

FAQs

About Becoming an Appointed Committee Member to the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

What is the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board?

The Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc. (DA GSB) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York. The General Service Board is the chief service arm of the DA World Service Conference and is essentially custodial in its character.

What is an Appointed Committee Member?

Each committee of the General Service Board may choose to select one or more Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) to serve on the committee. These ACMs are recovering DA members who usually have needed experience or expertise in a particular field, such as computer technology, literature development, or public relations.

How are ACMs chosen?

Suggestions for candidates are sought from any GSB Trustee, GSR, ISR, Board Committee, Conference Committee (including the Convocation), GSR Group, Intergroup, DA group, or DA member. Resumes are reviewed by the GSB committee, placing emphasis on the candidate's DA recovery, special qualifications, service experience, and dedication to DA service. Eligible candidates are interviewed by the committee. ACMs need the approval of the full GSB in order to serve on a GSB committee and ACM contact information is forwarded to the GSB Nominations Committee to keep on file as possible future candidates for GSB Trustee.

What do ACMs do?

ACMs meet via teleconference call with the Trustee members of the committee on which they serve. As members of the committee, they are able to generate and vote on motions, make suggestions, and participate in all aspects of the work of the particular committee. ACMs are not members of the General Service Board and therefore do not participate in GSB conference calls. However, ACMs may be invited to meet with the GSB at one of the annual face-to-face business meetings.

How long do ACMs serve?

ACMs serve for a 3-year term, renewed on a yearly basis, for a maximum of one 3-year term.

What are the suggested qualifications to become an ACM?

The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous has found that the same attributes that denote effective Trustees are also those that contribute most towards being able to fulfill a General Service Board Appointed Committee Member commitment. It is suggested that an ACM nominee would:

1. Be a member of DA who regularly attends meetings, has a sponsor and is a sponsor, has and sits on pressure relief groups, and has at least three years of not incurring any new unsecured debt.
2. Be committed to working the Twelve Steps of DA.

3. Be committed to service as a principle of life; have a willingness and desire to grow through service with the knowledge that it will have its challenges, requires a definite commitment of time, and that world service takes priority over other service.
4. Be dedicated to and active in DA service, as demonstrated by successful completion of service commitments on an ongoing basis.
5. Have the ability to follow through with commitments and show willingness to complete the commitment in accordance with DA principles, DA Tools, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions.
6. Have a desire and the ability to perform leadership roles in the spirit of being a trusted servant rather than a ruler and have the ability to work independently while at the same time being part of a team.
7. Be dedicated and committed to the health of DA and have a desire to carry the message to the still suffering debtor.
8. Understand the difference between majority rule and group conscience and be willing to work within the group conscience.
9. Have a flexible attitude and the ability to work with other people even if the direction was not the first choice.
10. Have reliable and private access to a telephone, a computer, a printer, and email.
11. Have effective communication skills, including the ability to listen to others and speak honestly, the ability to write and deliver reports, the ability to follow-up on messages and engage in the group process with the members of the GSB committee, and the ability to use the telephone, email, and the Internet.
12. Have good time management and organizational skills.
13. Have the ability to travel once a year on GSB business when/if necessary (see policy below).
14. Have the willingness to use one's full name, address, telephone number, and email address in order to communicate effectively with the GSB and the General Service Office.

How do I nominate someone or myself for GSB ACM?

A nomination consists of three items:

1. **A Signed Letter of Intent:** This is a signed letter from the nominee stating his or her interest in serving on a particular GSB committee and that he or she meets the guidelines as described above. Please be sure to include all contact information, including full name, address, telephone number, and email address.
2. **A Service Resume:** A resume/biography of the nominee showing prior DA service, other Twelve Step service, and any qualifications or experience that may be helpful to the GSB committee.
3. **A Signed Letter of Recommendation:** A signed letter from the nominating person or group making the nomination and stating their knowledge of the nominee's DA recovery and experience in a service role or activity.

What form should the nomination package take?

The three items in the nomination package need to be both mailed and sent electronically (ideally be emailed as an attachment in Word, rtf, pdf, or jpeg formats) to:

GSB Nominations Committee
c/o the General Service Office
PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

office@debtorsanonymous.org

Who can nominate a candidate?

Any GSB Trustee, GSR, ISR, Board Committee, Conference Committee (including the Convocation), GSR Group, Intergroup, DA group, DA member, or collection thereof may nominate a recovering debtor for ACM service.

What is the deadline for submitting a nomination?

New ACMs may start at any time during the year, based on approval by the GSB committee and the entire Board, requiring no official ratification at the annual World Service Conference.

How will I be notified if my nomination has been approved?

The chairperson of the GSB committee will notify the candidate of the outcome of the committee review process by email or mailed letter to the address given by the candidate.

What happens if my nomination is not approved?

The GSB committee reviews each candidate's qualifications very carefully. The review process may include interviewing a candidate by telephone and/or email. In general, GSB committees look for candidates who have a history of strong DA recovery, consistent and effective DA service, a willingness to serve DA as a whole, and the ability to work well in the context of the spiritual group conscience process, as well as expertise in the committee's area. Sometimes, after reviewing a candidate's service history, the GSB committee may decline to approve a nomination. In some cases, a GSB committee may decide not to seek the assistance of ACM. Some areas of DA service handled by the General Service Board may not be suitable for the participation of ACMs, for example, areas where DA employees' or Trustees' personal information may be involved. Contact the GSB committee chairperson to determine if there are other ways to be of service to the committee.

What is the Travel Policy for ACMs?

Appointed Committee Members do not usually attend either the annual DA World Service Conference or the General Service Board's annual Face To Face (F2F) business meeting. However, the special talents and abilities of ACMs are sometimes helpful at these events. The GSB will reimburse for travel and related expenses to the WSC or F2F by ACMs provided the committee can produce compelling evidence to the full GSB that the benefit of having the ACM there in person is worth the cost of travel. Such requests will be voted on by the GSB on a case-by-case basis.

(Adopted 1995, revised November, 2008)