

IDAHO AREA ASSEMBLY AL-ANON GR EXCHANGE HANDOUT FOR NEW GRs

Welcome to Assembly! Who are the most important people at the Assembly? Group Representatives! Why? Because you are the only members at the Assembly who have a vote at the business meeting. Your vote connects the members of your group to the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon and determines the way Al-Anon in Idaho functions to help families of alcoholics. Being a Group Representative (GR) is humbling and empowering and it offers miracles of recovery to anyone who is willing to serve. All of us on the Area committee say **CONGRATULATIONS** on being elected to serve as GR. Enjoy your term!

What is the GR Exchange? It is a 50-minute meeting held at each Assembly to prepare GRs for the Area business meeting and to allow GRs to share information and experience, strength and hope with each other.

One of the duties of the Alternate Delegate position is to chair the GR Exchange. This handout contains some information that may be useful for GRs. We all bring different amounts of experience to the exchange but we come together as equals. If this is old hat to you, consider being a service sponsor to a new GR. If you're overwhelmed, know that most of us have felt that way too; sometimes just showing up is good enough. Please share your ideas to help make this exchange meaningful and productive.

INFORMATION

What is my job as a GR at an Assembly?

To attend the business meeting and to express a voice and vote on behalf of your group.

Service Manual References: pp. 61, 139

Which events on the Assembly schedule am I supposed to attend?

- GR Exchange
- Business meeting on Saturday, both morning and afternoon sessions

Service Manual References: pp. 139, 147

NOTES

What do I need to take to an Assembly?

- Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013 edition
- Pen/paper to take notes
- Copies of minutes from the previous Assembly sent to DRs via email and available on the Idaho Area website

Service Manual References: pp. 139, 147

NOTES

Can I represent more than one group at an Assembly?

No.

Service Manual Reference: p. 78

What will happen at the business meeting?

The Area business meeting has a morning and afternoon session. You'll receive an agenda when you arrive at the business meeting.

GRs will be asked to sign in and sit on one side of the room to distinguish you as voting members. The GR exchange will provide you with specific information about voting issues. A typical business meeting includes the following items:

- Delegate's Report
- Minutes from the previous Assembly
- Area Treasurer's Report and budget
- "Hot Topics" breakout sessions for brainstorming and sharing ideas
- Reports from Area Coordinators and DRs
- Update on Al-Anon events including Al-Anon Day, Roundup and Assemblies
- Discussion of issues affecting Al-Anon in Idaho

Service Manual Reference: pp. 155-156

How do I learn about issues that are coming up for a vote at Assembly?

There are certain items that require a vote at every Assembly, including the minutes from the Assembly and the Treasurer's Report and budget.

Other voting issues come out of discussions held at March and August Area World Service Committee meetings. These meetings are attended by DRs and the DRs share that information at their District meetings.

Finally, the GR Exchange is another opportunity to learn about a voting issue prior to the business meeting.

What if something comes up for a vote in the business meeting but I haven't had a chance to talk to my group about it?

NOTES

Most new GRs will struggle with this and the solution will come as you study the Traditions and Concepts of Service. Basically, Tradition Two says that you are a trusted servant and Concept Three allows you a right of decision as a trusted servant. There is an excellent discussion of this under Concept Three in the Service Manual. Usually the process of change in AI-Anon is slow and thorough so GRs are very prepared by the time an issue comes up for a vote.

Another scenario is that you may have taken a group conscience at your home group about an issue, but then you learn new information at the Assembly that changes your opinion. Do you vote as your group conscience dictated or follow your own conscience? This again involves mutual trust between the group and its trusted servant. At an Assembly you are part of an informed group conscience and Concept Three allows you the freedom to make your best choice on behalf of your group. Another good reading in the Service Manual is pp. 242-245 on personal leadership.

If you are really uncomfortable about a vote because you don't understand the issue or think it should go to the groups first, then say that to the Assembly before the vote is taken. Chances are others will feel the same way.

