

Southdown Intergroup Aims and Structures 2022



Document Management

Version	Details of Amendment	Date approved at assembly
Version 2 (2022)	<p>The following updates have been applied since the 2018 version of this guide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to reflect online meetings, online assemblies and online voting • All references to Probation and Prisons have been replaced with Criminal Justice • TLO is responsible for appointing a 12 Step Coordinator • Nominations for roles at Intergroup should be in writing to the secretary by the home group GSR • Establishing a quorum and what that is • Clarification on who should receive 'private and confidential' lists • Online banking payments subject to same dual approval process as manual payments • Inclusion of additional responsibilities for convention convener • Clarification on voting including during online meetings 	16 February 2022

SOUTHDOWN INTERGROUP AIMS & STRUCTURE 2022

1. AIMS

The aims of Southdown Intergroup are:

- i. To improve communication (including electronic) and co-operation between neighboring Groups in the primary purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic
- ii. To provide a forum for the sharing of Group experience
- iii. To co-ordinate Group efforts in dealing with outside agencies and organisations, particularly in the fields of Public Information, Health, Criminal Justice, Telephone Service (who will appoint a 12 Step Co-ordinator) and Armed Services
- iv. To enable the conscience of Southdown area members at Group and Intergroup level to be known within the Fellowship as a whole

2. COMPOSITION

The Intergroup will comprise of physical and online Groups within the area covered by Southdown Intergroup together with any new Groups formed in that area in the future who choose to become members

3. SOUTHDOWN INTERGROUP ASSEMBLY

The aims of Southdown Intergroup will be implemented through a representative body known as Southdown Intergroup Assembly, and will be composed of the following:

- i. One elected representative (GSR) from each member Group (voting)
- ii. Three Steering Committee Members (voting)
- iii. Three Regional Representatives (RR) (non-voting)
- iv. Intergroup Liaison Officers (non-voting)
- v. A Conference Convenor or Alternate (non-voting)
- vi. Co-opted members (non-voting)

There is an expectation that any member in any service position is an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous and regularly attending meetings

4. GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) (voting)

Each member group is represented at Southdown Intergroup Assembly by one GSR:

- i. Who has 2 or 3 years continuous sobriety and preferably does not hold any other Group office
- ii. Whose term of office will be a minimum period of 2 years, at the same time not forgetting the principle of rotation, which we actively encourage.
- iii. Who will act as the link between Group and Intergroup by reporting the groups wishes to Intergroup and reporting all business matters from intergroup back to the Group they represent
- iv. Who will cease to act as GSR from the date of election to any other Intergroup office and will be replaced from that date by another GSR elected from the same Group
- v. Who will be expected to attend all Intergroup Assemblies, Conscience meeting & Conference Questions meetings
- vi. It would be of benefit if each Group elected an Alternate GSR to attend all meetings should the GSR be unable to attend.

5. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (RR) (non-voting)

Southdown Intergroup will be represented at SE Region by 3 Regional Representatives chosen from experienced GSR's past or present.

- i. Who will have at least 3 years continuous sobriety and not hold any other office position at Intergroup.
- ii. Who are selected from members with Group and Intergroup experience, but need not be serving GSR's and will serve for 3 consecutive years
- iii. Whose term of office will be staggered so as to ensure continuity
- iv. Who will be expected to attend all Intergroup and Regional Assemblies, to report back from Region and represent Intergroups wishes at Region

6. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (voting)

Southdown Intergroup will be represented by 3 Steering Committee Members chosen from experienced GSR's past or present. Conditions of service will be:

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years, and not hold any other office position at Intergroup.
- ii. Awareness that the Committee has a duty to Assembly to meet additionally to ensure the smooth running of Assembly. This means a minimum of usually 4 times a year
- iii. Experience as a GSR
- iv. A reasonable knowledge of the Fellowship, the AA Service Manual, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of World Service
- v. Willingness to serve on the Committee for a period of 3 years and such additional time as may be necessary if further commitments are forthcoming in the future, e.g.: election as Secretary, etc.

