



AA Service News

Summer 2022 Edition

No.191

From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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GSB Sub Committee Vacancies:

* Archives * Employment * First Response (Formerly Telephones and Online Assistance) * Health * Literature * Prison *
* Probation * Public Information & Electronic Communications (PIEComms) * *Roundabout* (Editor) * *SHARE* (Assistant Editor & Editorial Reader) * Survey * Young People's *

Printing AA Service News
Note from the Editor
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:

Whilst the Concepts checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, intergroups or regions, individual AA members may find it useful to go through it with a service sponsor if you have one, and reflect 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.)

‘The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.’

- How do we guard against becoming a ‘seat of perilous wealth or power’?
- How do we practice prudent use of our Tradition 7 contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we ensure the spiritual liberties of AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- As guardians of AA’s Traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

AA Service News Summer 2022 Edition is published digitally with no Calendar of Events

The Summer 2022 Edition of *AA Service News* is available as a digital version. This digital-only edition of *AA Service News* also contains no Calendar of Events. There is still 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

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Please don't forget to send your region and intergroup minutes and agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk



AA GB 75th Anniversary Convention

with Al-Anon participation

www.aa75.co.uk



10th - 12th June 2022

**Tickets on sale
now!**

Draft Programme

**With your registration you will
get:**

- ◆ 75th Publication
- ◆ Lanyard
- ◆ Pin Badge
- ◆ AA 75th Pen
- ◆ A bag to carry it all in

Friday	20:00 to 22:00	Opening Meeting
Saturday	10:30 to 12:00	Open Meeting
Saturday	13:00 to 14:30	Open Meeting
Saturday	15:30 to 17:00	Open Meeting
Saturday	20:00 to 21:30	Shared Platform
Sunday	10:00 to 12:00	Old Timers
Sunday	13:00 to 15:00	Final Gathering

For info contact: admin.aa75@gsogb.org.uk

◆ **Volunteer** ◆ **5km/10km run** ◆ **AA Services**

Request for AA Members Stories on Service Sponsorship

The Literature Sub Committee of the GSB is preparing a pamphlet on Service Sponsorship in AA, with the aim of presenting a draft for approval by Conference in 2023, as requested at Conference in 2021.

If you have been sponsored into a service role by a previous postholder, or have received guidance on your service career progression from a 'service sponsor', or have been in the role of 'service sponsor' – perhaps all three! – we would love to read your story.

A representative sample of submissions (guide length 750 words) will be selected for our proposed publication. The Sub Committee may make editing changes prior to publication; any such changes will be agreed with the author. Deadline for submissions is **30 September 2022**.

Articles may be sent to Literature SC, c/o GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ, UK or by email to trustee.southwestregion@gso.gb.org.uk or literature1.sc@aamail.org.uk

Thank you!

Interviewees Wanted for Diversity & Blue Light Productions

Conference 2021 asked that the GSB should look to ways of carrying the message to more diverse communities. In response, the Board has approved the creation of three short films to address still-suffering alcoholics from these groupings:

- Diverse ethnic communities
- Women
- LGBTQIA+ community

We are looking for volunteers from these groups to be interviewed on film (appropriately anonymised) about their experience, strength and hope. For the diversity film, we are particularly keen to have participation from members in the Afro-Caribbean, African and Asian communities.

Additionally, a film has been commissioned by the GSB's Employment Sub Committee to address the particular concerns about alcoholism and AA among those serving in the "blue-light" Emergency Services. Interviewees are sought from

members in the Fire, Ambulance, Police, Mountain Rescue and Coast Guard to share their experience, strength and hope.

If you identify with any of these four groups, we would be very grateful for your contribution. Please write, with your contact details, to Justin T, GSB Trustee at trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk, who will contact you to arrange a short initial meeting on an online platform, such as Zoom.

Interviews will be filmed in August.

No Longer Silent – People of Colour in AA Online Convention 22.10.22

Unity in Diversity, a Fellowship Working Group, is hosting an online convention ‘No Longer Silent’ on 22nd October 2022 for people of colour in AA

Please put the date in your diary and look out for more information on the AAGB website

Leeds City Museum Display - West Riding Intergroup

Thursday 10 March 2022 saw the culmination of over 2 and a half years of dedicated work by a small team of AA members in the West Riding Intergroup to set up and launch an exhibition in Leeds City Museum. The exhibition makes use of material from the AA Archives with the aim of carrying the message and raising awareness of AA in Leeds and surrounding areas, by outlining the history of AA locally, and providing information of the services offered. The exhibition ties in well with the 75th anniversary convention taking place in Leeds in June 2022.

The theme of the exhibition is ‘Carrying the Message’ and consists of a display showcasing many of the treasures that have been carefully preserved by our dedicated archivist team, together with a screen which runs a superb film created by a talented member of the project group, which provides a fascinating overview of the key dates and locations involved in the growth of the Fellowship. Working in partnership with the Community Liaison and Exhibitions team at the Museum, we were able to secure space for a full year, together with the facility to run public information events, including open meetings, during the year.

The launch event took place on 10 March 2022 and was well-attended by members of the Fellowship and professional friends. Our Non-Alcoholic Trustee gave an opening address and this was followed by a talk from a well-respected medical professional whose career has been dedicated to supporting those with addictions, and who is a firm advocate of the Fellowship. Finally, one of our members shared their experience, strength and hope, including an uplifting share on the history of the Fellowship and the impact this has had on their life.

Guests at the launch included friends from the prison service, local detox facilities, the probation service, and medical professionals who work in the field of alcoholism. Connecting with professionals in this way has opened the door to further work. We have already been able to capitalise on these opportunities by extending the hand of AA to those still suffering, who are being supported by local institutions.

The next event is scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday 9 June 2022. It will provide the opportunity for members of the Fellowship and professionals to attend an open meeting and also to view the display. Everyone is welcome!

Kate S, Vice-Chair, West Riding Intergroup, vice-chair.westr@aamail.org

Conference 2022 - Open Letter to the Fellowship

I woke up Monday morning after the 56th General Service Conference, totally drained and with a massive headache. I had to take the day off to recuperate.

York was intense and inspirational, and it moved my personal development up another level. Acting as the secretary for a committee was putting my head above the parapet, and all my flaws were on show.

