

Autumn 2023

# AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Service articles, board bullets and  
much, much more inside...

# 12 Traditions Checklist

“5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”



1. Do I ever cop out by saying, “I’m not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn’t apply to me”?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if they get mad at me for not giving them a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favour or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to 12-step the next newcomer without regard to whom or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfil our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics that still suffer? Do I try to both help them and learn from them?

# AA Service News

## Welcome to the Autumn Edition of AA Service News

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

### Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions on your service experience in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, **AA Service News is YOURS!**

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

Please send your service-related articles to:  
[editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!



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# AA Service News

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**What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region? Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to**  
[aainformation@gsogb.org](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org)

**Thank you to the following for this quarters pictures:**

- John B
- Tim B
- Glenn B

The pictures of people contained within this edition are stock images. They are not of alcoholics. No one's anonymity has been broken.



# Tech Talk 4

## AAGB Website Update

The Website Development project is on track and the main focus of work since the last AASN update has been on the build of the actual website itself, and work to prepare and update content to be transferred to the new site. The Project Team are planning to start initial testing in the next couple of weeks.

Castlegate IT, the web development agency, has been building the main pages for the first two levels of the site. This includes the structure for the new AA Shop which will be easier to navigate, with literature items clearly listed and much easier to find. GSO are evaluating options to introduce an additional payment system in addition to PayPal so that purchasing your literature is straightforward.

As well as developing the main structural pages, template pages, such as the 'flex page', have been developed to build out the site and add different types of content. Using templates will help maintain a consistent look and feel for pages throughout the site.

To ensure consistency of content and that the

new AAGB "family look" is followed, a Style Guide is being put together which will be used by the Project Team to update existing content across the site. Going forward the Guide will also be available to help future creators of new content follow the same style. Content for the top-level pages is the current focus. Relevant content will be transferred to the new site directly with out-of-date content being brought up to date before moving over. Content that has been superseded will be archived.

There is still a lot to do but it is really exciting to see all the hard work coming together with the initial pages of the new site becoming visible for the first time.

**Tim B Tom F**  
**PI & E Comms Trustees**



# Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting (SSASM)

Many members of the Fellowship will see the mention of Sub-Sahara in the General Service Board 'Bullets' and accounts but may have little idea as to what this relates. For those interested, background information on the history of the SSASM is found in the AA Structure Handbook.

I had the privilege of attending the most recent meeting on Zoom during the weekend of 30th June and 1/2nd July. The meetings are held bi-annually, and I had attended the previous meeting in 2021 (online again because of Covid) as an observer. It was an exhausting experience (a bit like Conference) but enlightening and informative.

The attendees were 1st and 2nd year delegates from the following countries:

- Botswana
- Eswatini (Swaziland)
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia, and
- Zimbabwe

Racy J and Bob W were present representing the General Service Office (GSO) USA /Canada together with Ranjan B and I, representing AAGB - the two sponsoring countries for the conference.

In addition to presentations and reports from the individual countries the conference looked at two key issues:

## **1. SSASM moving toward being self-supporting and developing country to country sponsorship to support this.**

The countries are quite different and are at differing stages of development regarding AA and meetings. South Africa is the most developed of the African countries as it has its own GSO and a well-established structure but many of the other countries struggle to achieve this because of size and population. An example of this is Namibia where face to face meetings are only held in two towns with three meetings a week.

Many of the countries have kept on-line meetings after the pandemic which help reach the still

suffering alcoholic, but at the same time, presents problems for the service structure.

## 2. Problems other than alcohol

It became apparent from this that there are similar problems worldwide.

Ranjan B made a presentation on the Traditions and group autonomy a reminder for us all that the programme of AA is not just the Twelve Steps but the Twelve Traditions and Concepts which are the backbone of recovery.

My own presentation was on the structure of AA in Great Britain. I had thought when preparing this that there would not be much interest as our “upside down triangle” is so well known to us all.

How wrong was I!

There was a huge amount of interest as most of the countries have so few groups and members that for them, the idea of intergroups and regions is way into the future. What an eye-opener for me.

It made me realise how fortunate I am to have the structure and support of the Fellowship in my recovery. I take it all for granted.

On the other side of the coin, as one of the delegates pointed out, they are the pioneers in their continent and have opportunities given to early members of AA to carry the message and build up their own structure.

The experience of the conference weekend will stay with me for many years to come.

**Barbara O**  
**Midlands Region Trustee**



# Restraint of Pen & Tongue

On Friday and Saturday 21/22 July, the General Service Board (GSB) held its annual workshop, in which we look to develop our knowledge and awareness of matters that affect the Fellowship and the charity. For the first time, all 16 Regions were invited to send up to two representatives via Zoom to a hybrid session in which we sought to address four questions:

1. Rotation of Trustees (How we can best support Regions with No Trustees)
2. Regions with no Trustees long term - what we can do about it? How can we help?
3. Annual Conference - Regions with a lack of delegates, how can we improve this?
4. Board Sub Committees - what is the best way for the Board Sub Committees to interface with the Regions?

Currently four regions have no trustee, while some fielded fewer than the complement of six delegates at Conference.