Service Manual References: pp. 229, 242-245

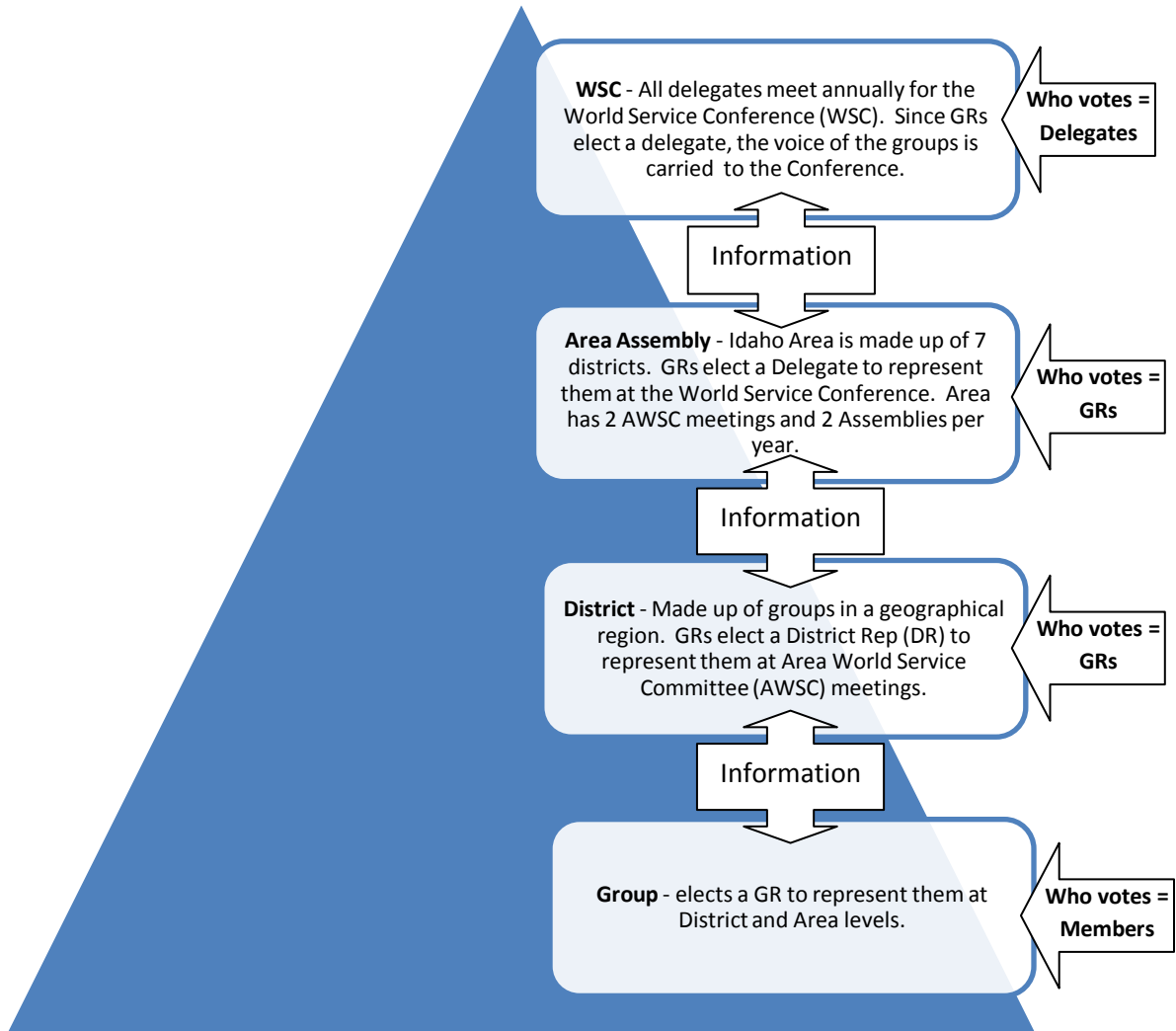
What is the procedure for discussion/voting during the business meeting?