When I was asked to be secretary in February 2022, I tried to waffle my way out of it, citing dyslexia and my need for IT assistance. However, the chair of my committee and Sharon (General Service Office) allayed my concerns with the usual pep talk: "Don't worry, it'll be all right." In my head this translated as: "You're it – and, no, you can't get out of it."

Amid the turmoil this set-in motion within me, and my fears about how people would view me, I spoke to my sponsor and other members who had served at past conferences. Their words calmed me down a bit - a tiny bit, to be honest.

Before we took our seats in the committee room, I read the 'Just for Today' card to settle my nerves.

The conscience of AA sent via the delegates flowed out and questions were answered with vigorous debate and without controversy. It was all done in a loving manner, concisely and on time.

The lady I replaced as secretary addressed the conference on a question that came up in the open forum session. Her answer is an example of why the fellowship gives me goosebumps. She'd had to cut down her commitments because of some personal issues. But the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) rallied round and accommodated her needs. That's what we, the fellowship, do: we help those who ask us for help. Unbeknown to me, the reason I was secretary was that we were helping out another alcoholic.

In terms of my personal growth, my confidence received a major boost. I'll never be an academic, but I am able to step in, show up and help out when needed. Serving on the Literature Sub Committee, reviewing text and checking grammatical errors - I'll leave all that for those with the training and skills. However, the bottom line is, it really isn't about being anything other than one alcoholic willing to help another.

When I first came into AA, a hopeless drunk from a family of drunks, I heard a bloke who got sober who had been through greater life challenges than myself. And I said to myself: "If he can do it, so can I." And I did do it. I am now 13 years sober. Just for today, one day at a time, this is the longest continuous period that I have ever not drunk for.

So, if you are reading this, I hope that it conveys to you that no service position is out of reach. View all service positions as another way of fulfilling our primary purpose, which is to help the suffering alcoholic.

And one last thing: Service really does keep you sober! God bless.

From a very grateful member.

Conference Recommendations 2022

Committee No. 1

- 1. What more can be done to raise awareness that as AA members, especially in a sponsorship capacity, we do not give unqualified medical advice on the treatment of another member, especially concerning the use of prescribed medication for a mental illness?**

The committee agreed that as AA members, our Primary Purpose is to carry the message of AA (Tradition 5) and we are not qualified to offer medical advice. There is already a considerable amount of literature on this topic, for example “Living Sober”, “Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered” and “The AA Member, Medication & Other Drugs” which states: ‘No AA member should “play doctor”’. If the subject of medication is raised, individuals are advised to have a discussion with their doctor or medical professional.

Awareness of this is essential for the protection of new members, sponsors and the fellowship generally and may have legal and/or safeguarding implications. To raise awareness, we recommend that the Board:

1. Produce a wallet card for the newcomer’s pack containing a concise version of the information referred to in the above
2. Produce a table card as above
3. Also consider for a future revision of the safeguarding document, e.g., under ‘7.0: the New Member’ and ‘5.2: What Constitutes a Safeguarding Issue’
4. Make this explicit on the AAGB website, e.g., banners on the home page
5. Encourage discussion at groups, intergroups and regions by sending electronic material to groups and an item in ‘AA Service News’

VOTE: 15 for, 1 against

A minority opinion was raised that there is nothing wrong with sponsors recommending sponsees to have a conversation with their doctor about the possibility of safely stopping medication.

2. Review proposed amendments and addition to Chapter Nine: “Probation/Criminal Justice Service” of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2019 (page 62).

This committee is in favour of the proposed amendments and additions to Chapter Nine of the AAGB Service Handbook with the following amendment:

Currently proposed text:

“filling out a ‘pink form’ if necessary”

Change to:

“also ensuring group registration details are up-to-date, e.g. via the ‘pink form’.”

VOTE: Unanimous

3. Review addition to the GSR maximum term of service language for *Structure Handbook*, p.81 (Conference 2021 – C4, Q1, f)

This committee is in agreement with the suggested addition to the AAGB Structure Handbook (on page 81), to read:

“The GSR should be prepared to serve for a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years.”

For consistency, the committee also suggests that the same change be made on page 80, where it currently reads:

“The GSR should have at least two years’ continuous sobriety and be prepared to serve for a minimum of two years.”

Should be changed to:

“The GSR should have at least two years’ continuous sobriety and should serve for a minimum of two ***and a maximum of three years.***”

VOTE: 15 for, 1 against

A minority opinion was recorded that the recommended term of service for a GSR should be two years in order to align with the World Service Manual.

4. Review addition to current *Structure Handbook* chapter, The Group, section 1, ‘Group Meetings’, p.76, *Where to Find AA*, first paragraph, after second sentence.

This committee recognises the importance of the question of keeping meeting directories up-to-date and the responsibility of the groups to provide current meeting information in a timely manner to carry the message. However, this recommendation comes from Conference 1999 but was never implemented. In 2022, this committee believes a more extensive review is required.

We recommend the Board conduct an urgent review/overhaul of the process to support groups updating their meeting details and guidance in the AAGB Structure Handbook, taking into account technologies currently available.

VOTE: Unanimous

Committee No. 2

1. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how groups can continue to meet in-person and abide by government COVID-19 regulations, such as contact tracing, vaccination status, whilst being mindful of our Traditions?

The shared experience of the Fellowship in going back to in person meetings was mainly positive. The committee recognises that throughout Great Britain and Continental Europe COVID-19 regulations have varied and continue to do so. Most groups found it helpful to liaise with local governments/authorities and maintain contact with venues and landlords to ensure compliance.

Based on previous experiences the following practical measures may help groups to continue meeting in person:

- a) Providing facemasks and (alcohol free) hand sanitiser.
- b) Ensuring adequate ventilation.
- c) Maintaining social distancing by using designated seats.
- d) Collecting Tradition 7 money online or leaving the POT by the door.
- e) Updating any changes to the status of the group via the AA GB Website.
- f) Consulting experiences from the Fellowship via Share, Roundabout, regional newsletters, AA Service News as well as local and the AA GB website.
- g) Cleaning routines.
- h) Not serving refreshments.
- i) Collecting contact tracing information with name and number only.

