

GAL-AA

GaL-AA Fall Newsletter

Oct/Nov/Dec 2017

GaL-AA Seeking Candidates for 2018 Elections

It's that time of the year again—time for the GaL-AA spirit of rotation to inspire and excite your spirit of service for the LGBT+ AA community!

There are a few things we think you should know about service positions with GaL-AA. First, anyone can run for an executive committee position no matter where in the world you live. Second, we hold monthly business meetings electronically via [Skype](#). Third, as per the [GaL-AA bylaws](#), the executive committee shall have one (1) in-person, face-to-face meeting each year after the International AA Convention and then two (2) per year the year before and the year of the AA Convention. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each executive member to pay for any travel and other related expenses to and from the face-to-face meetings. If you need any further information please contact a member of the committee.

Available GaL-AA Executive Committee Positions:

- [Deputy Chair](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [Advisor II](#)

Election Timeline:

- **12 October - 25 November 2017:** Resume submissions accepted
- **30 November 2017:** Slate of candidates announced and ballots distributed via email.
- **30 November - 21 December 2017:** Online voting open
- **28 December 2017:** Results announced
- **01 January 2018:** New Officers assume responsibilities

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Join our mailing list to stay up-to-date on GaL-AA news and events.

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Statement of Inclusion

GaL-AA (Gays and Lesbians in AA) was established to serve and have the involvement of lesbians, gay men, and others in Alcoholics Anonymous, regardless of how they choose to identify themselves. In selecting the name, careful consideration was given to a variety of combinations. While the name only directly reflects gays and lesbians, we embrace all LGBT+ members of the AA fellowship.

Contact Us

GaL-AA
9450 SW Gemini Dr. #45287
Beaverton, OR 97008

Email us: support@gal-aa.org

Visit us on the web: gal-aa.org

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“It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.” - Alcoholics Anonymous, p.85

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Other Appointed Positions:

Do you want to be of service but the positions above don't seem the right fit for you? Don't worry, we have something for everyone! Also available are non-voting positions that are simply appointed by the board.

- Help with Newsletter
- Roundup Liaison(s)
- Help with our website (design, PHP/WordPress)

The Gal-AA Executive Committee looks forward to you joining our fellowship to help bring a message of experience, strength, and hope to our LGBT+ AA Community. For questions and submissions, please email elections@gal-aa.org.

For Your Reference:

- Click to [read the Gal-AA By-Laws](#) on Gal-AA.org
- Gal-AA Executive Committee Terms ending 31 December 2017
- Deputy Chair – Carol N.
- Secretary - Mark P.
- Advisor II – Eric W.
- Any Gal-AA member may run for the Executive Committee by sending a service resume
- Service resumes should outline an individual's work within the fellowship and any specific talents that will contribute to Gal-AA's mission
- Click to read [brief descriptions of responsibilities for each position](#), which are also provided for your convenience: (Continued on Page 3)

Sober & Out

In keeping with our mission to support LGBT+ in AA, we will supply the book Sober & Out (LGBT stories from the AA Grapevine) to Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) groups upon request to Jim A.:

jim@gal-aa.org

Contribute to Gal-AA

We heard your voice and have made available two alternate ways to send your contribution. You can go to the web or download the mobile apps for each Venmo or Square Cash:

Venmo: venmo.com/GaLAAContribution

Square Cash: [cash.me/\\$GaLAAContribution](https://cash.me/$GaLAAContribution)

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Featured AA Stories

(Audio Format)

Early in September we received an email from a fellow LGBT+ member of AA who wanted to share their story with us and the GaL-AA community. The email is as follows:

"Hello chair men and women,

I have finally reached a point in my sobriety and life where I would like to begin sharing my story as a chronic relapser who finally got sober after 15 years of being a member of AA. Today, I have just over 7 years sober with an amazing life due to AA and would like to share my story that the chronic relapser is able to get sober too.

I am submitting a link to my story from the 2016 San Antonio Round-up. I hope you find my story enjoyable with a clear message that sobriety is a miracle.

Thank you,

Benny"

Link: podomatic.com/podcasts/recoveryspeakers/episodes/2016-09-07T20_56_22-07_00

Thank you for the email, Benny, and we encourage others if your story has been captured via audio recording and posted online, please send us a short email and link to: Support@gal-aa.org.

Thanks,
GaL-AA Executive Committee

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Deputy Chairperson

- Preside over all meetings of the full Advisory Council, Executive Committee and General Membership in the event that the Chairperson is unable to do so.
- Replace Chairperson in all identified roles and responsibilities in the event that the Chairperson is unable to execute the position.
- In cooperation with the Chairperson, establish all agendas.
- Oversee all literature (in print and on website) to insure accuracy and consistency of message.
- Monitor all literature (written and on website) to ensure that it is within the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee.
- In cooperation with the Chairperson, facilitate an ongoing process of setting goals, monitoring progress, involving volunteers and identifying needs or changes.
- Serve as the primary liaison with AA-GSO, the AA Special Interest Groups, Box 459 and the LGBT+ international AA community. Maintain communication through letters of introduction, annual contacts and transmitting GaL-AA minutes, financial reports and informational materials.
- Maintain responsibility for the election process, solicitation of nominees, slate of candidates and balloting. Deputy Chairperson will appoint one member of the Executive Committee to serve with the Deputy Chairperson in this task. The member is to be someone who is not a candidate in the election cycle.

