

HAMILTON SSP HISTORY

Written in the first person by Brian S.

August 23rd, 2014

I ask the Hamilton Area Service Committee if there is interest in the Service System Project. HASC Chair Adam K. appoints me as the Ad hoc chair for the SSP.

September 20th, 2014

I present a report to HASC. The report summarizes the main components of the SSP.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone. I have been appointed as the chair of an ad hoc committee to provide information about the Service System Project. I am going to assume that most people simply have no idea what I am talking about when I say "service system project". I hope that this synopsis will be sufficient to give you basic knowledge about it. Most of the SSP information in this report can be found on www.na.org.

The Service System Project grew out of a need to try to address some of the struggles that service bodies throughout NA have reported over the years—too few trusted servants, a poor atmosphere of recovery at service meetings, duplication of efforts, poor communication, and the list goes on. If you are involved in service, chances are you are familiar with many of the issues. Most of us have encountered them in our service experience.

Essentially, in this new Service System, our current Area Service Committee would be replaced by a Group Support Forum (GSF), a Local Service Conference (LSC) and a Local Service Board (LSB).

The group support forum is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. Here, newer members can get introductory or basic information about NA, including how the service system works. Group support forums can also be a place for literature distribution, workshops, and training sessions, and for finding members to serve on H&I panels, planning picnics, and other neighbourhood-based activities.

The local service conference is a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all of the GSRs and/or GSF delegates, along with trusted servants of the LSC and interested members. One of the meetings of the local service conference is an annual assembly where all interested members of the community gather to set

service priorities for the year ahead. This annual planning assembly ensures that the groups get to set the general direction of services. The other local service conferences are opportunities for communication, oversight, and careful selection of leaders.

The local service board would be similar to much of our current area service meeting. They are delegated the responsibility of making administrative decisions. The LSB is detail-oriented and does the day-to-day work to accomplish the goals and realize the vision directed by the local service conference. An easy way to envision this is that the local service conference consists of the architects, while the local service board consists of the builders and contractors.

In short, the Service System Proposals suggest a separation between these three types of concerns: 1. Group issues and needs are handled at the group support forum. 2. Strategic decisions and general oversight of local services are handled at the local service conference. 3. Day-to-day administration of local services is handled by the local service board.

Another big part of the new service system is what is known as "Consensus-Based Decision Making". This is where unanimity is the goal, rather than simply 50% + 1. All involved strive for consensus.

This service system has been field tested for eight months in nine diverse communities across the United States. I am currently in touch with Genina A., the Regional Delegate for the Ontario Region. She has informed me that the Manitoba Area has been implementing the new service system. Furthermore, NA World Services has been supporting communities that are transitioning or considering transitioning to a new service system.

Implementing a change like this seems like a daunting task, I'm sure. However, please remember that one of the core principles of the new SSP is "flexibility". NA communities are encouraged to do whatever suits their needs and to transition slowly rather than all at once. I would like to open discussion during the sharing portion of this meeting to see if there is interest in moving forward. Moving forward could simply mean myself providing more detailed information next month.

I hope that the preceding synopsis has served as an adequate introduction and overview of the service system project. I have printed off multiple copies of this report for anyone who wants to read it over. Also, like I mentioned, all SSP information is available in much further detail on the NA website.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

There is much interest shown in the Service System Project. Shannon L. likes the idea of Consensus-Based Decision Making. Michael M. is concerned that manpower would be an issue. Heather M. explains that the new SSP would actually help to address the manpower issue and get more people involved in service. There seems to be a lot of interest in the SSP at HASC. Overall, there are some questions about the SSP, but no objections. HASC Chair Adam K. proposes a meeting with a few interested members to discuss what the SSP would look like in the Hamilton Area. The members include: Adam K., myself Heather M., Leah W., and Shannon L.

October 6th, 2014

I meet with Adam K. (Area Chair) at Adam's house to discuss what the SSP would look like in the Hamilton Area. We discuss general purposes and functions of the GSF, LSC, and LSB, as well as who would go where, how transparency and accountability would be practiced, and other logistics.

October 10th, 2014

I meet with Shannon L. (GSR, Journey Begins) at a coffee shop to discuss the SSP. I describe the LSC, LSB, and GSF to Shannon. Shannon asks good questions and seems very interested in the SSP.

October 18th, 2014

I present my report at HASC, explaining the GSF. During the Sharing portion of HASC, I propose a tentative transition schedule for the SSP in the Hamilton Area. Beth O. and Phil R. show particular interest.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone,

I am pleased to announce that I have met with some NA members this past month to discuss what the Service System Project could potentially look like in the Hamilton Area. The members were Adam K. and Shannon L.