Where Government regulations have been lifted, we still need to be mindful that meetings ought to be a safe space for AA members. This is where the group conscience is invaluable. Individual members' precautions should be respected and accommodated if possible. At the same time, we ought not go above the law to the extent of excluding members, e.g. refusing members based on COVID-19 vaccination status.

The committee felt that requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter a meeting is not in line with Tradition 3. Where this is a legal requirement, alternative arrangements can be made. This may include having a member available to meet that person outside and provide hybrid or online options.

Contact tracing may be a privacy concern but does not violate anonymity at the level of press, radio and film. Some groups have appointed a group officer who

collects members' contact information and keeps it no longer than the legally required period.

VOTE: 15 for, 1 against

Minority opinion was that the answer to the question was in the question, that we abide by Government regulations.

2. Would the fellowship consider how post lockdown the website can evolve to meet its requirements?

This committee recognises that our AA website is an important tool for carrying AA's message. Therefore, it should be accessible, welcoming, easy to navigate and functional.

Extensive feedback from the Fellowship included the following points:

- A. The user friendliness of Meeting Finder and Online Shop could be improved.
- B. The search functionality could be improved.
- C. The website is difficult to navigate.
- D. Some meetings including Online ones can be difficult to find.
- E. Meeting lists across independent websites and the AAGB website are not in sync.

Based on these findings, this committee recommends that the GSB investigate the following: -

- a) Gather the data about the usage of different sections of the website and analyse it to identify how to improve the user experience and regularly review the content.
- b) Accessibility of the website should be broad and inclusive e.g., for those with visual impairment or different levels of computer literacy.
- c) Improvement of functionality of Regional and Intergroup microsites.
- d) Simplify the Pink form to make it seamless e.g., drop down option in field such as 'no change'.
- e) Standardise the label for meetings that take place in a physical location face to face.
- f) Differentiate the meeting search function for physical and online meetings.
- g) Implement a tool for searching all submitted past Conference Questions.
- h) Set up a feedback form for the Conference Questions e.g., as used by Continental European Region and London Region South.

- i) Assess the feasibility of implementing Meeting Guide technology as used by AA World Services, also accounting for the needs of online meetings.
- j) Liaise with Regions and Intergroups regarding improvements of the website.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. Review Archives Sub Committee revision of Chapter Eleven, *Service Handbook*, pp. 67-71.

This committee reviewed the proposed chapter and recommended the following changes:

Section 11:9, paragraph beginning “In 2021 Conference ...”

Replace the paragraph with:

“In 2021 Conference recommended that, subject to the autonomy of groups assured under Tradition 4, regions and intergroups should be asked to transfer materials that are 10 years old or older to the GSO Archive at Borthwick Institute. In considering this recommendation the Archives Sub-Committee has taken note of the points made by the Archives Network concerning:”

Replace the beginning of the next paragraph with:

“As a result, the Sub-Committee has decided that ...”

VOTE: Unanimous

Committee No. 3

1. Would Conference discuss and make recommendations on making our language and literature more inclusive, taking into account the numbers of non-binary and gender-fluid members accessing the fellowship in recent times.

The Committee noted that inclusivity within the Fellowship is already addressed by the long form of Tradition Three, “Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation” (Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, p.563).

Feedback from the Fellowship indicates a general reluctance to make changes to core literature (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions). However, moving forward, for all publications and online material, consideration should be given to using language more sensitive to non-binary and gender fluid members of the Fellowship.

To quote Dr Bob, "Remember, Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!" (Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, p.214).

VOTE: 12 for, 1 against, 1 abstention

Minority View: The last sentence of paragraph two should read, "However, moving forward, for all publications and online material, consideration should be given to using language more sensitive to all members of the Fellowship."

- 2. Would the fellowship share experience on how, under pandemic conditions, it:
 - a. has carried the message to members and potential members in hospitals, treatment centres and other institutions;****

As soon as the pandemic restrictions were imposed, there were difficulties carrying the message into institutions. However, the Fellowship responded well at all levels of the Service Structure with members initiating new methods, alongside traditional means, to carry the message into institutions of all types.

Some of the ways the Fellowship carried the message included:

1. supporting online meetings, including access to, and the provision of portable devices where possible;
2. ensuring that rapidly changing online meeting information was kept correct and up to date;
3. making personal contact with the homeless community temporarily housed in hotels;
4. delivering literature into institutions by various means;
5. AA members directly carrying the message into institutions through their employment.

VOTE: Unanimous

- b. has carried out PI activities aimed at doctors and other professionals working in these institutions?**

The Fellowship's experience of carrying out PI activities with professionals was very similar to that of carrying the message to members and potential members in institutions.

PI activities with professionals during the pandemic included:

1. online PI sessions for professionals;
2. electronic mailshots to multiple healthcare services;
3. outreach activities within police stations;
4. open meeting workshops conducted for medical and nursing students as well as qualified healthcare professionals;
5. establishing contact with outreach team leaders working within the homeless community;
6. supplying literature, posters and other information to pharmacies;
7. starting work with social prescribing link workers;
8. carrying the message on hospital radio.

See Section 4.7 of the 2020 AA Membership Survey (full version) for further information.

VOTE: Unanimous

- 3. Review addition to current *Structure Handbook* chapter, The Region, section 2, 'The Regional Assembly', p.94, after final paragraph of section / first paragraph of page.**

The Committee agreed to accept the addition.

VOTE: Unanimous

- 4. Review slight deletion to current *Structure Handbook* chapter, The Region, section 3, 'Conference Delegates / Alternates', p. 94, fifth paragraph.**

The Committee

1. agreed to the deletion.
2. also recommended that the beginning of this sentence be changed from "He or she ..." to "The delegate..."

VOTE: Unanimous

Committee No. 4

1. **Would the Fellowship please consider deleting the second point of the “Just For Today” card, “Just for today I will be happy. Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be”, as it is potentially misleading for newcomers?**

The Committee considered the suggested deletion of line 2 of the Just for Today (JFT) card at length and the overwhelming majority view of the Fellowship was that it should remain. Some positive examples included:

1. profoundly spiritual statement - losing it would adversely affect view of a sober life
2. provides newcomers with hope that they can change their outlook
3. freedom from the miserable bondage of self and finding inner peace
4. many things can be potentially confusing to a newcomer, which reduces as they work through the programme and find recovery
5. it was advice that was a revelation in the early days of recovery and something that many still counsel themselves with on a daily basis
6. The JFT card has been invaluable to countless people in recovery and is the second best-selling piece of literature *in its current state*
7. all items on the JFT card are only suggestions

The committee felt that the quotation provided in the background material did not reflect the context of line 2 of the JFT card. The passage from the Big Book refers to ego and self-will. We don't feel the second point in the card is about this, and as a person's sobriety grows, so may their understanding. The Fellowship provided several examples of happiness in recovery throughout the Big Book in responses to the question, e.g., pages 83 and 153.

