. Section 3, paragraph 17 be included as a **NEW** paragraph describing the role of the GSR as follows:

17. General Service Representative: The General Service Representative (GSR) shall serve on behalf of the aaHG at meetings of the District that aaHG registers with and at Area Assemblies in the Area that the District belongs to. The GSR will make reports of District and Area activities to the SC & GC. The GSR will also bring all District and Area motions and budgets to the aaHG and obtain the group conscience on those motions and budgets. The GSR will bring any group concerns to the District for discussion. The GSR will represent aaHG prior to the annual General Service Conference by attending an Area delegate preconference report, presenting the current year's agenda items to the aaHG at a regular or special Group conscience meeting and providing the aaHG group conscience on the agenda items to our Area's delegate. The GSR will also bring back the results of the General Service Conference to the group.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

16. Members – At – Large: The Steering Committee shall consist of 5 additional members who will help ensure inclusiveness, transparency and the upholding of traditions so they are being followed as closely as possible.

17. General Service Representative: The General Service Representative (GSR) shall serve on behalf of the aaHG at meetings of the District that aaHG registers with and at Area Assemblies in the Area that the District belongs to. The GSR will make reports of District and Area activities to the SC & GC. The GSR will also bring all District and Area motions and budgets to the aaHG and obtain the group conscience on those motions and budgets. The GSR will bring any group concerns to the District for discussion. The GSR will represent aaHG prior to the annual General Service Conference by attending an Area delegate preconference report, presenting the current year's agenda items to the aaHG at a regular or special Group conscience meeting and providing the aaHG group conscience on the agenda items to our Area's delegate. The GSR will also bring back the results of the General Service Conference to the group.

17. Alternate General Service Representative: The Alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) shall assist the GSR as necessary and fill in as needed. If the GSR position becomes vacant, the Alt. GSR will automatically become the GSR. A special, off-cycle election can be held if the Alt. GSR is unable to serve as the GSR for the remainder of the term.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws (cont'd)

5. Section 3, paragraph 18 be included as a **NEW** paragraph describing the role of the Alt. GSR as follows:

18. Alternate General Service Representative: The alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR) shall assist the GSR as necessary and fill in as needed. If the GSR position becomes vacant, the Alt. GSR will automatically become the GSR, A special, off-cycle election can be held if the Alt. GSR is unable to serve as the GSR for the remainder of the term.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws (cont'd)

6. Section 4, paragraph 3p be added to define the eligibility requirements for the GSR position as:
p. General Service Representative
 - Mandatory 2 years of continuous sobriety
 - Served on the Sterring committee in some capacity at some time.
 - Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required.
7. Section 4, paragraph 3q be added to define the eligibility requirements for the Alt. GSR position as:
q. Alternate General Service Representative
 - Mandatory 2 years of continuous sobriety
 - Served on the Sterring committee in some capacity at some time.
 - Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (cont'd)

SECTION 4: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. All nominees for election should have the minimum sobriety time as indicated for each position.
2. For certain officers, the requirements of sobriety and previous experience are mandatory and cannot be waived. Those requirements can only be changed by a change in the bylaws.
3. For other officers, the Group Conscience (during an election) can waive the minimum sobriety or experience requirements through a motion and a majority vote.
 - a. Chair:
 - Mandatory 3 years of continuous sobriety
 - Served on the Steering Committee in some capacity at any time



o. Members – At – Large:

- Mandatory 5 years of continuous sobriety

p. General Service Representative:

- Mandatory 2 years of continuous sobriety
- Served on Steering Committee in some capacity at some time
- Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required

q. Alternate General Service Representative:

- Mandatory 2 years of continuous sobriety
- Served on Steering Committee in some capacity at some time
- Knowledge of AA General Service is helpful but not required

Jeff started off by saying that the position description mentions a district and an area – that will come next if the group decides to elect a GSR and study the districts we will join, whether it be an online district or an in-person local district. The other point that he wanted to make is that this position for GSR is in addition to and in no way replaces the IGR or OIAA. Jeff shared the following about the GSR Positions, that was quoted from Bill W.: “The strength of the whole AA Service Structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative or GSR that the group elects. We cannot emphasise too strongly the GSR’s importance”. He thinks that Bill said that because the GSR is that who connects our group to AA as a whole. He continued to say that he is new to AAHG, but can see AAHG is an active and vibrant group, helping so many people to get and stay sober. The Steering Committee and Trusted Servants who keep the meetings going do an amazing and incredible job. Adding a GSR to the Steering Committee would only help us in that vision. He listed some of the reasons:

- By attending district meetings and area assemblies, we get the word out about our 24/7 meetings, and we can let other online groups know about us.
- This could help boost our attendance, as well as that we will probably be the only 24/7 group in the area or district that we join
- Involvement in the district or area level could attract AA members looking for service opportunities.
- Getting word out about AAHG can attract different AA members with different experiences that can bring their experience and hope to the group to strengthen us. We have so many amazing people in AAHG, but we need more people and more opinions, and we need the new experience, strength and hope that we will find elsewhere as well. This keeps us aligned and united by all 36 Principles, the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts, especially the Traditions and the Concepts.

- Probably one of the most important reasons for having a GSR is that it allows our Group Conscience and our viewpoint to be given to an Area Delegate on the items we discuss at this year's General Service Conference.