7. CONFERENCE CONVENOR (non-voting)

Southdown Intergroup Assembly will propose at the August Assembly a Candidate for Conference Delegate whose name will be forwarded to the South East Region Secretary to stand for election at Regional Assembly. Conditions of service will be:

- i. Five years continuous sobriety
- ii. Nominees should be AA members in the Southdown Intergroup area who have a good working knowledge of the Fellowship
- iii. Nominees should have had experience in service beyond the level of GSR
- iv. The term of service of the Delegate is 3 consecutive years, subject to ratification annually. The Delegate is expected to attend all South East Region Assemblies and Workshops, all Southdown Intergroup Assemblies and discuss Conference questions with GSR's before and after Conference and to travel to Group meetings and other Intergroup meetings if asked to do so

8. CO-OPTED MEMBERS (non- voting)

- i. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the membership of Committee the Committee may co-opt a member to fill the vacancy until the appointment can be ratified by Assembly or a permanent replacement is elected
- ii. The committee is empowered to set up such sub-committees from among their members, including co-opted members as may be necessary

9. INTERGROUP OFFICERS

9.1 ELECTION

Elections will be held at Intergroup Assembly to elect/confirm appointments to the following posts:

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A total of 4 trusted servants will be elected to cover the following posts: Chairman, vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee will present nominees for ratification by Assembly.

The posts of Secretary and Treasurer will be subject to approval by Assembly. Notwithstanding 3.5 above, all Committee Member roles will be subject to approval by Assembly.

9.3 STEERING COMMITTEE

A maximum of three trusted servants will be elected by Assembly to give greater flexibility to the Intergroup Committee.

9.4 LIASON OFFICERS

12 trusted servants will be elected to cover the fields of Public Information, Health, Criminal Justice, Telephones (who will appoint a 12 Step Co-ordinator), Armed Services, Archives, Share magazine, Employment, Newsletter (Interlink), Convention and Electronic communication.

9.5 QUALIFICATIONS AND SERVICE

Qualifications and service in the above posts are as follows:

- i. They should be elected from experienced AA members from Southdown Intergroup
- ii. Steering committee members will serve for three consecutive years from the date of the election
- iii. The Chairman and Vice- Chairman will not fill Liaison officer posts
- iv. All posts are accountable to the Intergroup Committee

- v. Officers will attend Regional Workshops

9.6 PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRUSTED SERVANTS

- i. The Secretary will announce vacancies at Assembly and ask GSR's to put forward nominations to be voted on at the next Assembly
- ii. The Secretary will circulate the vacancy and terms of reference for the post with the agenda for the next Assembly
- iii. Nominations for office at Intergroup should be put in writing, signifying support of their home Group, and be sent to the Intergroup secretary
- iv. Where there is only one candidate for the post, that nominee must be properly proposed, seconded and a vote taken for and against
- v. Only in exceptional circumstances will a vote be taken for a candidate who is not present at Assembly. The circumstances must be to the satisfaction of Assembly prior to a vote being taken
- vi. Voting at elections will be by show of hands for those who are eligible to vote, this will include electronic voting during online meetings. A quorum (see 10.1 (i) below) will have been established at the beginning of the meeting and the online votes may comprise the use of polls to determine the outcome.
- vii. Candidates will be asked to leave the room while voting takes place, or moved to a breakout room if the meeting is being held online.

10 GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10.1 CHAIRMAN (and Vice Chairman when Chairman is not available)

- i. Responsible for the convening and conducting of Assembly, establishing a quorum (the minimum number of people required for the assembly to conduct business) and approving the Agenda and Minutes. A quorum is established by firstly confirming the number of active groups with a GSR. This number is added to the number of Intergroup Committee members in post. At Assembly quorum is determined by ensuring that at least half of the GSR's (or their alternates) and the committee members at the time of the meeting are in attendance. Therefore if there were 50 GSR's in post at the time of the meeting and 6 Intergroup Committee members, quorum would be 28.
- ii. Co-ordination of Intergroup activities, trying to prevent confusion and misunderstanding in those affairs

- iii. Calling and presiding over Committee meetings
- iv. Responsibility for the smooth running of Intergroup
- v. Endorsing the Minutes as a true record of Assembly.

10.2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER – Voting

- i. Keeping the Chairman and Secretary informed of any events in the Intergroup area which are of concern or interest to the Intergroup, and particularly any subject which should be discussed at Assembly
- ii. Being prepared to assist GSRs in the two-way communication between Groups and Assembly
- iii. Co-opting non-voting members to serve for limited periods for specific tasks
- iv. Establishing such sub-committees as may be necessary
- v. Attendance at all Pre-assembly meetings or other Committee meetings
- vi. Standing in for temporary periods when Intergroup officers are indisposed or unavailable
- vii. Advising Intergroup officers about their responsibilities with reference to the AA Service Manual, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts

10.3 SECRETARY – Voting

- i. Responsible for preparing the Agenda & Minutes of Assembly with the Chairman
- ii. Dealing with all general correspondence for Intergroup and informing by announcement at Assembly all important AA matters
- iii. Keeping an up-to-date (STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL) list of names, addresses and Email addresses of all G.S.R's and Intergroup Officers, ensuring that they are passed only to the elected GSR's of the respective groups within Southdown Intergroup and the elected officers of Southdown Intergroup to receive them.
- iv. Maintaining up to date Where- to-find cards for the intergroup area, and producing them at Assembly. Maintaining an up to date record of online meetings and ensuring the Intergroup website is updated to reflect the online and physical meetings available.
- v. Keeping in touch with G.S.O, taking particular care to see that a copy of all Minutes, changes of Officers, etc. are sent without delay and ensuring that GSR details are up to date.