We received some helpful and insightful contributions from our guests, despite initial technical glitches. The absence of a trustee from every region means that the workload of the others is increased, and most importantly that the vital interface between a region and the GSB is broken. The GSB reminded regions that we are happy to send a substitute trustee (perhaps from an adjoining region) to a region assembly if we are asked, provided sufficient notice is given. Please do consider service as a trustee at this, the lowest level of our upside-down triangle if you have completed a full term at Conference and have 10 years of continuous sobriety. It can be a fulfilling and interesting service and many report a spiritual shift in their recovery. Your region needs to endorse at least two candidates, and each assembly may have individual nomination processes.

I need to mention that we have received reports of behaviour that deters some from service at all levels. People undertaking service have been harassed, bullied at more than one convention meeting, and assembly has resulted in servants of our Fellowship being reduced to tears by over-zealous members crossing the line. Similarly, some correspondence has included personal attacks on trusted servants. We are all accountable for our actions, including our service activity, but this is a Fellowship that seeks to support, not belittle people, and were there a two-word motto for our best behaviour in recovery, it might well read, 'Be Kind.'

If we witness such behaviour at our service meetings and do and say nothing, we risk enabling it and so providing tacit support for those





behaving like internet trolls, and not as servants of AA.

I would hope that we can adopt a way of working with each other where we suggest, rather than demand, and look to work as colleagues alongside one another and not shout across the table, whether literally or in our demeanour. In service we have a single primary purpose, and we should look for the best ways to fulfil that obligation. Please may we stifle the adjectives used to describe others' perceived motivations or activity, and aim to focus on Outcomes, not Outrage.

**Justin T**  
**Chair of the GSB**

## The importance of Communication at all levels...

Recently I attended a seminar organised by the General Service Board (GSB) on 22nd July for regional representatives. Two people from each region were invited. Congratulations to GSB for setting this up, the promise of more in the future. Conference speaks, the Board listens.

Communication is a two-way process for it to be successful in exemplifying mutual trust and respect.

Some of the points discussed included how the Board can offer support to regions that do not currently have Trustees, and how sub-committees can better interface with regions. For example, the newly formed First Response Online Sub-committee (FROSC) has agreed to explain what they do at a regional assembly this year.

Some regions have created 'Welcome Packs' for new and existing members.

Regions support intergroups and intergroups support local groups. Let us continue to make service attractive, fun, informative, inclusive, supportive and growth inducing to be in the best position to carry out AA's primary purpose.

**Pragnya G**  
**Secretary of South Midlands Region and a member of the Literature Sub Committee**





# London Convention

## Armed Services Meeting 30 April 2023

The Armed Services meeting took place on the Saturday evening of the London Convention. This is the first one associated with Convention and was arranged by Josh, Regional Armed Services Liaison Officer (RASLO) for the London South Region.

The meeting was attended by nine members, five ex-service members, one police officer, one service family member, one social worker and an AA member.

Josh opened the meeting, and everybody shared a little of their experience with the armed services and about themselves. We then discussed what could be done to reach the alcoholic who has served and the still suffering alcoholic in active service.

We agreed there was a big gap in commitments in this service area and we needed to encourage people into service, whilst continuing to get out to service personnel. We agreed that this meeting was very beneficial in getting to know people who had only been on the end of the phone or email. It also highlighted the amount of work there is to do.

Here are some observations made by an Armed Services Liaison Officer (ASLO) attending the meeting:

1. It was good to see the likes of the Blue Lights (Police) and a lady who was from a generational army family. It reminded me that alcoholism is a family disease and made me mindful that whilst we currently have a military / ex-military focus, other uniforms are out there also. In the end "we are responsible" but is the Armed Services a bit too narrow in its service function?
2. Like other service positions in AA, we are under staffed - it is the way it is, but I sense Covid-19 took us backwards resource wise.
3. I know there was only a few attending that were from the South - but do we try and sort out a (quarterly) online ASLO /RASLO meeting?
4. Could a simple localised directory be useful?
5. Getting in the front door of military establishments can be tough and lead to no results. Armed Services be more accessible using the sides like, 'HIVE', Royal British Legion and Association of Armed Drop-in Centres.

**Mike S**  
**Armed Services Sub Committee**

# The General Service Office



The General Service Office (GSO) is the executive arm of the Fellowship and provides services for Alcoholics Anonymous through GSO in York, the Northern Service Office (NSO) in Glasgow and the Southern Service Office (SSO) in London.

The GSO, NSO and SSO are not the authority in Alcoholics Anonymous, rather our role is to execute the objectives of the charity. We act as the central point of contact for the

Fellowship providing links between the 16 Regions (including Continental Europe), 115 Intergrups and 4,794 Groups across the United Kingdom (as of July 2023), as well as GSOs throughout the world.

In addition, we house the European Information Centre, communicating regularly with other General Service Offices across Europe and organising the biennial European Service Meeting.

10 Toft Green, York, has been GSO's home since early 2007 and is the registered office of the charity Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited.

We have a small team of staff, who are passionate about providing services to the Fellowship as efficiently as possible, and always with care and consideration. At present, GSO has 11 full time and 4 part time staff members, with 2 part time staff members at NSO, and 1 full time and 1 part time staff members at SSO. We really try to look after our staff and their Welfare Policy includes Safeguarding, Bullying & Harassment and Equality & Diversity policies as well as an Employee Assistance Program.

Our longest serving member of staff has been with us for 33 years! Once people are employed here, they tend to stay till they retire! It really is a lovely place to work.

