

District 23

DISTRICT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES & POLICIES

Approved September, 1999
Revisions Approved
12/01, 12/03, 9/04, 3/05, 8/06 1/07

THE G.S.R. PREAMBLE

We are the General Service Representatives.
We are the link in the chain from our Groups to
General Service Office, New York.
We are the contact from the World of A.A. to our Group.

Let us remember, however,
that we are alcoholics and trusted servants.
We cannot or must not lead ourselves to believe
that we now have some great and governing power that makes us
better or worse than any other alcoholic.
Let us always remember that we must think first
of our Group and of A.A. as a whole.

The Purpose Of These Guidelines Is To Supplement, Not Replace, The A.A. Service Manual,
By Incorporating District #23s G.S.R.s And D,C,M,s Service Experience Strength and Hope

DISTRICT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE:

DISTRICT 23 is a part of the Southern California Area Assembly (93) and is a geographical unit bounded by the Pacific ocean on the south and west and which includes the communities of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito, Isla Vista, Goleta. Boundaries: from the Pacific Ocean at Tajiguas northeast along a line drawn to San Marcos Pass Road at Ranch Road, then along a line drawn along the shore to the triple point where Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern counties meet. From this point south along Santa Barbara / Ventura County lines to the Pacific Ocean shore at Rincon Point then west along the Pacific Ocean shore to Tajiguas. Adjoining Districts: north - District 53; south - ocean; east - District 32; west - District 53.

The District #23 Committee consists of the General Service Representatives (GSR's) and Alt G.S.R.s who represent the A.A. Groups in the District, and past out going DCM (is given voting privileges for one year after holding office).elected Committee Officers (DCM, Alt DCM, Treasurer, Recording Secretary). Any A.A. member of District 23 may attend District Committee meetings, and have a voice, however voting privileges are only as specified in Appendix A on Pg. 5.

The chairperson of the District Committee is an A.A. member who is elected by the committee members to fill the office of "District Committee Member" (DCM). See duties of DCM 2005-2006 edition of the A.A. Service Manual, pages S28 - S31.

The D.C.M. is the link between the groups and the Area's Delegate to the General Service Conference. An Alternate DCM is elected to assists the DCM in carrying out their duties and is to carry on the activities of the District Committee when the DCM is unable to do so.

Election procedures are covered in

Appendix A: ELECTION OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE OFFICERS on Pg. 5

HOW THE COMMITTEE WORKS:

District Committee meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the first Monday of each month during the year. The DCM may also call special or monthly meetings of the District Officers if considered necessary to do so.

Current GSRs, along with the Officers plus the I.G.R. Liaison from Central Office are voting members of the District Committee. Alternate GSRs vote in the absence of the Group GSR. The out going DCM is given voting privileges for one year after holding office

The functions of the G.S.R. are described in the 2005 - 2006 A.A. Service Manual (pages S23- S27) In order to keep their groups well informed, the GSRs are expected to attend the monthly District Committee meetings (as well as four meetings each year of the Area Assembly of Central California one of which is a two day Conference Topic Workshop.) If a G.S.R. is unable to fulfill this commitment and is absent for three consecutive District Committee meetings, it is suggested that that group be given the opportunity to select a new G.S.R.. Alternate GSRs should be encouraged to attend meetings so that continuity of information is preserved should the G.S.R. become unable to serve. It is recommended that the DCM maintain records of District Committee meetings, actions and activities during the term served.

The District Committee shall select a General Service liaison to Central Office to attend Central Office Monthly I.G.R. meetings and report on activities of General Service to the Central Steering Committee. In turn, Central Office is encouraged to send a Central Office I.G.R. liaison to Monthly District Committee meetings to report on activities of Central Office. Central Office I.G.R. Liaison should not serve currently as G.S.R. to a group. The Central Office I.G.R. Liaison carries one vote from the Central Office I.G.R. Steering Committee.

SERVICE COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT:

Service subcommittees may be formed (and disbanded) by the District Committee. These committees may be permanent or ad hoc in nature. It is suggested that any chairperson should be a current district committee G.S.R. or alternate G.S.R. with the subcommittee comprised of District. #23 committee members, volunteers or selected by the District Committee as a whole. District 23 currently has the following permanent committees: CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) / PI (Public Information), Registration, Literature, Grapevine, Archives, Special Events and Accessibilities.