- vi. Keeping Region informed of matters relating to the Intergroup which are not covered by the Regional Representatives role

10.4 TREASURER – Voting

- i. Responsibility for ensuring that sufficient funds are retained to cover current requirements. A reserve of 3 months estimated expenditure will be held, the remainder being donated to G.S.O without delay
- ii. Money will be kept in a bank or building society account in the name of Southdown Intergroup. All payments will be made by cheque signed by 2 of the 3 authorising officers, who will normally be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Authorisation of payments made through online banking would be subject to the same authorisation process to protect the integrity of the groups funds.
- iii. Authorising the payment of such reasonable travelling expenses as may be incurred by members attending Intergroup Assemblies and Committee meetings
- iv. Accounts should be open to inspection and be presented at each Assembly together with an up to date cash book balance. The accounts are to be properly compiled and independently checked at the end of each calendar year. Accounts are to be presented at the November Assembly
- v. The account presented at the November Assembly, which shall be the Annual General Meeting, is to take the form of a statement of Receipts and Payments, supported by a list of Group contributions which are to be confirmed by Group Treasurers, and the appropriate banking documentation. This statement is to be produced immediately at the end of year and passed to the intergroup accounts examiners in sufficient time for them to approve it so the treasurer may then present it to Assembly

11 GENERAL FINANCE

The committee is empowered to authorise payment of reasonable travelling expenses incurred by members in the course of their service activities. Assembly will approve a budget limit.

Southdown Intergroup expenses, which include rent, travelling expenses, printing and postage will be met from monies received through Group donations and Assembly collections.

A clear distinction is to be drawn between 12th Step work, which is unpaid, and AA service.

Normally expenses will be paid without question. In cases of doubt, the matter should be raised

in advance with the appropriate Liaison Officer. LO's cannot approve expenses for people who carry out work on their behalf. All expenses above the budget should be pre-agreed.

At the November assembly, 2 GSR's will be appointed as Accounts Examiners for the coming year. Their task will be to examine and approve, on behalf of Assembly, the statement of Receipts and Expenditure and associated documentation.

12 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR LIAISON OFFICERS – non-voting

12.1 PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF LIASON OFFICERS

- i. A suitable candidate, proposed by their Group when a vacancy arises, will be nominated to Assembly by their home group GSR for election
- ii. Should Assembly not approve the nomination, a further candidate will be chosen.

12.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

12.2.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and a willingness to serve for a period of not more than 3 years
- ii. Some experience of P.I. work
- iii. Familiarity with the structure of AA and a working knowledge of the PI and CPC handbooks
- iv. Familiarity with Guideline 7

12.2.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup Assemblies and Liaison Officer Meetings (which the P.I Officer would usually set the agenda for, chair and type up the minutes)
- ii. Ensuring that the AA message and programme of recovery is conveyed to outside organisations to the best advantage and to respond to requests for information
- iii. Formation and maintenance of a P.I team, with members responsible for P.I. activities in their area
- iv. Ensuring that speakers are made available and maintaining a list of members who are able to carry out such tasks
- v. Ensuring that the Media are given accurate information
- vi. Reporting P.I .activities to assembly

- vii. Attending Regional workshops or having an Alternate in attendance, forwarding a report to the regional P.I. officer for Regional Assembly and maintaining close contact with the regional P.I.O
- viii. Managing Annual P.I. events and major meetings with professional bodies or people with a potential interest in AA.

12.3 HEALTH LIAISON OFFICER

12.3.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and willingness to serve for not more than 3 years
- ii. Some experience of PI work and of Hospital visiting
- iii. A working knowledge of the PI and CPC handbooks, the structure of AA and familiarity with Guideline 9

12.3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup assembly, Regional assembly and Liaison Officer Meetings
- ii. Establishing contact with all healthcare facilities in the intergroup area and developing initiatives with hospitals and the health community
- iii. Keeping up to date, via Region and GSO, of Department of Health, NHS and Conference policy regarding work in this field
- iv. Acting as a focal point for individual hospital Groups and visiting teams in the Intergroup, giving support where needed without undue interference.
- v. Familiarity with Guideline 9, ensuring that all members dealing with Hospitals and alcoholic patients are aware of its content
- vi. Reporting to Assembly and Regional assembly by forwarding reports and attending regional workshops or having an alternate in attendance and maintaining a close liaison with the Regional HLO