VOTE: 17 for, 0 against, 1 abstention

2. **Review the language for 'One Member, One Vote' addition to the *Structure Handbook*, 'The Group' Section', p. 75, in the paragraphs 'The Group Conscience and Business Meetings' and 'A Home Group' (Conference 2021 – C3, Q3)**

Proposed Changes to Amendments

The Committee believes these proposed changes are in line with the spirit of the original wording and add further clarification:

Amendment to the Structure Handbook, The Group, Section 1 'Group Meetings' / Types of Meetings, p.75:

The Group Conscience and Business Meetings are sometimes overlooked but they play an important part in our group progress. Some groups schedule these meetings several times a year. Depending on the wishes of the members, they may precede or follow the normal meeting or separate sessions may be arranged. It is suggested that groups have a policy on eligibility for voting and that the Traditions are read before proceedings. Promotion of understanding of the Concepts is also recommended.

Business Meetings provide an opportunity for group officers to report on such matters as progress, future plans, intergroup matters and the financial position. The group may also take this occasion as an opportunity to appoint its officers and to conduct a group conscience meeting – which usually takes the form of a group inventory.

A Home Group is the group for meetings in which members feel most at home. In such groups they accept service responsibilities, sustain friendships and celebrate anniversaries. They are encouraged to participate fully in group conscience meetings. 'It is a privilege to vote on issues that affect AA as a whole' (AA Service Manual for World Service, S25), and it is recommended that **INSERT group** members consider both when and how to vote, and how the principle of 'One Member, One Vote.' might apply. In order that representation is proportionate, it is inappropriate for members to vote more than once on matters concerning the Fellowship as a whole **REMOVE BRACKETS** (e.g. feedback on Conference Questions). ~~Members visiting other groups should consider adhering to this principle of One Member, One Vote, by not taking part in that group's business or policy decisions.~~ **CHANGE TO** *Members visiting other groups are encouraged to adhere to the principle of One Member, One Vote, by not taking part in that group's business or policy decisions.* In this way, groups maintain autonomy and ~~resist~~ **CHANGE TO** *avoid* members of other groups influencing decisions.

VOTE: Unanimous

Question 2 - For clarity, the above paragraphs read as follows: -

'Amendment to the Structure Handbook, The Group, Section 1 'Group Meetings' / Types of Meetings, p.75:

The Group Conscience and Business Meetings are sometimes overlooked but they play an important part in our group progress. Some groups schedule these meetings

several times a year. Depending on the wishes of the members, they may precede or follow the normal meeting or separate sessions may be arranged. It is suggested that groups have a policy on eligibility for voting and that the Traditions are read before proceedings. Promotion of understanding of the Concepts is also recommended.

Business Meetings provide an opportunity for group officers to report on such matters as progress, future plans, intergroup matters and the financial position. The group may also take this occasion as an opportunity to appoint its officers and to conduct a group conscience meeting – which usually takes the form of a group inventory.

A Home Group is the group for meetings in which members feel most at home. In such groups they accept service responsibilities, sustain friendships and celebrate anniversaries. They are encouraged to participate fully in group conscience meetings. 'It is a privilege to vote on issues that affect AA as a whole' (AA Service Manual for World Service, S25), and it is recommended that group members consider both when and how to vote, and how the principle of 'One Member, One Vote.' might apply. In order that representation is proportionate, it is inappropriate for members to vote more than once on matters concerning the Fellowship as a whole, e.g., feedback on Conference Questions. Members visiting other groups are encouraged to adhere to the principle of One Member, One Vote, by not taking part in that group's business or policy decisions. In this way, groups maintain autonomy and avoid members of other groups influencing decisions.'

3. Review Service Sponsorship language for Section One, *Service Handbook*, pp. 7-10 (Conference 2021 – C4, Q2)

The Committee believes these proposed changes are also in line with the spirit of the original wording and add further clarification:

Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, and Sponsoring into Service **REMOVE** (from the pamphlet 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered')

Essentially, sponsorship is one alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery programme sharing that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is trying to stay sober.

INSERT (from the pamphlet 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered')

DELETE Most present members of AA owe their sobriety to the fact that someone took a special interest in them in their early days and was willing to share a great gift with them.

~~DELETE~~ Sponsorship can be the answer for the person who has been able to achieve only interludes of sobriety. Even if we have many years in AA, we can benefit by asking somebody to be our sponsor.

In addition to sponsorship in the AA programme (e.g., ~~REMOVE COMMA~~ helping someone through the Steps and Traditions), it is suggested that new members are also 'sponsored' into service.

Some AA Members may seek a 'service sponsor' who has experience in a particular type of service or role.

Although there ~~CHANGE~~ is no formal definition of ~~are different ways of understanding~~ service sponsorship or of sponsoring into service, the two may be understood ~~CHANGE~~ viewed in similar terms. ~~REMOVE~~ {Some AA members say that service sponsorship is not separate, but simply a part of sponsorship.}

Service sponsorship focuses on AA's Third Legacy of Service. ~~The~~ A service sponsor shares experience, strength, and hope about service roles and positions within ~~the~~ AAGB- ~~CHANGE~~ our service structure. *Information on many of these roles can be found within this handbook.* A member may take on ~~REMOVE~~ ~~(or be elected or appointed to take on)~~ such responsibilities within the group or further down our inverted triangle – that is, at intergroup and region.

A service sponsor supports and encourages the member in all service activities – ~~regardless of level~~ – and leads by example. ~~The~~ ~~CHANGE~~ A service sponsor may suggest opportunities a member might consider in the group or beyond and ~~can~~ help the member gain a deeper understanding of AA's Traditions and Concepts.

~~Service sponsors can also help a member understand the commitment and responsibilities of a service position and determine whether they have the time available and are sufficiently far enough along in their sobriety to meet the obligations of the role.~~ ~~INSERT~~ *Service sponsorship helps a member understand the commitment and responsibilities of a service position and whether they are able and willing to meet the obligations of the role.*

~~REMOVE ASTERISK~~ [‡]Please see also the AAGB pamphlets, 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' and 'Growing into Service'.

VOTE: Unanimous

Question 3 - For clarity, the above paragraphs read as follows: -

'Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, and Sponsoring into Service

Essentially, sponsorship is one alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery programme sharing that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is trying to stay sober.

(From the pamphlet 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered')

In addition to sponsorship in the AA programme (e.g. helping someone through the Steps and Traditions), it is suggested that new members are also 'sponsored' into service.

Some AA Members may seek a 'service sponsor' who has experience in a particular type of service or role.

Although there are different ways of understanding service sponsorship or of sponsoring into service, the two may be viewed in similar terms.

Service sponsorship focuses on AA's Third Legacy of Service. A service sponsor shares experience, strength, and hope about service roles and positions within our service structure. Information on many of these roles can be found within this handbook. A member may take on responsibilities within the group or further down our inverted triangle – that is, at intergroup and region.

A service sponsor supports and encourages the member in all service activities and leads by example. A service sponsor may suggest opportunities a member might consider in the group or beyond and help the member gain a deeper understanding of AA's Traditions and Concepts.

Service sponsorship helps a member understand the commitment and responsibilities of a service position and whether they are able and willing to meet the obligations of the role.

Please see also the AAGB pamphlets, 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' and 'Growing into Service'.

Committee No. 5

- 1. Should AAGB update the AA Preamble published on its website and in literature to the gender-neutral version recently updated by the AA Grapevine and agreed upon at the 71st General Service Conference (US/Canada)?**

This committee recommends to Conference that the preamble be retained in its current format.

We would like to acknowledge our gratitude for the well-known preamble which offers the comfort of familiarity and common purpose shared by our predecessors.

The responses from the fellowship were split.

The committee vote was based upon the question as written. Many groups reported that the word “people” felt uncomfortable to them, and the question did not give us freedom to write a different form of words, which may have been more acceptable.

1. Many responses referred to Tradition 10 and declared that this is an outside issue. Concerns were expressed about possible dilution of the message through potential changes to language throughout AA literature including the Big Book.
2. The cost implication of changing all the literature was a concern.
3. Issues were voiced around copyright and the Grapevine.
4. Inclusivity is already crystalised in Tradition 3.
5. The principle of Tradition 4 shows us that any group is completely free to use whichever form of words it likes.
6. Most of us (on the committee) did not notice the detailed language in such readings when we were newcomers.

A 2/3rds majority was recorded in favour of the decision.

VOTE: 14 for, 2 against

A minority view was expressed that consideration be given to a version of the preamble which does not include men women or people and promotes singleness of purpose.

“In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience strength and hope.....”

- 2. Will the fellowship (through Conference) discuss and give further guidance concerning the autonomy and authority of National**

Conventions and their committees relating to online marketing, AA commemorative merchandise & raffles etc within their venues.

The committee recommends that the GSB review the “Conventions” chapter in the Structure Handbook 2021 p. 123 to 128 taking into account:

- 1) Recommendations given by Conference 1980 [Committee 5 - Q 6, (see reference text below)], adjusting the language to be clearer in order to conform to the spirit of Traditions, 4, 6 and 7.

1980: Committee 5 – Q6.

The Committee recognised that it is not possible or desirable to attempt to interfere with the buying of souvenirs by individuals for their personal use or for gifts for others.

However, the Committee recommended that the convenors of Conventions and the Officers of Intergroups and Groups should examine the motives of individuals for the sale of souvenirs and the profits involved taking into account the Traditions of A.A.

Private individuals should be discouraged from making profits from A.A. members. Any money from the sale of souvenirs should be used for A.A. purposes.

- 2) The background to the question asserts that there are “no relevant guide lines for National Conventions”. The committee did not necessarily agree with this, only that the chapter was ambiguously written.

On p.123 it states “The following guidance suggests the basis for all conventions which contains a planning checklist in Annex A.” This remark is followed by paragraph 1 Local Conventions and then para 2 National Conventions (following from the Annexes).

We are happy with the majority of the content, but the layout causes confusion. For example, under the section 1. Local Conventions – the information contained in the paragraph ‘Organisation’ applies to National Conventions too.

- 3) The terminology is updated (such as in the section ‘audio tapes’)

The committee also recommends to Conference that National conventions can use either the AAGB website or their own websites for the purposes of online marketing.

The subject of raffle tickets is already covered in Annex A point 7 and 14, including matters around gaming laws.

These points ought to be part of the review of the chapter.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. Review the Employment Sub-Committee (ESC) revision of Chapter Five, *Service Handbook*, pp. 45-49.

The committee accepts and approves the revisions.

A few minor issues were raised:

Comparing old and revised versions can be difficult: Highlighting changes between old and new would be beneficial.

QR codes being consistent throughout the service handbooks

Online resources to be available more clearly.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Review the Terms of Service for Prisons' roles for Chapter Eight, *Structure Handbook*, pp. 57-58 (Conference 2021 – C5, Q1).

The committee accepts and approves the revisions.

It was noted that although Committee 5 had stressed the problem of lack of definition of named roles in the service in the 2021 report, there was still some confusion, mainly geographical.

VOTE: Unanimous

Committee No. 6

1. Would the fellowship discuss and share experience on the following matters concerning group autonomy?

When comprehensively discussing these questions, the Committee concluded the following key points.

The Regions returned strong and mixed views on this question with some finding it difficult to answer both parts separately.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous outline how individual members recover and how the Fellowship functions. The Service and Structure Handbooks provide guidance on these matters.

a. How may a group's qualification for inclusion in the AA GB and English-Speaking Continental Europe service structure and local and national meetings lists be determined?

The term 'qualification,' when considering this question alone is, surely answered in the long form of Tradition 3: Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

b. How should secular AA groups using a modified version of AA's 12 Steps and AA's 12 Traditions be viewed within the context of the legacy of AA unity?

