



AA Service News

Autumn 2019

No.180

From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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

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

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

Concept I

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- Does our group have a group service representative (GSR)? Do we feel that our home group is part of AA as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the local Intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of AA?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

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@btconnect.com

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

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

2020 AA Membership Survey

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 intention of these surveys is to learn more about membership characteristics of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain, helping us to fulfil our Primary Purpose in the most effective way, informing the General Service Board (GSB) regarding effective use of resources and providing information for professionals.

AA GB has been conducting surveys every five years since the 1970s. The last three postal surveys (in 2005, 2010 & 2015) have involved Marketing Means, who have vast experience in dealing with surveys and obtaining good response rates. They will analyse and present data in summary charts and tables for the 2020 Survey, which will be in two phases.

Phase 1, Secretaries' Survey, (a week in May 2020) will be a census of all Group Secretaries in Great Britain. Depending on the number of returns to this phase, a sample of about 250 groups will be chosen to represent group sizes and geographical location by AA Region. These will be selected using Stratified Random Sampling.

Phase 2, Membership Survey (a week in June 2020) will involve all fellow members from each of the 250 groups already selected in phase 1. Group sizes will be used to estimate the total membership of GB AA. The questionnaires have varied over the years but overall the content has been very similar in asking for:

- demographics of membership in AA (age, gender and occupation for social class)
- length of membership in AA
- length of sobriety
- frequency of attending AA group meetings
- how members first heard of AA

The 2020 Membership Survey will include a questionnaire on 'Service to Others in Sobriety' (SOS), rating items on a scale of 1 to 5. There will also be an open-ended question to allow members to answer in their own words. The questionnaires for both phases will be compiled by the Survey Sub Committee.

John W, Survey Sub Committee

July 2019

Changes to the “Starter Pack”

The General Service Conference 2019 approved changes to the Starter Pack. The pack now contains:

- The leaflet “Who Me?”
- The leaflet “A newcomer asks...”
- The leaflet “Now that you’ve stopped – 15 Points”
- “Just for Today” card
- A card containing the Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and the Serenity Prayer.

Please note that:

- “Who Me?” has been revised, and incorporates the questionnaire dealing with the question “Is AA for you?”
- “A newcomer asks...” has also been revised. It no longer contains a questionnaire as it was felt to be confusing to the newcomer to have two different questionnaires in the pack
- “A newcomer asks...” does deal with the issue of anonymity, including anonymity on the internet.

The cards “What Does Anonymity Mean to AA?” and “Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety” are no longer in the Starter Pack, but they will continue to be available separately.

- Literature Sub Committee

AA Service News Copies for Conventions

There have been recent requests for copies of *AA Service News* to be available for literature tables at AA conventions. Whilst every effort is made to honour these requests, the number of extra copies ordered in the print runs for *AA Service News* is limited. (AA members, groups, intergroups and regions are of course welcome to whatever limited extra copies are on hand.)

However, it is possible to order sufficient copies in advance with the original print run for each issue to have them available for conventions. Such orders must be made in advance at the time all copies are ordered by GSO for printing to be distributed to the Fellowship.

If extra copies are desired for a convention, please contact GSO or the *AA Service News* Editor with the number desired **no later than** the due dates for articles, reports, announcements and calendar notices for each issue (the last Fridays of January, April, July and October).

These special order requests **MUST** be received by:

- For the Winter 2019 / 2020 issue: October 25th, 2019
- For the Spring 2020 issue: January 31st, 2020
- For the Summer 2020 issue: April 24th, 2020
- For the Autumn 2020 issue: July 31st, 2020

Following the principle of self-support for conventions, we ask that the conventions pay the packing and shipping charges for these special orders.

Thank you.

Announcement from the Health Sub Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT: HEALTH SUB COMMITTEE

Calling all health care professionals! Are you a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who is also working in the health care profession?

We need your HELP!!

Perhaps you work in healthcare as a doctor, nurse, paramedic, councillor, manager or administrator - or indeed in any other capacity?

The AAGB Health Sub Committee is reaching out to all regions, intergroups and groups to tap into the wealth of knowledge and experience in our fellowship.

No need to worry about your anonymity. We just want to talk to you to see if you can help us to gain a better understanding of and access to health care professionals – particularly those involved in training.

Think you can help? Please contact Bob (health4.sc@aamail.org.uk)

SPECIAL SECTION: Prison Service / AA in Prisons

At the request of the General Service Board Trustee for Prisons, this issue of *AA Service News* has a special section on AA Service in prisons. Featured are a brief history of AA in prisons in Great Britain, information on intergroup Liaison Officers (PLOs), the service opportunity to correspond with or be a sponsor for an AA member in prison via the post, two personal stories from members who found AA in prison, a report on an AA in prison conference in Poland from a member in Lithuania, and a brief note about the "Through the Gate" scheme to help AA members leaving prison to remain connected to the Fellowship once they are outside.

A Short History of AA Meetings in Prisons in England, Scotland and Wales

Over 50 Years of Bringing Freedom to Those Imprisoned by the Demon Drink

The first prison meeting was formed in Wakefield prison on 27th December 1957, when the Leeds group of Alcoholics Anonymous responded to a prisoner who had learned of AA while in prison in America. As this meeting was treated as an experiment, for a period of five years no other prison Groups were formed in England and Wales until 1963. After this time as prisoners were moved round the country they would make contact to request help in getting a group started in the prisons and AA groups began to flourish.

The first prison meeting was formed in Scotland in Barlinnie Prison in 1960. The editor of the Scottish *Daily Express* had learned of AA's experience in American prisons and was keen to see if AA could be introduced to Scottish prisons. He made contact with AA and found the members willing to help. A few weeks later, a meeting was set up in the prison.