Each Committee Chairperson or the Committee presenter will have a maximum of one - 5 minute presentation. 8 copies of their handwritten or typed committee meeting minutes shall be provided to the G.S.R.s. After Committee presentation, the floor will be open to the G.S.R.s for a maximum of 8 minute discussion period for that committee, allowing 2 minute discussion periods per person in turn.

If after exhausting the first 8 minute time period, the G.S.R.s have followed the Committee discussion guidelines and the G.S.R.s feel further discussion is needed on that particular Committee presentation, the G.S.R.s can vote to lengthen that particular Committee presentation discussion for a specified time period, (maintaining the 2 minute per person discussion timeline), or vote that it be carried to the end of the G.S.R. meeting, or to continue the discussion at the next G.S.R. meeting.

Committee chairs are expected to attend the monthly district 23 committee meetings. If a committee chair is unable to fulfill this commitment and is absent for three consecutive district meetings without sending a Committee report, the district committee will inform the Committee Chairperson that it will offer the chair to another GSR who is able to fulfill the commitment.

Ad Hoc Committees if need be are formed for specific functions and / or needs of the District Committee such as: hosting Area Assembly, Service Day, Guidelines, Workshops, etc. The DCM shall have responsibility for selecting District 23 committee members to fulfill these specific assignments of an Ad Hoc Committee.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

The District Committee and its service subcommittees depend upon contributions from the Groups for operational support. Group contribution amounts should be set by the group conscience and it is recommended that the group use the "Self-support Pamphlet" as a guide. A 7th Tradition collection will be taken at the District meeting which will be included in the treasury general fund

HOW CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TO BE USED

The level of cash assets held by District 23 are regulated by a fixed "Prudent Reserve".

The allowable minimal (\$60.00) and the maximum (\$2042.00) have been set by a District Committee vote. Breakdown of expenses covered by Prudent Reserve are as follows:

Funding for DCM to go to PRAASA \$1000.00 (\$500 for each PRAASA) - Transportation costs (plane, train, car), Registration fee, Hotel, Banquet (\$500.00 per Event to be used at DCM's discretion)

Six Months rent @ donation of \$10.00 per month - \$60

Partial gas mileage reimbursement for GSR's attending any service event will be \$.31 / mile after deduction of first 25 miles. The DCM will request mileage reimbursement from AREA #93. We provide \$100 for hotel room(s) whenever an Area Assembly is over 100 miles from SB, provided that we are within our prudent reserve.

All funding limitations for special Projects as well as all committee expenses, new GSR pamphlets, service material, copying costs will be based on the basis of our district #23 prudent reserve level of funds available at the time of those requests.

Cost of P.O. Box (for 1 year) - \$52.00

Said expenses need no District Committee approval prior to prompt disbursement by the District Committee treasurer. All other expenses shall require District Committee approval prior to disbursement.

Other expenses accrue at irregular intervals for such things as Service Day, Workshops, Hosting Area Assembly, and other special District Activities, and Travel Expenses to and from Service Functions such as, DCM Sharing Session, etc. Such expenses require District Committee approval by vote

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The District Committee treasurer manages, disburses, and maintains records of incomes, expenses and budgets. The treasurer is expected to make monthly reports. Quarterly budgets are requested from the chairpersons of standing and ad-hoc committees having expenses or who anticipate budget adjustments.

APPENDIX A: ELECTION OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE OFFICERS

An election of officers in District 23 is held every two years in December of the even numbered years following election of Area Officers. Term begins January of year following date of election. Term as officer of District Committee is two (2) years. The elected officers in District 23 are: District Committee Member (DCM) and Alternate DCM, and Treasurer, Registrar and Recording Secretary. The DCM is elected first.

A.A. members in District 23 who are eligible for office include: All G.S.R.s, past GSRs, Alternate DCM, Registrar, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairpersons of Sub-Committees. It is suggested current two year district committee experience if possible. If possible, elections are to follow third legacy procedure in that each eligible person present at the election meeting will be given the opportunity to accept or decline the invitation to stand for office.