At this point, I think it would be best to start explaining more about the various elements of the Service System Project in chunks. This way, I won't overwhelm everyone with too much information all at once.

There are three elements of the Service System Project: the Local Service Conference, the Local Service Board, and the Group Support Forum. For this report, I will focus on explaining the Group Support Forum, or GSF.

The Group Support Forum is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. Here, newer members can get introductory or basic information about NA, including how the service system works. Group support forums can also be a place for literature distribution, workshops, and training sessions, and for finding members to serve on H&I panels, planning picnics, and other neighbourhood-based activities.

It is my opinion that testing a GSF would be a fairly simple and effective way to begin transitioning to a new service system. This way, we can start small and make any changes as needed. Also, it can be an opportunity to see if we even like the idea of a GSF at all. We could schedule a GSF meeting at 9AM on the third Saturday of any month. We could hold a meeting with a GSF format and then have our regular Area Service Committee meeting afterwards. There could be an opportunity during the HASC meeting to discuss the GSF, how it went, and what everyone liked and disliked about it.

Personally, the idea of a Group Support Forum is appealing to me because I know that reports and motions can be confusing to new GSRs. I also like how GSFs are group-focused, informal, contain less business and more caring and sharing the NA way.

I hope to explain more about the Local Service Conference next month. I also have with me several copies of a tentative transition schedule for testing elements of the SSP for this Area. There are copies available to take with you and I will bring it up in further detail during the Sharing portion today. If there are any objections to this process, I hope you will bring them up as well. I am trying to maintain a balance between giving adequate information about the Service System Project and not overwhelming everyone with too much information all at once. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

TENTATIVE SSP TRANSITION SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER:

Explain Group Support Forum

Discussion and Q&A

NOVEMBER:

Explain Local Service Conference

Discussion and Q&A

DECEMBER:

Explain Local Service Board

Explain Consensus-Based Decision Making

Discussion and Q&A

JANUARY:

Discussion and Q&A

VOTE: Motion to test a Group Support Forum

FEBRUARY:

IF MOTION IS PASSED:

HASC will begin with a GSF meeting followed by the regular HASC agenda (minus group reports/issues)

Discussion and Q&A about GSF will be held during HASC agenda

MARCH:

Discussion and Q&A

VOTE: Motion to plan financially and logistically for a Local Service Conference

APRIL:

IF MOTION IS PASSED:

Explain and distribute surveys to GSRs for input at their next business meetings

Report on LSC time, location and other details

Discussion and Q&A

MAY:

Hold Local Service Conference before regularly scheduled HASC meeting

Discussion and Q&A about LSC will be held during HASC agenda

NOTE: THIS ENTIRE SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND FLEXIBLE. THE HAMILTON AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE SHOULD ADAPT THE SCHEDULE OR THE ELEMENTS OF THE SSP TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF THEIR LOCAL NA COMMUNITY. THIS IS SIMPLY A GUIDE OFFERED TO INITIATE PLANNING AND TRANSITION TO AN SSP IN THE HAMILTON AREA.

October 19th, 2014

I attend the Ontario Regional Service Committee meeting with Dana M., Kevin D., and Pete M. I discuss the Service System Project with Jimmy O. (Manitoba

RCM) and Richard H. (Alternate Delegate). The Manitoba Area has been implementing the service system for over a year. Richard stresses the importance of newer members feeling welcomed to service and how the GSF would promote such a welcoming atmosphere.

October 29th, 2014

I receive an email from Jimmy O. (Manitoba RCM) with attached SSP resources and helpful information. I also get in touch with Anchor Area RCM Michelle H., who is looking for more information about implementing the SSP.

November 15th, 2014

I attend the Hamilton Area Service Committee meeting. I read my report.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone,

Just as a reminder, I am bringing new information about the Service System Project to HASC every month. My intention is to provide information slowly, as to not overwhelm everyone with all the information all at once.

There are three elements of the new Service System: the Local Service Conference, the Local Service Board, and the Group Support Forum. Last month I discussed the Group Support Forum or GSF. Just to re-cap, the GSF is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. For this report, I will focus on explaining the Local Service Conference, or LSC.

The LSC is a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all of the GSRs, along with trusted servants of the LSC and interested members. One of the meetings of the Local Service Conference is an annual planning assembly where all interested members of the community gather to set service priorities for the year ahead. This annual planning assembly ensures that the groups get to set the general direction of services. The other local service conferences are opportunities for communication, oversight, and careful selection of leaders.

