



# AA Service News

Summer 2021 / Digital Only Edition

No.187

From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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### GSB Sub-Committee Vacancies:

- \* Archives \* Armed Services \* Calendar and Diary Editor \*
- \* Electronic Communications \* Employment \* Health \* Literature \*
- \* Prisons \* Probation \* *Roundabout* (Link Liaison Officer and Proof Reader) \*
- \* 75th Anniversary Convention \* *SHARE* (Editorial Reader) \*
- \* Survey \* Telephones \* Young People's \*

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Literature Orders Flyer & Form

Tradition Seven

In Memoriam

**Twelve Concepts. Personal Checklist. Following the General Service Conference recommendation in 2006, the original Twelve Concepts Checklist was adapted to reflect the structure of the Fellowship in Great Britain and approved by Conference in 2007:**

While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, intergroups or regions, individual AA members may find it useful – in addition to our co-founder Bill W's writings, a service sponsor if you have one, and reflection on your own service experience.

Additional information about the Concepts can be found in *The AA Service Manual / Twelve Concepts for World Service* and *The Twelve Concepts (GB) Illustrated* pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

## **CONCEPT VIII**

**Concept VIII: The Trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect directors of all these entities.**

- Do we understand the relationship between the two service entities, the General Service Conference and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term “custodial oversight” apply to the Trustees’ relationship to the two service entities?
- Does my home group receive GSO’s quarterly *AA Service News*? Subscribe to *SHARE* and *Roundabout*? Do I?

## AA Service News Summer 2021 Edition is digital only – with no Calendar of Events

Due to the continuing situation with COVID-19, the Summer 2021 Edition of *AA Service News* is available only as a digital version. Also, due to ongoing public gathering restrictions in Great Britain and Continental Europe, this digital-only edition of *AA Service News* contains no Calendar of Events, as there is no reliable way to determine which events are still planned and no efficient means of verifying all the necessary information.

## Share Your Service Experience!

### ***AA Service News***

**Contributions** regarding service in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, Sub Committees, GSB.

***AA Service News*** is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, the last Friday of April, the last Friday of July and the last Friday of 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](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

## What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Are you sending in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to [aainformation@qsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@qsogb.org.uk) ?

75th AA GB Anniversary  
Leeds First Direct Arena  
Friday 10th - Sunday 12th June 2022



[www.aa75.co.uk](http://www.aa75.co.uk)

**Early Bird  
Tickets  
Still  
Available!  
£25**



Our convention will be an opportunity for AA members, (from GB and beyond), members of our sister fellowships, family and visitors to join and celebrate 75 years of AA in GB. The larger meetings will be held in the theatre style stadium and other meetings and activities will take place throughout the weekend within the arena complex.

**We know many are excited about the 75th Anniversary Convention. Please keep checking the website for updates, Early Bird registration deals and other random facts as they become available.**

See website for details of: accommodation - travel - volunteering - venue

[www.aa75.co.uk](http://www.aa75.co.uk)

# COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 55TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

16th – 18th APRIL 2021

## Committee No. 1

### Question 1

**Would Conference:**

- a. **Review Chapter 10 of the AA Service Handbook for GB 2018.**
- b. **Consider publishing a telephone responders' leaflet to include malicious calls.**

- a) The Committee recommends that the GSB requests the Telephone Sub Committee and Literature Sub Committee to review Chapter 10, especially with regard to the use of mobile phones and new technologies.

We would also recommend that this opportunity be taken to review the national telephone service as a whole, including Continental European Region, to promote unity and consistency. All the feedback from the Fellowship will be provided to the National Telephone Sub Committee in order to support the review.

The vote was unanimous.

- b) This Committee recommends that the review of Chapter 10 include guidance to responders on how to handle malicious calls. We also recommend that more comprehensive information be included in a pdf document to be stored in the document library freely available to all responders. This recommendation also takes into account the safeguarding of members.

The vote was unanimous.

### Question 2

**Would the Fellowship share experience of appropriate resources and support for alcoholics who have special needs or disabilities?**

The Committee received a lot of feedback regarding this question.

Resources are available for members with disabilities through AA GB, GSO and The AA World Service aa.org website.

Literature and other AA resources include:

*Carrying the AA Message to people who are Deaf or Have Hearing Loss*  
*Problems other than alcohol*  
*Medications and other drugs*  
*Violence and Personal Conduct*

CDs are available, also DVDs in British and American sign language

Some online platforms have closed captions

*12 Steps & 12 Traditions*

Large print and braille

As the background to the question is concerned with conduct at meetings, the committee stated that there is ample guidance in *The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*, Chapter 5.

It is the responsibility of the Group Secretary/Chair to maintain safe and secure conduct throughout the meeting, with the help of the group.

A group may want to appoint a Disability Liaison Officer.

A Deaf and Hard of Hearing group said that we should not try to “reinvent the wheel” which, sometimes, did not improve things.

It is also important to have resources of the right quality in terms of vision, sound and correct sign language.

The best person to give guidance on what adjustments may be needed to ensure a warm welcome and full participation in AA is the person themselves.

The online Meeting Finder has an accessibility drop-down. Roundabout, Share Magazines and online audio files are valuable resources for members to share their experiences of AA.

It is through the Group Conscience that best practice can be established.

The committee vote was unanimous.

### **Question 3**

**Would Conference share its experience and discuss any benefits of separating intergroup meetings into a GSR section and a Public Information & Cooperation with the professional Community section?**

The Committee found that the question was not clear because the background information is directed at different issues, e.g., intergroup does far more than discuss matters arising from Conference.

It was emphasised that each intergroup is autonomous and therefore responsible for organising their business meetings in whatever way they wish.

Experiences shared through a great deal of feedback from the Fellowship showed that there was little benefit to be gained from separating GSR meetings from the PI and Officers' meetings.

Committee vote was unanimous.

#### **Question 4**

**Review proposed addition to the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2018, in the chapter 'The General Service Board', section 3, under the heading 'Appointment of new members of the General Service Board' (pages 112-113)**

*"Interviews for prospective Trustees will be conducted only when there are two or more Trustee candidates from the region."*

The Committee voted by a simple majority for the proposal.

The (Concept V) minority view was that adding this sentence to the AA Structure Handbook is unnecessarily inflexible and see that there's value in the Board reviewing this practice.

## **Committee No. 2**

#### **Question 1**

**Can Conference consider whether the General Service Board be given authority to approve posters, videos and pamphlets produced by Subcommittees without these items needing additional approval by the General Service Conference, which may cause unnecessary delay?**

This committee notes that the process as described in this question does not exist. The General Service Conference (GSC) does not give *additional* approval to publish posters, videos, and pamphlets. GSC is currently the only approving body.

The committee recommends that the General Service Board (GSB) ought not be given authority to approve posters, videos and pamphlets produced by sub-committees, for the following reasons:

1. Giving the GSB authority to approve literature items (pamphlets, posters, videos) would be contrary to the following concepts: Concepts I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII.
2. Article 9 of the Conference Charter already explains how to proceed in an urgent case: "... Conference may also render advisory opinions at any time by a mail or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related

services” (Structure Handbook of AA Great Britain, page 107). This means if the need arises to approve posters, videos and pamphlets in between Conferences, a structure to consult Conference is in place.

3. It is vital that prospective literature items (including posters, videos, and pamphlets) be subjected to scrutiny from the fellowship via the Conference process before they can be designated as ‘A.A. Conference Approved Literature’. It is more important to get literature right than to produce it quickly.

Approved unanimously

## **Question 2**

### **Could Conference emphasis the benefits and share experience of effective formats for pre and - post conference meetings at Region level?**

The Committee has discussed the following benefits of pre- and post-conference meetings. They:

1. Give GSRs and members the chance to speak directly to the Delegates.
2. Ensure that all opinions are heard.
3. Help the Delegates to feel adequately prepared for Conference.
4. Promote unity of the fellowship.
5. Encourage participation and attract members into service.
6. Increase the knowledge of the Conference Process.
7. Inspire enthusiasm for Conference.
8. Involve members in the Conference process, which is vital for the future of our fellowship.
9. Allow groups to have their voice heard at Conference and give an opportunity for Delegates to report back.

The committee shared the following experience of effective formats for pre and - post conference meetings at Region:

1. Holding pre- and post-conference meetings separately from normal Region Assemblies attended by Delegates, encouraging GSRs and members to participate.
2. Publishing minutes from pre- and post- conference meetings.
3. Utilising online technology to hold pre- and post-conference meetings.
4. Offering members the opportunity to speak to Delegates about their committee during a pre-conference meeting.
5. Including Q&A sessions at the end of a pre- or post-conference meeting.
6. Conducting workshops on the Conference process and the Twelve Concepts.
7. Scheduling the meetings over a few weeks or taking one full day to discuss all questions.

