

Summer 2023

AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Conference Recommendations 2023

12 Traditions Checklist

“4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.



1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behaviour when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths – their lengths, not mine – to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?"

From the 'Twelve Traditions Checklist'

AA Service News

Welcome to the Summer Edition of AA Service News

We are really pleased to announce that **AA Service News is now available in print.** Please find space for it on your AA literature table, and please hand out copies to group members and newcomers. An up-to-date Calendar of Events is available on the AAGB website.

Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions on your service experience in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, and help us to help you!

AA Service News is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, April, July and October. The General Service Conference report is published each year in the summer issue and Questions and Topics for the following year's Conference in the winter edition.

Please send your service-related articles to:
editor.aasn@aamail.org

We look forward to hearing from you!



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AA Service News

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What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

This quarters pictures credits:

- Lesley B
- John B
- Tim B
- Glenn B

Thank you for your contributions

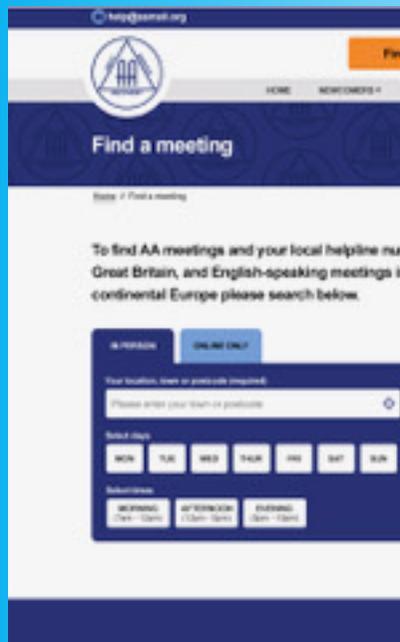
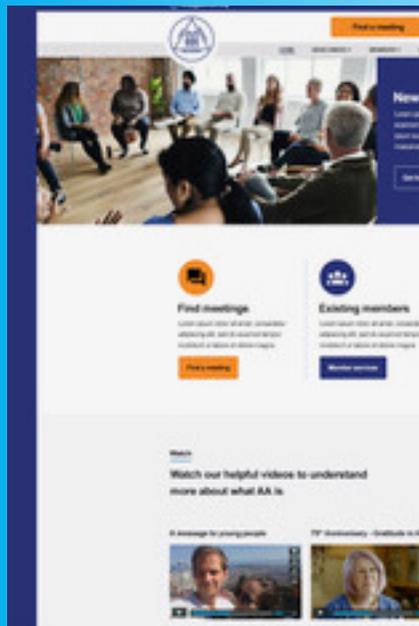
Tech Talk 3 AAGB Website Update

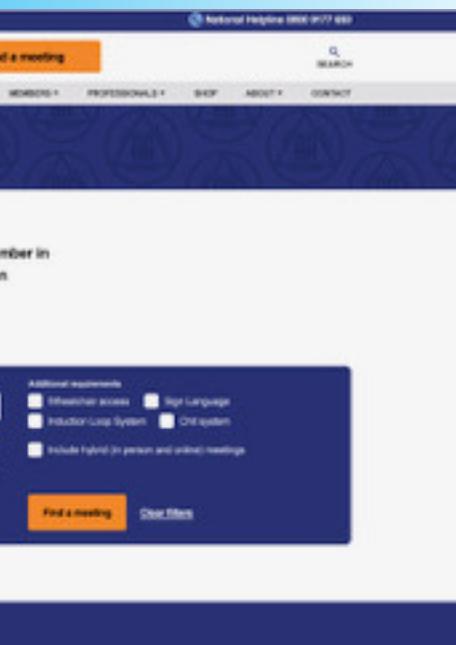
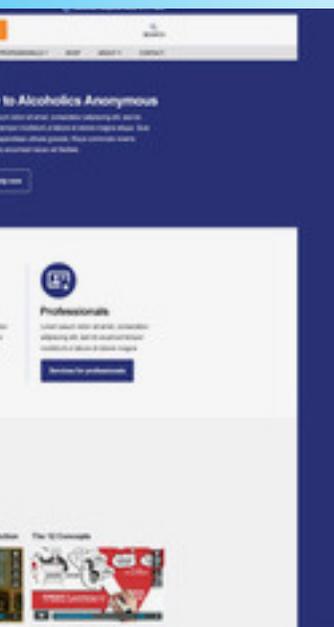
Work on the new website has completed the first design phase and the design features have been presented to Conference 2023. It was heartening to receive lots of positive comments and feedback following the presentation and thanks go out to the staff at GSO, the PI & EComms sub-committee members and Castlegate IT for their hard work in this first phase of constructing the new website.

Over the next few weeks, work will begin on the development and coding required to build the website structure and functionality. The AA Fellowship side of the Team will step up work reviewing and managing content on the existing site. Our aim is to identify current and relevant content in preparation for transferring this material to the new site. Out of date and superseded information will be prepared for archiving elsewhere.

Please see left for a couple of screen-grabs to give you an idea of the design features and how the new web-pages will look.

Tim B Tom F PI & EComms Trustees





Know your NATS!

Three new Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NATs) have joined the General Service Board (GSB) this spring - Ranjana Bell, Emma Gipson, and Henry Lowe. We've asked them to introduce themselves with a brief paragraph each - the who, why, and what of their wish to support the Fellowship.

Ranjana

'I am passionate about people's human rights and find it difficult to understand why others are so judgemental. I have spent over 45 years challenging, supporting and fighting for justice for anyone who needs my help and to be supported. I became Chair of the Road to Recovery Trust, Newcastle by default as I am a non-alcoholic. I am equally passionate about the rights of people in recovery from addictions, and will not be silenced when challenging the stigma and any lack of understanding. I will do my best as a Trustee for AA Great Britain.'



Emma

'I currently reside in Southampton with my husband and two children. I specialise in risk, governance and internal control for not-for-profit organisations. In my spare time, I enjoy getting out and about with the family, cooking and travelling. After being inspired by the BBC documentary, I wanted to join as a NAT, as AA is something that is very important to my family, and I feel the skills I have can be of a benefit to the organisation. Whilst I am working as a NAT, I will endeavour to do whatever I can to see AA grow even stronger in the UK and the Continental Europe Region, and help individuals and families as it has mine.'



Henry

'My name's Henry, I'm 24 and strongly believe in the importance of giving-back. That's why I pursued a career as a public servant and chose to become the youngest NAT in AAGB's history. During my tenure, I hope to carry AA's message to the alcoholic who still suffers, particularly to those who are currently underrepresented in the Fellowship. I also hope to enhance public understanding of alcoholism and the 12 Step Programme, by addressing the stigma that often surrounds alcoholism and AA, encouraging those in need to engage with the Fellowship.'



Why NATS?

NATs are appointed to bring an outside perspective and balance to the work the GSB undertakes on behalf of the Fellowship. Non-alcoholic friends have been with AA since it began in the 1930s. There are ideally five NATs on the Board bringing their commitment, skills, energy and enthusiasm to the role. They have come from many different professional backgrounds, including medicine, social work, the prison service, psychiatry, law, media, accountancy, academia and industry.

Our NATs helps us better understand ourselves and explain to the world how much our Fellowship has to offer. They facilitate the fellowship's friendship with those who would be our friends, opening myriad doors and minds without compromising anonymity.

Health News Update...

'My name is Barbara and I'm an alcoholic'. I say these words quite often in meetings and in my role as Trustee. In fact, I've been saying them through many service positions in my recovery.

Service has, for me, played a huge part in my sobriety and I always try to encourage people to get involved at any level to help 'keep them in the middle of the boat'.

Currently, I have the privilege of serving as Trustee with the Health Sub Committee (HSC). The HSC is, at present, a small but willing number carrying the message of AA to different health and social care professional organisations. In addition to this, the HSC provides support for Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison officers in numerous ways.

Our current work is focusing on producing a doctors' pack. Liaison officers will be able to use it to positively introduce AA and its benefits to any GP practice in providing support to anyone suffering from alcoholism.

This idea was formulated because AA has contributed to the latest National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standards guidance on alcohol use disorders, thanks to Dr Kieran Moriarty, our Non-Alcoholic Trustee (NAT). The inclusion of AA and 12 step programmes in these standards will carry an enormous amount of weight in engaging health and social care practitioners with the Fellowship.

Kieran, who was a Consultant Physician specialising in caring for people with alcohol and liver problems, has also written a very moving article for the Spring edition of the AA Service News. This is entitled 'Why I became a Non-Alcoholic Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous.'

The HSC has also re-written Chapter 6 of the Service Handbook, 'AA and Healthcare in the Community'. This was presented to and accepted by Conference this year. It provides very clear guidance for AA members in cooperating with hospitals, GPs and a wide variety of other healthcare agencies caring for people with alcohol problems.

We have also produced a pamphlet, for internal use only, on the role of the Health Liaison Officer (HLO) and HSC.

With the pandemic limiting access to health care facilities, we have noticed that the role of HLO seems to have suffered, in that many of the opportunities in hospitals and doctors' surgeries have been lost.