Once a year, an Annual Assembly Planning Survey is distributed to all GSRs to bring to their home group business meetings. Here, the groups can discuss and record challenges or issues they have noticed regarding 5 topics. These topics include: member topics, group topics, external topics, local service topics, and regional and world service topics. This way, the groups can identify problems and can work together at the LSC to come up with collective solutions.

Again, the new service system is flexible and communities are encouraged to adapt what works for their community. Next month I will provide information about the Local Service Board and Consensus-Based Decision Making. I also have with me several draft copies of the Annual Assembly Planning Survey, the tentative SSP transition schedule, and an SSP Resources document. Anyone who is interested is welcome to take a copy of each. And finally, all SSP information is available online at www.na.org.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

That same day, I email the RCM from the Anchor Area, Michelle H. I inform her that there could potentially be a mock GSF in Hamilton on February 21st from 9am-10am, provided everything goes as planned in the SSP schedule. She is interested and says that she may attend.

November 24th, 2014

I email Genina A. (Regional Delegate) to inquire about LSCs and Regional meetings. A phone conversation ensues and I am delighted to have Genina's full support and encouragement. Genina emails Brian with helpful links attached, including a Group Support Session Profile and accompanying PowerPoint.

December 7th, 2014

Jimmy O. from the Manitoba Area emails me asking how everything with the SSP is going. I inform Jimmy that the Hamilton Area may be holding a mock GSF in February. I also ask Jimmy if his area has an LSB and how it is structured. Jimmy says that they do have an LSB. He explains further that they have "MASC" for Manitoba Area Service Committee (in place of LSC). It meets every second month. They also have "MASB" for Manitoba Area Service Board (in place of LSB) on the alternate months. GSFs are held during the months that the MASB meets. Jimmy says that it works very well.

December 20th, 2014

I attend the Hamilton Area Service Committee. I read my report.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone.

Just as a reminder, I am bringing new information about the Service System Project to HASC every month. My intention is to provide information slowly, as to not overwhelm everyone with all the information all at once.

There are three elements of the new Service System: the Local Service Conference, the Local Service Board, and the Group Support Forum. Last month I discussed the Local Service Conference or LSC. Just to re-cap, the LSC is a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all GSRs, trusted servants, and interested members. One of the meetings of the LSC is an Annual Planning Assembly, where all interested members of the community gather to set priorities for the year ahead. This way, the groups get to set the general direction of services. For this report, I will focus on explaining Consensus-Based Decision Making, as well as the Local Service Board, or LSB.

The LSB is delegated the responsibility of making administrative decisions. The LSB is detail-oriented and does the day-to-day work to accomplish the goals and realize the vision directed by the Local Service Conference. The frequency at which the LSB meets varies from area to area. Some LSBs meet every month, while others meet every other month. It may even be possible for the LSB to simply meet as needed, with most of the work being done at the Local Service Conference.

Consensus-Based Decision Making or CBDM is a method of making decisions that attempts to hear all voices and synthesize participants' views in order to come to a resolution or decision acceptable to the group as a whole. CBDM is an alternative to Robert's Rules of Order and is more in line with the spiritual principles of the NA program.

In strict consensus, everyone in the group agrees or gives their consent; a single dissenter can block a decision. For the purposes of most LSCs and GSFs, World Services is suggesting Consensus-Based Decision Making rather than strict consensus. Consensus-Based Decision Making does not require unanimity the way that strict consensus does. It might be more accurate to say in a CBDM body, we "aspire" to consensus.

Again, the SSP is flexible and the information I've provided is not set in stone. Next month I will provide a re-cap of the Service System. I will also put forward a motion to hold a mock Group Support Forum at the following HASC meeting. Lastly, all SSP information is available online at www.na.org.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

January 17th, 2015

I attend the Hamilton Area Service Committee. I read my report.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone.

Today, I would like to put forward a motion to start March's HASC meeting with a Group Support Forum. I would like to do this in March because I will be unable to attend HASC next month, as I will be out of the country.

Just to re-cap, the Group Support Forum or GSF is a place to discuss group problems and successes away from budgets and motions. It is the service equivalent of one addict helping another. Here, newer members can get introductory or basic information about NA, including how the Service System works. Group Support Forums can also be a place for literature distribution, workshops, and training sessions, and for finding members to serve on H&I panels, planning picnics, and other neighbourhood-based activities.