Between us we have a wealth of experience in which to assist the Fellowship and answer the huge range of queries we receive. During a typical week GSO, NSO & SSO receive:

- 80 items of postal Mail
- 500 telephone calls
- 50 visitors
- 3,500 emails

Last year the offices received nearly 22,000 telephone calls and over 165,000 emails. The main day to day functions of the offices are the publication and distribution of literature, financial controls, managing and updating group records, the production of SHARE and Roundabout magazines, the co-ordination of AA's national Conference, and supporting and organising the work of the General Service Board.

The literature distribution centre for the fellowship is based at GSO. We receive, process, pack and dispatch all the orders of Conference approved literature to members

across the country and Europe. We also send other service literature and material such as information packs for schools and banners for PI events or conventions.

Last month we received 1,342 literature orders and in an average week GSO will send out 350 packets and parcels. At one point we were one of Parcelforce's largest users in York!

Our accounts department look after the day-to-day administration of our finances, as well as processing all orders and contributions received. They produce monthly and quarterly accounts and work closely with our auditors to compile the charity's annual accounts.

Group records are responsible for managing our database which contains records of all groups, intergroups, regions, trustees and more. This database is used to produce the London and national 'Where to Find' and the 'Confidential Directory'. They receive on average 115 emails per week along with many 'pink forms' by post, which contain details of new meetings or amendments to current groups. We rely on these to make sure that the meetings list is as up to date as possible, so please regularly check your group's details and send us any changes. Once completed, updates can be seen immediately on the website.

The administration of SHARE and Roundabout magazines is undertaken at the office. This includes everything right through from typing up of articles and processing subscriptions to manually packing each issue ready for dispatch. It's a busy time now preparing for the annual calendars and diaries which will be available soon.

Staff at GSO co-ordinate and produce minutes and reports for the annual General Service Conference, Board Meetings, and the biennial European Service Meeting. We organise liaison meetings and Board sub-committee meetings, which along with the Board Meetings are held in the offices at 10 Toft Green.

Other day to day tasks for staff includes answering queries from members, professionals and the media and updating the website. Work will soon start on moving current web content to the new website, and it is keeping everyone busy. Another big project coming up is the redesign of literature to a standard house style, as approved at AA's most recent Conference in April. The Prison Postal Service is also administered at the office, new sponsors are always welcome...

Although I have covered some of the services provided by the staff, they are by no means comprehensive. There are always new situations arising and although everyone has their own jobs, we often work together and help each other if anyone is under pressure. I know I speak for all the staff when I say we try our hardest to provide the best service we possibly can for the Fellowship.

If you ever have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we are here to help!

**Sophie**  
**Office Manager**



# Mental Health Matters

The Literature Sub Committee is actively seeking the experience of AAGB members for a future pamphlet.

If you are an alcoholic coping with mental health issues in addition to alcoholism, we would like to receive your story. A representative sample of submissions (guide length 800 words) will be selected for the proposed publication.

One of the contributions received appears in this edition of AA Service News, as an example of the sort of account of experience, strength and hope which we are looking for.

The Sub Committee may make editing changes prior to publication. Any such changes will be agreed with the author.

**Deadline for submissions is  
13th October 2023**

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.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk) or [literature1.sc@aamail.org](mailto:literature1.sc@aamail.org)



# My name is...

...**Josh** and I am an alcoholic. What at an admission! Once I'd realised I was an alcoholic, there was no hesitation in admitting I was powerless over alcohol and that my life was unmanageable - one hundred percent!

Having mental health issues though, now this is another matter. Mental Health is a topic that I have come to understand as an 'outside issue' to AA, even though poor mental health has been with me all my life... depression, anxiety, more depression, anxiety and so on. I just didn't realise it. It was all bound up together in my head with my alcoholism. I could not see my poor mental health until I put down the drink and got sober from alcohol, and took steps towards my emotional sobriety.

In my first two years of sobriety, I began to identify other issues that were not quite right with me. For example, not sleeping, lack of concentration, gut wrenching anxiety and crying all the time. I thought, 'if this is sobriety – you can shove it!' I went back to my doctor who identified clinical depression. Through the guidance of my doctor, I took steps to mitigate my depression. I went to cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness classes. I also agreed to take medication to help me, all three changes, along with my 12-step programme turned my depression around. Medication did not affect my sobriety in any way but some people in the Fellowship near me told me that it would, and said I should stop taking medication. This I did. I went through terrible withdrawal from the medication (worse than coming off the drink) and I became clinically depressed again. I was advised by my sponsor that AA does not have an opinion on medical matters as these are issues outside of the Fellowship.

Since I elected to stay sober one day at a time, not pick up that first drink, and keep on my course of meds which continue to help me with anxiety and depression, I have been more balanced and this has allowed me to grow and experience emotional sobriety – a bit at a time, a day at a time.

I had (and still have, if I do not work my programme) crippling social anxiety, and anxiety full stop about everything. This was a trigger for my clinical depression. I thought what can I do about it how can I get out of self! Doing service across each level of the Fellowship was an absolute life saver for me. It has helped me increase my connection with other people, improve my skills, self-worth and confidence. Giving back, I found, was a great way to move forward emotionally. I worked through social anxiety and found some understanding with boundaries. I can now begin at the beginning of projects and work through them to the end. I found that people are OK if you give them time and space, just as they have for me. It is amazing how it works! I have not returned to clinical depression.