12.4 CRIMINAL JUSTICE LIAISON OFFICER

12.4.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 3 years and a willingness to serve for not more than 3 years
- ii. Some experience of PI work, but more important prison visiting experience
- iii. Familiarity with the structure of AA and a working knowledge of the Criminal Justice Code of Conduct

12.4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup and Regional Assemblies and Liaison Officer meetings
- ii. Establishing contact with all penal establishments in the Intergroup area and obtaining clearance for visitors/sponsors for meetings in these establishments
- iii. Keeping up to date, via Region and GSO, of Home Office and Conference policy with regard to subjects such as parole, the use of tapes, etc., in order to help sponsors with any problems that may arise
- iv. Familiarity with Guideline 11, ensuring that each visitor/sponsor has a copy of this and the code of conduct
- v. Reporting to Assembly, Regional Assembly and the regional PLO the current position in all establishments in the Intergroup, attending Regional workshops or sending an Alternate and maintain a close liaison with the regional PLO
- vi. To propose an AA representative on the Isle of Wight who will be responsible for prison service on the Island in support of the PLO

12.5 TELEPHONE LIAISON OFFICER

12.5.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and willingness to serve for not more than 3 years
- ii. Preferably experience of PI work
- iii. Familiarity with the structure of AA, a working knowledge of the PI and CPC handbooks and AA principles

12.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup and Regional Assemblies and Liaison officer Meetings
- ii. Responsibility for the smooth and efficient running of the telephone service in the Intergroup
- iii. Familiarity with Guideline 7
- iv. Forming a small team to administer Southdown's telephone service
- v. Maintaining an up to date roster of members who act as responders, each member having at least one year's continuous sobriety and attending regular meetings
- vi. Recruiting a Twelfth Step Co-ordinator and ensuring they maintain the up to date list of Twelfth Steppers, who are regularly reviewed by GSR's to ensure that they are still sober, that their details are correct and that they attend regular meetings
- vii. Ensuring that all necessary information is available to those manning the system i.e. Responder and Twelfth Stepper lists, Group Meeting lists, Intergroup, regional and GSO telephone numbers, AL-Anon numbers, etc
- viii. Ensuring that the system worked is the most cost effective, including monitoring of the monthly bills to confirm they are in line with the contract services carried out.
- ix. Reporting to Intergroup and Regional assemblies, attending Regional workshops or having an Alternate in attendance and maintaining contact with the Regional TLO and TLO's of neighbouring Intergroups.

12.6 ARMED SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER

12.6.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and a willingness to serve for not more than three years
- ii. Experience with PI work

12.6.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup Assemblies, Regional Workshops and Liaison Officer meetings
- ii. Responsibility for communication between Intergroup, the Regional Armed Services Officer and all armed Services
- iii. Familiarity with Guideline 21.

12.7 SHARE LIAISON OFFICER

12.7.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and a willingness to serve for not more than 3 years
- ii. Experience at Group, Intergroup and preferably at Regional level
- iii. A working knowledge of the principles and structure of the Fellowship

12.7.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup and Regional assemblies and Liaison Officer meetings and Regional workshops
- ii. Keeping in touch with Share contacts and reporting quarterly to the Regional Share Liaison Officer
- iii. Commissioning articles and letters from members; helping to increase circulation
- iv. Letting the Share team know the views and ideas of Southdown members.

12.8 ARCHIVES LIAISON OFFICER

12.8.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and willingness to serve for a non-rotational basis in accordance with the AA Service Handbook
- ii. Experience at Group, Intergroup and preferably Regional levels
- iii. A working knowledge of the structure and principles of AA

12.8.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup and Regional Assembly, workshops and Liaison Officer meetings
- ii. Ensuring continuity by establishing an Archive team and operating in accordance with Guideline 20
- iii. Maintaining a record of Group meetings, Intergroup assemblies and Liaison Officer activities for Archives
- iv. Keeping up to date by contact with the regional Archives Officer and with GSO Archives team.