I would like to test the GSF for approximately 1 hour, starting at 9AM on March 21st. Then, we could discuss the GSF during the Sharing portion of March's Area meeting to see how everyone liked it.

Today, during the Sharing portion, I would like to use Consensus-Based Decision Making to decide on a topic for March's Group Support Forum. This means that no vote would be taken. We would simply discuss the topics and come to a conclusion while striving for consensus. Straw polls (non-binding votes) may be used throughout this process to gauge whether or not the body supports an idea. I figure this way we could kill two birds with one stone. We can select a topic for the GSF and at the same time try using Consensus-Based Decision Making to see if we like it or not.

These are the potential topics I was hoping to discuss during the Sharing portion today. These topics have been taken directly from World Services resources:

- 1. New group practices or format changes*
- 2. Members disrupting or dominating the meeting*
- 3. Many newcomers and few people with time or availability to sponsor*
- 4. Challenges with NA language or identification*
- 5. Is there such thing as "too much service"?*

6. Any other topic the committee wishes to discuss.

In addition to the GSF topic discussion, the GSF will also include time for group reports. I have GSF forms to distribute to GSRs so that you can fill them out with your group if you wish. Lastly, all SSP information is available online at www.na.org.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

During the Sharing portion of the meeting, I facilitate Consensus-Based Decision Making. I open the floor for members to share their opinions about the suggested topics in hopes of deciding on a topic for a trial GSF in March. The topics that show most interest are:

“Members disrupting or dominating the meeting”

“Many newcomers and few people with time or availability to sponsor”

“Challenges with NA language or identification”

Ultimately, the topic “Challenges with NA language or identification” is chosen for March’s GSF. Megan P. really wants the topic to be “Many newcomers and few people with time or availability to sponsor” but she is willing to step aside for the group. I suggest we could discuss that topic at a future GSF. Everyone seems to be in agreement on the decided topic.

A trial GSF is scheduled from 9 AM – 10 AM before HASC on Saturday, March 21st, 2015 at 120 Wentworth St. North. The GSR reports will be read during the GSF instead of during the usual GSR report section of the HASC meeting.

January 18th, 2015

I attend the ORSC meeting in Richmond Hill with Dana M. Dana M. includes information about the March GSF in her report and encourages any interested members to come out and observe. Yazz V., Michelle H. and Sandra W. express interest in attending the GSF.

February 21st, 2015

I am away in New Orleans during HASC, but I send my report to the secretary.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone.

I hope everyone is looking forward to our trial Group Support Forum next month! Once again, it will be at 9 AM on Saturday, March 21st. I know a few interested members from other areas will be attending to observe. See you then!

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

March 21st, 2015

I attend HASC and facilitate the first trial Group Support Forum from 9AM – 10AM. Dana M. is the “recorder” (secretary). Michelle H. from the Anchor Area attends the GSF to observe, along with her Area Chair, Gord. GSF starts with the Serenity Prayer and a reading of The Purpose of the GSF. Next is group reports and discussions, followed by a discussion on the topic “Problems with NA language and identification”. Following is the GSF handout that is provided to everyone in attendance:

MARCH 2015 GSF HANDOUT

The Purpose of the GSF

The GSF is intended to help groups better carry the message within their meetings by separating out the group support function from the “business” of providing NA services. The GSF gives groups the opportunity to share problems they may be encountering and to seek solutions from each other, to talk about what’s working well, and to have informal workshops on topics of their choice while avoiding the distraction of discussions about complex services provided outside the group. The GSF functions as a discussion-based gathering of the local NA community and may be an easier or less intimidating way for some members to get introduced to service. The GSF is intended to be like a community or neighborhood gathering, not another level of service.

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer and reading of The Purpose of the GSF
2. Introductions
3. Group Reports and Issue Discussion
4. Topic Discussion. This month’s topic: **Problems with NA language and**

identification

5. Thank you for participating! Transition to regular HASC meeting

Facilitator: Brian S. **Recorder:** Dana M.

Later, during the HASC meeting, I read my report.

REPORT (hand-written):

I think the GSF was a success! I look forward to hearing the comments in our sharing session. Thank you to everyone for participating! Next month I will bring group surveys to distribute to home groups if GSRs wish. This is for preparation for potential future SSP experimentation.

During the Sharing portion of the HASC meeting, the following comments were made:

- Jay H. liked the insight provided by the GSF.
- Kevin D. said that the GSF set the tone for the beginning of the HASC meeting.
- Groups are most important and the GSF reinforces that.
- GSF was pressed for time.
- A potential option is having different home groups host GSFs.
- There are questions about logistics; where and when? How long?
- Possibly have the GSF every other month?
- Anthony P. thought the GSF was amazing.
- Concern raised regarding two meetings per month: HASC and GSF. Too much?
- Perhaps have GSF at 9AM and HASC admin at 10AM?

April 18th, 2015

Hamilton Area Service Committee meets. I read my report.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone.

I want to start off by saying that I was thoroughly impressed with the GSF last month. I could feel the unity in the circle and I thought having GSRs share their experience, strength and hope with each other was very similar to a regular recovery meeting. I didn't hear one negative comment about the GSF and I hope to continue it. I will bring up the GSF again next month at HASC.

This month, I would like to focus on a different component of the Service System Project called the Local Service Conference.

Just as a reminder, the Local Service Conference, or LSC, is a quarterly, plan-driven meeting attended by all of the GSRs, along with trusted servants and interested members. One of the meetings of the Local Service Conference is an annual planning assembly where all interested members of the community gather to set service priorities for the year ahead. This annual planning assembly ensures that the groups get to set the general direction of services. The other local service conferences are opportunities for communication, oversight, and careful selection of leaders, which would pretty much be identical to HASC. The main difference is that the Local Service Conference would only meet 4 times per year, like our current Regional meeting does, and not every month, like HASC currently does.

Once a year, an Annual Assembly Planning Survey is distributed to all GSRs to bring to their home group business meetings. Here, the groups can discuss and record challenges or issues they have noticed regarding 5 topics. These topics include: member topics, group topics, external topics, local service topics, and regional and world service topics. This way, the groups can identify problems and directly tell HASC or the Local Service Conference what they need.

I would like to distribute these surveys to all GSRs and group delegates today. If you'd like, you can bring them to your home group business meeting and fill out the survey with your group. At next month's HASC I will collect the surveys at the beginning of the meeting and discuss the results in the Sharing portion.

After the survey results are brought to HASC, there are several things that could happen. A solution could be identified immediately, an ad hoc committee could be formed, a PR problem could be referred to the PR Chair, a group problem could be tabled for discussion at a GSF, and the list goes on. Again, the main focus for this new Service System is supporting the groups. For example, if the groups want the PR committee to do a project, then the priority for the PR committee should be trying to make that project a reality, not merely working on projects that the PR committee wants to do.

Please keep in mind that the Service System is flexible and all of these elements should be adapted to fit the local NA community. I look forward to reviewing the Planning Surveys and discussing another potential GSF next month.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

During the Sharing portion of HASC, I distribute the Annual Planning Survey to GSRs and group delegates.

May 16th, 2015

HASC meets and some groups hand in portions of the completed Planning Survey. Discussion is also held regarding a second GSF. It is decided that a GSF will be held during June's HASC meeting at 9AM, with the topic: Members disrupting or dominating the meeting.

June 20th, 2015

I attend HASC and facilitate the second trial Group Support Forum from 9AM – 10AM. Dana M. is the "recorder" (secretary). GSF starts with the Serenity Prayer and a reading of The Purpose of the GSF. Next are introductions, group reports and discussions, followed by a discussion on the topic "Members disrupting or dominating the meeting". I read my report later during the HASC meeting.

REPORT:

Good morning everyone. I hope interested members and home groups were able to utilize the Planning Survey that I distributed a few months ago. At my home group business meeting, we discussed the second section, Group Topics. I look forward to learning about other groups and their experience with these topics. I think our second GSF was a success. We had some good discussion and spirited opinions. I look forward to discussing it more during the sharing portion today. I am also hoping to eventually work the GSF into our P & P.

YILS,

Brian S.

The Sharing portion of HASC reveals that everyone enjoyed the GSF. Consensus dictates that GSFs shall be run bi-monthly. As for the Planning Survey, unfortunately no one submits any to Brian S. The Survey is posted on the Hamilton NA website.

July 19th, 2015

I attend the Regional Committee meeting in Sarnia with Dana M. and Sarah C. Dana mentions the success of our GSF in her RCM report. Other areas are invited to our next GSF in August. Another area's RCM approaches me and mentions that nothing about the GSF is on our Area's website. I contact our local Web

Servant (Al S.) and let him know. I draft a document detailing some basic information about the GSF and send it to Al to post on our website.