Alcoholics Anonymous is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution.

The Committee recommends that AA groups use AA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. It also recognises that some groups use modified versions of AA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Provided that they have no other affiliation and do not affect other groups or AA as whole, all groups should be viewed in the same way in the context of the legacy of AA unity.

Vote: 17 votes for, with one against with a minority opinion:

It is important in the context of our Primary Purpose that newcomers be made aware of the importance of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions as outlined in AAGB Conference Approved literature.

2. Would the fellowship discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of the General Service Conference (GSC) being held online and make recommendations on whether future Conferences should be held online?

Last year's Conference was driven online due to the Pandemic.

There were **benefits**, including but not limited to:

- a. Allowing the Fellowship to explore advances in technology
- b. Saving money
- c. A reduced carbon footprint
- d. Effective use of delegates' time

There were also **drawbacks** to the online Conference:

- A. Technical issues, e.g., poor connectivity
- B. Online fatigue
- C. A lack of IT confidence and knowledge of how online platforms work
- D. Less opportunity for informed debate, bonding and fellowship
- E. There are also concerns that delegates' traditional enthusiasm will not be carried to groups post conference
- F. Limits opportunities to encourage people into service during Conference

Based on the feedback from the fellowship, the **recommendation** is that future Conferences should be held in person with a hybrid option for all committees.

VOTE: 17 for, 1 against with a minority opinion:

We should move towards having Conference fully online:

- a) The power of the collective fellowship at in-person Conferences is undeniable, but the purpose of Conference is the work **the** Fellowship asks us to do.
- b) An online Conference could serve the Fellowship better by being more flexible, more accessible, more efficient, less expensive, more transparent, and more environmentally responsible, and thus more sustainable.

3. Review additions to the current *Service Handbook* sections 1.6, 'Service within the intergroup', and 1.7, 'Still more ways to serve'.

Background

Additions to sections 1.6 and 1.7 of the Service Handbook.

VOTE: Unanimous

Conference Committee Four – A Delegate Perspective

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our Eastern Region (ER) at Conference for the past 3/4 years. It has been a wonderful experience and insight into how and why our Fellowship works.

My journey started in 2017 voted in as Alternate Delegate, although last on the list, it was exciting and worrying in case all/any of our 6 Delegates were unable to attend Conference. I read up on all the committee questions just to be prepared. The same thing happened in 2018, but I was higher up the list this time so I really appreciated the help from former Delegates.

My first actual Conference was in 2019, and the support and preparation from region was amazing and reassuring. It was lovely to be a 'red dotter' (1st year) delegate as everyone took time to explain and help me with what was going on. Memories I will never forget, at last I saw and understood how AA's Concepts, Traditions and Steps all work to carry out our primary purpose. Wow....

I was looking forward to my 2nd year and had been busy collecting responses from our region when everything stopped due to Covid and lockdown in March 2020. There wasn't enough time and little experience for the 55th Conference to be swapped to zoom for April, so the then Conference Steering Committee (CSC) postponed it pending review for October. Many of us delegates were reluctant to move onto zoom in October so no Conference was held in 2020.

We had all hoped that in April 2021 we would be able to hold it physically, but Covid had other ideas and with lockdown still in place we had no choice but to have the 55th Conference via zoom. A very daunting thought for a lot of us but the training from GSO staff was excellent and Conference went ahead with no problems and was a success. It had worked so much better than I anticipated with the same structure of plenary sessions and break out rooms as it had been in 2019. It showed that we can overcome anything in our Fellowship.

Somehow, I was voted in as Chair on Committee Four for the 2022 Conference which meant I had the privilege to be on the CSC. I hadn't realised the amount of effort that goes into selecting the questions, it was a real eye opener. It was also interesting to see how the actions from previous Conference recommendations were being carried out and monitored on the Conference Matrix. I volunteered (because no one else did) to take the minutes for the meetings and it was great for me to feel so involved. I would definitely recommend everyone to push yourself out of your comfort zone and put your hand up at any opportunity within our Fellowship, it is so rewarding.

The decision was made by the CSC that the 56th Conference was going to be held in person with the option for those who could not attend to do so via zoom in April 2022. All delegates attending had to have a negative lateral flow test and thankfully all of our delegates from ER tested negative and were able to attend. It was so great to meet up on the Thursday evening, it helped us all to settle any nerves we may have had. We had three red dotters and two second years, so it was only me who had been to Conference in person before! It was lovely how we all supported each other, the visit to York Minister and GSO on the Friday morning is a brilliant tradition and I hope it continues.

Conference in person is a unique experience and as the chair of my committee it was hard work but so rewarding. Questions discussed and dissected in the committee

room, support of trustees and observers, then somehow recommendations to questions and alterations to Handbook text was all agreed. All I needed to do was present this to the plenary session on Sunday morning. This would probably would have been my biggest fear but just before Conference my two front teeth had cracked, which I and the dentist thought may fall out very soon, so the fear of losing my teeth on stage overrode the fear of the presentation. I'm pleased to say that the teeth survived (fell out Easter Saturday) but more importantly, the committee's recommendations and amendments were all approved unanimously by Conference.

I'm so pleased to have completed my commitment as Delegate but sad that it is all over. I was so proud to be a delegate from a region which is so well prepared and supportive. All I wish is that I'd done this years ago (before my teeth started to fall out!). It is a once in a lifetime experience that for me has lasted 6 years, and all that is left is my 1-year handover visits to region to support everyone. Well jealous.

Yif, Shirley C, Eastern Region

Conference 2022- A Trustee Perspective

It was a truly wonderful experience to be able to attend this year's Conference in person again after a 3-year gap since the last one in York, 2019. It was also my first Conference as your Honorary Treasurer. I must admit to being extremely nervous about giving my first financial presentation and I thank you all for your questions, comments and support. We don't always agree on every issue and one of the most wonderful attributes that AA can boast of, is the ability for those with a minority view to be given the opportunity for their view to be heard and recorded.

I was part of Committee 5 and was really pleasantly struck by the number of 'Red Dotters' in attendance. This filled me with great joy and confirmed that members **are** coming forward to serve as Delegates from their Regions. This will ensure continuity. Conference is the 'Group Conscience' of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB), and to have so many new delegates is humbling to see.

