

Know the Literature

Do your homework on AA and you'll be better able to serve your Group. You can answer questions and make recommendations if you are familiar with the pamphlets and books available.

Sign Up Volunteers

Assume the task of recruiting members of your Group to do 12th Step Calls. Your responsibility as a CSR brings you face-to-face with AA's overall activities. Members may need to be reminded that there is always a need for volunteers.

Help Keep AA Solvent

In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, AA is self-supporting through our own contributions. One of the most important purposes a CSR can serve is to work toward consistency in their own Group's contributions to their CSO and AA World Services. It is difficult for the CSO to run smoothly when money comes in sporadically. Consistent financial support enables us to carry the message more efficiently.

Principles Before Personalities

Tradition Two: For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Keep Your Group Up-To-Date

Group Change forms are available from CSO to distribute to your Group. You can keep CSO up-to-date with Group news and any other articles of interest to all in AA for publication in CSO's monthly newsletter The Beam.

Where to send contributions

Area 28

499 Broadway
#225

Bangor, Maine 04401

A.A. World Services, Inc.,

P.O. Box 459,
New York, NY 10163

Central Service Office

47 Portland Street

Portland, ME 04101

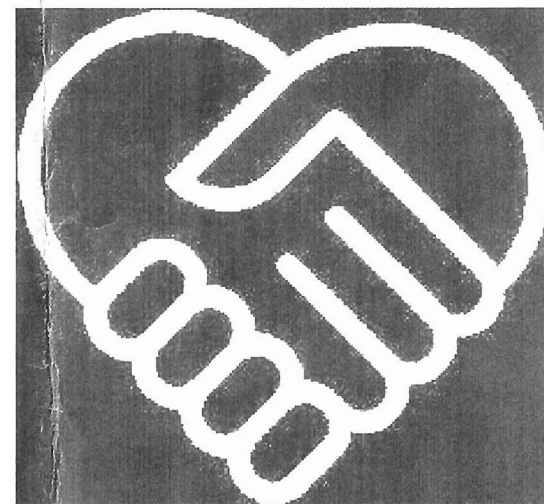
(207) 774-3034

(800) 737-6237

E-mail: cso@csoaamaine.org

Website: www.csoaamaine.org

Being A Trusted Servant In A.A.



**A BRIEF HANDBOOK FOR THE
GROUP CENTRAL SERVICE
OFFICE
REPRESENTATIVE**

The Role of a Group Central Service Representative (CSR)

Service as a CSR offers you a rewarding opportunity to share in Alcoholics Anonymous' Third Legacy of Service.

Here's how it works—The CSR is selected by the home group to attend the monthly meetings of the CSRs. To this meeting they bring any suggestions, comments or opinions. The CSR or Alternate CSR has one vote on all matters requiring a group conscience. These proposals are presented to the Central Service Office (CSO) Steering Committee.

The CSR is likened to the link in a chain that connects the individual member of an AA Group to those elected to maintain the operation of the CSO. Ultimately this allows CSO to serve its members better. Provision for the existence of the CSR is in our 9th Tradition.

Steps, Traditions and Concepts

CSRs would do well to make themselves familiar with AA's Steps, Traditions and Concepts as they pertain to the workings of AA as a whole. They are the roadmap of our organization.

Visit Central Service Office Steering Committee Meetings

These monthly meetings are open to any member. You can better serve the members of your Group and fellow Representatives to the CSO by being an observer at as many meetings as possible. Even if you have no vote, you have the right to voice your Group's opinion.

Inform Your Group Members

Arrange with the Group Secretary for a few minutes at each business meeting to bring members abreast of what is happening within AA as a whole. Make your reports interesting commentaries.

Encourage Attendance

If committee meetings are to be effective, attendance is important. You can help make this possible by suggesting ideas that can encourage CSRs from throughout your District to attend. Just making motions and casting votes is not all that goes on and cannot sustain interest. Invitations to members of the committee to explain various functions of carrying the AA message that the CSO serves are welcome.

The Principle of Rotation

CSRs serve for a period of 2 years. Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame.

Ask Questions

Don't hesitate to ask questions! If you don't get answers to things your group members want to know about, it is your privilege to make yourself heard. Problems in a group, as they pertain to AA as a whole, are your responsibility. You can see that overall policy is adhered to. A clearing house of solutions to Group problems based on the principles provided in our Traditions and Concepts is available through a network of Group consciences' throughout the District and AA as a whole.

Know the By-Laws

Through the CSO, all members of AA in the Maine Area are involved in keeping the AA program healthy and active. Operations continue under a set of guidelines. By studying these guidelines you can help keep all methods up-to-date. AA is in it's greatest growth period ever and some methods may need changing.

Informed Group Conscience

The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken