

GLASS HOUSE GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS STEERING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE

The Steering Committee is to guide, in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the daily operations of the Glass House Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. The members of the Steering Committee are but trusted servants; they do not govern and are ultimately responsible to the Glass House Group Conscience.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee is comprised of eight (8) members, four (4) men and four (4) women who are elected for one year terms.

III. TERM

Terms are staggered. Two men and two women are elected at the December Group Conscience and serve from January 1 through December 31 of the next year. Two women and two men are elected in the June Group Conscience and serve from July 1 through June 30 of the next year. Individuals may not serve consecutive terms, and must be off for one year prior to being elected to a subsequent term.

IV. ELIGIBILITY/NOMINATION

- Glass House Group Conscience members with at least two (2) continuous years of sobriety are eligible to serve on the Steering Committee.
- Nominations and elections are conducted during the regularly scheduled December and June Group Conscience meetings.
- Any eligible member of the Glass House Group Conscience may nominate themselves or any other eligible member for the Steering Committee.
- A member must be present at the meeting to be nominated and elected.

V. ELECTION

- Steering committee members are elected by written vote. Nominees are asked to stand and all members present are given a ballot
- Two members of the Steering Committee tally the ballots. The four nominees acquiring the greatest number of votes are thereby elected.
- In the event that there are only four eligible nominees a show of hands for confirmation will suffice.

VI. VACANCIES

In the event that a duly elected Steering Committee Member must resigns from their position, the Steering Committee may appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications for membership.

VII. OFFICERS

The Steering Committee has two officers, a chairperson and a secretary. The chairperson is nominated and elected by the members of the Steering Committee at the January and July Steering Committee new member orientation meetings. In the event that the chairperson or secretary cannot complete their term, the committee must elect a replacement.

VIII. DUTIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

The duties of the chairperson include:

- Appointing the secretary,
- Determining the agenda for, and chairing all Steering Committee meetings
- Determining the agenda for, and chairing or appointing a chair for all Group Conscience meetings
- Insuring that sign-up sheets for Quarterly Chairpersons and Service Representative positions are posted in a timely fashion
- Insuring that all announcements for Steering Committee and Group Conscience meetings are posted at least two weeks prior to the meeting
- Calling any and all special Group Conscience meetings
- Reviewing and present all written and signed member comments to the Steering Committee
- Attending Glass House Corporation board meetings in a non-voting capacity
- Making sure that all Steering Committee members are aware of their duties and have read the Glass House Steering Committee Guidelines
- Informing all Steering Committee Members as to the process for turning in receipts for repairs or purchases less than \$750.00 with the treasurer

IX. DUTIES OF SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary include:

- Recording of the minutes of all Steering Committee meetings;
- Recording of the minutes of all Group Conscience meetings
- Posting the agenda for all regularly scheduled Group Conscience meetings one week prior to Group Conscience meetings
- Maintaining the minute books for both the Steering Committee and the Group Conscience
- Maintaining and updating Steering Committee notebook.

X. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- An orientation meeting is scheduled on the first Monday of the months of January and July. Outgoing and incoming members of the committee are to attend; outgoing members are to educate new members on their duties
- The Steering Committee meets quarterly the Monday preceding the third Thursday of the last month of each quarter
- The meeting usually begins at 7:35 pm but may begin earlier at the chairperson's discretion. Any member of the group may attend the Steering Committee meetings, but may be asked to leave before conducting a vote.
- A vote may be conducted without a meeting only if the vote is unanimous, submitted in writing, and recorded by the secretary.
- Secretary records minutes. Agenda items are to be submitted in writing from a committee member to the chairperson
- Six of the eight members must be present to transact business.

- Special meetings of the Steering Committee can be requested by any member of the Steering Committee and called by the Chairperson at such time as group business requires immediate attention.

**** Any member may attend the Steering Committee meetings, but may be asked to leave before conducting a vote.**

XI. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

There are six standing committees within the steering committee. Steering committee members serve as chairs of these committees. They are as follows:

1. Quarterly Chair Committee.
 - Maintain key inventory, dispense and retrieve keys as needed
 - Conduct Quarterly Chairs orientation meetings
 - Assist Quarterly Chairs in fulfilling their responsibilities
2. Engineering Chair
 - Monitor condition of facilities and equipment
 - Assists the board in supervising repairs
 - Assures that no work on the facility violates the lease or is done without approval of either the steering committee or the Group Conscience
 - Assist/Chair weekly cleanup
3. Events Chair
 - Coordinate Group Events Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Group Anniversary
 - Provide hospitality services for Area or District events
 - Provide service opportunities for all members for each event held at the facility
4. Publications Committee
 - Publish and distribute schedules, phone lists, election sign-up sheets, collection envelopes, and event flyers
 - Purchase materials and printing services, as needed
 - Insure web page content is up to date, and does not violate traditions
5. Literature Committee
 - Maintain inventory of AA approved literature, with prices marked and payment envelopes
 - Maintain inventory of Grapevine literature
 - Coordinate literature purchases with Central Office, monitor purchases
 - Special order items at members' request
6. Supplies Committee
 - Purchase kitchen, coffee, and cleaning supplies; periodically shop prices
 - Inventory supplies and keep them safe, but accessible
 - Put out appropriate amounts of coffee and paper products in kitchen and restrooms

***** For Further Clarification of Any of the Aforementioned Committees, Please Refer to Policies and Procedures**

XII. GSR & SERVICE POSITIONS ELECTIONS

GSR (General Service Representative)