I would also like to pay tribute to our wonderful Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NATS). I've been privileged to work with many of them throughout my time on the Board. I find their insight invaluable and I believe it enriches our service experiences infinitely. They are our public face and are able to freely speak at this level whilst respecting our Traditions. Their contribution to our primary purpose is immeasurable.

I thought the Public Information presentation and the video on the Fellowship at Conference were extremely moving and definitely among the highlights of the whole weekend for me.

I can't finish without saying a big Thank you to All our Outgoing Trustees for their Friendship, Support, Love and Service since we were ratified by Conference 2018. I'll always remember 'The Class of 2018' with great fondness.

Last but by no means least, I must also thank the GSO Staff for their unwavering support and help not only during Conference but throughout the year.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all for the rest of my term as your Honorary Treasurer.

With Love in Fellowship, Clive K, Hon. Treasurer

Deadline for Conference Questions

Don't forget, the deadline for submitting your Conference Question is 31st August 2022!

GSB Sub Committee Vacancies

When applying for any of the vacancies below please note that up-to-date forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644026; jennypryke@gso.org.uk or in the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website 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, August 12th 2022.**

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 Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Archives Sub Committee

The Archives Sub Committee advises the GSB on issues concerning the care and management of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) Archives, reporting to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives. The main AA Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives of the University of York, and the Archives Sub Committee works with archivists at the Borthwick Institute to develop and enhance this archive, while managing access to it for the purpose of research.

Other AA archives are held by regions and intergroups which are looked after by local archivists, and the Archives Sub Committee liaises with the Archive Network of regional and intergroup archivists.

Applicants for the Sub Committee should have a minimum of five years' sobriety, will normally serve for a period of four years and should be familiar with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain, and other Conference approved Alcoholics Anonymous literature. Some experience of archival work is desirable – especially experience as an Intergroup or Regional Archivist within AA. Some knowledge of AA history is also advantageous, as are good communication and IT skills.

The successful candidates would normally be expected to attend four meetings a year; two of these will normally be in York, but the other two may be held online.

For more information, about the vacancy please contact Thomas B, GSB Trustee for Archives trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk

Employment Sub Committee Vacancies

Vacancies for the Employment Sub Committee

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

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 Sub 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.

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

First Response Sub Committee Vacancies (Formerly Telephones and Online Help)

First Response Sub Committee Vacancy

(Formerly National Telephones, Online Response, and Chat Now)

There is a vacancy on the newly formed First Response Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

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 new Sub Committee comprises a group of people organising the initial contact and first response to the still suffering alcoholic via the telephone, email or instant chat channels.

Job description for the Sub Committee vacancy:

- 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.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact the FRSC Trustee: Levey P, trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk

Health Sub Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Health Sub Committee

Rotation has created the opportunity for two new members to join this dedicated team. If you fulfil the qualifying criteria and are enthusiastic and experienced in health or a complimentary discipline, we would love to hear from you, so please apply.

It is suggested that you meet the following criteria

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the date of application
- A working knowledge of the 12 Steps, Traditions & Concepts and the Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) service structure together with guidelines and Conference approved material
- Proven experience at Intergroup and / or Region preferably as a Health Liaison Officer or a complimentary discipline. Or working experience in the health service together with Intergroup / Region experience

- The availability to serve on the Subcommittee for four years
- The availability to attend four meetings each year including attendance at York and on virtual meetings

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is

- To implement health initiatives as directed by the General Service Board (GSB) on the recommendation of Conference, and to understand the relationship between the GSB and the Health Sub Committee
- 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

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Barbara O trustee.midlandsregion@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 (GSB) to fulfil its role of:

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

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)
- They 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, up to four times a year (Fridays and Saturdays), **although of late, many of the meetings are conducted online**
- **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

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Justin T, GSB Trustee for Literature trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk and Jo F, GSB Trustee trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk

Prison Sub Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Prison Sub Committee

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

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

Its objectives are to:

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

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.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Zelma K, trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk and Hamish McS, trustee.eastofscotland@gsogb.org.uk GSB Trustees for Prisons and Probation

Probation Sub Committee Vacancies

There are 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.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Zelma K, trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk and Hamish McS, trustee.eastofscotland@gsogb.org.uk GSB Trustees for Prisons and Probation

Public Information and Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies (PIEComms SC)

There are Vacancies for the Public Information & Electronic Communications Sub Committee (PIEComms SC)

PIEComms SC invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of carrying the message of recovery and making the most of electronic communications to help those who need help, and to keep existing members informed.

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

The Primary functions of the Sub Committee are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies.
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies, members of the media, and journalists at national level
- Offer support and advice to regional PI and ECLO committees and liaison officers
- Provide leadership to the PI network through national projects
- Assists Region and Intergroup ECLOs with Microsite set up and maintenance within the AAGB website.
- Monitor and maintain the Filestore area, supporting users and ensuring access requests are properly validated

- Supervise WorkPlace, ensuring secure access and assisting new users.
- Respond to service-related requests and queries submitted to the AAGB Helpdesk
- Monitor the AAGB Website, assisting the Web Content Manager in keeping it up to date and relevant
- Update the PI web site and other PI resources
- Publish the *PI Newsletter* and *Newsletter for Professionals*
- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA

An interest in public information and/or electronic communications, with a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area, is more important than anything else in these roles. 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. Our various IT suppliers provide direct technical support, where required.

As with all Sub Committee vacancies, five years' continuous sobriety and the endorsement of your region or intergroup are required as well as a sound knowledge of the service structure and Traditions of the Fellowship. Working within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference, 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 more information about these vacancies, please contact GSB Trustees for PIE & Comms Tom Fox - trustee.nat5@gsogb.org.uk & Tim B - trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

Roundabout Sub Committee Vacancies

There is a Vacancy for Roundabout Magazine Editor

Roundabout Editor

The Sub Committee of the Roundabout magazine invites applicants from all Regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team in the challenging role of Roundabout Magazine Editor for a service period of four years.

If you consider you have experience and an innovative desire to take Roundabout forward into the current changing media and can meet most of the following criteria,

please initially contact the Roundabout Trustee for an informal chat or complete an up-to-date Nomination Form on the link below.

