



AA Service News

Autmn 2021 / Digital Only Edition

No.188

From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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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.)

CONCEPT IX

Concept IX: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognise the need for group officers? What are our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone because it would be good for them?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

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

Due to the continuing situation with COVID-19, the Autumn 2021 Edition of *AA Service News* is available only as a digital version. Also, due to likely 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

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Are you sending in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk ?

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



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

Request for AA members' stories on mental health and recovery

The Literature Sub Committee of the GSB is preparing a pamphlet on mental health issues and recovery in AA, with the aim of presenting a draft for approval by Conference in 2022.

If you are in recovery and have experienced mental health problems (whether before, or since getting sober) we would love to read of your experience and how it affected your AA programme.

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 **30th September 2021**.

Articles may be sent to Literature SC, c/o GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ, UK or by email to literature4.sc@aamail.org

Printing the Digital AASN

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

Chat Now Service might it be for YOU?

I joined the Chat Now service in October 2018, having found on the table of a local Birmingham AA meeting a leaflet advertising the service and asking for volunteers who might be interested in being part of the team. It immediately attracted my attention and I took a mobile photo of the details and applied straight away. It was a relatively easy process. I seemed to fit in with the requirements demanded: a minimum of two years' sobriety, a good working knowledge of how to operate a

computer, good communication skills, and I had a computer or laptop. I needed an endorsement from someone who had a service position at my intergroup and asked the TLO who'd trained me for telephone service. Oddly enough, my enthusiasm for Chat Now encouraged him to apply too once his TLO position had terminated, and we're now both fellow Chat Now responders, flying the flag for the West Midlands! Not that we operate within a local area unlike the telephone service, Chat Now covers the whole of Great Britain, and moreover, we frequently get enquirers from overseas, asking for help in how they can stop drinking.

The service is predominantly intended to give help to newcomers to AA, who are seeking help with their drink problem. It's really easy to find Chat Now on the AA GB website ... you click on the homepage and a small yellow box jumps out at the bottom right-hand side of your screen. The newcomers simply enter their first name and press 'enter chat request' and they're there, chatting to one of us!

Within a couple of days of applying, I'd received some initial info and an introductory video. Then my first training session was booked with a trainer, who via a Skype call and computer demonstrated to me how the online Pure Chat dashboard worked. Then we did some basic responses to the common questions asked. My next training covered all the common scenarios I was likely to meet. Some 'canned responses' were provided and very useful as they covered a lot of the basic elements, although we are also eventually able to modify these and make our own canned responses, if we want.

After a few more training sessions I was told that I could 'fly solo'! Crikey ... it felt quite daunting but there was absolutely no need for concern because for my first few duties there was always a trainer monitoring my responses and feeding me the responses if I needed help. Initially I started off by chatting with one enquirer, but after a period of time and with experience I was able to cope with a maximum of three simultaneous chats. There was no pressure to take more than one whatever made me feel comfortable. Our role is, primarily, to refer the newcomers to the telephone service where they can talk to another recovering alcoholic on the national or on their local helpline number and to encourage them to try an AA meeting for support. That's the easy bit! There are often challenging questions asked and some interesting situations present themselves, but we have a Skype chat where we can generally ask someone around who can help if we get stuck. We need to be mindful of the fact that we are chatting to people who are often very vulnerable and struggling alone with their drink problem; we need to be able to empathise with the enquirer's predicament, give them support, and suggest how they can make a start on their journey of recovery. We are able to forward them extra online support too, e.g., AA starter pack for newcomers, links to what to expect at a meeting, local helpline numbers, etc.

Nothing is more satisfying than if, by the end of the shift, we have been able to pass on a message of hope to the suffering alcoholics who've come to chat, often with little expectation that they'll ever be able to stop drinking and convinced that they will be doomed to a futile life forever more ruled by alcohol. They've come online, often anxious and daunted at the prospect of picking up the phone, worried about trying a meeting, unaware of what to expect. All too often an online chat with a voiceless recovering alcoholic, who has gone through all that they are going through, is enough to give them hope and spur them on to speaking to someone on the helpline and to try a meeting, where they will be welcomed and get the support they need. They see that we have first-hand knowledge of the suffering they are going through and the common bond that binds us together. Miracles happen in the rooms of 'AA ... but' also a little bit too on the Chat Now service!