There are still many examples of opportunities being met, however, throughout our regions by both Intergroup and Regional Health Liaison officers (I/RHLOs). At our annual RELOs meeting we are able to share our experiences, good and bad, and support each other. There are many opportunities for service in the health discipline at all levels, and we would love to increase the number on the sub-committee. The roles and requirements and terms of reference for the health sub-committee can be found on the website.

Requirements for other levels of service are to be found in the Service Handbook. If you feel that this might be the service for you, please do get involved.

'Service keeps us sober'.

Barbara O
Midlands Region Trustee

Dear Fellowship

Thanks to all of you, group members, greeters, committee chairs, group service representatives (GSRs), intergroupers and regionalists for an excellent 57th General Service Conference 2023, on our shared enterprise of recovery from alcoholism - one day at a time.

From faithfulness to the facts of our recovery, we dig into our disagreements and dynamic tensions to sprout new ideas which the sunshine of our trustees, flower. In such spirit, the Board and Conference were delighted to welcome 3 new Non-Alcoholic Trustees:

- Emma Gipson is an Auditor with extensive corporate and charity experience, will inform our Governance practices and presentations on the Finance Committee and AA Service News
- Ranjana Bell MBE has a wealth of not-for-profit legal and regulatory experience on issues of accessibility and equality and will aid our Race Working Group and Nominations Committee
- Henry Lowe, 24, is a fast stream civil servant, with a fresh eye and intellect to critically and constructively innovate as we welcome the changes of the coming age on our Employment and Young Person's Sub-Committees.

Our New NATs represent Accountability, Diversity and Adaptability or Honesty, Openness and Willingness, each enabling and enabled by our safeguarding guidance and policy, which following Questions for Conference 2019, has moved from topic to structure. Incumbent from our first tradition is that Groups be a safe space: our responsibility that the hand of AA be a hand of fellowship; a

“how you doing?” that welcomes the newcomer, keeping the spirit of the alcoholic and group alive.

Now, following Conference 2022, many intergroups now have Safeguarding Officers and through their dedication, many groups have reified safeguarding practise. Where previously actions or atmospheres were ignored, swept under the carpet or dealt with by a summary justice, empowered and educated Group Consciences have created cultures more conducive to their just resolution and individual recovery.

How we work together in making manifest our collective consciences can be further explored at one of the 3 Service Forums the GSB is attending this year, in Midland, South-East and East of Scotland regions. GSO staff will be presenting on the ‘how it, and ‘who does what’ work, and trustees will present on specific areas of service. We hope it will illuminate the work of the GSB and inspire the next generation of trusted servants. So, come along and explore what service is and what it can do for you and does for your fellowship.

See you all soon and have the best of all possible 24 hours, one day at a time.

Love Ranjan



Schools Out ...

Schools Service

I first heard about service in schools, almost by chance, when attending an AA meeting, one at which the Public Information representative was 'reporting back' on progress in Secondary schools. That was over 10 years ago, and our dedicated team of volunteers is still going strong. So, what do we do?

The groundwork was laid by my predecessors who had contacted schools in our region to offer information sessions on AA. They gave first-hand accounts of people's experiences with alcohol, and their recovery. In secondary education in the northeast of Scotland, the subject of substance abuse, comes under the curriculum heading of Social Education. We liaise with staff members who have a specific remit to deliver that subject to their year groups. The session length is decided by the school period and is on average fifty minutes long. The school staff choose the year group we see, and class size is on average thirty. Pupils are aged fifteen and older and generally VERY interested and attentive (even the very small number of disruptive ones).

We begin our sessions with a few introductory words about AA, and then show the DVD entitled 'Who Me' which lasts sixteen minutes; it can be viewed on the AA website and ordered in disc or pen-drive form from the literature section at GSO. It costs a small fee, but leaflets and posters come free of charge. The film follows four young people, how they found themselves addicted, and how they got their lives back with the help of AA meetings and the programme.

We then have two short shares, hopefully by a man and a woman, who tell of their journeys and recovery. This is followed by a question-and-answer opportunity and, yes, we squeeze it all into a relatively short time! Some volunteers are retired, and some use their time off work to be part of this service. Travel costs are funded by Intergroup.

We currently have around twenty volunteers and, over the Autumn and Spring terms, we visit about sixteen schools in Aberdeen city and Shire. We are made extremely welcome by staff, who understand the importance of this subject and the problems caused by addictive substances for vulnerable pupils, and sometimes family members. One can hear a pin drop during the sessions.

In Edinburgh and Midlothian following lockdown, we carried out an email campaign around schools in our Intergroup area. Following this, we had a busy first quarter of 2023, visiting six schools and giving 11 talks to nearly a thousand senior school pupils. We also have four more talks coming up, booked in for the months April to June.

As part of our presentation, we distributed the free 'Message to Young People' leaflet and had a chat about the questions before sharing some of our lived experience, our journey to AA, and the help it has given. We also used the link to the Young People's video, which has been well-received. We have also used 'Beer Goggles', which, when worn, simulate a consumption of around six glasses of wine and demonstrate how a person's senses can be impaired. They cost around £89, but as an activity they really help in engaging with pupils.

If you wish to know more, or would like to share your own experiences, we would be pleased to hear from you.

**Elaine K.,
School Talks Coordinator**

**Dougie
Interim Public Information Liaison - AA Edinburgh & Midlothian**

**Can you email?
Perhaps you could help
a newcomer to AA?**



*"Modem to modem or
face-to-face,
AAs speak
the language of
the heart in all its
power and simplicity"*

For full job description
and application form
please e-mail
ecomm6.sc@aamail.org



Do you have...?

- ... 2 years continuous sobriety?
- ... a good knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions?
- ... access to a laptop or a desktop computer

Perspective from a regional secretary

I've always been reluctant to talk/write about my service within AA for fear of people thinking I'm 'blowing my own trumpet'. This despite being told that 'I'm doing other people's thinking' and also probably more importantly is that, if we do not talk about service, then no-one gets to hear about it. So, at the prompting of the regional secretaries group I am going to talk about some of the service I've been involved in.

Early in 2019 and between AGM's, I took on the role of secretary of Scotia Region. This was after completing 3 years as an intergroup secretary. Part of the role of a regional secretary is to attend the Regional Secretaries meeting in York once a year. When I attended in 2019, there was a lot of discussion, great fellowship, a lot of talk about the differences between each region as well as the similarities and that was that. Although I thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with everyone, there were no plans for the forthcoming year and perhaps that was a blessing as Covid-19 descended.

2022 and I was back at York for said meeting. What a difference. The energy within that meeting was electrifying. Not all regions were represented, which is sad, however, those in the room were full of energy, enthusiasm and eager for change. Not only were new strategies discussed but plans were put in place to move things forward. Driven by our Chair for that year, Jeremy (East of Scotland Region), we talked about developing a handbook for regional secretaries. This would contain all the tasks expected of a regional secretary, guidelines on how to carry out these tasks and supporting information. Of course,

we quickly realised, with the work involved, if we were to wait another year to discuss this further, nothing would be achieved!

Everyone attending that weekend agreed to put time aside to meet online approximately every six weeks to push this forward. So, no longer were we a group that met only once a year to chat, enjoy each other's company, ponder on what other regions do and don't do – we were a group of action! And, that is exactly what has happened. We've met online regularly; the draft handbook is nearing completion and will hopefully be endorsed at the year's regional secretaries meeting.

I've often heard it said that AA is a slow, rumbling machine where everything takes forever to happen/change. It doesn't necessarily have to be like that. A positive from Covid-19 is that we have learned how effective, accommodating and inexpensive using the online meeting facilities can be. Meeting in person, in York, is wonderful as first and foremost we're all about people and recovery and meeting, hugging, chatting contributing to that unity. In between each annual meeting, however, our online meetings have driven continuity and support and achieved something that would never have been completed, possibly in a lifetime, by only meeting once a year.

It's now time for me to rotate out as secretary at Scotia Region and I only hope that at this year's meeting, the decision is taken to continue online between York meetings, to keep the avenues for continuous improvement and development open. These would also be

a great way for new secretaries to become involved very quickly. They would be a way for the new secretary to access support from people already doing the job. Secretaries would no longer feel alone!

Yes, meeting up in York annually is great for so many reasons but the benefits don't have to stop there. Hopefully, future regional secretaries agree and continue as we have been doing this year. Perhaps other people in service, meeting annually at York, may consider this! We're encouraged to embrace change, is this not a great way to do it? I'll also use this platform to encourage all regional secretaries who, for whatever reason, did not attend the

regional secretaries meeting(s), to get on board, have a say, let your region's voice be heard and in return gain amazing support from those already walking the walk! Borrowing Ranjan's words from the Spring edition of this publication 'come along and find out; how we do, what we do and how we can do it better in the future.'

Love in Fellowship – Caroline G (Scotia Region)

Looking for new AA service?

Chat Now

is looking for new members



"Modem-to-modem or face-to-face, AAs speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity"



For full job description and application form please e-mail chatadmin@aamail.org

Do you have ...?