July 23rd, 2015

I draft two new documents with the hope of having them incorporated into HASC P&Ps. They include guidelines for a new HASC position called **Service System Coordinator** and an Appendix page called **Group Support Forums**. I send both documents to our previous P&P Chair (Al S.) for review and input. The documents are below.

1. HASCNA SERVICE SYSTEM COORDINATOR P&P JULY 2015

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Hamilton Area Service Committee's Service System Coordinator is to plan and facilitate Group Support Forums on a bi-monthly basis. The Coordinator shall also serve as a resource for information about the Service System Project. In addition, the Coordinator shall implement various other methods of the Service System (LSC, LSB, consensus-based decision-making) as the Area Service Committee sees fit.

VOTING

The Service System Coordinator shall have a vote at the monthly Hamilton Area Service Committee meeting.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Service System Coordinator:

- Facilitates a bi-monthly Group Support Forum, generally from 9AM-10AM before the regularly scheduled HASC meeting. (See document entitled "Group Support Forums" for more details)
- Facilitates GSFs in a way that promotes unity, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- Proposes potential topics for the GSF during the Sharing portion of HASC. The topics should be related to NA service, recovery meetings, training or workshop material, or any topic that the committee feels the need to discuss.
- Provides information and/or resources related to the Service System Project.
- Regularly updates Service System Coordinator Policies & Procedures to reflect changes.

-Selects a Recorder (Secretary) for GSF meetings.

-Experiments with and implements other elements of the Service System, such as the Local Service Conference (LSC), the Local Service Board (LSB), and Consensus-Based Decision-Making (CBDM). Any changes or practices not outlined in this document must be approved by HASC.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Service System Coordinator shall:

-Have a minimum of one (1) year clean

-Have a working knowledge of the Twelve Steps of NA, the Twelve Traditions of NA, and the Twelve Concepts for NA Service

-Hold no other ASC-elected position

-Be familiar with the Service System Project and the related NAWS resources

-Be able to lead/facilitate a meeting with respect and kindness, being firm only when necessary

2. GROUP SUPPORT FORUMS

BASIC PURPOSE

The Hamilton Area Service Committee's Group Support Forums serve the needs of all the NA groups within the Hamilton Area by conducting discussion-based meetings that promote their growth, unity and collective wisdom.

FUNCTION OF THE GSF

The GSF is a resource for members and groups in their efforts to fulfill their primary purpose by providing an open forum to share group challenges and successes, discuss recovery-based topics, and hold workshops.

MEETINGS

The Group Support Forum shall be held on every even-numbered month from 9AM-10AM at 120 Wentworth St. N. in Hamilton. The topic for the GSF shall be decided on using Consensus-Based Decision-Making during the previous month's HASC Sharing session. NOTE: the time, place, frequency and duration of the GSF is subject to change based on the conscience of the Hamilton Area Service

Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the GSF is informal. It generally consists of a Facilitator (Leader), a Recorder (Secretary), and GSRs or group delegates, as well as any other interested members.

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Reading of Purpose of the GSF
3. Introductions
4. Group reports and discussion
5. Topic discussion
6. Transition to regularly-scheduled HASC meeting

VOTING AND BUSINESS

The absence of voting and motions is what makes the GSF so special. With no talk of budgets or parliamentary procedure, members are free to share exclusively about group problems and successes. The GSF is often referred to as "the service equivalent of one addict helping another".

July 25th, 2015

Hamilton Area Service Committee meets. I read my report.

Good morning.

I am glad everyone enjoyed the Group Support Forum last month and I look forward to choosing a topic for next month's GSF.

I am also going to propose a deadline for the Annual Planning Assembly Survey. I would like to move forward with experimenting with other aspects of the Service System Project, and the best way to do that is to analyze the results from the surveys. I would like the deadline for submission to be October's Area meeting. If your home group is unable to fill out the survey in time, you can simply write down what you want to see the Area prioritize and submit that to

me. If your home group is unable or unwilling to submit any information, you can submit your own opinions as an individual NA member.

With the results of the surveys, and all other submissions, I hope to plan and hold a Local Service Conference. This is where all GSRs, HASC trusted servants, and interested members come together, discuss problems, and workshop solutions. The results of the workshops would set the direction for Area services.

I realize that there is a lot of information about the Service System that is unfamiliar, so I encourage you to ask questions if you don't understand.

Yours In Loving Service,

Brian S.

Topic is decided for next month's GSF: Maintaining an atmosphere of recovery. Sunday Morning Step Group hands me a completed Planning Survey.

August 27th, 2015

I attend an SSP Webinar. Other regions/areas participate and offer their experience.