

Impressions of a New GSR after Six Months

Our Group GSR's time slot was up and she asked if anyone was interested in being her replacement. No hands went up; my sponsor's eyes focused on me. We all know that stare! So with some trepidation I volunteered for the two-year rotation for my Home Group, which is in District 4.

Rumors of what a GSR does abound aplenty, but only by participating do you begin to get an idea of what a District is, what an Area is, etc. I've attended six GSR meetings of District 4 and two Eastern Area Assemblies in Wentzville over the past six months. There have been some tense discussions and some light humor. But, looking at the whole experience makes me realize that, as a shy person who generally does not volunteer, I have found the experience interesting, educational and rewarding!

Interesting, in that it has taught me what the service structure in AA accomplishes: how it services the Groups with literature, forms committees to visit institutions, helps distribute the Grapevine, provides speakers to schools, etc. It also passes out literature on workshops, gatherings such as the Fall Classic and the Alano Banquet. It ties the Group to the District and provides a source of life to the Group through communication with other GSRs at the District and Area meetings.

Educational, because you not only meet and interact with other GSRs from your District, but you also get exposed to Groups in all areas: rural, suburban and urban. And all kinds of Groups: those having one meeting a week, those having several meetings a week. In Area Assemblies the GSRs hear how other Groups have solved problems; based upon the experiences of others, they get new ideas on how to solve problems within their own Group.

Rewarding and exciting, because it opens up a whole new life of AA beyond your Home Group: exposure to other people within the District and within the Area. Old-timers provide their wisdom and guidance; newcomers to service can learn and participate by watching problems within AA get hashed out within the District and also at the Area Assemblies. I strongly recommend to anyone wanting new depth and life within their program: volunteer to serve as GSR or Alternate GSR for your Home Group. It will put life back into your program!

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