12.9 EMPLOYMENT LIAISON OFFICER

12.9.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and willingness to serve for not more than 3 years
- ii. Preferably some experience of PI work and knowledge of industry and the work place
- iii. A working knowledge of the PI and CPC handbooks, the structure of AA and familiarity with Guidelines 7 and 8

12.9.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup and Regional Assemblies and workshops and Liaison Officer meeting, or having an Alternate in attendance
- ii. Keeping up to date via Region and GSO of any changes in the field of Employment Liaison
- iii. Reporting to Intergroup and Regional Assemblies and maintaining close contact with the Regional Employment Liaison Officer
- iv. Maintaining, with the help of a team of members regular contact with employment sources in Southdown area
- v. Ensuring, through GSR's and the PI team, that only members with reasonable sobriety and a knowledge of the Fellowship make direct contact with employment sources

12.10 INTERLINK EDITOR

12.10.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of at least 2 years, and a willingness to serve for three years
- ii. Experience in service at Group, Intergroup and ideally regional levels
- iii. A working knowledge of the structure and principles of the Fellowship

12.10.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup Assembly and Liaison Officer meetings
- ii. To be guided by the principles of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA, and within those principles to enjoy normal editorial freedom
- iii. To liaise closely with Southdown Intergroup committee

- iv. To publish Interlink quarterly and to make it available at each Assembly
- v. To propose an annual budget for consideration by assembly
- vi. To encourage members to provide articles etc. for inclusion
- vii. To send copies of Interlink to Archives, Region and GSO
- viii. To ensure that Intergroup Committee members have a copy prior to publication, normally 14 days before Assembly

12.11 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (WEBMASTER)

12.11.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years and a willingness to serve for 3 years
- ii. Experience at Group and Intergroup level of service
- iii. Familiarity with the structure of AA and a working knowledge of the PI handbooks
- iv. Computer and Internet literacy

12.11.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at Intergroup Assemblies and Liaison Officer meetings including the management and facilitation of online Intergroup Assemblies
- ii. Maintaining and updating Intergroup Website
- iii. Keeping up to date in matters relating to the Electronic Communications Sub Committee by attending Regional workshops and contact with the GSO Electronic Communications team
- iv. Communicating to the Electronic Communications team the views and ideas of Southdown members
- v. Publication of the Intergroup Where to find, PI Seminars, Conventions and other events on the Intergroup Website and ensuring their inclusion in National electronic media.

12.12 CONVENTION CONVENOR

Conventions are held as appropriate to their geographical location. Convenors, except in unusual circumstances will have served as Co-Convenor in the previous year. Co-Convenors are normally proposed by the incoming Convenor and are endorsed or otherwise at intergroup assembly.

12.12.1 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- i. An established period of sobriety of not less than 2 years
- ii. Experience in Service at Group and Intergroup level
- iii. Normally to have served as Co-convenor
- iv. A working knowledge of the structure and principles of AA

12.12.2 SYSTEM OF ELECTION

Normally by the endorsement of the previous year as Co-convenor. In other circumstances a suitable candidate will be co-opted by Committee and presented to Assembly for ratification. Should assembly not approve the nomination another candidate will be presented.

12.12.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Attendance at all intergroup assemblies
- ii. To select and book the venue
- iii. To propose a price of admission
- iv. To open or maintain an existing bank account for Convention monies only, and to appoint three signatories (the treasurer and two others-2 of 3 to sign cheques). To account properly for all financial transactions, to maintain a prudent reserve to support next year's Convention and to pass any surplus to Intergroup Treasurer.
- v. A copy of the accounts to be passed to Intergroup Treasurer to be presented to the first available Assembly after the convention.
- vi. To arrange the float and literature for the convention at least 2 weeks prior to the convention.
- vii. To propose to Assembly a co-convenor
- viii. To recruit a team of helpers
- ix. To organise a raffle and invite groups to donate a prize, or cash for a prize
- x. To arrange the sale of AA literature at the Convention

13 ASSEMBLIES & MEETINGS

- i. Southdown Intergroup will usually hold Assemblies in February, May, August and November, these will take the form of physical or online meetings
- ii. Voting at Assembly is limited to Intergroup Committee Members and G.S.R's. The Chairman will have only a casting vote. Postal votes will not be accepted. This does not preclude anyone present taking part in a discussion at the invitation of the Chairman. Regional Representatives and Liaison Officers may vote only if they are acting as an Alternate G.S.R for their Group for that particular Assembly. This should be made known at the time of voting
- iii. Intergroup and Steering committee will convene approx. 4 weeks prior to Assembly to finalise preparations/Agenda for that Assembly
- iv. Liaison Officers and Conference Delegate may call meetings in furtherance of their service
- v. Voting on routine issues should be by simple majority with the Chairman having a casting vote, this equally applies to voting by electronic means at online meetings. For issues which could affect the way Assembly operates a two-thirds majority is required, i.e. if quorum for the meeting was 33, a 2/3 majority would be 22.
- vi. There will be no proxy voting, i.e. no more than one vote per person. No votes in writing will be accepted from absent G.S.R's. For the purpose of counting, abstentions will have no standing.