- GSR is a link between Glass House Group and AA as a whole

- GSR and Alt/GSR have two year terms and require two years' continuous sobriety. Elections are held in September
- GSRs attend district meetings and make reports at Group Conscience meetings.
- Alternate GSR optimally becomes GSR at the end of their term
- If for any reason, the GSR cannot fulfill his or her duties, the alternate generally steps up and if necessary a special election is held to fill the position. As with other service positions, they are posted and announced at meetings
- GSR expenses are paid by the group

Service Positions

- Service positions are for a year term and require that the individual be a member of the Glass House and have one year of continuous sobriety
- The following District Committee service positions are available: Treatment Facilities, Corrections Facilities, Cooperation with Professional Community, Public Information, Special Needs, Grapevine and Central Office Representative
- The availability of the positions will be posted two weeks prior to the election and announcement placed in the meeting books. The election is held at the September Group Conscience meeting
- Service positions require that members attend district or scheduled meetings, as well as, making committee reports at regularly scheduled Group Consciences
- Information about these positions can be obtained by current or past service position holders or pamphlets which describe the various committees

XIII. INTERACTION WITH THE FORT WORTH GLASS HOUSE CORPORATION

The Fort Worth Glass House Corporation Board (the Board) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility, collection and accounting of funds, and the distribution of any excess monies. The corporation has the following responsibilities:

- Lease agreements with the church
- Maintaining insurance coverage in accordance with the lease
- Utilities, beverage, and maintenance contracts
- Collecting and depositing money in a timely fashion (at least twice monthly), paying rent, utilities, contractual debts and any expenditures that are approved by Group Conscience
- Major capital replacements, in accordance with the lease and with the approval of group conscience (e.g., Heating and A/C, furniture, appliances, roof, parking lot, plumbing, painting, any structural problems, lawn maintenance)
- Posting financials and expenditures on a monthly basis
- Board president and treasurer or their designees attends all steering committee meetings
- The treasurer or their designee will give a treasurer's report at each quarterly meeting

It is the responsibility of the steering committee to assure that there is clear communication with the board and that the two entities have a good working relationship under the authority of Group Conscience.

XIV. EMERGENCIES

The steering committee has the authority to address emergency situations. Emergencies such as broken windows, heating, air conditioning, electrical or plumbing problems that adversely affect the ability of the Glass House Group of Alcoholics Anonymous to fulfill its purpose.

XV. INTERACTION WITH AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP

The Glass House Al-Anon Family Group has always been an integral part of the Glass House AA since its inception. It has been suggested that the quality of the Glass House Group can be linked in part to our strong Al-Anon program. It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to maintain a strong, cooperative relationship between Glass House AA and the Al-Anon Family Group.

- The Glass House Al-Anon leases a room from Glass House AA.
- The Al-Anons share common areas with AAs.
- The Glass House Al-Anon Family Group interacts with the Steering Committee in the same way an AA member would.

XVI. EXPENDITURES

The steering committee is authorized to coordinate with the board for expenditures related to the daily operation of the Glass House Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. Major expenditures and expenses over \$750.00--with the exception of emergencies--must be approved by Group Conscience. Periodically a finance or ad hoc committee will be established for any of the following: create and review budgets, consider various improvements within or to the facility, establish expense parameters for various committees, and consider bids for maintenance services. The recommendations of the committee are contingent on Group Conscience approval.

XVII. MEMBER REQUESTS PROCEDURE GUIDELINES

Operating under the precepts of A.A.'s Third Concept of World Service, the Steering Committee carries out its defined duties according to the will of the Group Conscience but holds the "right of decision" regarding requests brought forth by the Glass House Group's members. The following guidelines will inform both the Glass House Group members and the Steering Committee regarding the submittal and consideration of members' requests.

Group Conscience members who have requests that they would like to have considered by the Group Conscience must submit their request in writing to a Steering Committee member at least two (2) days prior to the scheduled Steering Committee meeting. The Glass House member must sign all such requests. Unsigned requests will not be considered by the Steering Committee. All appropriately submitted requests will be discussed by the Steering Committee, put in the form of a motion, and brought to a vote, with the outcome of same recorded in the minutes with the original signed request. The Steering Committee may vote to:

1. Approve the request.
2. Table the request for further consideration at the next Steering Committee Meeting
3. Take no action. This may be done for many reasons. (Examples: Problem already resolved, conflicts with guidelines, conflicts with traditions, unable to reach consensus, etc)
4. Place the request on the agenda for consideration at the upcoming Group Conscience meeting.

All decisions by the Steering Committee are reported to the group at the upcoming Group Conscience meeting. In the event of a request that the Steering Committee has taken no action on, the Group Conscience has the right- by majority vote- to have the Steering Committee place the request on the agenda for consideration at the next Steering Committee meeting.

There are several areas of operation that must be brought to the Group Conscience for consideration and subsequent approval or rejection. These areas include:

1. Conduct elections for all Glass House Group trusted servants who are due to rotate out as specified in Steering Committee Guidelines.
2. Any change of either a) the time or b) the format of a current meeting.
3. The addition of new meeting. The Steering Committee can add a meeting on a temporary trial basis but Group Conscience approval is required to make a meeting permanent.
4. Dropping a meeting from the schedule.

As described in Concept III regarding “right of decision” the Steering Committee, within their defined responsibilities, has the right and responsibility to decide how to handle routine daily operations of the Glass House Group. However, in the case of matters of great importance or uncertainty they may also decide if and when to bring such matters to the Group Conscience for guidance and direction.

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