- ... 2 years continuous sobriety?
- ... a good knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions?
- ... access to a laptop or desktop computer

Please don't forget to send your service articles and pictures to the editor.aasn@aamail.org

Conference 2023 Committee Recommendations

Committee No. 1

- 1. In the interests of transparency and consistency, could Conference discuss how open GSB expenditure and investment accounts are, and whether they are presented in a way that is useful and easy to understand for the wider Fellowship, thus giving members an insight of how funds are spent?**

This committee recognises the need for transparency and consistency in the financial reporting from the Board whilst acknowledging their legal responsibilities as trustees of the charity. For example, in both the annual and quarterly accounts.

This committee recommends:

1. Using a consistent and plain English format for quarterly reports and suggest these are distributed widely through regional treasurers to the wider fellowship.
2. Where possible use simple and easy to understand graphics.
3. More commentary and itemised detail on primary purpose work and other spending be provided on the web site to aid understanding of quarterly accounts.

The vote was unanimous.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

- 2. Would Conference discuss and make suggestions as to how the Question for Conference selection and process could be made more open and democratic?**

This Committee recognises the good work done in the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) and the difficulty of the task. Feedback from the fellowship showed whilst some are satisfied with the current process, others felt improvements could be made to make the process more open and democratic. Specific suggestions for improvement were:

1. CSC to produce a summary of the conference process and an overview of the rejected questions to be published in AA Service News (AASN).
2. General Service Board to support the fellowship in raising awareness at group level (e.g. using

existing literature, workshops and prominently on the AA web site).

3. CSC to give more detailed explanations as to why questions were rejected including minority opinions.
4. Remove the “catch all” criterion 12 from the terms of reference – “submissions not accepted for reasons other than the above”.
5. Reduce board representation on the CSC from two trustees to one trustee – general secretary to remain.
6. CSC to seek clarification of proposed questions and/or background from the questioner where practical and as required, also when combining questions into composites.

The vote was unanimous.

Conference approved this recommendation by a simple majority.

3. Considering the Board’s “surplus funds” (Conference 2022 Report, P14), can the Fellowship discuss and recommend how the Fellowship may better spend money locally and the Board nationally, to carry the message using these funds?

Whilst recognizing that the annual surplus/deficit fluctuates, the consensus within this committee is that funds are best spent on local initiatives at group, intergroup and regional levels. However, this committee felt that in some cases this question relates more to vacant service positions across the fellowship rather than financial considerations.

This committee recommends:

1. Encouraging participation in service through greater sharing of successful primary purpose initiatives at and across group, intergroup, regional and national levels - e.g. regular service meetings and seminars/roadshows.
2. Request GSB to collect and publish case studies of successful primary purpose activities on the website/AASN etc.
3. Make use of electronic media - e.g. social media, media ad campaigns.
4. Encourage groups and intergroups to do their own local outreach work including liaising with relevant professionals, before sending surplus monies down the service structure.
5. General Service Board to continue to work on larger-scale and inclusive activities that best support the efforts of groups, intergroups and regions to carry the message e.g. improvements to the website, provision of templates for Public Information, production of videos etc.

The vote was unanimous.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review revision of ‘Location of the Conference’, AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, page 104, (Conference 2022, Committee 6, Question 2).

This committee recommends the proposed revision.

The vote was unanimous.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

Committee No. 2

1. Would the fellowship review the practice of singing religious songs/Christian Hymns at AA meetings, particularly at National Conventions and Special Events and Conference make recommendations for guidance on this subject.

The shared experience of the Fellowship in the practice of singing religious songs/Christian Hymns at AA Meetings, particularly at National Conventions and Special Events is varied.

The following experiences were shared:

1. Christian hymns/religious songs currently used can put people off. One newcomer being put off is a potential life lost.
2. This practice could be seen as discriminatory to other faiths; AA should be non-denominational and should not affiliate with a particular belief.
3. Singing contributes to the feeling of fellowship.
4. There was discussion about 'God of your understanding' being contradicted. However, this was felt not to be relevant to this question.
5. Many members had not experienced this practice at AA meetings.
6. Different songs mean different things to different people/communities.
7. A substantial majority of responses received were against the singing of religious songs/Christian hymns.

The committee recommend the following guidance:

1. Our Preamble clearly states what AA is and what it is not. We are spiritual, not religious. Therefore, it was felt that religious songs/Christian hymns ought not be sung as part of AA meetings, national conventions and special events.
2. Neutral 'uplifting' songs, agreed by the Group Conscience of the event, could be used.
3. Applying Tradition 4, the committee concluded that this affects AA as a whole and therefore suggest that National Convention Committees develop guidance on this issue given that they are accountable to regions.
4. We should be able to find expressions of unity/spirituality without the use of 'religious' songs. Members should be mindful when selecting material to be used. Love and Tolerance is our code.

Vote

For: 15

Against: 2

Abstain:0

Minority Views: All pathways to spirituality, whether religious or secular, ought to be respected. Is the question not expressing a degree of intolerance? The Big Book begs us '...to lay aside prejudice, even against organised religion...'. (Chapter 4 We Agnostics).

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. Would Groups discuss, and through Conference recommend, a way to engage the Fellowship's involvement in Conference Questions, considering particularly that modern technology is available to gauge reactions to proposed Questions, or topics for Questions.

There are three parts to this question which the committee feels needs further exploration: how questions are submitted, how questions are selected and how feedback is obtained. It was felt that this was too large an issue to discuss within the remit of the current question. Therefore, it is recommended that a working group be formed to address these points.

There is a perception of over-involvement of Board Members in the selection of questions for Conference process, perhaps in part due to GSB Trustees and the General Secretary providing continuity on the Conference Steering Committee (CSC).

The committee recommends the following means of engaging the Fellowship's involvement in Conference Questions:

- a Regions/Intergroups to get the message out as early as possible to groups to respond to Q4C, including publishing questions on Intergroup Micro-sites.
- b Sponsors encourage sponsees to get involved in Group Consciences discussing Q4C.
- c Workshops/meetings held especially for working through the Conference process at different levels; Group, Intergroup, Region.
- d The process of submitting questions is overly complicated. This should be reviewed with a view to simplifying it (e.g. finding previous questions could be supported with the use of modern technology by creating a database of previously asked questions).
- e Share examples of how previous Conference decisions affect the Fellowship today.
- f Member(s) submitting the questions give a premise for it in a medium of their choice (print, audio, video).
- g Supply links with Q4C (questions for conference) to access background material, terms of reference etc.
- h Use video platforms such as Zoom to encourage wider participation.

The committee further recommends that the working group considers using technology in the following ways:

1. Create multimedia formats to show the process of Conference (e.g. podcast, walk-through guide, video).
2. Use online feedback forms/polls to ease submission of questions and gauge reactions to proposed questions/topics before CSC select questions.
3. Use the AAGB website more interactively in question selection and gathering responses.
4. Are should be taken not to exclude members who do not have access to modern technology and ensure quality of access for all members.

Vote:

For: 16

Against: 1

Abstain:0

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on the following matters concerning service with limited or no internet access? -

a How to accommodate a willing member with no access to a computer or smart device hold a service post in this technological age.

The committee agreed that very few people have no access to a computer or smart device. How new members come to AA is changing as technology develops, so there is a need for AA to ensure that they are making use of all available avenues into the Fellowship, while being inclusive. Intergroup/Region/National Level service generally require access to technology.

The following recommendations were made to accommodate willing members with no access to devices:

1. Technology buddy.
2. Borrow/lend equipment.
3. Encourage such members to do service that does not require technology.
4. Members should encourage and support others who need it (as we did during lockdown)
5. Use public libraries/internet cafés – being mindful of anonymity.
6. Use support offered by the AA Helpline.
7. Paper documents should be available on request (e.g. 12th stepper list, meeting list, minutes)
8. Carry out a survey to find out how many members use a computer or smart device to carry out service.

b. How to accommodate a willing member with no technical abilities carry out service in this technological age.

The committee recommends use of:

1. Sponsorship/Buddy system
2. Workshops to provide training.
3. Make use of free training available (Libraries; 'My world of work' – provides free courses).
4. ECLOs to support members.
5. Use a Service Secretary who would buddy members up together to share technical abilities.

c. Also, how can a willing member living in an area with patchy or limited internet connectivity carry out effective AA service.

The committee recommends the following:

1. Telephone buddy with someone who does have consistent connectivity to internet.
2. Provide 'dongles'.
3. Encourage members to carry out service that does not require internet access.

d. In times of crisis what can the Fellowship put in place to ensure members without technology gain access to help and information.

The committee discussed different interpretations of 'crisis' and for the purpose of this question

focussed on a potential national or global crisis.

The committee recommends the following:

1. One alcoholic talking to another. There is a certain amount of individual responsibility for personal recovery.
2. Use the local helpline.
3. Groups to have an up-to-date contact list – 'telephone tree'.
4. A collection of experiences from across the Fellowship with a view to creating a leaflet – 'In times of Crisis....' incorporating what we learnt from Covid, what happens in the event of technology not being available etc.

Vote: For: 13 Against: 2 Abstain: 2

Minority View: Expressed that the measures proposed are excessive and not commensurate with the size of the problem.

4.Review revised section 'Regional Assembly', AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, page 96.

The Regional Assembly

It is suggested that a regional assembly should comprise up to three regional representatives from each participating intergroup, who should be prepared to serve for a term of three years. Provision should be made for rotation to preserve continuity. It is recommended that regional representatives should have at least three years' continuous sobriety and sufficient intergroup experience. An important factor is the availability of elected members to devote time to the work without adversely affecting their family or careers.