Various regions have found it helpful to schedule their pre- and post-conference meetings accordingly:

1. January: Conference Questions Workshop – including attendance by GSRs, Delegates, and members.
2. February/early March: Pre-Conference Assembly – groups’ responses to questions passed to Delegates.
3. Post Conference: Feedback to intergroup and groups, and guidance on submitting questions for the following year’s conference (due by August 31st).

Approved unanimously

## **Question 2**

**Review the revised chapter The General Service Conference, section 1.5 Delegates, point B, Rotation in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain**

This committee is in favour of accepting the changes for Point 1.

This committee recommends changing Point 2 to read:

“Any attendance by an alternate delegate will normally count as part of the three-year term of the delegate whose place is taken and would not therefore usually have the effect of extending the term of the delegate originally elected.

However, this determination is ultimately up to the sponsoring region.”

This committee considers it unnecessary to cross-reference another section of the handbook, as this practice may lead to future errors when sections are updated.

15 in favour / 1 abstention / 1 against

The following minority opinion was expressed:

This process is unfair to the alternate delegates.

## **Committee No. 3**

### **Question 1**

**Would the Fellowship consider how any person or persons wishing to open a new meeting may be guided as to the effect on other groups and AA as a whole?**

The Committee recommends that persons wishing to open a new meeting (in-person or online) consider our primary purpose of carrying our message to the alcoholic who still suffers, as stated in Tradition Five.

When looking at the local provision of meetings it is worth considering what neighbouring groups and intergroups are offering. This could avoid unforeseen duplication, potential issues filling service positions, and possible impact on tradition 7 contributions.

The Committee further recommends that members familiarise themselves with the existing AA structure and notes that there is already substantial guidance available to persons wishing to open a new meeting both in AA literature and on the AA GB website. This can be found in: 'The Group' chapter, pages 74-76 of The AA Structure Handbook of Great Britain 2020; 'The AA Group' pamphlet; the long forms of Traditions 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7; and under the 'AA Meetings' tab of the AA GB website sections 'Starting A New AA Group', 'Submit Your Meeting Information (Pink Form)', and 'Online/Telephonic Meetings'.

The Committee recommends that members let people know that the new meeting exists by submitting their meeting information (pink form) to the General Service Office.

*The answer was carried unanimously.*

## **Question 2**

### **Can groups reflect on and share their experience of how they select officers?**

Across the fellowship there is variation in the practices surrounding the selection of officers at group level. These differences emerge due to variations in group size and the availability of members for officer roles. However, the approach of most groups is underpinned by the key guidance in the Structure Handbook. In particular, groups practice rotation in service roles, consider a member's length of sobriety and regular attendance at the group.

In terms of the practical aspects of selection there were a number of different models. Three of the most-reported are described below.

- a. Some groups, often where there are not multiple candidates for roles, simply discuss vacancies at a group conscience or business meeting, volunteers are sought and their selection agreed there and then.
- b. Other groups announce vacancies to seek candidates prior to a business/group conscience meeting. The candidates present their experience, either verbally or in a written CV, and then the home group members vote on the candidates.
- c. Other groups use a steering committee, which convenes and proposes the best-qualified candidate for a vacancy ('The AA Group' Pamphlet, pg.13; also 'The Group' chapter, Structure Handbook 2020, pg.74).

Some groups create service roles so that every member that wants do service is able to. Others mentioned a 'service ladder', which generally starts with greeting or making tea, often supported by a more-experienced member.

Experience at Intergroup and Regional level is that they tend to adhere more robustly to the guidelines (AA Structure Handbook) and there seemed to be less variation in the selection procedures.

*The answer was carried unanimously.*

### **Question 3**

#### **One member, one vote**

**What more can be done to raise understanding across the Fellowship of the spiritual principle that we do not take part in the business or policy of groups which we visit, but which are not our home group?**

The Committee recognises that each group is autonomous except in matters affecting AA as a whole and in such matters, e.g., Questions for Conference, the Committee suggests following the principle of One Member, One Vote. The Committee notes that some groups regularly read the Traditions before Business and Group Conscience Meetings, have an established statement which outlines who is eligible to vote, and also promotes understanding of the Concepts. The Committee recognises that 'it is a privilege to vote on issues that affect AA as a whole' (AA Service Manual for World Service, pg. S25) and it is recommended that members consider both when and how to vote.

However, the Committee identified a need for a clear and unified source of guidance on the principles of participation and One Member, One Vote. The Committee recommends that the General Service Board (GSB) ask the Literature Sub-Committee to revise the 'Business Meetings, the Group Conscience and Group Conscience Meetings' pamphlet and update the AA Structure Handbook to reflect the principle of One Member, One Vote.

The Committee recommends that the General Service Board (GSB) ask the Literature Sub-Committee to consider the following AA literature in making these revisions:

- a. Traditions 2 & 4;
- b. 'The Twelve Concepts Checklist', Concept 4;
- c. 'Business Meetings, the Group Conscience and Group Conscience Meetings' pamphlet;
- d. AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, pg. S25;
- e. 'The AA Group' pamphlet.

*The answer was carried unanimously.*

## Committee No. 4

**Question 1: Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations with regards to the issue of rotation within AA's structure, as envisioned by Bill.**

Feedback from our Fellowship indicates that:

- a) Most groups agree that the spirit of rotation is important and support the principle of regular rotation. All service positions should rotate except for archivists who, in return, do not have a vote.
- b) Rotation creates a strong foundation of experience and knowledge across a group of members rather than a limited number of individuals. Younger members tell us that the more organised the group seems, the less daunting it feels to commit to service as a new member.
- c) Rotation assumes there is going to be a steady flow of new members into position. Rotation is a beautiful concept when there are sufficient people. But for some positions there can be problems. Prison service can be difficult due to the problems of getting clearance. Some people have been known to stay in roles for 10 - 15 years. Conversely some Intergroup posts remain unfilled for many years.
- d) Service post swapping and rotation are not the same. Some members are more interested in service than others and may tend to rotate posts among themselves. This breaks the principle of Tradition 12 i.e. "principles before personalities", as well as allowing prestige to divert us from our primary purpose. It also hinders the right of participation.
- e) Some intergroups think that service positions should not be occupied for longer than the stipulated time. Keeping roles vacant until they are filled can be beneficial in getting those much younger in sobriety into service.

(Some groups found the background to this question to be quite obscure stating: the only way that rotation could be relevant to helping new GSRs to integrate at intergroup is if existing serving officers are not rotating out).

Committee 4 received many recommendations from our Fellowship including the following which are listed in no particular order of importance:

- a) The conscience of the group, intergroup and region plays an important part in determining rotation. It would be beneficial to discuss roles at group conscience, intergroup and region and share about service in meetings.
- b) It is not in keeping with the spiritual principles of AA for longer term members to monopolise service positions. Long-time members should adopt the "*elder statesman*" rather than the "*bleeding deacon*" approach (Tradition 2).
- c) Including a record of rotation dates in minutes is helpful.

- d) Members are encouraged to read the Service and Structure Handbooks and other literature for information on rotation. Individual responsibility to read available literature is paramount. Prescribed reading for each post is given in the Service Handbook.
- e) The pamphlet “The AA Group” describes the principle of rotation in much detail under the heading “Is Rotation Important?”.
- f) The Structure Handbook states on page 81 a minimum period of service for Group Service Representatives (GSRs) of 2 years. In keeping with other service positions the committee suggests that conference recommends a maximum term for GSRs to be included in the AA Structure Handbook.

Vote was unanimous.

## **Question 2**

### **Could Conference discuss ways the Fellowship can assist sponsors in their responsibility of encouraging newer people into service positions?**

The committee recognised that we had to discuss a sponsor’s responsibility in encouraging newer people into service positions in order to identify how the Fellowship could further assist. Examples from the Fellowship included the following:

- a) Sponsors help others to recover and encourage new people to give back through service.
- b) Sponsors explain that the 3 legacies of recovery, unity and service are needed in equal measure to achieve lasting sobriety.
- c) Sponsors guide by example by doing service themselves.
- d) Sponsors encourage newer members to do service from their early days to overcome selfishness and learn to work in a group. They help and support them while bearing in mind that a member cannot be forced to do service.
- e) Sponsors stress the benefits of service, particularly on spiritual development. If members do not do service of some sort, then they may not grow (Survey 2020 indicates that 83% of members who responded felt that service had helped their recovery).
- f) Sponsors encourage sponsees to attend Group conscience/business meetings.
- g) Sponsors take sponsees along to Intergroup, Regional assemblies and workshops, deepening their recovery and relationship with the Fellowship.
- h) Sponsors direct sponsees to the relevant literature about service positions and guide them through the requirements.