Fast forwarding to the present, I knew that something else was still not quite right in the way I behaved around people and social situations, where I became overwhelmed. Fortunately, I have some days of sobriety under my belt, and some self-knowledge which propelled me to seek further help and diagnosis. It turned out that I am on the autism spectrum. Recognising this was like recognising I am an alcoholic. Work on my autism and my understanding of it has only just begun. It is a revelation – a similar experience to understanding my alcoholism. It is another piece of the

jigsaw of my life that has fitted into place, and I now know that I can seek further help.

I hope my story of depression, autism diagnosis and mental health helps you. If I'd not got sober, my clinical depression would not have been diagnosed and sorted (one day at a time), and my autism would not have been diagnosed (now being understood and explored one day at a time).

My sobriety keeps on revealing more and more, just as long as I follow the path that is destined for me, that I keep my faith and remain prepared to take action.

**Josh**

P.S. You too can reach out your hand by taking a little time out of your day and submit your story

# SHARE your SHARE

The Westgate Sunday Morning Big Book Study group ran a two-week workshop to encourage and support members in writing articles for SHARE magazine.

In order to allow us the space to carry out this workshop, we asked the landlady if we could stay behind after the usual meeting time for an extra hour and she very graciously allowed this with no extra charge. We arranged some cake to fortify us (donated by a member) and 5 of us stayed and crafted some ideas for SHARE.

We used the instructions contained within SHARE to guide us on ideal length, and some of us chose themes connected to steps, while others went with some of the suggested themes for December.

It helped to talk through ideas and it certainly galvanised me into action - I had been meaning to send an article for ages but just had not gotten round to it.

The hope is that SHARE will have 5 articles to add to its content and continue to offer a vital bit of fellowship. Who knows, maybe something one of us said might help another alcoholic!

**Sam S, Treasurer**

**Westgate Sunday Morning Big Book Meeting**

# Are you willing to be the hand of AA?



I have been involved in service all my sober life, it started when I went for my first meeting with my new sponsor, the first sponsor that showed me what sobriety looked like. (I had been knocking about AA for 6 months and not been able to stop). I knocked on his door expecting to be invited in for a cup of tea and a chat, instead he came out coat in hand, asked where my car was, and off we set. "Where are we going?" I said. "I've a 12th step call to make, you might as well come and learn what it's all about."

He took me through the 12 steps, and put me into service at our local group, where he was adamant that the 7th tradition included everything. This was our group, and we were responsible for making sure the room was set up in time to start, cleared up when it was finished, and any washing up and tidying up done. Our group needed to provide the servants to do that, we never asked for help, although we wouldn't refuse it if it were offered, as it might give another a chance to be of service.

Before I was 12 months sober, he started meeting me at the local Telephone Office which we were lucky enough to have in Bristol. We would spend the time waiting for phone calls reading AA literature and discussing the steps. He taught me how to answer calls, and how to arrange 12th step calls, and it soon came that I was looking forward to getting my one-year anniversary so I could start doing it on my own.

I loved it, I got involved in the service committee that helped it run, and created an online meeting finder, as the internet was just starting to grow in popularity.

When the General Service Board started its own site, I wanted to get involved, and managed to get invited to a meeting in Hull in 2003 when we were shown among other things, a new email help system that was being developed, and we received one of the first incoming emails asking for help! I was hooked on the concept, and soon what was initially called the E-12th Steppers was formed (later to change its name to its current identity of the Online Response Service (ORS) – acknowledging that fact that our main aim was to get people to call the helpline so they could arrange a 12th step call locally)

It was fabulous, and so rewarding being that first point of contact with the still suffering alcoholic. The big advantage was that being national we received more contacts than I was used to on the Telephone Service. I had known times when on the telephone service I could sometimes do a full morning on duty in the office and get no calls. In the same period on ORS it wasn't unusual to have to deal with upwards of 6 emails in a morning shift, and this was some 20 years ago!

What was interesting too, was to see how often, when we recruited a new person to the service there would erupt around them a little bubble of enthusiasm, as they told people of the joy the service was giving them, others from the meetings they attended would become interested and apply to join us.

After rotating off that service I maintained an involvement in service in various roles. When a little later we moved to live in Continental European Region, electronic communications became even more important to me, enabling me to continue to be of service. Of course, I can't do telephone service here, although I have been able to do the occasional 12th step call through our local group phone.

A few years later, the 2016 Service Conference introduced the Chat Now service, which I would later join, and enjoy being part of.

I can't honestly say which I prefer! The telephone service is fabulous, hearing the voice of the still suffering alcoholic and trying to arrange a 12th step call for them, it was a great starting point, even though location means I can no longer take part in that.

Being a member of the Online Response Service, and being a part of a team that responds to the emails we receive from people looking for help, who perhaps are reluctant at first to pick up a phone, but are willing to talk to us behind the anonymity of a keyboard, and we have the time to create a response to them; or the Chat Now service, for those that want the anonymity of keyboard, but the instant response of someone live on the other end of the connection. I could recommend each one as having been a way of helping me carry out my own 12th Step work, and in a way contributing towards my 9th Step too by helping others, thus making amends to people I don't know, as a way of apology to all those unknown people that I hurt in so many ways when I was drinking.

One difficulty that both these services have is that, while the Telephone Service is reported on regularly at Intergroup and Regional meetings, the ORS and Chat Now service are rarely spoken of, due to being organised at Board Sub-Committee level. They both must use the principle of rotation so we're always in need of new responders.

If they sound like they might interest you, doing such a vital service from the comfort of your own home wherever you live, why not get in touch with us and we will tell you more about it?