We're a fairly small group of responders, and we manage reasonably successfully to cover the rota over a seven-day period from 7am until midnight. We need to be able to commit to the minimum of a one- hour shift per week, and where there are gaps in the rota, we are able to do a bit extra if we have the odd half hour to spare! We're a wonderful team and the mutual support within the group is amazing. We have a monthly Business meeting for additional support within the team and we've even started having our own weekly AA meeting for those who are interested. These both help bond the group together and help our own recovery.

I'd already done several years of service as a telephone responder within Birmingham Intergroup, and that experience really helped me when I joined Chat Now. I had always felt contentment and an immense gratitude at being part of the telephone service that helped the desperate and lonely caller who comes in, feeling often that their obsession with drink has taken over their lives, too often torn apart by the many losses that alcoholism brings and feeling that there is no way forward. My journey into AA had been a long one, as for years I, alone out in the wilderness, had struggled to contain my problem, rationalising that I had only to exert my willpower a better way. I can recall watching my husband on the phone to the AA helpline, asking for help for me and being told that I would have to be the one who took the decision to start my recovery. I shook my head when he tried to make me talk to the responder. Heaven knows I might have had to admit I had a real problem that was beyond my control and even use the 'A' word ... something I definitely wasn't! Sadly, it was many more years before I eventually found my first meeting. With hindsight I so wish I'd had the courage to chat with that someone who might have been able to help me all those years earlier. My memory of that feeling of helplessness has never left me, and perhaps it was that which has helped spur me on to be part of the Chat Now service that helps the next suffering alcoholic to take that first step on that common journey that shoulder to shoulder with future lifelong friends I embarked on when I eventually found AA.

Twenty years after the forward to the 4th edition was written, Chat Now service helps carry the Twelfth Step message to the next suffering alcoholic. Modem-to-modem, face to face, AAs speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity.

If you think you might be interested in being part of the Chat Now team, please either e-mail chatadmin@aamail.org or find further information and an application form on the AA GB website:
<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Disciplines/Electronic-Communications/Chat-Now-Service>

Sue H

A NAT's eye view of AA and a brief guide to the Archives Project **(A presentation prepared for Conference 2021)**

Introducing myself

Since 2019 I have been a NAT – a non-alcoholic trustee of AA (which is why I give my full name below). For most of my life I have been a university academic, a professor of philosophy. Until recently I had a position at the University of York; but now I am fully retired. For many years I also did some non-academic work: e.g., as Deputy Chair of the Human Fertilisation Embryology Authority (HFEA), and also as an advisor on issues concerning Public Health, especially obesity. But my previous familiarity with the work of AA has come from friends and family.

AA and Philosophy – any connection?

I have been thinking about Bill Wilson's emphasis on 'spirituality' (as in Step 12 and Tradition 12). There are connections between Bill W's writings on this topic and the writings of the American philosopher William James which have not yet been properly assessed and which I would like to sort out. But more contentiously, I don't think Bill characterises spirituality in a way which captures its importance in the work of AA. I hope to complete some work on this soon.

My work as an AA Trustee?

I am a member of the Nominations Committee and the Safeguarding Sub Committee, whose report was considered at Conference 2021. But my main responsibility has been as a member of the Archives Sub Committee, of which I am about to become Chair. I am very glad to have been offered this role, since it connects with own experience in this field. Some years ago, I helped to establish an archive in Cambridge

University Library of the papers of the British philosopher G E Moore. More recently, I was for many years editor of the leading British Philosophy journal, *Mind*, and I have a project to develop an archive of the editorial papers, almost all in digital format, at the Borthwick Institute at the University of York. This of course connects directly with the AA Archives project, which is also based in the Borthwick Institute at the University of York.