Feedback from the Fellowship on how sponsors could be supported in this role included, amongst others, the following examples:

- a) Groups can add as many service positions for newcomers as they want e.g., putting out the literature, making coffee and tea. The biggest service can be welcoming the newcomer and making them feel at home.
- b) At a suitable point in their recovery, members seeking further opportunities for giving back could ask a member with the appropriate experience to sponsor them into a particular position - acting as a service sponsor (also known as shadowing, or 12 stepping into service).
- c) Groups could encourage members including sponsors to read the updated pamphlet "Growing into Service", which now has a section called "Sponsorship into Service"
- d) Groups could invite members to share their experience and the benefits of service in meetings especially when they are due for rotation.
- e) Members should be encouraged to talk positively about service as an active, essential part of recovery.
- f) Groups could have leaflets on service on display at meetings - the pamphlets 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' and "Growing Into Service" draw attention to sponsoring into service.
- g) Groups, Intergroups, Region and service disciplines could hold more frequent service and sponsorship workshops on-line or otherwise e.g. "Service: The Sponsor and Sponsee" where officers raise awareness of what their service position involves and the benefits of service.
- h) Conventions could hold sponsorship forums.
- i) Share, Roundabout and AA Service News could be used more to advertise these workshops and forums.
- j) Since the pamphlet "Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered" contains little guidance on sponsoring into service, the literature sub-committee is asked to review this and add a section on this topic.

Furthermore Committee 4 recommends that:

- a) Newly available on-line technologies be explored by the Fellowship as a matter of urgency to enhance the support not only to sponsors but to all aspects of service.
- b) A leaflet specifically on service sponsorship be produced by the Board.
- c) Guidelines are dotted around AA literature, but a proper focussed pamphlet would be helpful. The US pamphlet P15 "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" for example, contains valuable information.
- d) Section 1 of The Service Handbook (Growing into Service) is reviewed by the Board to include the roles of sponsorship and service sponsorship.

Vote was 16 for and 1 abstention.

### Question 3

**Review revised Chapter 3 AA and Electronic Communications, section 3.6 The AA GB Website of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2018.**

The committee recommends that the last line of section 3:6 The AA GB Website in Service Handbook 2018. P37 is changed to:

*“All other external links will require Board approval and must display clear disclaimers and warnings if the link takes the user away from the AA GB website”.*

Vote was unanimous.

## **Committee No. 5**

### Question 1

**Can Conference discuss their experience of sobriety requirements for Prison Liaison Officers and members sharing at prison meetings and, if deemed necessary, recommend amendments to Chapter 8 of “The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain” in order to give more clarity?**

The Committee shared experience and recommended that the minimum period of sobriety for the roles in question should be as follows:

#### **Intergroup & Region Prison Liaison Officer (PLO)**

PLO organizes schedules for prison visiting and anything concerning communication with the prison, reports back to intergroup and region

Length of sobriety – three years

#### **Prison Sponsor (Facilitator)**

Regularly facilitates a meeting in a prison e.g., Chair/Secretary of a meeting who goes in to the prison on a regular basis

Length of sobriety – three years

#### **AA members who are invited to speak or visit a prison group**

All members sharing in prisons are invited at the discretion of the Prison Sponsor and/or the PLO who have a duty of care to any AA members invited into a prison.

Length of sobriety - One year and accompanied by a Prison Sponsor (Facilitator).

There was a minority view that three years’ minimum sobriety is required.

The Committee recommended that the General Service Board (GSB) direct the Prison Sub-Committee to provide definitions of roles with named positions in addition to providing clarification in Chapter Eight of the AA Service Handbook to include (but not limited to) the above recommendations.

The Committee’s vote was unanimous.

## Question 2

**Would Conference consider the implications of the adoption of the practice by AA in Great Britain of inviting speakers from overseas and paying their expenses? Make recommendations.**

The Committee considered that the implications of the practice of paying speakers from overseas to attend conventions included the following:

- a) Encouraging a “Celebrity culture” circuit and professionalisation of AA which conflicts with our spiritual principle that what we receive freely we freely give away.
- b) Acknowledging that circuit speakers do attract audiences and their message may provide identification.
- c) Group autonomy - Tradition Four allows a convention committee to decide whether or not to invite an overseas speaker.
- d) Possible incorrect use of Tradition Seven monies to cover expenses at Conventions, as expenses should be covered by the registration fee.
- e) Possible professionalisation of AA and contravention of Traditions Eight and Twelve.
- f) Local speakers lose valuable opportunities to gain experience sharing with larger audiences.
- g) Overseas could not be clearly defined especially in Continental Europe

In considering all of the above the Committee makes the following recommendations:

The wording of the Conventions section Finance paragraph in the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain* should be changed from:

*At the planning stage it is sensible to cover all projected costs through the registration fee, remembering that the “Pot” is traditionally AA money.*

### **TO**

*All projected costs should be covered through the registration fee, remembering that the “Pot” is traditionally AA money used for primary purpose work and not to be used to cover expenses.*

Text is added to the Chairperson and Speakers section of the Conventions section in the AA GB Structure Manual as follows:

*Usually Conventions invite the chair and speakers to participate well in advance. If speakers are invited from outside the local area and their reimbursement for travel is to be paid this should be borne in mind when assessing the registration charge. Fees should not be paid to AA speakers as to do so would imply professionalism and violate the spirit of Tradition Eight.*

If accepted by Conference the Committee recommends that this wording is updated in the AA GB Structure Handbook, Chapter on Conventions. The Committee noted that the practice recommended by the 1995 Committee (given in the background information) had not been added to the Conventions Section of the AA GB Structure Handbook.

The Committee's decision was unanimous.

### **Question 3**

**Would Conference consider the best way to keep archive material intact? Should there be a move to ask all Region and Intergroup archivists to pass their older material - say anything older than 10 years - up to York for safe keeping?**

**Would Conference also consider that Intergroup or Regions' Archive material, even though stored at the home of the Archivist or under lock and key elsewhere, remain the property of A.A., despite voluntary rotation, or the incumbent passing away.**

The Committee noted that fellowship feedback was consistently critical of the lack of any background material provided with the question and recommend that this is taken into account by the Conference Steering Committee when compiling future questions.

The Committee however recognized that despite the lack of background information the issue of preserving the archives of AA is of great importance to the fellowship. After discussion, the recommendation to Conference of the three points raised in the question is as follows:

1. The Committee agreed that the best way to keep archive material intact is for it to be moved to GSO/Borthwick for best protection of the fellowship's history.
2. The Committee recommends that there is a request made to Region and Intergroup archivists that material older than ten years is passed to GSO for storage, bearing in mind the autonomy provided to all by Tradition Four. A minority view was expressed that this request should not be made.
3. The Committee agreed that in considering the moral ownership of the material, AA archives belong to the fellowship and not the individual; legal imperative notwithstanding.

The Committee recommends that the GSB instruct the Archive Sub-Committee to provide clear guidance to the fellowship about items that should be included with the archive material. This guidance should be added to the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 11 "Archives".

The Committee hopes that the above recommendations inform the ongoing review being undertaken by the Archives Sub-Committee of the views of the fellowship on these points.

The Committee recorded a majority in favour of the decision. A minority view that the question should have been postponed until further background information was made available was expressed, fully considered and respected.

## **Committee No. 6**

### **Question 1**

**Conference is asked to consider and make recommendations on ways to reach out to problem drinkers in black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Membership of AA is still predominantly white, even in racially mixed towns and cities.**

The fellowship acknowledges that there may be more Primary Purpose activity required in carrying our message to the suffering alcoholics from minority ethnic groups, as confirmed by the 2020 AA survey and validated by participation at Conference 2021.

Ethnicity varies greatly across AAGB and CER and to avoid assumptions being made in how to address this issue, or the extent of the issue, we recommend a combined approach across the service structure.

Local groups/intergroups could consider the option to:

- a. Host more meetings in diverse types of venues.
- b. Approach community leaders to raise awareness about the availability of AA.
- c. Invite non-alcoholics from minority groups to attend open meetings to raise awareness.
- d. Pi Walkabouts of local area to distribute literature and posters.
- e. Consider use of online meetings to encourage those who might find it difficult to attend face to face meetings.
- f. Utilise experience of existing members where appropriate to ensure all cultural implications are considered prior to activity commencing.

GSB/Sub Committees:

This committee recommends that the GSB implement a review of all current literature (posters, leaflets, videos etc.) to ensure most effective outreach to minority ethnic groups. The relevant subcommittees should make readily available the translated versions of our leaflets and collate them on the AAGB website.

This committee recommends that the GSB instruct the Electronic Communication Sub Committee to review Ethnic Communities page on the AAGB website and add links to relevant literature.

Roundabout/SHARE could consider specific editions or frequent contributions from members from minority ethnic groups.

Finally, we recommend that all areas mentioned above utilise the experience, strength, and hope of existing members from minority ethnic groups to ensure appropriateness of solutions and that all cultural considerations are taken into account.