Regional representatives should elect their officers from members of the Assembly. These should consist of:

- The Chair, who takes the meeting
- The Vice Chair deputizes for the chair and often takes responsibility for workshops and forums.
- The Treasurer, who attends to finance matters, more information on which is given in section (renumbered) 5, Region Money.
- The Regional Secretary is a channel of communication for their region. Suggested duties may be found in (new) section 3, Administrative Responsibilities

These officers, and others, if decided by a region, may form an Executive or Steering Committee that meets as required between assemblies to deal with urgent matters and to prepare for the assembly. Any one or more of these members may be a co-signatory for region funds.

The agenda for the regional assembly, the minutes, and other pertinent documents are reviewed collectively by this group. Executive committee members are jointly responsible for securing the venue, setting dates for, and ensuring the smooth running of regional assemblies, including the AGM, although this may be undertaken primarily by the regional secretary. They should participate in encouraging attendance at assemblies and act as service sponsors, by demonstrating the value of service.

In addition, members should be elected, taking into consideration their experience or interest, to the following positions:

- Archivist
- Armed Services Liaison Officer
- Electronic Communications Liaison Officer
- Employment Liaison Officer
- Health Liaison Officer
- Prison Liaison Officer
- Probation/Criminal Justice Liaison Officer (Scotland)
- Public Information Liaison Officer
- SHARE/Roundabout Liaison Officer
- Telephone Liaison Officer
- Young People's Liaison Officer

It is recommended that these officers should serve a maximum of three years and be confirmed annually.

The regional assembly may also co-opt a member of the region, not necessarily a regional representative, to carry out a specific task as a non-voting member of the assembly for the duration of the work involved (e.g., convention convenor, archivist).

Having served three years a regional representative should retire by rotation, thus providing a place for another to gain regional experience and so enrich experience of service in the Fellowship. He or she could then be eligible for re-election after a minimum period of one year. When the regional representatives of an intergroup are depleted because one of their number has been elected to serve as an officer, then another suitable member may be elected by the intergroup concerned to take their place.

It is suggested that a regional assembly should comprise two or three regional representatives from each of its constituent intergroups, together with its elected officers and General Service Board (GSB) member. These are the sole holders of voting rights. Observers and visitors are welcome but may not participate unless invited by the chair.

It is suggested that the assembly should meet 4 times annually. The meeting should be called in a proper manner with a settled agenda, and minutes should be circulated after the meeting with copies to interested persons such as General Service Office (GSO), the GSB and neighbouring regions for information as an additional means of sharing experience.

New section 3 below will precede current 3 (Conference Delegates/ Alternates), 4 (Region Money) and 5 (Regional Forums) to be renumbered 4, 5 and 6:

3. Administrative Responsibilities

A regional secretary is the/a channel of communication for the region, with its intergroups, with GSO, members of the regional assembly, or other regions. They also support the passage of relevant information between members and outside bodies with whom AA deals. The regional secretary should be approachable, use clear language, and keep within our Traditions.

They work with all regional liaison officers (LOs), passing on enquiries and communications such as AA Service News and notifications of regional LO meetings, and encourage timely reports for the regional assembly.

They maintain accurate records, observing GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations-[QR Code/link to current GDPR](#)).

These may include:

- Regional assembly agenda and minutes (and forwarding copies to GSO)
- Summary from the regional assembly for intergroups and groups
- Register of regional officers and contact details
- Digest of decisions
- Register of members who have served at region, and of members who have served a full term at Conference.

The regional secretary is also responsible for:

- Regional officer registration with GSO (required for aamail.org email addresses and access to the Confidential Directory)
- Conference delegate and alternate delegate registration with GSO
- AAGB Sub Committee applications, GSB nominations, and letters of support

Any correspondence with outside organisations is usually in collaboration with the regional chair and other appropriate members – specific liaison officers or members of the executive committee.

The regional secretary establishes eligibility to vote and the quorum at the assembly and conducts ballots appropriately.

It is suggested that when time permits and business is completed a sharing session on some specific subject is held in which observers may participate, the object being to forward our primary purpose and improve services in the region.

It is suggested that:

1. Each region holds a regular inventory. ([link to current inventory questions](#))
2. The regional inventory generates a list of ideas and actions to be used as a yardstick.
3. The region considers using the inventory list as a regular item on their agendas.
4. The inventory questions and answers of that region be shared with other regions and the GSO / GSB for wider distribution to the Fellowship, e.g., through AA Service News and the Regional Chairs' Meetings.

Service structure

Committees may be formed to support region officers in their roles, allowing for shadowing and sponsorship into service positions.

The formation of committees may be along the lines adopted by the GSB as listed in The General Service Board, section 1, or to address the region's requirements. Here are some examples:

- Finance
- External Communications
- Executive

There should be named liaison or contact officers for specific areas of service at all levels to enable contact with neighboring/neighbouring regions, as well as intergroups and GSO to include AAmail addresses and examples.

Please could it be made clear whether a new section is being introduced or a current section being amended with regards to future literature items?

Vote

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

Committee No. 3

1. In recent times, with the exponential growth of social media platforms there are more opportunities and media than ever before for well-meaning AA members to break their Anonymity at the public level. While there is ample AA literature available on how to respect/protect anonymity at the public level and on social media platforms (e.g., 'Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety' card and ongoing work by the board) it seems to be occurring more and more regularly.

Could Conference discuss and make recommendation on what can be done by the fellowship (i.e., AA GB, Regions, intergroups, groups and individual members) to encourage well-meaning AA members to stop this harmful trend.

For example, the USA and Canada GSO send a regular letter to newspapers reminding them about the importance of tradition 11 (see link <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-letter-to-media> and AAGB anonymity letter from 2015 <see [Anonymity Letter | Alcoholics Anonymous - Great Britain \(alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk\)](#)).

The Committee heard from the fellowship that the problem of anonymity being broken at the public level, particularly on social media, is a major concern.

"When using digital media, AA members are responsible for their own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others" (Understanding Anonymity leaflet).

The Committee makes the following recommendations under three areas:

1. Personal Responsibility:

STOP. THINK OF OTHERS BEFORE YOU PRESS THAT BUTTON.

Suggest sponsors reinforce the message of the Traditions highlighting personal responsibility on anonymity, particularly related to social media.

Suggest members of the fellowship send in articles on their experience of anonymity for inclusion in AA Service News, SHARE and Roundabout magazines.

2. Groups, Intergroups and Regions:

Suggest Regions and Intergroups hold Tradition workshops with emphasis on media anonymity.

Suggest groups include reference to the "Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet (Item Code 3330) when reading out the Yellow Card.

Suggest groups include traditions and active discussion on them in their conscience meetings.

Encourage use of laminated cards "No Photos" at conventions.

3. General Service Board (GSB):

Request GSB to send all groups the Leaflets "Understanding Anonymity" and "AA Guidelines: Internet", the "Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety" card and the Anonymity one finger board (item code 3829).

Include the current Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety card in Starter Pack.

Request GSB to review Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety card and present to conference 2024 to include specific reference for social media.

Request GSB to write letter to World Services proposing Tradition 11 be updated to include specific reference to social media.

Request GSB to send a letter to prominent media organisations on an annual basis explaining our principle of anonymity.

Include the anonymity quote above from "Understanding Anonymity" in the front of refreshed Handbooks, diary and other appropriate publications.

Ask the body responsible for reviewing the revisions to the AA GB website to include the anonymity statement prominently on the members' landing page.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds majority.

2. Would conference consider changing the imagery used in the illustrated Traditions pamphlet Product code: 3290. Should the Fellowship decide to update this to a more inclusive format?

The fellowship perceives the imagery to be outdated. The committee agreed the imagery should be updated to a more inclusive format.

The committee further recommends the leaflet be removed from sale and asks that GSO stocks the "Experience Has Taught Us" leaflet which is currently published by AA USA/CANADA.

VOTE: FOR: 16 AGAINST: 1

MINORITY OPINION: One delegate did not agree the leaflet be removed from sale. Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3 Would Conference discuss and make suggestions as to how links between AA groups and the General Service Board (GSB) can be strengthened, to encourage members to take an interest and participate in the projects undertaken by the GSB.

In particular:

- 1). Should there be reports from the GSB in AA Service News, and, if so, how frequent should they be?**
- 2). Should the first names of GSB members be publicised more prominently within the Fellowship, together with their regions?**
- 3). Should the identity and role of the Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NATs) be more widely publicised within the Fellowship?**
- 4). Should the Structure Handbook of AAGB contain details of the purpose and work of the Sub-Committees of the GSB, and a clear statement of the role and responsibility of Sub-Committee members?**

The fellowship felt that improving links was of key importance and that any action which helps the wider membership understand how the GSB works would be valuable.

The committee recommends:

1. Encouraging members into service - service helps members understand the workings of the fellowship.
2. Inviting board members via the GSB Executive Committee to Intergroup (face to face or online).
3. Encouraging GSRs and Region Reps to fully engage in communication between Region, Intergroups and Groups, for example comprehensive sponsorship, sharing service experience, promoting reading of AA Service News.
4. Encouraging those participating in projects and sub-committees to share the benefits of their service experience.