The General Service Conference decides 70 to 90 items each year for the future of AA and without a GSR we do not have a voice in any of that. Jeff explains that because we haven't got a GSR we therefore didn't get a voice or a vote on the Plain Language Big Book, which is so helpful to many of our members – we could have had a voice in this decision and others going forward. Jeff continues to say that he only sees it as a benefit to our group and when he looks at it from his perspective, he doesn't really see any downsides or possible deterrents. He said that Bill W. emphasises that the General Service Representative role is vital, because the AA Group holds the ultimate responsibility and final authority over all World Services. That responsibility can be turned over to you and to me – in 1955 when they made the General Service Conference, which is a permanent part of Alcoholics Anonymous, the GSR is necessary to ensure the group can fulfil this responsibility by acting as the essential 2-way link between the group and AA as a whole and let other groups and other AA members know about the amazing meetings that we hold 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ato also spoke on this motion, he started by thanking Jeff for presenting this motion and informed the group that this has been a discussion over the last 6 months or so. It was brought as a motion before the Steering Committee about 5 months ago and that there was debate for a couple of months. Ato continues to share that the Steering Committee created an ad hoc for this motion and they met 4 times before presenting the recommendation to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee then voted to bring this motion to Group Conscience by 7 votes to 1 .

Big Bob interjected and said that it must be two thirds of the majority that has to vote. Ato said that he has been here for 5 years and the AA Service Structure lists all the different roles that we can all be part of. AA literature says that 'by choosing its most qualified member as its GSR, the group shall secure its own future and the future of AA as a whole. He further says that this is one of the most important things that the group must discuss, because if we pick a group GSR, we are linking the group to the whole of AA and that we are not currently structured that way. In 1950 a new type of Trusted Servant was formed, which is the Group Representative to help the selection of delegates that will form the General Service Conference that will meet up in New York. The job of that Group Representative is also as a means of exchanging whatever up to date information that exists between individual groups and AA at Borders.

Ato further stipulates that we do not have that in our structure right now and by approving this motion, that is what it will allow us to do. It will allow us to have a voice directly to Alcoholics Anonymous and to the General Service Office.

As a General Service we are given a bigger responsibility, because there are ideas and opinions and all of this from our collective Group Conscience, which will be taken to district meetings by our General Service Representative and they will talk about those things, and those discussions will go all the way to the General Services.

Ato follows up by saying that the GSR or the Alternate GSR will go to district meetings, and those district meetings will elect people that will go back to their communities. He used the following analogy: If you look at the 50 states of America, you have your own committees, you elect your mayor, council members, etc. and they go and represent your state and then your state assigns two individuals to Washington DC as a Congressman or a Senator, so that they can go and advocate for your state, so that your state has a voice. When a country decides on all of these different positions, that is what our Congressmen and Senators do for us. He continued to say that this is basically the same kind of structure where our GSR will be the person who goes out to Alcoholics Anonymous and ultimately the person who comes back here and reports to us what is going on.

We basically send who goes through that district and ultimately choose the person to be one of the 93 representatives that represent the entire USA/Canada. Ato also lists some of the benefits:

- There are 5 or 6 online districts that are known as Meetings Without Borders. It was structured with the 93 different delegates, and it is based on geography. Obviously online meetings started to take place 5 years ago during Covid. Ato further says that he would like to think that AAHG is the premier online group that is out there that offers 24-hour services.
- By joining one of these online districts, not only are people going to know who we are, and what we do, it would also bring in newcomers that did not know that we are here, who will be able to bring in other people that can come in here and help us serve. Ato also says that he believes that we are on the forefront of these developments. \
- "We have to place our common welfare to keep our fellowship united, for AA Unity depends on our lives and the lives of those who are to come".
- Ato goes on to say that this motion is an addition and not a distraction that will be brought to this group and that it will bring more visibility to us and that the work that we do here has a voice.
- Our representative will have an opportunity to be a part of AA World Service infrastructure and bring other things to the forefront in terms of treasurers, budgets and all of those reports and our GSR will set up a meeting that will bring in information from Alcoholics Anonymous, including committee reports, back to AAHG and we will know exactly what is going on with AA and other things that are happening across the country, because connection is everything. Ato concludes by thanking everyone for the opportunity to speak and then the floor is open for discussion.

Jo shares that Renee already registered with a group which was confirmed by Jeff. Although which area to be registered with wasn't a group decision and can therefore be looked at depending on the outcome of the GSR motion. Duane shared that we have our group ID number and can therefore take that and change areas if required.

Group ID Number: 000729378

Group Name: AA Home group

District: District 20

Area: 030: Eastern Massachusetts

Region: NE - Northeast United States

There were concerns raised about the lack of international members that were on the Adhoc Committee and also several members expressed concerns about the Steering Committee's role in making decisions without bringing them to the Group Conscience first, and the need for proper discussions on all matters affecting AAHG as a whole.

The group discussed forming a new Ad Hoc Committee to review and potentially revise the GSR (Group Service Representative) position description, particularly regarding international representation and it was clarified that the GSR position can be backfilled at any time, even if it misses the December election deadline. It was also questioned as to how long the position would run for as our bylaws state yearly elections, yet the GSR positions usually are a 2 year service commitment.

The group also discussed the need to review all bylaws and to allow for more inclusive representation, as currently the bylaws state that adhoc members shall be members of the Steering Committee.

Jo Motions to end discussion, 2nd by Melody.

Yes 33, No 0, Abstain 0 Discussion ends.

Jeff Motions to take the motion back to adhoc for more discussion including more members for international representation. 2nd by Kayla.

Yes 35, No 0, Abstain 1 Motion passes.

Some international members thank the group and express that they felt heard and valued.

Pamela motions to adjourn, 2nd by Jo Unicorn.

Yes 27, No and abstain not called. The meeting ends.

aaHG Related Announcements

The next Group Conscience will be on Saturday, December 20th, 8:00pm EST. in the meeting room.

Closing Prayer

Melody - The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

Responsibility Statement - All.