***The vote was unanimous.***

### **Question 2**

**Would the Fellowship share experience in reaching out to the growing homeless community, many of whom have problems with alcohol?**

The fellowship has varied experience around reaching out to alcoholics within the homeless community.

This reflects the fact that there are varied and complex needs among these vulnerable members of our communities, and the geographical location of these communities.

The initiative shown in Brighton is to be applauded. Similar activity in other regions includes:

- a. Homeless/Hostel Liaison Officers in post.
- b. Public Information Officers have this as part of their role where relevant. In some areas, additional Sub Committees have been formed to support the specific activity required.
- c. Use of specific lived experience which has been very useful in carrying the message.
- d. Outreach activity with charities, night shelters, food banks and hostels.
- e. Hosting meetings in or near hostels, rehabs, or shelters.
- f. Making AA literature available to individuals who work with homeless people.

***The vote was unanimous.***

### **Question 3**

**Would the Fellowship share experience of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on AA in Great Britain at group level and make recommendations on suitable commitments and an appropriate service path for newcomers at online meetings?**

The Coronavirus Pandemic needs no introduction. The AA Fellowship quickly adapted to change, diversified and grew through the application of the Traditions, never forgetting the fulfilment of our Primary Purpose.

The experience of the fellowship in this evolving situation is as follows:

### **Online Meetings**

1. Whilst online meetings previously existed, the pandemic has accelerated the use of online meetings.
2. Online meetings have worked successfully, with members achieving sobriety solely through online meetings and remote sponsorship.
3. It is felt that online meetings will be a part of the fellowship going forward as it has worked well as part of the structure.
4. At group level, scheduling has been found to be important to avoid clashes.
5. Members are able to access meetings all around the world, and the fellowship has widened.
6. Some newcomers and members find online meetings easier to access and, in some cases, are less daunting than a physical meeting.
7. Greater access to specific, non restrictive diversity meetings
8. Some felt that these meetings compromise emotional connection.
9. Initially it was difficult to find service positions for newcomers and members, however positions have been identified and created such as:
  - a. Welcomers (Greeting newcomers and members)
  - b. Readers (Preamble, Cards etc.)
  - c. Local Literature delivery
  - d. Chip Person (Birthday/Anniversary Secretary)
  - e. Tradition 7 Announcer
  - f. Literature Announcer
  - g. Timekeeper
  - h. Sponsorship and Contact Coordinator
  - i. Social Secretary
  - j. Screen Sharer
  - k. Tech Person
  - l. Host and Co-Host
  - m. Chat Monitor
  - n. Chair finder
10. Online meetings may not be accessible for everyone due to personal preference and/or technology limitations, however some groups have given guidance and/or resources to help members to access meetings.
11. Security concerns remain however groups have introduced a number of mitigations to minimise risk as referenced in the 'Online Zoom Meeting Hosting Guidelines' document on the AAGB website.

12. Various applications or platforms have been used to encourage communication between meetings.

### **Tradition 7**

1. Online payments and contactless payments have been successfully used with some groups experiencing an increase in contributions.
2. In online meetings, links are being posted in the various chat facilities for Tradition 7.
3. Some groups have shared licences with other groups to reduce costs.

### **Online Intergroups**

1. CER has had an Online Intergroup for years.
2. Any group can join any intergroup or form an intergroup with other groups.
3. There are mixed views expressed across the fellowship on the creation of new online intergroups.

### **Physical Meetings**

Where physical meetings have taken place there have been tremendous efforts to adhere to applicable law, legislation and guidelines.

### **Hybrid meetings**

Hybrid meetings - after teething problems these turned out to be quite successful, particularly where there was experience with technology.

### **Recommendations:**

This committee recommends that GSB form a specific working group/sub committee to address the ongoing changes resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic and issue further guidance as appropriate.

This committee recommends that GSB revisit Conference 2018 Committee 2 Question 1 recommendation to address online payments and produce guidance for the fellowship.

***The vote was unanimous.***

## **REFLECTIONS ON CONFERENCE: A Trustee and a Delegate**

I was privileged to attend and participate in the 55th Annual Conference of AAGB including English speaking Continental European Region over the weekend of 16th to 18th April 2021. This was the first one to be held entirely online due to the ongoing pandemic. This posed many challenges which had never been encountered before in AAGB.

*I wholeheartedly commend and applaud the Conference Steering Committee and GSO Staff for ensuring this ran as smoothly as possible.*

I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that I was apprehensive about having an online conference. However, I fully supported the decision to hold it online this year. I love the social interaction that the Conference weekend in York affords the Delegates, Observers, Board Members and GSO staff. To my surprise, as the weekend progressed and the committee I was on got stuck into the discussions on the questions, I really started to enjoy it. I sat on Committee 5 and we had three questions to consider, one of which was an additional question added to the two brought forward from last year. The discussions were lively, interesting and always carried out in a spirit of love and tolerance. Minority views were respected and recorded in line with Concept 5.

It was truly a privilege to see the answers come together in committee. I was also grateful to be asked to advise and provide as much information as I could on the subjects along with my fellow Trustees on the committee. The Delegates brought their Regions' responses and views to the discussions. They also expressed their own views and when it came to voting, they did so freely with their own consciences.

I enjoyed the various presentations by Trustees and the discussions on Safeguarding in the Open Forum session. I was privileged to serve on the Safeguarding Working Group set up by the Board after the Conference 2019 Committee 6 Recommendations. I was delighted that Conference voted to accept the proposed document. I believe this provides the Fellowship with a strong framework on which to build. I'm sure that the discussions taking place in groups, intergroups and regions will bear much fruit. I look forward to the document being added to in the future.

This whole online experience has taught me so much. I could go on for ages but would just like to highlight a few lessons I've learned.

The first lesson was ensuring that I always acted courteously, for example, respecting the Chair of the Committee and Conference Chair by putting my hand up or raising the hand icon on the screen.

I also learned that even at a distance, I could still practise the wonderful principle of seeing people through rather than seeing through them. This meant being there as much as I possibly could for red dotters especially during the regional breakout sessions. It was so joyful to acknowledge the Committee Chair and Secretary for their tireless work during those sessions as well as acknowledging the equally tireless work of the Conference Chair, the Steering Committee and the GSO Staff. My experiences in recovery have taught me that I feel so elated when I try to build other people up with words of encouragement and acknowledging their efforts and hard work.

I came back to AA in January 1997 completely broken and desperate. My self-esteem was shot to pieces. I was loved back to sobriety and good health by God as I

understand him, my family, and also by my AA friends and sponsor. I truly believe that if I'm there for someone else by listening and giving them words of encouragement, whether they're a first year Delegate or a Committee or Conference Chair, then this is evidence of the AA Legacies of Unity, Recovery and Service in action.

It's so easy to get wrapped up in this age of digital technology, with all its innovations, good and bad, that I can forget that I'm in a meeting of AA albeit at a distance! The AA programme teaches me to treat others the way I like to be treated, namely with dignity and respect whether in a physical or online meeting. A kind word here and there and expressions of gratitude really brightened up this online Conference experience for me and made it much more enjoyable and rewarding than I could have ever imagined.

I sincerely hope that all the digital and technological innovations we have at our disposal will ALWAYS be used in positive and constructive ways, thus helping us to fulfil our Primary Purpose as well as encouraging more members into service.

In these ever changing and demanding times, I hope that we will always protect our Trusted Servants throughout our wonderful Fellowship from individuals who seem to find it necessary to belittle, troll, bully, or bring them down in one way or another. This behaviour is UNACCEPTABLE and completely CONTRARY to our three legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. It also reaffirms the need for a safeguarding framework throughout our Fellowship.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone involved in making this year's Conference a truly memorable and enjoyable experience. I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees and Conference for ratifying me in my new post as your Honorary Treasurer. I also thank my predecessor, Brian, for his example, service and friendship. I look forward to Conference next year which I hope will be in person, God willing.

With Best Wishes and Love in Fellowship,

**Clive K, GSB Honorary Treasurer**

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### **Conference 2021: The Missing Link**

The Fifty-Fifth General Service Conference of AA GB and Continental Europe which took place over a long (very long...) weekend in April 2021 had a unique additional word added to the title: "Virtual".

As a second year Conference Delegate, in February 2020 I was steadily reading all the AA books and historical Conference reports I wanted to finish before Conference in April 2020 and worrying that I wouldn't have time to get it all done. Looking now I'm reminded of the old joke "How do you make God laugh? Tell him your plans."

We all know what happened next. A global lesson in powerlessness that left us all reeling, struggling to understand how our lives and our recovery could continue in times where a vital part of what our recovery depended on was removed. Our meetings went online, we adapted, we doubled down on what we needed to do, we complained, we got resentments, we kept coming back; or we didn't. That choice has always been available.

