

The Role of an InterGroup Representative (IR)

Central Service Office 14 Sunnen Dr. Suite 144 Maplewood, MO 63143

314-647-3677

aastl.org

Dr. Bob's last talk took place at the 1st Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention on July 30, 1950 in Cleveland. Dr. Bob stated: "Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.' We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind."

Serving as an InterGroup Representative (IR) offers a rewarding opportunity to share in the Alcoholics Anonymous Third Legacy: *Service*. In the pamphlet "A.A.'s Legacy of Service," Bill W., explained that "... A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

The InterGroup office here in the Greater St. Louis Area is called the Central Service Office (CSO). A Central or Intergroup Office is the A.A. service office that involves collaboration between groups in a community. The CSO employs an Executive Secretary and an Office Staff, and the Central Service Board is elected by the IRs.

Each AA group elects an IR as a link in the chain connecting the individuals of the AA Group to those who maintain the operations of the local Central Service Office. Each individual Group determines the qualifications and period of service for its IR (and Alternate). Generally, the period of service is at least a 2-year commitment.

The IRs allow the CSO to better serve its members, which is the reason for the CSO's existence. Tradition 9 states that "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

The IRs attend the monthly Central Service Office business meeting, which is held on the third Tuesday of each month. The Executive Secretary and Central Service Board members also attend the business meeting. Each IR attending has one vote. Attendance at this business meeting is incredibly important because

every group registered with the CSO has a voice in the how the CSO functions. The IR (or Alternate) brings any questions, comments, or opinions the Home Group members may have to this monthly meeting. The IR casts the Group's vote on all matters requiring a group conscience.

Your role as an IR is vital, valuable, and consistent with being of maximum service to others in AA, as well as the entire AA community in the area. IRs can better serve the members of the Home Group and fellow IRs by attending as many meetings as possible. The IRs right to voice their opinion gives them the ability to make a difference.

Now that you have been elected by your Home Group to represent them as the IR, what can you do to become a better trusted servant for your Home Group and AA as a whole? Here are some things you can do:

- Pick up an IR packet at the CSO (14 Sunnen Drive, Suite 144, Maplewood, MO 63143; Monday–Friday 8:30 AM–5 PM 314-644-3677).
- Get a Service Sponsor. See pamphlet: “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship,” p. 25.
- Sign-up for the CSO Newsletter at aastl.org. Encourage members of your Home Group to sign-up for emails and to read the Newsletter. Report monthly birthdays to CSO for the Newsletter and periodically provide the office with news of the Home Group.
- Become familiar with the CSO website (aastl.org). The tab “For The IR” contains the documents needed for the IR meeting (e.g., the meeting agenda, meeting minutes, the treasurer's report, and any other document discussed during the IR meetings).
- Learn and understand the Traditions. An excellent place to start is the “Questions on the Traditions.” These can be found under the tab “For the IR” on the CSO website (aastl.org).
- Review and be familiar with the Service Manual (included in the IR packet).
- Attend IR meetings regularly. IR meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the CSO at 7:30 PM. Until further notice, IR meetings will be held on Zoom: ID 822-1669-6438 passcode 245445.
- Keep Home Group members informed: Arrange with your Group for a few minutes at each meeting or at a group conscience to keep members informed about what is happening within AA in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. If your Group has an email list, you can send a written report to all Group members.

- Know the By-Laws: The Central Service Office operates under a set of guidelines. Contact the CSO (alano@aastl.org) to have the By-Laws emailed.
- Know the AA literature to better serve the Home Group, to answer questions, and to make recommendations. Being familiar with the contents of most, if not all, of the pamphlets now available can be helpful to the Group members.
- Recruit volunteers for service work. Since the responsibility as an IR brings you face-to-face with AA's overall activities, you can recruit members of your group to "carry the message." Activities that we use to "pass it on" include:
 1. Making 12-Step Calls
 2. Signing up for the Speaker Bureau
 3. Serving on committees for CSO events, such as the Pot-Luck Dinner, Summer Picnic, Alano Banquet, Social Committee, and Holiday Open House. Each of these events requires planning and assistance.
- Help Keep AA Self-Supporting. As an IR you can encourage your group to be consistent in making 7th tradition contributions to the operation of the Central Service Office (aastl.org), the Eastern Area of Missouri (eamo.org), your Group's District (eamo.org), and the General Service Office (aa.org). Keep members aware that AA, on every level, is self-supporting through our own contributions.
- Contact the CSO with updates for your Group. Make sure the details of your Home Group's meetings, (days, times, locations) are accurate, and contact the office with the correct information if anything changes.
- Ask Questions: If you do not get answers to things your Group members want to know about, it is your right to ask questions and be heard. Problems in your Group, as they pertain to AA as a whole, are your concern also. You can help see that over-all policy (that is, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts) is adhered to in your Group. You can help solve problems, small or large.

Responsibility Statement

I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.