

## The Role of a Central Service Representative

Congratulations! You have become or are showing interest in the Central Service Representative Service position of your group! This is a very rewarding opportunity to share in Alcoholics Anonymous' Third Legacy - Service.

### How it Works

The Central Service Rep (CSR) is elected by their group. ( Meetings by definition do not have group reps). The requirement is to attend monthly CS Committee Business Meetings. Currently ours is presented as a new Hybrid, where people attend once again face to face, and optionally on zoom the first Tuesday of every month.

This meeting is important, one that should not be missed. As your group rep, you represent the voice of your group. You may need to bring suggestions, comments, or opinions that your group may have.

The CSR or Alt-CSR of your group has been empowered by your group to cast votes on all matters requiring an informed group conscience at the CS Committee Business Meetings (CSCBM). Conversely, the CSCBM may need you to bring back to your group issues or motions that were brought up from other groups for group discussion and conscience. That's the strength of your group, and the importance of the Central Service Representative. 9th Tradition-AA, as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. That's you, you are part of the chain of events as a servant to help those that cannot help themselves. An amazing selfless responsibility. Welcome to Service.

Each individual group determines the qualifications and period of service for its Central Service Rep. Groups are Autonomous, meaning they self-govern. But normally, we follow the Central Service Guidelines. The Guidelines were written from experience. It is highly recommended that the CSR has 2 years sobriety, and the Alt-CSR has 1 year. Furthermore, they are very active in their homegroup service functions, chairing homegroup meetings, active in business meetings, held or holding homegroup positions etc. All this exposure gives us experience we may not ever have had before.

Position length is decided by your group conscience. But beware of extending your length. Its not healthy for group service. P-16 The Group, Page 28 explains the importance of the Spirit of Rotation. Please familiarize yourself. This is a great segway for the next topic.

Know AA Literature. Get a copy of the AA Service Manual. As the servant and spokesperson of your group, to better answer questions and make informed recommendations, most if not all content discussed will be in a pamphlet with anything else in the AA Service Manual as the guide to AA Traditions and Concepts. You don't need to memorize the pamphlets, but know

where the information is and being able to direct people who need help is not only rewarding, but effective service work. It is advised in the Service Manual to have a Service Sponsor. Chapter 1 Page 9 of the 2024-2026 Service Manual defines this role.

Another great and undervalued tool is the Newsletter. Know your newsletter. Know where to find it on [AAHalifax.org](http://AAHalifax.org). Be able to speak to it. Keep your group up-to-date. This encourages many to pursue things they know nothing about.

Signing up volunteers. Central Service of District 1 and 2 is not unique, we as other Districts have the privilege of representing the General Service Organization through support of 4 distinct Sub-Committees. Treatment, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, and Corrections. Each of these sub-committees are tied into the General Service Organization of New York, but require our group support through participation.

These Sub-Committees aforementioned have large responsibilities to help the still suffering alcoholic. That's where the CSR comes in, asking your group to become involved in the solution. Participating in rotative service duties. You may need to explain its importance, and how the group will grow spiritually by participating.

You may need to approach the shy ones, the ones who avoid, the doubtful ones. Conversely, be aware of the bleeding deacons, the ones that feel AA would fold without them. Sharing the Group's responsibilities takes tactical leadership through example. The Central Service Rep is a group leader. People observe your honesty, and positive energy. It's an attraction. But most times attraction requires information. That is where approaching people is valid.

Lastly, and importantly, ask questions. Everyone in AA, at one time in their life, knew nothing about AA. Everyone in Service, at one time in their recovery, knew nothing about Service. We pass on what was freely given to us. But, sometimes we need to ask what our purpose in Service is.

How to ultimately be the best version of you in Central Service, is to stay informed, know the AA literature, attend all business meetings understanding and using Roberts rules of Order, question everything that doesn't make sense, and pass on what you have learned. It's that easy.

This is a non-exhaustive topic, so, If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

Michael H.  
Central Service Co-Chair  
District 1 and 2  
May/2026