But *Conference* online? How could we do that? How could those first-year delegates, our cherished red-dotters, be denied the experience that the fellowship of Conference provided? How could there be a Conference without hugs and breakfast at the Park Inn and cake at Betty's? And hugs. *"The moment we say; No never!" our minds close against the grace of God"*.

Conference was initially postponed to October 2020 and then a clear decision was made by delegates that it should not be held online at that time. That vote found me in the minority and challenged my acceptance of Tradition Two *especially* when I did not personally agree with the outcome. I believe that Conference has a responsibility to the fellowship it represents to conduct business in a timely manner, by whatever means that business could be conducted. I did not doubt that those voting to postpone also had the fellowships' best interests at heart, I just wasn't convinced about the way to do so.

In finding myself resisting something, there is undoubtedly something I can learn about myself in looking at that resistance. The programme of AA offers many different tools I can use to practice these principles in *all* my affairs; not just when it suits me or the vote goes "my" way. How many of us have learned our most important lessons – even to the final capitulation to alcohol – when we are up against it?

And there was a positive; I got an entire extra year to finish all the reading. When did I finish it? The weekend before Conference 2021 started. Of course.

When the Virtual Conference was announced I'm sure it gave all those against the idea the same opportunities for reflection as I had received a few months earlier.

Preparations began. The staff at GSO began hosting rehearsal meetings covering every possible combination of committees, chairs, trustees, secretaries, red dotters, left-handers, and of course the Scots (no translation needed). Many of the GSO staff are not alcoholics but their dedication is tireless and their efficiency and cheerful calm presence are a huge blessing to this fellowship, even in ordinary times. In every aspect of our Virtual Conference, they were exemplary.

As the preparation meetings progressed, I heard many fellows confessing their reluctance and doubt about the process, sharing their fears and asking for help. I was moved each time I heard this and grateful we were in a safe enough place where it

was possible to be honest. As with any regular AA meeting, each time there was a call, there was connection, there was help offered, jokes and laughter, reassurances and solidarity, the hand of AA was there. Make no mistake, this was not an easy process for some and my admiration of the lengths people will go to be of service to AA has grown considerably.

As Bill W wrote of the first Conference in 1951, *“Well, our Conference did work. Its performance, God be thanked, exceeded all our expectations.”* Ours did too! It was unbelievably exhausting but it worked. I received a message from a fellow delegate a few days after which read *“The blood is finally returning to my brain...”* I know what he meant.

The Chair of Conference (who had the unique requirement of reassuring Conference that he was dressed correctly even down to his ankles) gave a wonderful address and managed with cheerful calm the usual plenary time logjams and surfeit of questions. A universal mute function might become a prerequisite for all future Conference Chairs. Committees met, and reported back; fulfilling their responsibility to the fellowship. Voting happened; elections took place. People were unexpectedly spun off into breakout rooms with those from Other Regions, giving the expression *“rocketed into a fourth dimension”* an entirely new meaning. Virtual Conference worked.

When we left to get our metaphorical trains home, the usual magic had happened. There was fellowship, warmth and connection, showing us that our disease of isolation was being treated by the connections being made, even virtually. Conference reports will be distributed as usual and the Fellowship will benefit from the willing service of all those present. I feel incredibly fortunate that I was able to be present, at, what we hope, will be a unique event for our Fellowship, and to be reminded that AA is infinitely adaptable in finding ways to help the still suffering alcoholic.

**Dena A, Luxembourg, Delegate to Conference**

## HEALTH LIAISON OFFICERS “ZOOM” TOGETHER

The role of Intergroup and Regional Health Liaison Officers (HLOs) and the other service disciplines they work closely with in teams has been made increasingly difficult, if not impossible, this last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Therefore, it was with some hesitancy that the Health Sub Committee made the decision to hold a virtual HLOs meeting on Saturday, 6th February 2021.

It was decided to invite five HLOs to each deliver a ten-minute presentation on their experiences, including making contact at Hospitals, general health practices, university teaching hospitals, treatment centres, etc. This would leave an hour of informal question and answer time, or so it was thought. The dozen or so members we prayed may turn up exploded into the waiting room and within ten minutes 74 members from AAGB, including from Continental European Region (CER), had logged on with others sending apologies.

There were eight Trustees present including the Chair of the General Service Board. They too had come to offer their support and be updated on the health discipline throughout AAGB. The other 60 plus members included HLOs from many regions and intergroups and other service discipline sub committees, along with members who were interested to find out how they too could contact or re-engage with health professionals,

All five presentations were informative, interesting and inspiring. The speakers in order were:

- Huw H, IHLO, North West Wales, shared his service experience including how he and others set up a meeting at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, and how they adapted and continued throughout the pandemic.
- Jane R, RHLO, Scotia Region, shared her service experience of how she made initial contacts with the medical and academical professionals and followed through with presentations, etc.
- Mike H, Potteries & District Intergroup HLO, shared his service experience of breaking down the barriers and making connections with treatment centre managers through a close working relationship with the local health awareness team working together as a team to carry the message to the still suffering.
- Daniele V, RHLO, London Region South, shared her service experience of setting up Open Meeting Workshop (OMW) presentations to student health professionals at St George's University Hospital (SGUL), including virtual meetings – and regularly inviting AA members to participate in the OMWs.
- Robin H, Health Sub Committee member, also shared his service experience setting up and delivering Open Meeting Workshops to trainee doctors and psychiatrists at various locations. Robin also shared his experience to date as a member of the Health Sub Committee team and his work on refreshing the web pages of the Health discipline.

This large representation of the Fellowship confirms that the members are ready, willing and waiting for this pandemic to pass in order to fulfil their primary purpose.

A couple of comments from attendees:

“Delighted to have participated today. I was blown away by the huge talent pool we have and the knowledge they shared to enable us to do service effectively.”

“Many thanks to you and to the sub-committee for Saturday’s event. It was both engaging and informative, a combination which is not always easily achieved.”

## Welsh National Convention – ONLINE

It is with great regret that the Welsh National Convention Committee has to inform you that the Convention scheduled for June in Llandrindod Wells will be cancelled due to the restrictions still in place regarding gatherings of large numbers.

We have booked the Hotel to hold next year's Convention from 27th - 29th May 2022. Anyone who has paid for a room at the Metropole Hotel will have their booking carried over until next year. (If anyone wants their money back then please contact the hotel directly.)

The Committee has decided to hold a one-day virtual convention on 5th June 2021 on Zoom. Details below.

**Topic: Welsh National Convention**

**Time: June 5, 2021 / 10am - 6pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/99896299906?pwd=aHINWjN3R0VYTsyRW00K0wzdUJ4Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 998 9629 9906 Passcode: 554041**

- AA shares at 10am, 11am.
- Welsh Speaking Share at 12 noon.
- Lunch break 1pm - 2pm
- AA share at 2pm
- AI-Anon Share at 3pm (Open Meeting) AA shares at 4pm and 5pm.
- Convention closes at 6pm.

# Letter from “Living with Illness in Recovery” AA Group

Dear Friends,

Our wonderful “Living with Illnesses in Recovery” (LWIR) meeting has grown and has a good solid base of people from all over the country, proving it services a need. We are thankful and relieved that it will remain on Zoom.

We have put together a general overview along with individual thoughts and experiences from members of our LWIR Meeting. Please note that “illnesses” is other illnesses that our members live with in addition to alcoholism. This can range from depression and anxiety to physical and long-term conditions. There is no illness that is excluded from our meeting.

The following is to express how we feel about our meeting and some observations we have picked up during the past few months. We are a dedicated group and we have created a special bond whilst attending our meetings on Zoom.

1. The sole purpose of our group, as with any other, is to offer sobriety through the teachings and practice of the 12 Steps and we would encourage other members to come and speak to us from the heart. We show up early, to welcome the next member through the door and we always do our best to try to make a difference for others and ourselves.

2. This meeting has such depth and meaning because it allows members of the Fellowship of AA to express how they are feeling and coping with their physical and mental wellbeing. The broad spectrum of illnesses, long-term and terminal conditions that are part of each meeting means that all participants can bring a full picture of their day-to-day life to the table.

Obviously since Lockdown began, there are many participants who have had to isolate. This meeting has been a lifeline on Zoom and it will continue to be – something we know members feel very strongly about, particularly because Zoom can reach all the corners of the world.

We have met members from all walks of life who harbour rather gracefully, visibly and not too perceptibly other ailments that can intrude in our daily living in a big way. During some AA meetings, we may not always feel it appropriate to share too much on the difficulties that ensue while living sober with such complications and yet, we are able to do so in the LWIR meetings with much laughter and plain honesty.