The AA Archives Borthwick Project

The origins of this project go back to the 2016 Conference Committee 5 resolution which recommended that the Board ‘conduct a feasibility study to improve access to the Archive including but not limited to, the following means: (a) Digitisation, (b) Online catalogue, ...’. The General Service Board then entered into negotiations with the Borthwick Institute at the University of York which led to a decision to transfer the General Service Office (GSO) AA Archive to the Borthwick Institute where the papers could be held under proper archival conditions, sorted and catalogued, and selected digitisation could be undertaken. This transfer is a central part of the Borthwick Project which was agreed in May 2018. This was a three-year project to be undertaken by a qualified archivist specially appointed for the project. An archivist, James Neill, was then appointed and started work in November 2018 (so his three-year appointment comes to an end in November 2021). The main aims of the project are:

- The proper packaging of the existing archive;
- The creation of a full catalogue of it which is to be made available on-line;
- The development of new provision for access to the archive which takes account of current data protection rules;

- A digital archive for ‘born digital’ materials;
- Outreach work to publicise the archive;
- The digitisation of selected materials as time allows.

It is worth emphasizing that although the Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute, it remains the property of the General Service Board (GSB), which is AA’s registered charity.

Progress Report

Most of the archive materials transferred from GSO at Toft Green to the Borthwick Institute have been repackaged and stored under proper archival conditions. A recent major addition is group history material, which includes records of closed groups deposited with the GSO.

The catalogue has been developed in an online format and continues to be updated, amended and edited. The online catalogue can be accessed from the Borthwick Institute – <https://borthcat.york.ac.uk/aa>. It has always been the intention that there should be a link to the catalogue from the AA website, and this should be established soon. The catalogue is currently divided into 13 major categories of materials. Each category (e.g., service structure) is then divided in turn into further sub-categories (e.g., regions), which is divided again until one reaches folders with specific papers – e.g., minutes for some period of time. What one cannot then find online are the specific documents – e.g., minutes themselves as these are protected by General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) rules and the special requirements of AA anonymity.

Access

Access to papers and other materials in the GSO Archive is currently governed by the rules set out in chapter 11 of the Service Handbook, which distinguish between four categories – (i) ‘General’ (i.e., open to public access), (ii) ‘Supervised access’, (iii) ‘For research only’, and (iv) ‘Confidential’. These categories and associated rules need to be modified to take account of the transfer of the GSO Archive to the Borthwick Institute and of new legislation such as those under GDPR. The Archives Sub Committee and the GSB have been working on new rules, though some of the work has been delayed by the fact that the Sub Committee has not been able to visit the Borthwick Institute because of covid. The Sub-Committee expects to be able to complete this work and include it in a revised version of chapter 11 of the Service Handbook which can be put to 2022 Conference in time for approval.

Digitisation

Although digitisation of elements of the archive has always been part of the Borthwick Project, priority needed to be given to packaging and cataloguing the materials transferred to the Borthwick Institute. Now that the bulk of that work has been completed, the Borthwick AA archivist is giving more attention to digitisation, though here too work has been delayed because of covid restrictions. The Archives Sub Committee has agreed that priority should be given to fragile materials – e.g., papers that are not in good condition, and photographs and other pictures which are especially useful for exhibitions. In undertaking this work the Sub Committee will work closely with the new AA web team, so that images which will help to illustrate the historical development of AA GB can be added to the web. So, the Archives Sub Committee expect that digitisation will be an important part of the further development of the Borthwick Project. Equally, however, the Sub Committee are well aware of the importance of protecting the core tradition of AA anonymity, which places strict limits on access to many AA papers and thus qualifies one reason for digitising them.

Promotion and engagement

One of the original goals of the Borthwick Project was to help to promote the AA's archive and make it more available both to the Fellowship, and to the wider public. Because of COVID restrictions on public meetings and travel this work has been very difficult. However, now that there does seem to be an end to most restrictions by July we can begin to plan for some public events.

The Future

Because the current three-year contract with the Borthwick Institute comes to an end this year, the GSB needs to plan an ongoing relationship with the Borthwick which includes further additions to the AA Archive and arrangements for access to the archive there. It is worth adding that the current contract states that: 'Additional deposits made to the Alcoholics Anonymous Archive after the completion of the cataloguing project will be accessioned, packaged and listed by Borthwick archivists at no additional cost to Alcoholics Anonymous'. So the Fellowship can be confident that there is no commitment to any substantial long-term expense in maintaining the AA archive at the Borthwick Institute.