In relation to the above specific questions:

- 1). Yes the inclusion of bullet points from the GSB in AA Service News when possible.
- 2). Yes with permission.
- 3). Yes with permission.
- 4). Yes.

UNANIMOUS

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review Health Sub Committee revision of Chapter 6, AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, p51-54.

The Fellowship applauded the revision of this chapter, and the committee made the following minor amendments and additions:

Chapter 6: AA and Healthcare in the Community

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Communication
- 3 Ideas for Activity
- 4 Meeting Healthcare Professionals
- 5 Hospital/Treatment Centre Meetings (Groups and Sponsored)
- 6 Starting a Meeting at a Hospital/Treatment Centre
- 7 Visiting Patients in Hospital
- 8 GP Surgeries/Healthcare Centres
- 9 Pharmacies
- 10 Other NHS or Healthcare Groups
- 11 Useful Approved Literature
- 12 Restricted Access Caused by a Covid-19 Pandemic

6:1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to assist Health Liaison Officers (HLOs), at intergroup or region, and all members helping the still suffering alcoholic, through cooperation with the healthcare profession.

AA has a history of working with the healthcare community, whether visiting patients in hospital (Bill and Bob visiting 'The Man on the Bed'), talking to doctors and nurses either in hospitals, treatment centres or GP surgeries, making presentations to communities or talking to a patient referred to AA. Frequently the alcoholic is referred to as a 'problem drinker', 'alcoholic dependent' or 'suffering from alcohol use disorder'.

The AA Great Britain website has an extensive section on Health that can be viewed as follows:

- Health within the Members Service Disciplines Area. This includes an Introduction, Health Resources, Roles and Terms of Reference of the Health Subcommittee
- Healthcare within the Professionals Social Sectors Area
- See also the sections on Safeguarding on the website and in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain

6:2 Communication

Intergroups and regions are responsible for appointing Health Liaison Officers (HLOs), who ideally, should work as a member of the local AA combined services committee, working with Liaison Officers from other service disciplines. HLOs should aim to establish contact and maintain communication with healthcare professionals and report back to their intergroup/region.

It is important that HLOs communicate with other AA members working in health liaison in their area. The primary role of the regional HLO is to support and co-ordinate the work of intergroup HLOs. This way, the AA message of recovery can be passed more effectively. Do not be afraid to seek advice from other intergroup HLOs, your regional HLO or a member of the Health Subcommittee. ~~The sharing of reports is an easy and effective way of communicating ideas.~~

Regular reporting is an effective way of communicating activity and ideas between intergroup, region and the sub-committee.

6:3 Ideas for Activity

There have been many changes in the NHS, and in the provision of mental health and substance misuse services, over the last few years. Our message remains the same, whether we are delivering it directly to a patient or to a professional in the hope that it will be passed on to problem drinkers.

Perhaps start by investigating and listing potential healthcare contacts in your area such as hospitals, medical / treatment centres, mental health charities, surgeries, medical training establishments, public health and wellbeing teams at local authorities, and any other healthcare establishments where a health professional may come into contact with a problem drinker.

The lists below offer some ideas on how HLOs together with their intergroup and / or region can move towards achieving our primary purpose:

- Provide stands at local events
- Invite/accompany professionals to open AA meetings
- Give talks to groups of health professionals
- Develop contact with medical training facilities with the objective of including Open Meeting Workshops (OMWs) in their curriculums
- Work with hospitals/treatment centres for problem drinkers
- **Establish contact with local government health and wellbeing teams**

Hospitals/Treatment Centres:

- Look for opportunities to display AA literature, always asking for permission first
- Find out if there is an Alcohol Liaison Nurse or Liver **Specialist** Nurse ~~Practitioner~~, contacting them directly to see if there is help, we can offer
- Investigate the opportunity to help with staff or student development
- If there is no AA meeting in the hospital, look into the possibility of helping to start one up
- Ask a local group to develop a good working relationship with the hospital

GP Surgeries and Health Centres:

- Look for opportunities to display AA posters and literature, talking to the Practice Manager first to obtain their support
- Make use of any central distribution point such as Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) for sending information out to GPs, Health Centres and pharmacies
- **Liaise closely with Social Prescribers, who are healthcare professionals employed in GP practices, to support patients with multiple needs including alcohol issues, by signposting to community groups and services**

- Try to ensure staff have a supply of contact cards with the helpline number. Local meeting lists may also be useful
- Talk to your own GP and/or Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) about how AA has helped you and how you would like to help others
- Offer to arrange a speaker for their training days to explain how AA works
- Contact local CCGs to see if there are opportunities to offer talks or OMWs, or to carry the message in other ways

Other possible contacts may include: Alcohol Forums, Alcohol Support Services, Alcohol Problems Advisory Services, Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs), Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) in Scotland, Social Work departments, Treatment Centres, Rehabilitation and Substance Misuse Teams, mental health charities and various other alcohol awareness projects. It also may be worth researching Psychiatric Day Hospitals/Centres, Home Detoxification Services, Clinics, Dentists, Community Health Centres/projects and Pharmacies.

Many educational establishments that deal with health education would appreciate talks from AA members or OMWs - see AAGB website. These include Universities, Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Paramedic Practices, Health Scientists, Colleges with Health and Social Care departments or those that run Counselling Courses, local Health Initiatives run by CCGs or DAATs and GP Vocational Training Scheme programmes.

There is real benefit from working with other AA liaison officers.

6:4 Meeting Healthcare Professionals

Our role is to provide information about AA, what it can and cannot do, always remembering that as a Fellowship we are committed to remaining non-professional. Our approach is based on our ability, as alcoholics who have recovered from the illness of alcoholism, to work effectively with the still suffering alcoholic.

When meeting a healthcare professional, it is suggested that we: -

- Turn up on time, suitably dressed
- Politely make yourself known
- Provide information on local meetings, the National Telephone Service and 'Chat Now' service
- Be fully aware of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- Never discuss individual AA members
- Do not give medical advice to anyone
- Do not engage in debates on outside issues such as budgets, medical staff shortages or the NHS
- Never commit Alcoholics Anonymous or other AAs beyond your remit or our Traditions and Concepts
- Record and share items relevant to region / intergroup
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. It is also important to listen as it is the way we learn.
- Enjoy your role, safeguard the position and pass on your experience at rotation. If the experience is new to you, make use of the experience of other members in your area.

6:5 Hospital/Treatment Centre Meetings (Groups and Sponsored)

There are two forms of meeting suitable for these premises:

- The regular AA 'open or closed' group meeting, run according to guidance in the Structure Handbook, using the hospital/treatment centre as a venue. These meetings welcome patients being treated for alcoholism and should honour Tradition Seven
- An AA sponsored meeting held solely for inpatients. These meetings are not open to AA members in general, nor are they listed in AA's 'Where to Find'. AA members from outside do service at these meetings. This type of meeting may not be self-supporting. It may be necessary for the AA organisers to provide speakers, refreshments and AA literature. Inpatients generally undergo treatment for relatively short periods, and so the continuation of the meeting depends heavily on the facilitating AA members. It is usual for these meetings to be open, to allow health professionals to attend

6:6 Starting a Meeting at a Hospital/Treatment Centre

Discuss the idea at intergroup, region and combined AA service meetings to establish support from local members. Experience has shown that a minimum of four AA members are required, who are prepared to commit to support the meeting for at least one year. The HLO, with support from the service committee, should then make contact with the hospital/treatment centre to discuss the form of meeting to take place on their premises.

6:7 Visiting Patients in Hospital

The HLO may establish contact with a hospital or treatment centre, creating an opportunity to visit patients on the wards and share our experience, strength and hope. A small team of volunteers should be prepared to visit the wards on a basis agreed with the hospital, reporting back to intergroup.

- Volunteers may have to be registered with the hospital administration and may include a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS). A DBS check is not transferable and is held by the individual, but requested by the medical unit
- Volunteers must abide by the hospital /treatment centre rules; we are only guests. At all times the hospital staff have control and determine our access to patients. We are invited onto the wards by the staff. We are allowed to talk to patients only with their consent. These conversations are strictly confidential
- Limit yourself to carrying your own story of recovery
- Be willing to listen, more than talk
- Have a thorough knowledge of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, and live by their spiritual foundation
- Although we visit the wards as individuals, we will be known as members of AA by people in the hospital, and our appearance, language, manner and conduct may influence their opinion of AA as a whole
- Always maintain a courteous, cheerful humility about the amateur status of AA. We are not professionals, but we are experienced in recovering from alcoholism
- Do not talk about medication, psychiatry or scientific theories on alcoholism
- Never interfere or comment on the treatment or drug regime of the patient. This is the sole responsibility of the doctors and nurses
- Do not boast about AA. Let results **speak** for themselves
- When taking responsibility for meetings in a professional centre, it is necessary to maintain contact with members of staff there.

6:8 GP Surgeries/Healthcare Centres

General Practitioners (GPs) provide an obvious opportunity for health liaison (see also section

6:3 above “GP Surgeries and Healthcare Centres”). Simply mentioning AA during a doctor’s appointment is a start.