Here is a personal account from a member:

*“During my recovery I have had numerous hospital admissions, needing months of recovery for major surgeries, drug resistant infections in my kidneys and a head injury. I now live with pain, fatigue and nausea as part of my daily life. Clinical depression has also been a condition I was first treated for at age 17 and has continued to cause me times of all-encompassing breakdown of my standard of living.*

*The LWIR meeting enables me to share honestly and openly about managing these conditions and the overwhelming and debilitating impact on my life. I also know I am not the only member who experiences similar issues. I can truly feel God working through people when the humour and compassion shines in the meeting!! I feel enabled to access my God and our 12 Steps with a renewed sense of gratitude.*

*Knowing that our meeting will continue to run every Tuesday at 2pm, so that we all continue to meet whilst strengthening our bond of AA Unity and sharing our trials and tribulations will continue to enrich so many lives and will provide a place of truth, honesty and safety.*

*We’ve all heard the story of groups opening up due to resentment. Our little group opened up for what we believe is a more common reason, a great need for an AA meeting, focussed on, but not limited to, members Living with Illnesses in Recovery, and the challenges this entails. There have been many times when many of us have felt inadequate to meet life’s demands but AA and the Power within our programme will continue to find a way! If you can spare an hour, with no rain to walk through, please come and join us on our online meeting on Zoom at 2pm every Tuesday.”*

- The “Living with Illnesses In Recovery” (LWIR) AA meeting is held on Zoom every Tuesday at 2pm and can be found on the London AA meeting list.

## GSB Sub Committee Vacancies

When applying for any of the vacancies below please note that forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026; [jennypryke@gsgob.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gsgob.org.uk) or in the Document Library (“Forms”) of the AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk). Please get your form from either GSO or the Document Library, as the application forms are regularly updated and it is essential to use the most recent form.

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. The deadline for **ALL** applications is **Friday, 13th August 2021**.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Qualified Sub Committee applicants will be interviewed by two

GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through a video platform at a time agreed by the applicants.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on a General Service Board Sub Committee, please email the relevant General Service Board Trustee below each notice **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**.

Thank you!

## Archives Sub Committee Vacancies

**There are two vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee.**

The Archives Sub Committee works to preserve the history of the Fellowship as well as aiming to develop its network of Regional and Intergroup Archivists. The Sub Committee reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety, will normally serve for a period of four years, and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*.

An interest in AA history, good communication and IT skills along with an ability to work as part of a team would be highly advantageous. Some knowledge and/or experience of archival work would also be useful. The successful candidates would be required to attend up to four meetings a year in York.

**Current application forms are available from GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library. The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Archives Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Thomas Baldwin, GSB Non-Alcoholic Trustee and Trustee for Archives  
([trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk))

## Armed Services Sub Committee Vacancies

**There are vacancies on the Armed Services Sub Committee**

Applicants who are serving members of the Armed Forces, or ex-Service men and women would be an advantageous but is not essential. The aim of the Sub

Committee is to raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within the Armed Services community, both serving and ex-serving personnel, including their families.

**Main aims are:**

- Offer support and advice to regional Armed Services Liaison Officers.
- Help promote and encourage the appointment of Liaison Officers.
- Support the development and sharing of good practice and review and update literature, media resources and guidelines as necessary.
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies connected with the Tri-Services.

**It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety at time of application
- A sound grasp of AA Service Structure, Guidelines and Traditions
- A personal service history at either intergroup and/or region in this discipline
- Good organisational and communication skills are desirable. The ability to produce written and verbal reports would be an advantage, as well as relevant IT skills.

Armed Services Sub Committee members will normally serve for a period of four years. There is an expectation that Armed Services Sub Committee members normally attend two meetings a year in York and participate in possible “conference call” meeting(s) as and when required, giving notice to the GSB Trustee if unable to attend/participate.

**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.**

**Current application forms are available from GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Armeed Services Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Thank you!**

**Mike P, GSB Trustee for Armed Services ([trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor Vacancy

### Vacancy for Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor

The Fellowship Calendar and Diary Production Officer is rotating out of post and we need an enthusiastic person to take on this exciting role, continuing production of this important means of carrying the message. This is a service position for which the candidate must have a minimum of five years sobriety and will be required to attend a minimum of two Sub Committee meetings per year.

They will be responsible for the preparation and compilation of the Fellowship Calendar and Diary by:

- Sourcing programme materials and quotes
- Gathering, selecting and evaluating photographs submitted by AA members, within agreed timescales
- Supplying all material to printer and liaising with GSO, the Board Trustee and the printer
- Having some basic photo editing experience and knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Being familiar with AA's 12 Traditions

This is a shared post with *Roundabout* magazine. If the Editor comes from England or Wales, he / she will be attached to the *SHARE* Editorial Team; if from Scotland then he / she will be attached to the *Roundabout* Editorial Team. This is a four- / five- year term. A detailed description of duties can be sent on appointment.

If you are interested in this service position, please ring the General Service Office for further details and an application form as soon as possible. A letter of recommendation will be required from your intergroup or region.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for *SHARE* ([trustee.northeastregion@gso.gb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gso.gb.org.uk))**

## Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies

### There are Vacancies for the Electronic Communications Sub Committee

Can you help carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic?

The Electronic Communications Sub-Committee (ECSC) invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of using electronic communications to help those who need help, and to keep existing members informed.

Various roles exist within the sub-committee:

- Webmaster supports the website and coordinates new features and changes with the professional web developer.
- Microsite admin assists Region and Intergroup ECLOs with the set up and maintenance of their local websites within the AAGB site structure.
- Postmaster supports members who use the aamail.org email service, supervising the system, fighting spam, etc.
- Filestore admin monitors the use of this secure storage area, ensuring access requests are properly validated.
- The Workplace platform is being trialled by the Board, sub committees and by a couple of regions. WP Admin supervises the allocation of secure access and assists new users.
- Admins of Online Response Service and ChatNow ensure the smooth operation of these essential front-line services, encourage recruitment of new responders etc.
- Helpdesk deals primarily with a variety of service-related queries, requests for email addresses etc.

An interest in electronic communications and a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area is more important than anything else in these roles. Our various IT suppliers provide technical support, so although good basic computer literacy is required, more important to us is an understanding of how people communicate and the desire to help us improve what we do.

As with all Sub -committee vacancies, five years' continuous sobriety and the endorsement of your region or intergroup are required. You should be flexible in time commitments, and be prepared to join us occasionally online as well as attending several meetings per year in York, where accommodation is provided and expenses paid.

For details of where to obtain and return the application form please see the website at <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Vacancies> [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) **OR** request by email: [jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk)

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Electronic Communications Sub Committee (ECSC), please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Norman B, GSB Trustee for Electronic Communications**  
[trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)

## Employment Sub Committee Vacancies

### Two Vacancies for the Employment Sub Committee

The Employment Sub Committee is a Sub Committee of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**We have a vacancy for two new Sub Committee members.**

**Our Primary Functions are to:**

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

The committee meets up to four times a year in York, although some of the meetings may take the form of telephone conferencing. Much of the work is done in the interim generally in partnership with the other members of the committee.

The post is subject to rotation after four years.

**It is suggested that we follow the following criteria:**

- A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety
- A sound knowledge of the AA Structure, Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- Sub Committee applicants should be endorsed by the AA structure, i.e., the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or a current Liaison Officer in their intergroup or region. The serving officer's endorsement should be in the form of a letter attached to the completed nomination form.

**Current application forms are available from GSO and can also be found in the Document Library on the AAGB website.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Employment Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Mike P, GSB Trustee for Employment ([trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Health Sub Committee Vacancies

**There are several vacancies on the Health Sub Committee.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented even greater challenges for members in service roles within the Health discipline including the Health Sub Committee. Working as a team the Health Sub Committee has been able to respond to these challenges.

Rotation has created several opportunities for new members to join this dedicated team and if you fulfil the essential qualifying criteria and are enthusiastic and experienced in the Health discipline or a complimentary discipline, we would love to hear from you, so please apply.

### **ESSENTIAL QUALIFYING CRITERIA:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the date of application
- A working knowledge of the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts, the AAGB service structure and guidelines, and Conference approved material.
- Proven experience at intergroup and / or region as a Health Liaison Officer or a complimentary discipline
- The availability to serve on the Sub Committee for four years
- The availability to attend four meetings each year including attendance at York and on virtual meetings

## ESSENTIAL ROLE REQUIREMENTS:

- To implement health initiatives as directed by the General Service Board on the recommendation of Conference and to understand the relationship between the General Service Board and the Health Subcommittee
- To provide support to Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers by providing information, advice and resources.
- To create and encourage open communication channels with Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers, including virtual and live meetings and seminars if appropriate.
- To establish and maintain relationships at National level with health professionals and professional bodies.
- To carry the message and increase awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Step programme to all health-related environments as appropriate

The full list of Roles and Responsibilities can be found on the AAGB Website on the Health discipline page. However, if you have any questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Health Sub Committee of the General Service Board, please email the Health Trustee, details below, who will be only too pleased to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

Nomination forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026 [Jenny.pryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.pryke@gsogb.org.uk) ; or in the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website [www.alcoholicsanonymousgb.org.uk](http://www.alcoholicsanonymousgb.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.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**Terri S, GSB Trustee for Health ([trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Literature Sub Committee Vacancies

### There are vacancies on the Literature Sub Committee

To enable the Literature Sub-Committee of the General Service Board of AA GB 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.