During the business meeting the Chair will generally follow Robert's Rules of Order. When an issue comes up for a vote, the following steps occur:

1. A member of the Assembly makes a motion
2. Another member seconds that motion
3. There is discussion about the motion
4. A vote is taken, usually by a show of hands "In Favor" and "Opposed." On elections or sensitive issues written ballots may be used.
5. The minority opinion is offered another chance to speak after the vote

Motions can be tabled, which means they will come back up at a later time. A motion can be changed or rescinded by the person who made it. Sometimes the Chair will ask you to use the microphone to speak. There may be a time limit per share or a limit of one share per person on an issue. These restrictions are always announced ahead of time and they are usually imposed because of Assembly time constraints.

What is the voting structure of AI-Anon?



AI-Anon's service structure can be confusing with all the acronyms and rules. Be patient with yourself and try to pick up a little bit at a time. Before long you'll be an expert!

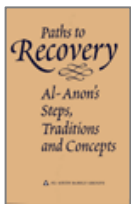
The chart above is a simplified view of how voting works in AI-Anon. The main point here is that as a GR you are a vital link in the flow of information, election of a delegate, and policy change affecting the fellowship. You are the bridge between the members and the whole AI-Anon service structure.

Service Manual References: pp. 133, 138-139, 141-144, 147-148

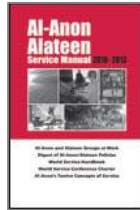
TOOLS

In Al-Anon we always talk about using the tools of the program. What tools are available to help GRs do their jobs? Some examples are listed here.

Sponsor



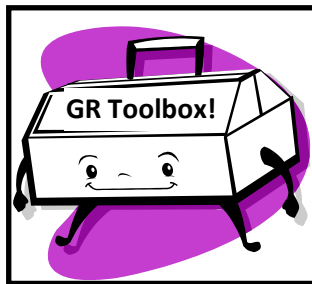
Higher Power



Traditions



Concepts Blog



Al-Anon World Service website
<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members>



Long-time members



Conference summaries are available on the WSO website. See the 2006 summary for articles about Knowledge-based decision-making (pp 6-7) and the Warranties (pp 34-35)

Service Sponsor



Area 13 Idaho website
<http://www.al-anon-idaho.org>

District Meetings

12 Steps

What other tools have you used?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CONTACTS

The Area Secretary keeps track of the names and contact information for all of the members on the Area committee. During the term DRs will receive an updated contact list if anything changes. This chart is a visual representation of the contact list (phone numbers removed for the web ed.) showing how your groups and districts link to Area. Here are two things you can do with this list:

1. Find the GR box corresponding to your district and write your name in there. During the Assembly try to meet and get a name/phone/email for at least one GR from each of the other districts.
2. At the bottom of the chart underneath the Area coordinators, fill in the name of the person in your district who does that job at the district level. Some jobs, like group treasurer, need connections from your group to Area. When you get home, make sure your local people have the contact info for the Area coordinators.

GR Dist 1	GR Dist 2	GR Dist 3	GR Dist 4	GR Dist 5	GR Dist 6	GR Dist 7
DR Dist 1 Barbara K.	DR Dist 2 Kathy B.	DR Dist 3 Terry A.	DR Dist 4 Open	DR Dist 5 Jeanne H.	DR Dist 6 Maureen R.	DR Dist 7 Nancy Jo W.
North Coeur d'Alene Hayden Lake Sandpoint	North Central Lewiston Moscow	Southwest Boise Eagle McCall	South Twin Falls Burley Sun Valley	Southeast Pocatello Preston	East Idaho Falls Blackfoot Salmon	West Nampa Payette Ontario, OR

Spanish Contact (not an AWSC position) Isabel H. Hotline: (208)284-5377	Delegate Kathy B.	Area Chair Berta R.		Area Treasurer Paula N.		
Idaho Area Committee						
Area 13						
Alternate Delegate Wanda S-L.				Literature Center Liaison Mike P.		
Area Secretary Laura F.						
Alateen Coordinator/ Process Person Barbara V.	Archives Coordinator Ladora B.	Forum/ Literature Coordinator Robbin B.	Group Records Coordinator Traci E.	Area Newsletter Editor Cecilia S.	Public Outreach Coordinator Jeff M.	Website Coordinator Karen D.
Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?	Who does this for your district or group?