Role Requirements

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety
- A high standard of English literacy and familiarity with 'language of the heart'
- A working knowledge of computer technology and Adobe Design software preferable
- An ability to work to scheduled deadlines
- A desire and ability to work as part of a team
- A commitment to attend Roundabout Subcommittee meetings as required
- Service as a Roundabout Liaison Officer at Group, Intergroup or Regional level would be advantageous

Roles & Responsibilities

- The Editor has overall responsibility to produce a monthly Roundabout Magazine, to carry the AA message to the Fellowship and has Editorial responsibility for the content of each issue of Roundabout magazine
- Is responsible for ensuring that all publication deadlines are met to ensure the monthly publication of Roundabout is achieved on production schedule
- Has responsibility for the co-ordination of the day-to-day activities of the editorial team
- Although responsible for the content of each publication of Roundabout Magazine, the Editor is also responsible for delegating editorial tasks to members of the editorial team as appropriate
- Is the first point of contact between the Fellowship and Roundabout Magazine
- Present a comprehensive report at each Roundabout Subcommittee meeting
- Promote and encourage positive working relationships with relevant staff members
- Have a thorough understanding of the working relationship between the Roundabout Subcommittee and the General Service Board
- The Editor reports to and works closely with the Trustee Chair of the Roundabout Subcommittee

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 or phone: (+44) (0)41 226 2214.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Andrina C, GSB Trustee for Roundabout trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk

SHARE Sub Committee Vacancies

Vacancy for Assistant Editor and Editorial Reader for *SHARE*, AA's monthly magazine in England and Wales

Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor receives articles weekly by email. These are edited to correct spelling, punctuation and ensure the SHARE 'house style' is complied with, while most importantly maintaining the authors 'voice.' Each article is scored on suitability for publication and then sent on to the Editor together with any comments helping the Editor decide on publication. It is vital that good communication is maintained between the Assistant Editor and the Editor. A record of articles received needs to be kept.

Each month the printer sends a proof copy of the next magazine and the Assistant Editor needs to proof read the whole magazine within 48 hours, emailing the Editor with any amendments. An understanding of deadlines is vital for this position to guarantee SHARE is delivered to AA groups by the first week of the month.

The monthly production of SHARE magazine is a Team effort; it is essential for the Assistant Editor to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at Region. Computer and email competence is indispensable. It would be desirable to have previous editing experience but training will be given.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed. Applicants must have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the time of application. They should be familiar with Conference approved literature, Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts and the AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain.

The Share Sub Committee holds up to 4 meetings per year, either in person at York GSO, or online. These meetings are an integral part of this role and attendance is a requirement. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

Editorial Reader

Our Readers are part of a team. The job involves reading and scoring all articles and letters submitted, to provide 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.

Readers should have a good standard of English language and be able to work to deadlines. The monthly production of SHARE magazine is a Team effort. It is essential for a Reader to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at Region. Computer and email competence is indispensable. Full training will be given.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed. Applicants must have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the time of application. They should be familiar with Conference-approved literature, Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts and the AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain. The Share Sub Committee holds up to 4 meetings per year, either in person at York GSO, or online. These meetings are an integral part of this role and attendance is a requirement. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

For further information about the positions, please contact

**Charon B, trustee.LRN@gsogb.org.uk or Clive K trustee.treasurer@gsogb.org.uk
GSB Trustees for SHARE**

Survey Sub Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Survey Sub Committee

There are currently 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.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Gretchen S, GSB Trustee for the Survey trustee.LRS@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 Young People's 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:

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

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

If you have any questions contact Gretchen (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application – email address: Gretchen S, GSB Trustee for Young Persons trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk

Printing AA Service News

To print AA Service News and save paper, set your printer to 2 pages per A4 sheet fit to size, back-to-back

Note from the Editor

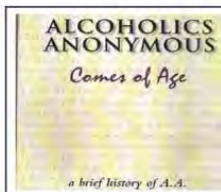
Apologies to those who have made a submission and whose article has not been published in this edition. They will be published in future editions of AASN, so please keep looking out for them.

Please keep your articles coming in!

Thank you

AA Conference Approved Books New Items and Revised Prices

AA Comes of Age Soft Back

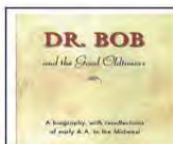


AA Comes Of Age: a brief history of A.A.

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

Item code 2121 Price £6.00

Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Back



Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Cover

A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest

Item Code 2181 Price £6.00

Our Great Responsibility Soft Back

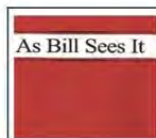


Our Great Responsibility

A selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951 - 1970. 270 pages, softcover with over 60 black & white and colour images. Derived from original audio recordings.

Item Code 6070 Price £6.00

As Bill Sees It



As Bill Sees It

The A.A. Way of Life (selected writings of A.A.'s co-founder).

Item Code 2100 Price £5.00

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

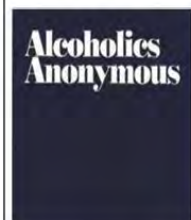


The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

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

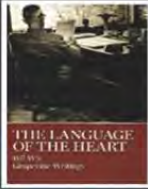
Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back



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

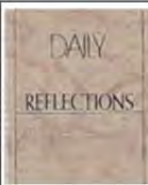
Pass It On



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

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.

From Regions Jan – March 2022	Contributions £s
East of Scotland Region	350
Eastern Region	19,802
Glasgow Region	15,610
Highlands and Islands Region	3,922
London Region North	14,290
London Region South	1,855
Midlands Region	3,229
North East Region	22,073
North West Region	12,053
Scotia Region	9,453
South East Region	26,218
South Midlands Region	8,903
South West Region	45,671
South West Scotland Region	3,516
Wales & Borders Region	6,602
Continental European Region	23,061
Sundry and Unidentifiable Receipts	2,740

In Memoriam

January 2022 to March 2022

Greenock ODAAT	£ 50.00	In Memory of May P
Gosport Tuesday Group	£ 20.00	In Memory of Neil M

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

GSO Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

***AA Service News* is Available in Digital Format Only**

ASSN is now only available in digital format. It can be found on the AAGB website under 'Document Library'.

If your group would like to receive a digital copy of *AA Service News*, then please contact GSO and update your email contact on your group's **PINK FORM** (Registration Form)