### **Its members meet the following criteria:**

- Have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety.
- Have a sound understanding of the Twelve Steps.
- Have a working knowledge of the AA structure, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, obtained through service at various levels.
- Show a commitment to service through personal experience at their home group, intergroup and/or region.
- 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.)
- Are endorsed by the AA structure, i.e., a serving officer of their Intergroup or Region. (The serving officer's endorsement letter is to be attached to the completed nomination form.)

### **Essential requirements:**

- Be able to travel to York, UK, four times a year (Fridays and Saturdays).
- 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 able to serve a four-year term.
- 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.

### **Desirable requirements:**

- Have some experience in copy-editing, design, document drafting or similar work
- Be familiar with social media and other communications platforms.

**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. The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Literature Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Erik A, GSB Trustee for Literature ([trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk))

## Prisons Sub Committee Vacancies

The Prison Sub Committee is looking for three 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.

### **Role requirements are:**

- The position is rotational after four years and requires a minimum of five years sobriety at the time of applying;
- A sound knowledge of the service structure & Traditions of the Fellowship
- To work within Prison Sub-Committee Terms of Reference.
- To attend two Prison Sub-Committee meetings and 'teleconference' meetings.

**Current application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AAGB website in the Document Library. The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Prisons Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Pat Mc G, GSB Trustee for Prisons ([trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## Probation Sub Committee Vacancies

### **There are two vacancies on the Probation Sub Committee.**

The post requires five years' continuous sobriety and experience at intergroup and region as a minimum. The post is four years in duration and the applicant should be enthusiastic about probation / criminal justice service.

#### **Basic Role Requirements:**

- A working knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts and the AA GB service structure are essential;
- Willing to work within our Terms of Reference as presented on the AA GB website
- Prepared to attend up to four meetings per year held at GSO York
- Good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- The willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board of AA.

**Current application forms are available from GSO or on the AAGB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Probation Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for Probation**  
**([trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## ***Roundabout* Sub Committee Vacancy / NEW POSITION**

### **ROUNABOUT SUB COMMITTEE – VACANCY NEW AND CHALLENGING SERVICE POSITION**

The Sub Committee of the *Roundabout* magazine invites applicants from all regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team in this new and challenging role of Link Liaison Officer for a service period of four years. If you consider you have experience and

interesting observations, the Editorial Team will work closely with and support and guide the successful applicant.

If you meet the Role requirements, have the time to commit to this service position and a willingness to learn then please complete a Nomination Form [link below].

### **ROLE REQUIREMENTS**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety
- A high standard of English literacy
- A working knowledge of computer technology
- A desire and ability to work as part of a team
- Service as a *Roundabout* Liaison Officer at group, intergroup or regional level would be advantageous
- Flexibility to adapt and assist with other roles within the Editorial Team, as appropriate, and delegated by the Editor

### **ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Link Liaison Officer will support the Editorial Team by establishing and maintaining regular contact with the Group, Intergroup and Regional *Roundabout* Liaison Officers.
- The Link Liaison Officer will regularly review the *Roundabout* Magazine web pages and liaise with the Editor and Chairperson to effect changes.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Secretary to maintain and update the contact database of Intergroup and Regional *Roundabout* Liaisons.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Editorial Team to ensure that they are appraised of the feedback from the Fellowship.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Chairperson to maintain and implement the AA Safeguarding policy within the *Roundabout* Sub Committee.
- The Link Liaison Officer will present a brief report to each *Roundabout* Sub Committee meeting.
- The Link Liaison Officer will have a working knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, and AAGB's Structure and Service Guidelines along with Conference Approved Literature.

Current nomination forms can be accessed and downloaded from the Roundabout vacancy page or Document Library of the AAGB Website or by contacting [admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk) or phone 041 226 2214. Applications should be forwarded by email to [Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk) or posted to Jenny Pryke at: The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, (Great Britain) Limited, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

If you are interested in becoming a Link Liaison Officer and joining the Editorial team and would like to discuss this new service position further, in the first instance, please contact the Roundabout Trustee at: [trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Or on (+44) (0) 7823 484 597

**Terri, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout***

## ***Roundabout* Sub Committee Vacancy / PROOF READER**

### **ROUNDABOUT SUBCOMMITTEE – VACANCY**

The *Roundabout* Subcommittee of the Scottish *Roundabout* magazine invites applicants from all Regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team as Proof Readers for a service period of four years. There is currently one vacancy.

#### **ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

As a Proof Reader your primary duties will be to read the articles sent to *Roundabout* magazine by the Fellowship, to ensure that they meet the criteria for publication including:

- An ability to read with scrutiny each article submitted, to ascertain that it is appropriate and relevant errors
- Edit the articles to a manageable length for publication
- Have an understanding of the AA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Guidelines along with an awareness of Conference approved literature

#### **ROLE REQUIREMENTS:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety
- A high standard of English literacy
- A proficiency in computer technology
- A desire and ability to work as part of a team
- Service as a *Roundabout* Liaison Officer at Group, Intergroup or Regional level would be advantageous
- Have an ability to amend any grammatical or spelling errors
- Flexibility to adapt and assist with other roles within the Editorial Team, as appropriate, and delegated by the Editor

Applications should be endorsed by intergroup or region and accompanied by a letter of support. Current application forms can be accessed and downloaded from the *Roundabout* vacancy page or Document Library of the AA Website, or by contacting [admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk) or phone: (+44) (0)41 226 2214

Applications should be forwarded by email to [Jenny.Pryke@gsofb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Pryke@gsofb.org.uk) or posted to Jenny Pryke at: The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, (Great Britain) Limited, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

If you are interested in becoming a proof reader and joining the Editorial Team and would like to discuss it further, in the first instance, please contact the *Roundabout* Trustee at: [trustee.highlandsregion@gsofb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsofb.org.uk)

**Terri S, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout***

## 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee Vacancy

**There are two vacancies on the 75th Anniversary Sub Committee.**

At Conference 2016 the General Service Board (GSB) was tasked by Conference to oversee the organisation of a single celebratory convention in 2022 to mark the 75th year of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain.

June 2022 is getting closer and the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee is seeking two additional members in the run-up to the event.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety. Members will serve until the sub committee's work is completed (not more than four years), and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*.

**To ensure a convention programme and sober experience that reflect as great a diversity within our Fellowship as possible, the Sub Committee would be interested particularly in younger candidates and / or members who sobered up before the age of thirty.**

The Sub Committee will meet up to four times a year in York. Experience of serving on the Committee of one of our National Conventions (Northern, Southern, Welsh, Scottish) would be very helpful.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021. If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Stevie S, GSB Trustee, 75th Anniversary of AA in Great Britain Convention**  
**([trustee.vicechair@gsofb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.vicechair@gsofb.org.uk))**

## **SHARE Sub Committee Vacancy: EDITORIAL READER**

### **VACANCY FOR A SHARE MAGAZINE EDITOR READER**

*SHARE* has a vacancy for an editorial reader. The job involves: reading and scoring all articles and letters submitted, providing a guide for suitability to publish, checking quotations, suggesting titles and supporting the team to develop *SHARE* magazine.

Most of the work is done electronically and requires working to deadlines. The position is for four years.

Of particular importance for this position is a strong working knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts, both of which play a vital role in the production of *SHARE*.

#### **Additional Requirements:**

- Readers are required to attend meetings at GSO York 2-4 times per year.
- Five years continuous sobriety.
- Experience at Intergroup and preferably Region.
- Good standard of English language and computer literacy.
- Familiarity with Conference approved literature.
- A working knowledge of the service structure of AA Great Britain
- The ability to work as part of a team is paramount.

**Closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

Application forms are available from the AA GB website. Go to Members, Vacancies; or write/call: GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ Tel: (+44) (0) 1904 644026

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for *SHARE* ([trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## **Survey Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **There are two vacancies on the Survey Sub Committee.**

The General Service Conference 2017 determined that there should be a new Survey Sub Committee to be given the task of preparing and producing the 2020 Survey and all subsequent surveys. The General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous (GB) has been conducting a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972. The intention of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship in Great Britain so

that the AA message can reach the still suffering alcoholic more effectively, thus helping us to fulfil our Primary Purpose in the most effective manner.

Additional reasons for conducting this survey include: estimating the number of people in the Fellowship; informing the GSB regarding the effective allocation of resources; and gaining information that could be useful in communication with Professionals.