Secretary

- Prepare and distribute minutes for all GaL-AA Executive Committee meetings and General Membership meetings with attendance record. Document approval and/or corrections to minutes.
- In cooperation with Chairperson, prepare and distribute meeting agendas and corresponding materials prior to each meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Serve as custodian of corporate records including but not limited to by-laws, policies, rules of order, minutes, correspondence, committees, Manual of Policies and Practices, charter and archival materials.

- Receive and review all GaL-AA correspondence; respond and/or redirect as appropriate.
- Responsible for all GaL-AA Executive Committee correspondence.
- Maintain a listing of all members of the Executive Committee.
- Manage the post office box/corporate mailing address.
- Receive donations via mail; deposit, document and send acknowledgments.
- Maintain co-signatory authority on all bank accounts.
- Maintain compliance with non-profit incorporation, in cooperation with Treasurer.
- Maintain compliance with IRS status, in cooperation with Treasurer.

Advisor II

- Maintain the primary role for Public Information, carrying the purpose and services of GaL-AA to the community.
- Serve as primary liaison with conferences and roundups to cooperate in service to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- Establish and maintain a model of public information for use at events to include booth display, staffing guidelines, presentations, signage and a system to sign up individuals, groups and round ups, etc.
- Coordinate all representation of GaL-AA at roundups and other conferences to ensure that the format, materials and message are consistent with GaL-AA model.
- Participate with the Deputy Chairperson and Technical Liaison in the development of GaL-AA literature for use in public information events, routine AA conventions, LGBT+ settings and the website.
- Serve to orient new members of the Executive Committee who take office on January 1 in even numbered years.
- Develop policies and procedures for GaL-AA work with the public.
- Provide orientation to new members of the Executive Committee.

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Contributing to GaL-AA

7th Tradition: Self-Support and 12th Step Work

We received inquiries from members on our committee's use of funds. Like all groups in our fellowship, GaL-AA is self-supporting and relies on contributions from groups and individuals. In keeping with the 7th Tradition, we do not accept contributions from non-AA sources. Groups (regularly, some sporadically) send monies to GaL-AA from meeting collections. We also receive contributions from AA round-up committees, and individual AA members send contributions as a way of giving back to the fellowship - in short, GaL-AA's operating funds come from you.

What we do with contributions? We maintain an internet website, operate hospitality suites at AA's International Conventions, distribute literature, sponsor registrations for round-up attendees that lack resources, maintain databases of LGBT+ meetings and roundups, mass mail communications about and from GaL-AA to AA members, and pay fees to service providers necessary for our operations. None of our committee members are compensated with contributions (each donates his or her time freely). We do not use funds for travel expenses (other than hotel accommodations for limited in-person meetings annually), and we meet monthly online so we do not have normal rental expense. Although different from home groups', our expenses are necessary in performing 12-Step work. A summary of contributions from groups/sources is below. Is your group contributing or should it consider contributing? There is an AA world outside any home group that includes special purpose

groups (other groups similar to GaL-AA with individuals from distinct backgrounds: International Doctors in AA, International Lawyers in AA, "Birds of a Feather/airline pilots and aviation professionals in AA, etc.), the fellowship's General Service Office (GSO), regional intergroups, district and area committees. No matter what their composition, special purpose groups have the same primary purpose as any AA group: carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We are united in the first tradition with one another as it states our common welfare comes first with personal recovery depending upon unity. What a great tradition that binds us.

AA's GSO has suggested guidance on the 7th Tradition and financial matters groups should consider in adhering to the traditions and upholding the concepts for AA service. GSO's guidelines remind groups to consider distributing excess funds for 12-Step work. Naturally, the home group's expenses (rent, literature, coffee/snacks, other supplies) are paid before any distributions outside. The guidance recommends groups consider a plan of distribution (a matter for your group's own conscience) for funds in order to further carry out the 5th Tradition and 12th Step work. Many group treasurers are familiar with the percentage plan for sending monies to GSO, intergroup/central office, district and area. If your group doesn't already contribute to GaL-AA, ask your group members to consider us as another AA service entity that relies on your support to carry the message. We are grateful to the groups and individuals for their continuous support. See the website and newsletter for more information on ways to contribute. Those interested in GSO's guidance may find it in the AA pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix": aa.org/assets/en_US/f-3_selfsupport.pdf.

Newsletter Contributors

We need your help! Are you interested in contributing to the quarterly newsletter? Do you have any AA-related news from your area you would like to share with others around the GaL-AA community? Do you have ideas and suggestions in improving our communications with this rest of the community? Then, please let us know today!