A short meeting or email contact with the Practice Manager **or nurse** may generate enough interest for a formal presentation to surgery staff, perhaps during a weekly/monthly staff meeting. ~~Attendance at the presentation may allow for a form of credit to a doctor’s/nurse’s individual Continued Professional Development or Education (CPD/CPE). Advice should be sought about the supply of certificates of attendance.~~

The format of the presentation may vary and could include:

How AA works

Stories from individual members

What AA has to offer

The presentation of an OMW

Ways in which AA and health professionals can work together

Presenters should leave the attendees with solutions/suggestions that they can use. Always stress AA’s benefits and that we are a free resource.

6:9 Pharmacies

Pharmacists have become a first point of call for many. Making yourself known to local pharmacists and supplying literature, posters and AA contact cards may prove beneficial.

Some pharmacy chains are reluctant to display posters that are clearly visible to the public, but are willing to display them in private consultation rooms. Take time to discuss opportunities that might be of mutual interest.

6:10 Other NHS or Healthcare Groups

Many different groups are involved with health, whether funded by the NHS, local government **wellbeing hubs**, charities or groups with specific interests. Those involved with mental health or addiction may benefit from a knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be prepared to invite any healthcare practitioner or contact to a local open AA meeting.

6:11 Useful Approved Literature

AA produces a considerable number of leaflets and videos that are continually being reviewed and these are available from the General Service Office. A full catalogue is available online.

6:12 Restricted Access Caused by Covid-19 Pandemic

Our experience during the Covid-19 pandemic was that restricted treatment access made it extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to practise our primary purpose. Although many of our activities had to be cancelled, postponed or amended, we could still maintain contact with individuals and organisations.

Should a similar ~~pandemic strike~~ **restrictions occur** again, it may be beneficial to follow a path similar to that taken during Covid-19:

- Face-to-face contact can be replaced by virtual AA meetings with individuals or small groups, provided permission from an organisation is obtained when required, and that the risk of spreading infection (or just getting in the way) is agreed and safely addressed
- Medical staff could be given AA contact cards and appropriate supporting literature. Patients might be encouraged to make contact and speak virtually, or to meet in a safe location on discharge. Drug and alcohol liaison and **liver specialist nurses** can be especially supportive

We need to be regarded as an additional immediate, **local and free resource** that can always be called upon.

Vote: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

Committee No. 4

1. a) Would the fellowship share its experience of appointing Safeguarding Liaison Officers at group level outlining the responsibilities of the role and explore the potential benefit of creating Safeguarding Liaison Officers at all levels of the service structure of AAGB.

b) Discuss the need for the creation of a Safeguarding Sub-Committee of the General Service Board and make recommendations.

a) There has been little experience of appointing Safeguarding Officers at group level. The overall feedback from the fellowship is that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Many groups argued that it is difficult enough getting people taking on existing roles.

Many groups responded that safeguarding issues can be effectively addressed through the Group Conscience.

Some groups have found that implementing the tabletop card was beneficial.

There has similarly been little experience of Safeguarding Officers at both Intergroup and Region levels.

It is recognised that several of the concerns raised in the responses to this question are actually addressed within the Safeguarding Guidelines that were approved by Conference 2022. (AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain; The Group, Section 5)

Experience was also shared of unintended anonymity breaches that could have been avoided with better understanding of the guidelines.

The committee explored the potential benefit of creating safeguarding liaison officers at all levels, and considers that a deeper understanding and application of these guidelines would enable groups to make effective but autonomous decisions on the appointment of officers.

- b) The committee also discussed the need for the creation of a Safeguarding Sub-Committee of the General Service Board and recommends that a Sub-Committee should be formed.

The terms of reference should be designed to assist the fellowship develop its understanding of safeguarding issues through workshops and interfaces with statutory bodies e.g., MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs).

This Sub-committee would not have any responsibility to address specific safeguarding issues.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation by a simple majority.

- 2. Would Conference consider whether having an AA stall at events whose aims are unrelated to those of AA is incompatible with AA Traditions and carries with it the risk of drawing AA into controversies associated with issues outside the Fellowship?**

Does attendance at such events undermine or facilitate the unequivocal inclusivity of Tradition Three, either diverting us from or promoting our primary purpose?

Is attendance at events such as those described below consistent with our Traditions Six, Ten and Eleven, and the stated aims of PI work?

Following a full and thorough discussion on all aspects of the question the committee concludes that when considering attendance at any event, each should be assessed on its own merit ensuring adherence to all traditions.

The committee respects each group's autonomy when making these decisions.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

- 3. Would the fellowship consider doing an audio version like a podcast of the Daily Reflection reading so that they can hear it on a morning please?**

The committee asks the GSB to produce an audio version of Daily Reflections.

VOTE: Unanimous

The committee also considered the suggestion in the background that these daily podcasts are prepared using different accents. Whilst some accepted the merit of this, the timescale and cost will need to be investigated.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review revised Chapter 'Conventions', AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, page 126.

The committee reviewed the revised Chapter 'Conventions', and it was accepted without further change.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

Committee No. 5

1. Following on from Conference 2018 and noting the recent increase in groups continuing to meet online due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, would the Fellowship please discuss, share its experience and make recommendations about Tradition 7 contributions being collected electronically and digitally by means of card readers and other digital payment technology?

Having shared experience, committee noted that groups are autonomous and need to consider their own choice at their group conscience.

Digital collection has worked well, and in some cases has increased income for groups, but where possible, provision for cash contributions should be maintained.

The committee (our shared experience) found that these things have worked for groups.

In the case of online and hybrid meetings, electronic payment should be encouraged, to maintain group income.

Care needs to be taken to ensure visibility of monies that have been collected by digital contribution.

Groups may need to have a warning card or statement indicating that there may be concern with personal anonymity, and that the name of the account may contain the name "Alcoholics Anonymous".

Where possible the group treasurer should check the account settings to ensure the name 'Alcoholics Anonymous' does not appear on any payee statements.

Further research is still needed.

The committee would recommend that the General Service Board GB review the relevant section of the Structure Handbook (Group Money, Group Treasurer) following the Treasurers Service Forum, and that the Literature Sub Committee might include the above points in group guidelines.

In accordance with Tradition 7, contributions come from within AA.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. Would conference share experience regarding members wishing to take up service positions at Intergroups and Regions which require attendance a minimum number of meetings before being voted into office?

The shared experience of the committee where there is a minimum attendance requirement for service at Intergroups and Regions was sparse. Following discussion of the background material no ideal specific solution could be identified, for all situations.

Any suggestion should be descriptive rather than prescriptive. The autonomy of each Intergroup or Region should be respected.

Regions shared occasional experience of officers not meeting the responsibilities of their role but have not had the need to introduce any firm guidelines.

The majority experience was that of difficulty in filling positions, and a desire to avoid placing additional obstructions in the appointment process.

Detailed handovers and sponsoring into service were recognised as being established methods of providing adequate support for those new to post, and also encouraged continuity in service.

The process of ratification was universally used, following Concept 9, and provides a degree of protection.

Commitment to service is demonstrated by the responsibility of the nominated member and their presented "AA CV".

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on holding 'hybrid' Intergroup Meetings or Regional Assemblies. In particular, would the Fellowship consider the potential benefits and disadvantages, as well as the practical considerations of holding such meetings both online and in-person at the same time.

The committee recognised both the autonomy of each intergroup and region in their informed group conscience, and the value of hybrid meetings where there is an identified need.

The committee shared experience and highlighted the following benefits, disadvantages and practical considerations.

Experience

The committee's majority experience was of a move back to entirely physical meetings when this was safe and possible following the pandemic. On occasion there had been a need to move

to a fully virtual meeting. The committee experience was that the hybrid meeting may result in “the worst of both worlds”. However, an experienced and enthusiastic minority have continued successfully with this format.

Potential benefits

Hybrid meetings can offer improved inclusivity, where accessibility, geography or weather may be an issue. Cost savings may balance the cost of equipment purchase or hire against travel expenses claimed.

Disadvantages

Costs should be weighed against the potential negative impact on unity, service and recovery. The risk of dilution of unity, feelings of separation, loss of focus or interest. Reduced opportunity for fellowship and incidental conversation.

Practical considerations

Future improvements in technology may make this a more engaging and effective means of communication.

Recommendations

Hybrid participation should only be considered if it is a necessity rather than for ease of convenience.

Consider alternative of alternating physical with virtual meetings, rather than using hybrid.

Where possible it is recommended that all serving officers should be present at the physical limb of a hybrid meeting.

The Chair outlines the way in which the meeting is going to be run.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review replacement text to AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain ‘GSB operates through Committees’ p.113

Prison and probation services separated.

First Response Online and National Telephones separated.

Discussion of subcommittee terms of reference.

Insert work ‘Committees’.

Correct spelling of ‘online’.

Background

This addresses an outdated description of GSB committees and no mention of sub-committees in handbook.

CURRENT TEXT

The General Service Board operates through committees:

1) Finance

2) Internal communication

3) External communications

4) Executive

The Trustees with specifically designated service areas serve on the appropriate committees.

Committee reports are presented to the full Board meeting for consideration.

SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT TEXT:

The General Service Board (GSB) operates through three types of committee or working group:

a) **Committees** composed of GSB members and the General Secretary

Finance

Nominations

Executive (See 2 below)

Supporting the GSB to carry out work as recommended by Conference are AAGB Sub Committees and Working Groups

b) **AAGB Sub Committees, with a trustee chair and Fellowship members interviewed and appointed by the Nominations Committee**

At present, these are:

Archives

Armed Forces

Employment

First Response Online

Health

Literature

National Telephone

Prison

Probation / Criminal Justice

Public Information and Electronic Communications

Roundabout

SHARE

Survey

Young Persons

Vacancies on these sub-committees are posted in AA Service News and on the AAGB website, along with eligibility criteria.

A sub-committee may be formed to work on a specific project for a limited time, e.g. 75th Anniversary Convention.

The term served on a sub-committee is usually 4 years. Members are expected to attend at least two meetings in York and two meetings **online**.

c) **Working groups** may be formed to address specific issues, with members co-opted for their experience and insight, e.g., Diversity, Race Today.

In all cases, these committees and sub-committees are to advise, and not to instruct the GSB. Members of these committees serve on behalf of the Fellowship as a whole, and do not represent the regions from which they come. Trustees with specifically designated service areas serve on the appropriate committees.

Committee reports are presented to the full GSB meeting for consideration.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

Committee No. 6

1. Would Conference share experience of the awareness and observance of Concept V and Warranty Four at all levels of the Fellowship, and consider whether any recommendations for improvement can be made?

The shared experience of the Fellowship shows that awareness and observance of Concept V and Warranty Four increases going down the inverted triangle of 'The Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain)'. There is a need for greater understanding and application of the Concepts throughout the service structure as a whole.

It is recommended by this committee that Regions, Intergroups and Groups familiarise themselves with 'Twelve Concepts checklist', 'The Twelve Concepts for Service in Great Britain illustrated' leaflet and the Twelve Concepts Video, as well as 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain' which covers Concept V and Warranty Four in detail.

The Committee recognises the importance of sponsors in the process of imparting knowledge of the Concepts, as well as the Steps and Traditions, as they introduce sponsees to service. This would encourage members to express and respect the minority view. Useful in this context is the recently approved pamphlet, 'Sponsorship into Service'.

Service workshops that include discussion of the Concepts can lead to greater understanding. The Committee feels that it could be helpful to read out Concept V and Warranty Four before the explanation of any applicable voting, at all levels of the AA Structure.

The committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority

2. Would the General Service Conference please consider the possibility of AA GB sourcing and selling "Sobriety Medallions/ chips" through the AA website shop?

The committee has considered the possibility of AA GB sourcing and selling "sobriety medallions / chips" through the AA website shop.

"Sobriety medallions / chips" are seen by the majority of the Fellowship to celebrate recovery and help fulfil our primary purpose. We note that a number of groups make use of the "sobriety medallions / chips" and regard them as particularly important for the newcomer. However, some members of the fellowship felt that this was outside of our primary purpose and AA GB does not need to use AA staff resources as "sobriety medallions / chips" are readily available elsewhere.

The committee's recommendation is that the idea should be explored by the General Service

Board, with particular consideration of practicalities and cost-effectiveness.

The committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Would the Fellowship share experience about the challenges faced in managing finances at group, intergroup, region and other service levels in recent years, and make recommendations to Conference for improvement?

In particular, what is the experience about the problems facing new treasurers in obtaining access to a bank account when taking over from a treasurer who has left or rotated out? How can they deal with the process of changing signatories and obtaining identification requirements?

What role might internet and telephone banking play in managing the finances of the group, intergroup or region?

How should dormant or inactive accounts be dealt with where a group has closed, signatories have passed away, or the account has been inactive for a period of years?

Having shared experience, the committee recognises that the background document is a true reflection of the challenges faced by the Fellowship.

Any new treasurer would benefit from a proper handover at least three months prior to the old treasurer rotating out. Ideally, they might have a period as a shadow/alternate treasurer. Access to the accounts and processes should be shared prior to the handover. Bank accounts should have multiple signatories to make the handover smoother.

We recognise that the use of internet banking is increasing.

If an account is dormant or inactive, the only way to reclaim the funds is through the processes of the bank in question. All accounts should be opened with multiple signatories so that they can always be accessed by the Fellowship.

The Committee recommends that the General Service Board should:

1. Define best practice for treasurers, making use of input from the Finance Seminar in June 2023.
2. That best practice referenced above should cover, among other points, the ease of:
 - a) opening a new bank account
 - b) establishing signatories
 - c) changing signatories
 - d) transferring funds
3. Provide timely interim guidance arising from the above process.

4. **Revise and update section 4 of 'The Group', section 4 of 'The Intergroup' and section 4 of 'The region' in 'The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain' to reflect its findings.**

The committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.



Holyrood Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness Event for Professionals

Wednesday 4th October 2023 18.00 – 20.00
The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh

Please help us publicise this event among professionals who would benefit from learning about Alcoholics Anonymous, and how to signpost people to AA.

Sponsored by Fergus Ewing, Scottish National Party, Member of Scottish Parliament for Inverness and Nairn. The 2-hour event is open to all those working in the health and well-being fields, social sphere, and criminal justice system.

Please speak with your local professional contacts about the event and let us know contact details of those interested in receiving an invitation. Ideally, we would like to invite professionals in positions of influence in their field. There may well be other potential invitees, such as all health and well-being workers, social & criminal justice system professionals and students.

Please help us compile a list of invitees by detailing:

- Professionals name
- Job title
- Organisation Place of work
- Email address

Invitations will be sent out via e-mail in due course.

Please send contact details of potential invitees to: scot.parl@aamail.org

As you know, places are limited, costs are kept to a minimum, and budgeted to cover as many external professionals as possible, so this is not a general event for AA members. If you are both an AA member and a professional in the field, please free up places by encouraging your colleagues who are not already very familiar with AA to come along.

Many thanks for your help

Scottish Parliamentary Event Committee



AA Service is for you, by you. Please send articles on your AA service to the editor at:

editor.aasn@aamail.org

Please note that the opinions expressed in AA Service News may not necessarily represent the views of the General Service Board

Would you like your pictures in future editions of AA Service News? If yes, great!

We would need 2MB in size for printing. QUIRKY is good, and pictures that will grab the attention of an alcoholic!

Please send them to the editor at:
editor.aasn@aamail.org

Thank you!

General Service Board Vacancies

How to Apply

When applying for **any** of the sub-committee vacancies below please obtain an up-to-date form from either Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644026; jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk or from the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

The chair, vice chair, secretary or a currently serving liaison officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup **must** endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

For any of the vacancies, you will need:

- Five years continuous sobriety
- A good understanding and use of the Steps and Traditions, the AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain, and other Conference approved AA literature
- Good experience in carrying our service in different levels of the AA service structure
- An understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the General Service Board (GSB) and sub-committees

Qualified sub-committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through an online platform, at a time agreed by the applicants.

Successful candidates will be expected to attend four meetings a year; two of these will normally be in York, but the other two may be held via an online platform. The term of service is 4 years.

It is advisable to talk to the relevant Trustee before you apply, or upon submitting your application. If you have any questions about specific responsibilities of service on a sub-committee, please contact the relevant Trustee by using the details found below each vacancy notice.

The deadline for ALL applications is *Friday 11th August 2023*



Archives

There are vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB).

The Archives Sub Committee advises the GSB on issues concerning the care and management of AAGB's Archives and reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives. The main AA Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives of the University of York. The Archives Sub Committee works with archivists at the Borthwick Institute to develop and enhance AA archive, while managing access to it for the purpose of research. Other AA archives are held by regions and intergroups, and are looked after by local archivists. The Archives Sub Committee liaises with these archivists through the Archive Network of regional and intergroup archivists.

In addition to the standard requirements, some experience of archival work is desirable - especially experience as an intergroup or regional archivist within AA. Some knowledge of AA history is also advantageous, as are good communication and IT skills.

For more information about the vacancy, please contact John C Trustee for Archives trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk



Armed Services

The Armed Services Sub Committee is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to past and present members of Armed Services.

Experience

Experience in intergroup and/or regional Armed Service Liaison or other relative experience would be advantageous, and good organisation and communication skills are desirable. The ability to produce written and verbal reports would be an advantage, as well as relevant IT skills. Service within the Armed Service is desirable but not essential.

Aim

The principal aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship and to Armed Service communities and their supported community groups.

Its objects are to:

- Raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within all areas of the Armed Services community, including serving persons, veterans, and their families
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies connected with the Tri-services
- Offer support and advice to regional Armed Services Liaison Officers
- Be responsible for the Armed Services 12 Stepper list
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations

For more information about the vacancy please contact John C, GSB Trustee for Armed Services, trustee.northeastregion@gso gb.org.uk

Employment

There are vacancies on the Employment Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level
- Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level
- Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme
- Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers
- Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events
- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Charles R, GSB Trustee for Employment trustee.southeastregion@gso gb.org.uk

First Response Online Sub Committee

There are vacancies on the newly formed First Response Online Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The new sub-committee comprises a group of people organising the initial contact, the first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via email or instant chat channels.