There is a new subcommittee formed called the First Response Online Sub-Committee, which is currently looking for volunteers, but perhaps more importantly, we need volunteers on Chat Now and the Online Response Service to learn how to respond. By doing so they help the still suffering alcoholic reaching out, find the hand of AA that we proudly say needs to always be there.

Gratitude is more than an attitude, it needs be an action, or else how else do we show it?

**Nigel P**

**For more information, please email [secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org](mailto:secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org)**





# People of Colour Working Group



It is exciting to be part of this Working Group. We have gotten to know each other through honest, mutual sharing of ideas, underpinning approaches, and solutions to a complicated but important subject of inclusivity. There is a sense of empowerment and togetherness in the group, a shared vision of how best to pass AA's message to everyone, irrespective of race, creed, and culture.

## The journey

The group first came into fruition as a direct result of a recommendation from the 2021 Conference. The question related to a lack of people from ethnic backgrounds within the service structure of AAGB.

We met as a group for the first time on November 17th, 2021, and held our first ever online convention in October 2022, entitled "No longer Silent: Who's not in the room?". This consisted of presentations, shares, and two concurrent discussion sessions. Both addressed the theme of cultural barriers to and within AA, specifically around issues to do with accessibility, entry, integration and service.

It was important to seize on the momentum from the October 2022 convention, which resulted in a second, equally successful "Race Today: Tomorrow" online convention in March 2023 and a tremendous 'Race Today, Tomorrow' workshop at the Tower of London convention in April this year.

Pragnya G

# The Tower of London Convention

We would like to thank the organising committee for giving us the nod to put this on. The venue and the timing were just right.

At the workshop, we were treated to an excellent presentation on “Diversity” – with a focus on culture and colour, a personal perspective, and a local reach. This was followed by a moving experience, strength, and hope share from an AA member. The meeting was chaired by our London Region South Trustee. Thank you.

Afterwards there was a definite buzz of gratitude and appreciation in the air. It was a truly wonderful experience, with a great deal of mutual sharing, resulting in making connections to foster for our networking strategy.

In the evening, our General Secretary, Ranjan, chaired a meeting with other members of diverse and ethnic communities, with heartfelt sharing of experiences.

Thank you, also, to our other Trustees who organised and looked after our literature stand.

Following are thoughts from the participants running the Race Today workshop...

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*‘This was my first time at a convention. There were so many people. I was so nervous. I have never told my story to so many people. Afterwards everyone came to me to say how wonderful it was to hear me speak. I am an Asian lady and come from a big family. In 2020 I was at my rock bottom. I couldn’t stop drinking. I have found my Higher Powers in AA. It has saved my life.’*

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*Presenting at a convention is a powerful tool to effectively deliver a message on culture and diversity to the wider AA community. Speaking at a convention allowed me to engage with an eager audience, share valuable insights, and forge lasting connections. The presentation was very well-received and allowed me to connect with people interested in doing similar work.'*

*Connecting with others in AA goes beyond simply exchanging contact information; we build meaningful relationships with people who share a common passion for ensuring the hand of AA reaches all communities. By connecting with others, we gain the opportunity to share ideas, collaborate, and build a thriving community that fosters innovation and change in the fellowship. The experience elevated my understanding of other work in this space and reinforced the importance of communication in shaping ideas and inspiring change.*

*I hope to have the opportunity to deliver similar workshops at other conventions to socialise the work we have been doing in Birmingham.'*

*'At a Workshop at Heart of England Convention July 2023 – 'Who's not in the Room: Culture and AA.' Members shared on their experiences of setting up meetings and how the message of love and spirituality has grown to pass on AA's primary message. Thank you.'*

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Confirmed future events...

- Race today online convention 30th September 2023
- Workshop at the Glasgow Convention 22nd June 2024

**Baljit M, Navraj D and Pragnya G**



# AAGB FINANCE SEMINAR 2023



On Saturday 24th June 2023 the General Service Board (GSB) hosted a Finance Seminar at the Park Inn Hotel in York. This is the same location as the AAGB Annual Conference.

The day opened with a presentation from the Clive K - Honorary Treasurer. This covered many different aspects of finance within AAGB, including:

- A brief history of the Charity
- The difference between the GSB (the Charity) and the Fellowship
- The 3 different accounts held by the Charity
- Investments
- Explanation of the AAGB prudent reserve,
- Sending contributions through the Service Structure
- How your contributions are spent e.g., Primary Purpose projects and initiatives
- Different types of finance reports
- Who's who in the AAGB finance team

This was followed by a question-and-answer session, which produced some positive and lively discussions.

There followed four presentations which were given by regional treasurers. All these presentations were followed by a question-and-answer session. The areas covered were:

1. **Primary purpose role of the treasurer** - This produced good discussion amongst the attendees.
2. **Banking** - This gave an insight into navigating through the complex process of setting up a group bank account. A fruitful discussion followed in the Q and A session.
3. **Insurance** - This was also extremely informative and produced lots of useful feedback in the Q and A session.
4. **Prudent Reserves and Budgets** - Although the honorary treasurer touched on this earlier in the day, this session went into more detail about prudent reserves at group, intergroup and regional levels of our structure. A lively discussion with useful feedback followed.

This was a hybrid event to enable people who couldn't make it in person to be able to attend and contribute online. For those that attended, the breaks within the day allowed people to network with others.



It was a privilege and a great pleasure to be a small part of this wonderful day.