We're looking for other LGBT+ editorial contributors from around the US or abroad that would be interested in helping us compile important news to share with the AA community.

For more information or if you have questions, please email:

Eric W.: eric@gal-aa.org

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June—August 2017 Contributions

Date	Contribution	Group
6/12/2017	38.20	Lambda Galveston Group, Galveston, TX
6/12/2017	34.20	Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition, Palm Springs, CA
6/14/2017	12.79	Friday Night Gay & Lesbian Step Study Group (Dale H.), Lansing, MI
6/17/2017	37.50	GALIS, Winchester
7/1/2017	150.00	G&L AA, Des Moines, IA
7/2/2017	91.27	Primary Purpose, Columbia, SC
7/3/2017	15.00	Lambda Group of AA, Dallas, TX
7/4/2017	45.00	LGBT Group of RI
7/7/2017	13.86	Naples, FL Free 2 Be
7/18/2017	10.00	Eric M., Eureka Springs, AR
7/24/2017	76.88	Brothers & Sisters in Sobriety, Columbus, OH
7/25/2017	45.00	Bell Book and Candle, Atlanta, GA
7/30/2017	50.00	Philip L.
8/4/2017	15.00	Lambda Group of AA, Dallas, TX
8/10/2017	33.39	Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition, Palm Springs, CA
8/12/2017	20.00	Live on Saturday Nite AA, Wethersfield, CT
8/15/2017	50.00	Efrain T, Group 0119684, Clearwater, FL
8/21/2017	20.00	That GAAY AA Group, Kettering, OH

GaL-AA Fundraisers

In addition to our regular contributions at the individual, group and area level, GaL-AA needs your help in support to raise additional funds for the International AA Convention. When the committee met in March, we decided to open the ideas up to our membership and community. We are asking you if you'd like to help contribute to GaL-AA by hosting an event of your choice, anywhere around the world, to help support us. Some example ideas include: hosting a party at your house, spaghetti din-

ner with speaker, drag bingo night, etc. The possibilities are endless!

Let us know your ideas and we'd love to share information about your event with the rest of the community. You can even write up an article and we'll feature it in a future newsletter or on our website.

You can email us at: Support@gal-aa.org

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Denise R.
deniser@gal-aa.org
Attleboro, MA
DOS: 10/24/1989

Deputy Chair

Carol N.
carol@gal-aa.org
Stoneham, MA
DOS: 2/9/1980

Secretary

Mark P.
markp@gal-aa.org
Beverly, MA
DOS: 4/21/2005

Treasurer

Pierre B.
pierre@gal-aa.org
Atlanta, GA
DOS: 1/4/1994

Advisor I

Jim A.
jim@gal-aa.org
Los Angeles, CA
DOS: 9/25/1982

Advisor II

Eric W.
eric@gal-aa.org
St. Louis, MO
DOS: 1/4/2005

Advisor III

Randall R.
randall@gal-aa.org
Dearborn, MI
DOS: 4/26/2002

Technical Liaison

Rob F.
robfg@gal-aa.org
Columbus, OH
DOS: 12/25/2008

The Steps...

Step 10: Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 10: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

...The Traditions

Upcoming Roundups around the US and Canada

If you see a roundup missing, please email eric@gal-aa.org with the information..

City	Roundup Name	Website	Start Date	End Date
South Carolina II	Carolambda	carolambda.com	10/6/2017	10/8/2017
Tacoma	Lakeshore Retreat	lakeshoreretreat.org	10/6/2017	10/8/2017
Toronto	Toronto Gratitude	torontogratitude.org	10/6/2017	10/8/2017
Phoenix	Renewal In the Desert	renewalinthedesert.org	10/13/2017	10/15/2017
Philadelphia	Philadelphia Freedom Roundup	philadelphiaroundup.org	10/14/2017	10/14/2017
Provincetown	Serenity by the Sea	provincetownroundup.org	10/18/2017	10/22/2017
Houston	Houston Roundup	houstonroundup.org	11/23/2017	11/26/2017
Rehoboth	Spirit by the Sea	rehobothroundup.org	2/16/2018	2/18/2018
SEMRO	Southeastern Massachusetts	semro.org	2/16/2018	2/19/2018
South Carolina I	Quest Roundup	questcarolinaroundup.org	2/23/2018	2/25/2018
Honolulu	Aloha Roundup	aloharoundup.com	2/23/2018	2/25/2018
Miami	Florida Roundup	floridaroundup.org	3/14/2018	3/18/2018
Detroit	Together We Can	twcdetroit.com	3/23/2018	3/25/2018
Atlanta	The Highlands Retreat by Hotlanta Roundup	thehighlandsretreat.com	5/4/2018	5/6/2018
Austin	Austin Roundup	austinroundup.com	7/20/2018	7/22/2018

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Visit us on the web at:

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On our website you can:

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And a whole lot more!