Chat Now:

The main purpose of the Chat Now Help Desk is to answer live, real-time queries from the still suffering alcoholic and to direct them to the telephone helpline and/or to a meeting.

Responders working from their home computers have live 1-on-1 conversations with people who are often just starting their journey or maybe questioning if they should do so. For more information on the service and an application, please email us at: chatadmin@aamail.org or Levey P at trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk

Online Response Service:

The main purpose of the Online Response Service (ORS) is to help the still suffering alcoholic who writes an email to help@aamail.org and is looking for fellowship and answers to their recovery.

**For more information on the service please email Levey P trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk
Please specify whether you are applying for Chat Now or ORS on the application form.**

Health

Rotation has created the opportunity for new members to join this dedicated team.

If you have experience at intergroup and / or region preferably as a Health Liaison Officer (HLO) or in a complementary discipline, we would welcome your application. You will need to understand the relationship between the General Service Board (GSB) and the Health Sub Committee.

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is to:

- Carry the message and increase the awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Step programme at all health-related establishments as appropriate
- Implement health initiatives as directed by the GSB on the recommendation of Conference
- Provide support to Regional and Intergroup HLOs by providing information and advice
- Create and encourage open communication channels with regional and intergroup HLOs
- Establish relationships with health professionals and professional bodies at regional and national levels

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Barbara O trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

Literature

To enable the Literature Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) to fulfil its role of:

- Considering needs for new literature
- Undertaking selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of the literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain
- Assessing literature for its suitability for revision or discontinuance
- Work on material as requested by Conference

Its members would have a sound understanding of the Conference process (Conference experience is highly desirable, but an understanding of the process does not need to come solely from having attended Conference)

Essential requirements:

- Have time between committee meetings to work on assigned projects, liaise with other committee members, provide feedback on projects other members are working on, and prepare for committee meetings by reading all relevant materials
- Be familiar with the wide range of AA literature
- Have a sound command of English written grammar and style
- Be familiar with word processing and email programmes, as well as file-sharing
- The ability to work collaboratively as a contributing member of the Sub Committee. Most projects require members to work together in close collaboration, including in pairs or small groups, in the production of multiple drafts, with detailed editing, towards a final version
- The ability to work towards set deadlines

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Jo F trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk



Prisons

The Prison Sub Committee is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery within the prison walls.

The principal aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain of service to the Prison community.

Its objectives are to:

- Offer support and advice to regional Prison Liaison Officers (PLOs)
- Help promote and encourage the appointment of Liaison Officers
- Provide a more coordinated approach to Prison work throughout GB
- Carry out a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to help identify both successful and problem areas
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations
- Hold a regional Prison Liaison Officer's meeting annually in York

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Zelma K, trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk

Probation / Criminal Justice Services

We are looking for members who:

- Meet sub-committee criteria and are enthusiastic about probation / criminal justice service, preferably from different geographical areas
- Are willing to serve in the role, raising awareness of AA among professionals and professional bodies connected with the criminal justice systems of Great Britain
- Enjoys passing information on probation / criminal justice services matters throughout the Fellowship
- Can offer advice, support and encouragement to liaison officers by assisting the structure to function effectively, and encourage new appointments to criminal justice liaison posts
- Can assist with developing and maintaining appropriate resources for liaison officers.
- Have good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- Have the willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board, and comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

For more information about these Probation and Criminal Justice vacancies, please contact Hamish McS, trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk

Survey

Rare Service Opportunity to Take the Pulse of AA

Summary

The General Service Board (GSB) Survey Sub Committee (SSC) seeks new members to assist in executing the next membership-wide survey. Strategic planning sessions were launched summer 2022. Minimum 5 years sobriety. Details and application info below.

What is the Pulse of AA Post-Pandemic?

Every five years the GSB, as mandated by Conference, conducts a membership-wide survey to keep abreast of trends in our Fellowship's characteristics. The survey provides factual numbers for the professional community and public as prescribed by our primary purpose, to carry the message to those suffering from alcoholism.

The pandemic and its subsequent restrictions, however, upended 'business as usual'. In particular, a groups' reliance on 'snail mail' to receive important communications.

Consequently, the SSC, responsible for planning, execution and managing the 2020 survey, had to pivot at the 11th hour, and deploy an online-only survey model. Despite reaching only groups with an email contact on record with York, the survey produced critical key insights gathered from over 3000 Groups in Great Britain and the Continental Europe Region (CER).

Rare Opportunity

Valuable lessons were learned by the SSC from its first digital survey undertaking. Lessons it seeks to leverage, ensuring that the next survey measures what is most important to members, the public and the professional community in these fast-changing times.

But currently, the SSC is disadvantaged with too few committee members. The SSC's problem, therefore, offers you a rare opportunity to join its existing core team as they begin strategic planning for the 2025 Survey

Apply Now

Send your application (or questions) to Gretchen S. GSB Trustee for the Survey at trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk.

[LRS@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk)

Telephones (NTL)

The Telephones Sub Committee comprises of a group of people organising the initial contact or first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via the telephone.

Experience of the telephone service at regional or intergroup level and a willingness to use and be informed about current communication systems would be an advantage. The role may require frequent contact with members involved in the telephone service at all levels of the Fellowship.

Requirements for the telephones sub- committee are to:

- maintain the existing telephone system to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.
- Keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.
- Be involved in all changes to the system and to liaise with the system provider following consultation with regions.
- Investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service
- Maintain a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

Please specify you are applying for NTL sub-committee. **For additional information please contact the NTL Trustee: Levey Patocs, trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk**

Young Persons

We invite you to join the Young Person's Sub Committee!

Are you ready to make a real difference in AA? Join the Young Person's Sub Committee and be a part of a team that is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment that meets the unique needs of young people in AA.

By joining our sub-committee, you'll participate in impactful initiatives such as hosting roadshows, circulating helpful resources and supporting the creation of young person's meetings.

As a member of the team, you'll work alongside like-minded individuals who share a passion for developing AA.

Main aims:

To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLO's at Intergroup and Region levels

To support the development of good practice and review/update literature, media resources and guidelines (subject to approval)

To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies

Requirements:

Experience of working as a Young Person's Liaison Officer (YPLO) at either intergroup or region level would be an advantage but is not essential. Good organisational and communication skills will be required, along with a strong grasp of AA service structure, guidelines and traditions.

If you have any questions contact Holly A (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

In Memoriam

January - March 2023

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Roddy at St Vincents | Birmingham Group | 188.05 |
| John P (Eade) | Chesterfield Group | 60.00 |
| John J (Sliver Fox) | Dunnon Legacy Group | 290.00 |
| Michael G | Sleaford Group | 230.00 |
| Rei | Llangerfni Group | 60.50 |
| Janet M | Whiteinch | 170.00 |
| Vaughan | Tisbury Group | 53.15 |
| Total | | 1,051.70 |



Tradition 7

“Every AA group ought to be fully self supporting declining outside contributions”

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

“All groups, intergroups and regions should accept responsibility for the funding of the General Service Office. The financial operations at GSO, the methods of accountability to Conference through the Board, and the broad financial strategies adopted on behalf of the Fellowship, are all subject to continuous review.”

Taken from AA GB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

“Services can require committees, Delegates, Trustees and Conferences. They include small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and AA as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of all these services is AA’s Third Legacy”

AA Comes of Age, page 140

The Role of GSO

With over five thousand groups to service, GSO is the vital administrative centre of our Fellowship, supported by Northern and Southern Service Offices. It produces and distributes AA literature and publications and is responsible for service meetings of Liaison Officers, for Conference and for meetings of the General Service Board (GSB). GSO liaises with and supports European and World Services. It is also responsible for Fellowship Archives. Staff also deal with all telephone calls from members, the media and outside organisations.

| Regional Contributions | £ |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| East of Scotland Region | 5,641 |
| Eastern Region | 34,943 |
| Glasgow Region | 28,919 |
| Highlands and Islands Region | 3,278 |
| London Region North | 5,805 |
| London Region South | 2,218 |
| Midlands Region | 17,767 |
| North East Region | 12,010 |
| North West Region | 2,295 |
| Scotia Region | 11,665 |
| South East Region | 31,235 |
| South Midlands Region | 10,418 |
| South West Region | 10,703 |
| South West Scotland Region | 17,055 |
| Wales & Borders Region | 4,119 |
| Continental European Region | 775 |
| Sundry & Unidentifiable Receipts | 1,600 |
| Total | 200,447 |



Dear Fellowship, thank you for all your pictures and articles this quarter. Please do keep them coming in to the editor.aasn@aamail.org

For all your AA Conference approved literature go to www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/shop

For updating existing meeting details and registering new groups, you can find the registration or 'Pink Form' [here](#)
If you complete and submit the pink form, you will automatically receive a printed copy of AA Service News.



Subscribe to AA Service News

Contact Sharon at GSO for your digital copy

For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form'. Alternatively, complete the below and send to the address provided. Printed AA Service News is mailed in a plain envelope.



SEND TO (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Group Name/Day:

Group No:*

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

.....

Email to.....

AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

*GSO reference for each AA group - register with GSO by filling in the group registration, or 'pink' form