I would like to thank all the regional treasurers for their enthusiasm, help, contributions and support in putting the agenda together for this day. The presentations which you gave were uplifting, inspiring, interesting and informative. The feedback from them will be a great help in fulfilling the remit of Conference 2023 recommendations.

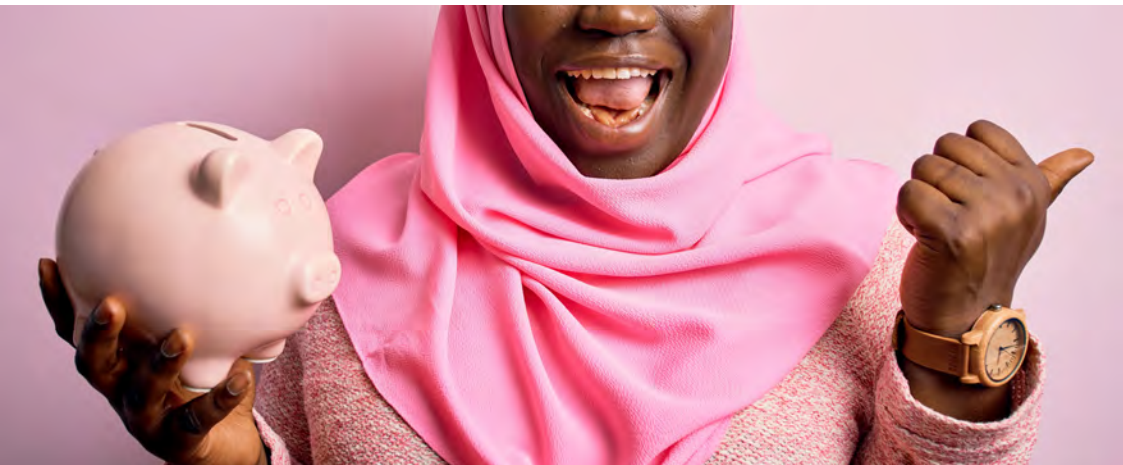
I'd also like to thank the shadow honorary treasurer, the GSB Finance Committee, the General Secretary, Management Accountant, GSO staff and my fellow trustees for your unwavering help, support and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the Fellowship who attended and contributed in person and online to this memorable day.

I hope it has inspired and encouraged you to also inspire, encourage and sponsor people into this service, where there are current vacancies (and future vacancies due to rotation) within your groups, intergroups and regions.

In the spirit of Love and Service in our wonderful Fellowship.

**Clive K**  
**Honorary Treasurer GSB**



# Board Bullet Points May 2023

## Chair

Our New Chair of the General Service Board for AAGB, Justin T (Southwest Region) welcomed all to the 249th meeting of the GSB.

Joining us for their first full Board meeting were: 3 new Non-Alcoholic Trustee's (NATs):

- **Emma G** – Emma's experience as an Auditor will be valuable. She has joined our Board Finance Committee and AA Service News.
- **Ranjana B** - Ranjana has an extensive background covering Diversity and will join our Nominations Committee and our Race Today Working Group.
- **Henry L** - Henry has a Civil Service background working in the Cabinet office at Westminster. He is our youngest ever NAT, and will join the Young Peoples Sub-Committee, Employment Sub-Committee and the Houses of Parliament Event team.

We welcome them.

Non-Alcoholic Trustees make up around a third of the General Service Board (GSB). They bring valuable experience from various fields which over the years have proven to be a great asset to the Fellowship.

We have had 3 NATs leave the Board this year. Thomas and Louise have now retired from the GSB and we thank them for their contribution. Mani has taken a year-long sabbatical and hopes to return next year.

## Finance Update

Clive K provided our first quarterly report for the year. This will be sent out to the Regions.

Due to the time lag with the end of the year and Conference, the Finance Committee will meet during 1st week in June to discuss the 2nd Quarterly report.

Clive reported that we are in good shape financially and we are looking forward to the Finance seminar that will be taking place on the 24th of June.

## Nominations Committee

Barbara reported that the Nominations Committee have been busy with interviews for Share, Literature, First Response, Telephones, Survey and Employment Sub-Committees taking place.

- **Share** – Bridget from Southeast Region has been appointed as the Share Assistant Editor
- **Literature** - Jess from Southwest Region has joined our Literature Sub-Committee
- **First Response** – Nigel from CER (Continental European Region) and Sue from Midlands Region have joined our First Response Sub-Committee.
- **Telephones** – John from East of Scotland Region has joined our Telephone Sub-Committee.
- **Survey** – Karen from Southwest Region and Maxine from Midlands Region have joined our

Survey Sub-Committee

- **Employment** – Ann from London Region North has joined our Employment Sub-Committee.

### **Chair**

We have an on-going issue with four regions not represented at the Board and 3 further Trustees will be leaving at Conference 2024. Could all Trustees please highlight this as an urgent concern.

### **Projects**

Diversity Video along with 3 other planned videos have been put on hold due to the uncertainty around travel as a result of the train strikes. We do not want to make arrangements that would have to be cancelled.

### **Exec Report**

Vice Chair advised that all is on schedule for July Workshop. This will include the attendance of two members of each Region. Could Trustees please ask their Regions to respond to the letter that was sent as an invite. Names and contact details of members attending.

### **Parliamentary Events**

Westminster - Gretchen reported on the event scheduled for 12th May. There will also be an exhibition this year. They are expecting strong attendance and the Committee have worked well.