There are currently two vacancies for members of the Fellowship to join the Survey Sub Committee.

It would be preferable for applicants to have experience in conducting surveys and in using computer software. Applicants should also be able to work as part of a team and to liaise with professional advisers. They should have the expertise to consider previous surveys and draft additional questions to assist in improving and building on the data available. In addition, they should be prepared to undertake ad hoc tasks as required from time to time.

As with all sub committees, a minimum of five years continuous sobriety is required. It is preferred that applicants have experience of service at intergroup and regional levels. Experience as a Conference Delegate is also desirable. They should have gained a working knowledge of the *Service* and *Structure Handbooks* for AA GB in addition to the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts for World Service.

The successful candidate will be required to attend up to four meetings per year in York and will normally serve for a period of not more than four years.

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.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.**

**Mani Mehdikhani, GSB Trustee for the Fellowship Survey**  
**[trustee.nat1@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.nat1@gsogb.org.uk)**

## National Telephones Sub Committee Vacancy

### There is one vacancy on the National Telephones Sub Committee of the General Service Board

One vacancy exists for a new team members. 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.

The Telephones Sub Committee's role is 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.

The team meets four times a year in York and also stays in touch by using various technologies, i.e., email and internet forums. The appointment is for four years and requires a minimum of five years' sobriety with a sound knowledge of AA Traditions and Concepts.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 13th August 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Telephones Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Jonathan P, GSB Trustee for Telephones ([trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Young People's Sub Committee Vacancies

### There are vacancies on the Young People's Sub Committee

Experience of working as a Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) at either intergroup or region level would be an advantage, but is not essential.

The YP Sub Committee is looking for new members who are enthusiastic about helping and encouraging young people into service within AA. The sub committee meets up to four times a year in York (where accommodation is provided and expenses paid) and also stays in touch by using various forms of technology. The position is for four years.

#### Main aims are:

1. To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLOs at intergroup and region levels
2. To support the development and sharing of good practice and review/update literature, media resources and Guidelines (subject to approval)
3. To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies.

#### It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:

1. A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety, having come to AA aged 30 or under
2. A strong grasp of AA service structure, Guidelines and Traditions
3. Good organisational and communication skills

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or a currently serving Liaison Officer of your region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of covering letter. If you have any questions contact Sandi A (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application – email address:

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

The closing date for applications is **Friday, 13th August 2021.**

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AAGB website in the Document Library.

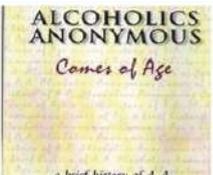
If you have questions, please contact Sandi A (the General Service Board Trustee for the Young People's Sub Committee) **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.** Email address below. Thank you!

Sandi A, GSB Trustee for Young People

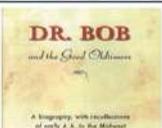
[\(trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk\)](mailto:trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

## AA Conference Approved Books New Items and Revised Prices

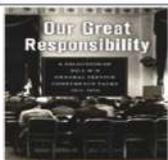
### AA Comes of Age Soft Back

	<p><b>AA Comes Of Age: a brief history of A.A.</b> Written when nearly half a century had gone by since AA's historic 1955 Convention in St. Louis, when the founding members passed on to the entire Fellowship the responsibility for the Three Legacies</p>
<b>Item code 2121</b>	<b>Price £6.00</b>

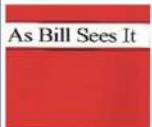
### Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Back

	<p><b>Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Cover</b> A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest</p>
<b>Item Code 2181</b>	<b>Price £6.00</b>

### Our Great Responsibility Soft Back

	<p><b>Our Great Responsibility</b> A selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951 - 1970. 270 pages, softcover with over 60 black &amp; white and colour images. Derived from original audio recordings.</p>
<b>Item Code 6070</b>	<b>Price £6.00</b>

### As Bill Sees It

	<p><b>As Bill Sees It</b> The A.A. Way of Life (selected writings of A.A.'s co-founder).</p>
<b>Item Code 2100</b>	<b>Price £5.00</b>

## Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Pocket Size



### Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

How members of Alcoholics Anonymous recover and how the society functions.

Item code 2250

Price £5.00

## The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA



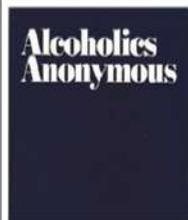
### The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine.

Item Code 2230

Price £5.00

## Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth Edition (2001) Hard Back



### This is the Big Book

Rumour has it that at Bill's suggestion the first edition was printed on very heavy paper to make it look bigger, thicker and therefore seem to be better value for money! Hence the 'Big Book' nickname.

Often described as the basic textbook of our Fellowship the first 164 pages describe our recovery program and have hardly changed since that first edition. The personal stories contained at the back of the book are changed from one edition to the next to reflect changing social situations.

Item Code 2020

Price £8.00

## Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back

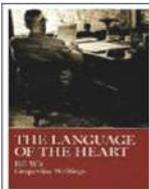


### Soft Back 4th Edition of The Big Book

Item Code 2040

Price £7.00

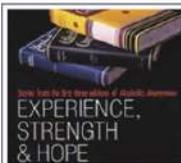
## The Language of the Heart



**The Language of the Heart**  
Bill W's Grapevine writings.

**Item code 2220      Price £7.00**

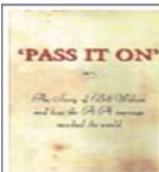
## Experience, Strength & Hope



**Experience, Strength & Hope**  
Stories from the first three editions of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Item Code 2210      Price £7.00**

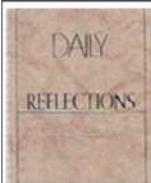
## Pass It On



**Pass It On**  
The Story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world.

**Item Code 2200      Price £8.00**

## Daily Reflections



**Daily Reflections**  
This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members.

**Item Code 2260      Price £5.00**

**TO ORDER ANY OF THESE BOOKS PLEASE COMPLETE THE  
FORM BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF  
THE PAGE WHICH WILL TAKE YOU DIRECT TO THE  
ONLINE LITERATURE SHOP**

ITEM	CODE	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
AA Comes of Age	2121		6.00	
Dr Bob & the Good Oldtimers	2181		6.00	
Our Great Responsibility	6070		6.00	
As Bill Sees It	2100		5.00	
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions Pocket Size	2250		5.00	
The Home Group	2230		5.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Hard Back	2020		8.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back	2040		7.00	
Language of the Heart	2220		7.00	
Experience, Strength & Hope	2210		7.00	
Pass It On	2200		8.00	
Daily Reflections	2260		5.00	

TOTAL PAID £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

***Please send with cheque/PO to General Service Office, PO Box 1, 10  
Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ***



**Shop | Alcoholics Anonymous - Great Britain**

Using the camera on your smart phone, point the lens at this QR code and it will show you a link to the website.

How to Shop with AA. Use the category links to find the various sections from our literature order form. Use the link and buttons to view the item or to add purchases to your shopping cart.

## Seventh Tradition

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

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

“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*

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### The Role of GSO

With four 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.

<b>From Regions July – September 2020</b>	<b>Contributions £s</b>
East of Scotland Region	£ 3,700.00
Eastern Region	£ 29,953.00
Glasgow Region	£ 1,979.00
Highlands and Islands Region	£ 1,336.00
London Region North	£ 27,991.00
London Region South	£ 845.00
Midlands Region	£ 1,035.00
North East Region	£ 20,275.00
North West Region	£ 9,924.00
Scotia Region	£ 9,990.00
South East Region	£ 1,763.00
South Midlands Region	£ 6,060.00
South West Region	£ 16,645.00
South West Scotland Region	£ 972.00
Wales & Borders Region	£ 2,232.00
Continental European Region	£ 1,625.00
Sundry and Unidentifiable Receipts	£ 1,634.00

## In Memoriam

### January 2021 – March 2021

Basingstoke	£ 55.19	In Memory of Paul
Anonymous	£ 100.00	In Memory of Finlay M
Broomfield Hospital Group	£ 750.00	In Memory of John C
Bolton Menai Bridge Group	£ 20.00	In Memory of Nora
Thurso Group	£ 236.28	In Memory of Shaun S
Lincoln Group	£ 300.00	In Memory of Stuart G.
Lincoln Group	£ 174.50	In Memory of Stuart G
Southampton Group	£ 160.00	In Memory of Mastic Bob

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

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

Email: [editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

GSO Website: [\*\*www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk\*\*](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

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### **Those in Receipt of *AA Service News***

Three copies of the print editions of *AA Service News* are posted to the mailing contact for all groups in the GB Service Structure. It is also posted to all intergroup and regional officers and the General Service Board.

If your group is not in receipt of *AA Service News* please contact GSO and check who is the “mail contact” on your group’s **PINK FORM** (Registration Form), and if necessary update it. Thank you.