Future work for the Archives Sub Committee

We have three main tasks for the next few months:

- i. To work with the GSB concerning a new relationship with the Borthwick Institute
- ii. To prepare a revised draft of chapter 11 of the Service Handbook in time for submission to Conference 2022
- iii. To liaise with the 75th Anniversary committee concerning the preparation of an exhibition at the convention and a video for showing there.

The Archivist Network

Last, but by no means least, I would like to commend to this Conference, and to the Fellowship generally, the tremendous work that is carried out by AA archivists – typically regional or intergroup. They do a magnificent job in maintaining local AA Archives, and I always enjoy the meetings of the Archivist Network – online or in person in York. The Archives Sub Committee is greatly strengthened by the presence of several experienced archivists, whose role will be especially important as the Sub Committee undertakes the work just mentioned. We could certainly do with some more members, so I would like to take this opportunity to invite more applications from the Fellowship to join the Sub Committee. **If you are interested in working on the Archives Sub Committee and for further information, please contact Thomas: trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk**

Thomas Baldwin

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@gsogb.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, 15th October 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, 15th October 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

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, 15th October 2021.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Armed 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

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 on 01904 644026 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, 15th October 2021.

Maxine W, GSB Trustee for *SHARE* trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.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 OR request by email: jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday, 15th October 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

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, 15th October 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

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 ; or in the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website 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, 15th October 2021.

Terri S, GSB Trustee for Health 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 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, 15th October 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

Prisons Sub Committee Vacancies

There are three vacancies on the Prison Sub Committee

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, 15th October 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

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, 15th October 2021.

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, 15th October 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

***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.northernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk or phone: (+44) (0)41 226 2214

Applications should be forwarded by email to 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, 15th October 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@gsogb.org.uk

Terri S, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout*

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.

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, 15th October 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

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 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, 15th October 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

National Telephones Sub Committee Vacancy

There are Vacancies on the National Telephones Sub Committee of the General Service Board

One vacancy exists for a new team member. 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 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, 15th October 2021.

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

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

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:

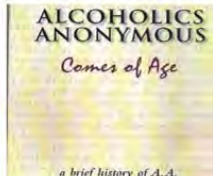
1. A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety, having come to AA aged 30 or under
2. A strong grasp of AA service structure, Guidelines and Traditions
3. Good organisational and communication skills

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

AA Conference Approved Books New Items and Revised Prices


AA Comes of Age Soft Back

	<p>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</p> <p>Item code 2121 Price £6.00</p>
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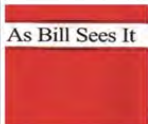
Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Back

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

	<p>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.</p> <p>Item Code 6070 Price £6.00</p>
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As Bill Sees It

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



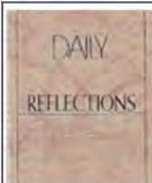
Pass It On

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

From Regions April – June 2021	Contributions £s
East of Scotland Region	£ 2,850
Eastern Region	£ 34,262
Glasgow Region	£ 11,565
Highlands and Islands Region	£ 1,770
London Region North	£ 12,202
London Region South	£ 22,827
Midlands Region	£ 1,535
North East Region	£ 12,010
North West Region	£ 1,080
Scotia Region	£ 7,371
South East Region	£ 1,985
South Midlands Region	£ 5,618
South West Region	£ 18,295
South West Scotland Region	£ 761
Wales & Borders Region	£ 5,737
Continental European Region	£ 22,470
Sundry and Unidentifiable Receipts	£ 535

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.

In Memoriam

April 2021 – June 2021

East Sussex	£ 600.00	In Memory of Sue D
Glasgow North West	£ 100.00	In Memory of Margaret Mac
Waddington Sat	£ 106.00	In Memory of Lisa H
Mid Surrey IG	£ 100.00	In Memory of Sue D
Rickmansworth Step	£ 50.00	In Memory of Brian E

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

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.