**Group Representatives Opening Session Agenda**

 **“Recovery through Service”**

 **Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016**

**(with corrected Area website address)**

**Facilitator: Terry Woodside, Alternate Delegate,** **twoodside1@verizon.net**

**I. Review of Spring 2016 GR Opening Session**

 1. Resources – website addresses: WSO – [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org); Virginia Area – [www.vaalanon.org](http://www.vaalanon.org);

 Northern Virginia Service Center – [www.alanonva.com](http://www.alanonva.com); Tidewater Service Center – [www.tidewaterasc.org](http://www.tidewaterasc.org).

 2. G-11, *Al-Anon Guidelines: Group Representative*

 *3. 2014-2017 Service Manual*, page 47, GR Suggested Duties

 - GRs serve as local representatives of *The Forum*: does your group now have a group subscription?

 4. *2014-2017 Service Manual*, pages 155-157, GR Assembly Duties

 - GRs and the pamphlet *Why Conference Approved Literature*

 - Meet JC, your Literature Coordinator

 5. Taking Assembly information back to your group:

 - Discussion: Last time your assignment was to connect with 2 other GRs from different districts and talk. How did your sharing go after the last Assembly?

**II. “Commonalities of Wildly Successful Groups” handout**

 Discussion

**III. Business Meetings – Service Manual, pages 51-53**

 Key points to take back to my group:

 1.

 2.

 3.

 5. Sample Agenda – G-11, back page

**III. Group Conscience – Service Manual, page 53**

 1. Tradition Two: *For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants – they do not govern.*

 - See *Paths to Recovery*, page 147, for difference between leading and governing.

 - Service Manual, page 53, definition of a group conscience.

 2. Warranty Three: *That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity.* (Service Manual, page 220).

 3. “GR Guide to Assembly,” page 4, under ‘Decisions’

 - the Informed Group Conscience process, as practiced in our Assemblies.

|  |
| --- |
| Written Assignment: Get contact information from 2 of your fellow GRs from districts different than your own.1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Set a time to connect at least twice between now and the Spring 2017 Assembly to discuss your group’s experience and practice of Group Business Meetings and Group Conscience. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Next time: For the Spring 2017 Assembly,** we will be looking at Group Inventory. Please read page 53 in your Service Manual on Group Inventory. Also please read the WSO Guideline ‘Taking a Group Inventory,’ G-8a and G-8b (free download from either the WSO or the Area websites). |

**Tonight 8:15-9:15 – GR Chat Room: Panel Discussion and the Ask It Basket.** You can write down any question you may have about your GR position, the Assembly, your group, the voting issues, or any other matter that comes up today. Our panel will address your question. See you then!

**GR Opening Session, Oct. 22, 2016**

**Commonalities of Wildly Successful Groups**

*This was first presented by Brook S., then the Alternate Delegate at an Area Assembly in 2012. Brook looked at the ‘Groups at Work’ section of the Service Manual and listed what that section suggested for groups to follow in their meetings. He then found 2 groups in his area that had started within the previous 2 years, had grown in membership and were retaining newcomers, that is, ‘successful groups.’ He found that these groups had the following practices in common. Later, he looked for the same kind of groups outside his original area and found the same pattern. After he presented his findings, he received feedback from GRs that took these practices back to their groups and implemented them. They found that their groups started growing. [All page numbers refer to Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work, 2014-2017, (P-24)]*

1. The Groups follow suggested meeting format (10-22).

2. They welcome Newcomers (9, 10-11, 21, 37, 41).

3. They mention Sponsorship as part of the readings (48-49).

4. They conduct Business Meetings and/or Group Conscience Meetings (51-53).

5. They located next to a successful AA meeting when they started (30).

6. They have MANY service positions (39, 46-48).

7. The meeting uses a discussion meeting format with a STRONG CAL focus – the topic is accompanied with a reading from CAL (43-45).

8. The Group conducts a Group Inventory Annually (45, 53).

9. The Group encourages Sponsorship (48-49).

10. The Group does public outreach (45, 50).

11. The Group conducts a Business Meeting every 4 to 6 weeks (51-53).

12. The Group handles announcements according to the Suggested Meeting Format (21).

13. The Group uses a bank account for its finances, receives a financial report at the business meetings and gives to the links of service (56-58, 58-59).

14. The Group has a supply of literature on hand – both books and pamphlets. They give away the group’s copy of *The Forum (61-62).*

15. The GR attends District Meetings and Assemblies (65-66).