Scottish Parliament – Hamish reported that this event will now take place on the 4th October 2023 with Fergus Ewing as our sponsoring MP. All is coming together, though Hamish has asked for more representation from the Scottish Regions.

Welsh Assembly - Zelma reports that this will take place during November with date to be confirmed.

### **General Secretary Report**

Ranjan Reported.

### **AA Service News Deadlines**

- Summer – July 25th
- Winter – Oct 25th

### **Seminars and Forums 2023**

Forums: 3 per year with GSB/GSO presentations, and not more than once every 3 years per region.

- Midlands - 10th June 2023
- South-East - to be rescheduled.
- East of Scotland - 5th August 2023

Seminars: 4 per year, no more than once every 3 years per discipline

- Finance Seminar – 24th June 2023
- Prison/Probation Seminar – 1st July 2023

NB up to 2 more available

### **European Service Meeting – 20-22nd October 2023**

July 22nd - 23rd ESM steering committee held online.

£7,208 paid 2021/22

## **Sub Saharan African Meeting - 2023 - TBC**

### **Development Fund**

£ 19,404.16 paid

### **World Service Meeting**

£9,127.00 paid

Will be held Oct 2024 - Holly will be our 1st term delegate and Justin will attend for 2nd term.

## **Service Highlights**

### **Armed Services**

John reported that we will soon only have two members on this sub-committee. If anyone thinking of applying, please do so through AA Service News.

### **Archives**

Our Fellowship Archivist, Martin from Scotia Region, has arranged an interview with the daughter of Sir Philip Dundas. More to follow.

### **Employment**

Charles reported that a workshop presentation has been made available to all staff at NatWest Bank.

### **First Response**

Holly reported that First Response Sub-Committee will be holding a series of Workshops around the country over the coming year. These start in September. More details to follow regarding venues and dates.

### **National Conventions**

Northern and Scottish went well with Welsh and Southern to follow. All National Conventions are being well supported by our Sub-Committees.

### **Any other Business**

Following Conference this year we have stopped selling the 12 Traditions illustrated pamphlet. Until a new one has been approved, we will be selling the USA/Canada pamphlet – “Experience Has Taught Us”. Whilst this contains the USA/Canada Conference approved version of the preamble it gives us an alternative until the new 12 Traditions illustrated pamphlet is approved by our Conference.

Next up will be annual Workshop of the GSB AAGB, where for the first time we will have participation from members of all Regions who are not serving Trustees.

September sees the 250th meeting of the GSB AAGB.

Many Thanks

**Stevie S**

**Vice Chair GSB**



# AA Goes to Westminster

On the 12 May this year, AA, through the work of the Parliamentary Event subcommittee, held the 19th Annual Presentation and Reception of Alcoholics Anonymous at Portcullis House in Westminster. The aim of this event is to help professionals and Parliamentarians get a better understanding of AA, who we are and how we can help the still suffering alcoholic.

This year's sponsor was Steve Brine, Conservative MP for Winchester and Chandlers Ford, and current Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee.

The event started with Steve Brine opening the event and welcoming the guests, primarily, health and social care professionals and those working with people whose alcoholism is part of the problem.

The next two speakers were Louise Foxcroft, former AA Non-Alcoholic Trustee, who spoke about her experience of being a Board member of the General Service Board of AAGB and her experience of seeing the Fellowship in action. The next speaker was Kieran Lynch, Senior Substance Misuse Integration Manager, NHS England. He spoke about the benefits of AA and his experience of working with AA in the field of recovery. Both speakers gave compelling messages.

Following that, there were two AA speakers, Shon F and Christian C, who shared their experience strength and hope. The change of atmosphere in the room was palpable when the AA members shared their stories. Proving yet again that talking about how it works from a personal point of view, is the most powerful tool we have when spreading the message - whether it be to the still suffering alcoholic or explaining to professionals what is on offer in these rooms.

The question-and-answer session made it clear that the speakers had sparked a real interest, as did the conversations afterwards. The turnout of invited attendees was good this year and that is mainly thanks to the Fellowship. Our aim is to get as many 'warm' contacts as possible, from serving intergroup and regional PI/Health/Employment officers or committees. These contacts would be people or organisations that we already have some kind of contact or relationship with, and we can ask if they could liaise with us to invite their colleagues and professional peers, who may not know much about AA, to come along.



2024 will be our 20th year delivering this event and we would like to reach more people than ever. We will be calling out to the Fellowship over the next few months for those 'warm' contacts and start getting people interested in coming along to our event. Now more than ever we need your help to let the health and social care sectors know who we are, and hopefully clear up some of the myths that still prevail about AA, even today.

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*"I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible".*

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**Gretchen S**  
**Trustee for London Region South**  
**And Chair of the Parliamentary Event Sub Committee**

# Dear Fellowship...

The first Finance seminar in over a decade was held in York on 24th June.

There were presentations and workshops on:

- Insurance
- Banking
- The role of the Treasurer
- Prudent Reserve and Budgeting
- Funding Primary Purpose work
- General Service Board (GSB) Finances

These initiated illuminating and vibrant discussions in the best traditions of our Fellowship uniting to better carry our message of recovery. Thanks to all who participated and especially thanks to Clive K, our Honorary Treasurer for proposing the seminar.

Similarly, on September 30th our next Race Today convention will have workshops on creating a variety of new media to better deliver our primary purpose to the still suffering alcoholic kept out of the room by barriers of culture, communication and perception.