If no member is available / willing to stand for office, nominations will be made for positions open. Those eligible to vote include all Current GSRs, Alternate GSRs vote in the absence of the Group GSR, District Officers, Committee Chairpersons, I.G.R.. liaison from Central Office and the Outgoing DCM (for the period of one year after holding office.). Vote is decided by a 2/3 majority.

GUIDELINES FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS DISTRICT #23 WEBSITE

In the event that the Group Conscience of the Groups of District 23 decides to create a District 23 website The following guidelines would apply: District 23 website address is the official web site of District 23 of Alcoholics Anonymous. The web site is being provided as part of District 23's 12th step work in reaching out to help the alcoholic who still suffers and is available to all AA service entities. This site is maintained through volunteer efforts and it is requested that, when possible, only information not requiring frequent updates be posted.

Purpose: The web site is a District 23 Public Information Committee vehicle and in line with the April 1997 General Service PI Conference action where AA now utilizes "Electronic Media" as another method of carrying the message. The website is fully self-supporting through group contributions provided to District 23 General Service.

This web site is not endorsed nor approved by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. or any given Internet provider; It is an AA service provided solely by the District 23 Public Information Committee. To adhere to AA's tradition of personal anonymity, last names of AA members and personal e-mail addresses will not be listed. Some of the items at the site may have been published by AA World Services Inc. but it is not to be assumed that their use implies consensual approval by the General Service Conference. Alcoholics Anonymous, AA and the Big Book are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. The Grapevine, AA Grapevine are registered trademarks of AA Grapevine Inc. and credit lines should be posted.

Personal Anonymity and E-mail: In order to maintain personal anonymity when using the web site, website users are asked to direct all comments, inquiries, and remarks to the e-mail address listed and they will be contacted via e-mail or postal mail according to the need.

Guidelines for District #23 Web Site:

I. Statement of purpose:

As in any AA activity or Public Information Committee campaign, the primary purpose of this web site is that of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The web site shall be open to all AA entities.

II. Public Access:

1. It is recommended that the web site be constructed in such a manner that it be available for viewing by anyone who accesses the Internet through any means and with any system. Care should be taken not to show preference to specific systems, browsers, etc. that would make accessing the site through other means difficult.

2. In District 23, multiple languages are spoken, therefore, in the spirit of unity, an effort should be made to provide access to the site's information in what ever language those viewing would understand.

3. To avoid any confusion as to the content of the site, an e-mail address should be included to which additional questions may be sent along with a standard mailing address for those unable to send them electronically.

III. Included Links:

1. In keeping with the AA tradition of non endorsement, and recognizing the fact that any AA site can and will be accessed by the general public, links to any commercial sources, including those selling religious, institutional and political advocacy websites should be avoided, as A.A. endorsement of such groups and organizations may mistakenly be implied through such links

2. The only links that the District will maintain are to AAWS, the CCAA web site and the AA Grapevine web sites.

IV. Use of multimedia on District 23 web site.

1. The use of multimedia has become common for the purpose of communicating information and enhancing the experience of the web itself. However, it is recommended that information be presented in a format that is common to all or most systems so as not to exclude those who do not have the same multimedia capability.

2. Excessive use of graphic material should be carefully considered, as the 11th tradition warns against the use of "sensational advertising". Intensive graphical, musical or video which is not pertinent to, or supportive of the site's informational content could be viewed as "sensational advertising" by those who view the site.

V. Financing and Maintenance:

1. In keeping with AA's Seventh Tradition, a site placed on the world wide web to represent an AA District should be supported solely by that District. The many free sites available on the Internet while tempting, must be avoided as they often include mandatory advertising space as "rent" for the space. Currency payment for space rental is considered to be the best. Domain names may be registered for the site to separate it from the renting company.

2. Maintenance of the site, updating material, and answering all e-mail and any post mail pertaining to the web site, will be the responsibility of the members of a committee led by a Web Site Coordinator.

VI. Anonymity

1. Since any web site is a published document which can be accessed by the general public, the principal of anonymity as it applies to other forms of media, should be extended to the world wide web. To that end, use of full names and photographs of AA members should be avoided as would be the case regarding any other form of journalism

"Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think AA ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as AA members ought not to be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations policy should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never a need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us." Tradition Eleven

"And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities, that we are actually to practice genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all." Tradition 12