A key tool to better communication and perception of who we are, is our website, and I am excited by its development. A brief peek and I was wowed! I want it now!! Luckily, I heard patience is the great virtue to be learnt in this life and our Web Manager is in charge. We aim to deliver by December 2023.

In all these and other works, the Trustees with their sterling selflessness are invaluable and essential beings. As Directors of a charitable company, they willingly volunteer to accept a raft of legal and financial liabilities that are enforceable even after rotation from the GSB. These responsibilities are therefore of a qualitatively different form from all other Fellowship commitments, and with the quantity of work involved, requires of the Trustee a special love, devotion and humility in placing our common welfare first. Without the Trustees, the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous of Great Britain, as a collective could collapse. A catastrophe for alcoholics both in the room and yet to cross our threshold.

For our Unity, for our Fellowship, for all our recovery, please support and talk to your Trustee and ask them about their role. It may be illuminating and inspiring in equal measure, encouraging you into service. For those 10 or more years sober, who have served a full term, or are serving as a conference delegate, seriously consider the priceless opportunity to serve as the Fellowship's ultimate Trusted Servant. The only requirement to serve as a Trustee of the Charity and Director of the Company is the experience, strength and hope of service to the Fellowship that you have already demonstrated one day at a time, not exam qualifications or a giddy ascent on the ladder of ambition. You and your fellowship will be all the stronger for your devotion.

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***This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united; For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.***

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See you all soon and experience the best of recovery, one day at a time.

**Love Ranjan**  
**General Secretary**

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**The Winter edition of AA Service News will contain all of the Questions for Conference 2024. Look out for the next edition which will be available December 2023.**



# Looking for new AA service?



## Chat Now

is looking for new members

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



For full job description  
and application form  
please e-mail  
[chatadmin@aamail.org](mailto:chatadmin@aamail.org)

## Do you have ...?

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

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



For full job description  
and application form  
please e-mail  
[ecomm6.sc@aamail.org](mailto:ecomm6.sc@aamail.org)

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



## Online Response Service

is looking for  
new responders

## Do you have...?

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

All of the service articles in AA Service News are written by members of the Fellowship. Your experience is welcomed, please do share it with others

All you need to do is email the editor with your articles at:

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

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

The Editor, AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ. Website: [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

For updating existing meeting details and registering new groups, you can find the registration or 'Pink Form' available from [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) Once completed and submitted, you will automatically receive a printed copy of AA Service News.

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

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

Please send them to the editor at:  
**[editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)**

Thank you!



# General Service Board Vacancies

## What is a Sub Committee and what does it do?

A sub-committee is made up of alcoholics with usually five years sobriety and service experience down the AA structure. It is a committee that delivers Conference recommendations, and is chaired by a Trustee of the General Service Board

All sub-committee members go through an application and interview process. There are usually vacancies listed quarterly in AASN, together with a deadline for submission for application and criteria which you will need to meet as part of your application.

It's a rewarding job being on a sub-committee, by both carrying the message and the conscience of the Fellowship.

## Interested? Please read on...



# How to Apply

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

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

For any of the vacancies, you will need:

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

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

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

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

**The deadline for ALL applications is *Sunday 15th October 2023***



# Archives

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

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

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

**For more information about the vacancy, please contact John C Trustee for Archives [trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

# Armed Services

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

## Experience

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

## Aim

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

Its objects are to:

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

**For more information about the vacancy please contact John C, GSB Trustee for Armed Services, [trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

# Employment

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

Our primary functions are to:

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

**For more information about these vacancies, please contact Charles R, GSB Trustee for Employment [trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

## First Response Online Sub Committee

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

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

### **Chat Now:**

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

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

### **Online Response Service:**

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

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

# Health

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

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

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is to:

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

**For more information about these vacancies, please contact Barbara O**  
[trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

# Prisons

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

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

Its objectives are to:

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

**For more information about these vacancies, please contact Zelma K,** [trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk)



# Probation / Criminal Justice Services

We are looking for members who:

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

**For more information about these Probation and Criminal Justice vacancies, please contact Hamish McS, [trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

## Survey

### Rare Service Opportunity to Take the Pulse of AA

#### Summary

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

#### What is the Pulse of AA Post-Pandemic?

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

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

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

### Rare Opportunity

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

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

### Apply Now

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

## Telephones (NTL)

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

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

Requirements for the telephones sub- committee are to:

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

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

# Young Persons

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

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

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

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

### Main aims:

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

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

To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies

### Requirements:

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

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



# Tradition 7

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

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## GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

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*“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.”*

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Taken from AA GB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

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*“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”*

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AA Comes of Age, page 140

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## The Role of GSO

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

Regional Contributions April - July 2023	£
East of Scotland Region	270
Eastern Region	29,468
Glasgow Region	9,532
Highlands and Islands Region	5,250
London Region North	27,979
London Region South	26,265
Midlands Region	16,630
North East Region	25,267
North West Region	1,735
Scotia Region	29,950
South East Region	25,350
South Midlands Region	490
South West Region	715
South West Scotland Region	2,083
Wales & Borders Region	5,336
Continental European Region	1,762
Sundry & Unidentifiable Receipts	2,554
<b>Total</b>	<b>210,636</b>

# In Memoriam

April - July 2023

In memory of OG John P	Garforth Group	100.00
In memory of a member	Diss Group	133.00





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