As in England and Wales, when prisoners were moved around the prison system, in Scotland they made requests for meetings to be held in other prisons, and soon meetings were held in Peterhead, Edinburgh, Perth and Gourrock prison. As Alcoholics Anonymous held no record of its members, it is difficult to establish how many of its current members first made contact with AA in prison, but evidence suggests that many of those who attended prison meetings continued to attend AA on release and go on to lead sober and worthwhile lives. AA has transformed the lives of many inmates. Our actions and thoughts have been put on a more positive footing. We try to practice the programme in our daily living. This would be impossible if the hand of AA had not been there to guide us. We no longer feel the pain, frustration and fear that accompany the active alcoholic. We have thrown off the chains that bound us. Today we have freedom.

- **Bruce B, Varna, Bulgaria** / Originally published as "58 Years of Bringing Freedom to Those Imprisoned by the Demon Drink", in *Beyond the Bars* (1st Edition, March 2018), a quarterly newsletter aimed at Regional PLOs and anyone interested in this vital aspect of service. *Beyond the Bars* features articles, news and stories from AA members that reflect over decades of hands-on experience.

**To subscribe to *Beyond the Bars*, contact GSO.
Also available in the AAGB website Document Library.**

The Importance of Prison Liaison Offices (PLOs) at Intergroup Level

Some intergroups don't see prison service as part of their remit (the nearest prison might be many miles away and already covered by a neighbouring IG). The position of Prison Liaison Officer (PLO) is then left vacant and any news and information that might be relevant isn't passed on through the usual channels.

But the position is a vital part of the service structure and ought to be filled whenever possible. In some instances, a former inmate might move to a new area having been introduced to AA in prison. The intergroup PLO can provide support and details of local meetings, becoming the much-needed link in the communication chain.

AA Guidelines suggest that a PLO be appointed to each intergroup, even when there are no prisons in that particular area. This ensures that no one is left out and the message continues to be carried in the most effective of ways.

- Originally published in *Beyond the Bars* (2nd Edition, June 2018)

Prison Postal Service (PPS)

Did you know that AA Great Britain has a Prison Postal Service (PPS) to offer postal sponsorship through the post for AA members who are incarcerated?

This vital – and highly rewarding –prison service enables inmates to correspond with prison sponsors – via our service address – so that we may share our experience, hope and experience. For further details contact Steve: PPS Request, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ. 01904644026 aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

“Sharing with another alcoholic concerning sobriety and the AA is an important part of recovery.” - From the Conference approved pamphlet “Prison and Alcohol”.

Personal Story: “Geneva”

**“All of a sudden I couldn’t wait
for the next AA meeting.”**

When I first went to prison, I had no feelings left except one—anger! It was like a raging fire that was burning my brain. Why?—they locked me up for five to 15 years, away from my best friend—alcohol. For the next two years my every thought was of my next drink. Even when sleeping, I dreamed about the bars, my drinking friends and, yes, even the hangovers.

My parole officer told me it was mandatory I attend the weekly AA meeting. So I went; I know the anger that surrounded me made people uncomfortable, but that was fine with me. I was a one-woman blowtorch. I didn’t want anyone to speak to me or touch me, and when those AA people smiled I wanted to strike out at them. So, for almost two years, once a week I sat in an AA meeting, not speaking and not listening. I saw absolutely nothing wrong with my life, and couldn’t wait to get back to it.

Much to my dismay, these AAs were the most persistent people I had ever met. They were slowly chipping away at my anger, and I didn’t even know it.

One night, in my cell after an AA meeting, I experienced another feeling mixing with the anger. I didn't know what it was, but I knew that I felt like I was going to explode and I couldn't trust myself around anyone. I went to sit on my bed, but instead found myself on the floor on my knees, with big hot tears flowing down my cheeks. The only words that came pouring from my mouth were, 'God help me. I can't take it anymore.'

The next morning some of the anger was still there, but there was also fear and confusion. My walls were coming down and I didn't know what to do. All of a sudden I couldn't wait for the next AA meeting.

That Friday I went down the hill actually looking forward to the meeting. When I walked in, there was a stranger standing in the hall, looking very scared and nervous. I found myself walking over to her and shaking her hand, thanking her for coming. We became good friends.

Something else happened. I was hungry for knowledge and the love that was shown to us in those meetings, but there was only *one hour* a week that I had to look forward to.

Before I left that prison we had five meetings a week and numerous other activities involving the women and families. The day I walked out of prison, a wonderful AA person met me at the door and, for three or four months, led me through life. It was not easy adjusting to life on the "outside" without alcohol. But I had a lot of support. No one cared where I had been or what I had done—they were only interested in where I was going, and they were there every time I stubbed my toe.

That was almost seven years ago. I still go to AA and continue to help and support other men and women who are alcoholics. None of it has been easy. But it gets easier each passing day that I don't drink. A lot of good things have happened to me. And none of it would have happened if it weren't for those persistent, loving people in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Once I was willing to listen and to accept that I was not a bad person, that I was capable of loving and being loved, that I could hold my head up and respect myself, then I knew it would be all right. The people who gave me back my life are numerous, and "thank you" is so very little to give back. So, for myself first, and for all those who reached out a hand, I will try to remain sober one day at a time and reach out to those who follow.

- From the AAWS pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic"

Personal Story: “Fred S”

“I have been a member of the AA group since my first week in prison.”

My last sentence was for three to five years. I have been a member of the AA group since my first week in prison. I have found real hope. At first, I just listened to the other members. But, because the speakers said, “Get active,” I did so.

Why do I think the program is working for me? Well, when I became eligible for parole recently, it was denied. I have a wife and four children, who are of the greatest concern to me. To be with them is something I wanted so bad I could taste it. Yet, when the decision was handed down, I accepted it without bitterness, knowing that there was nothing I could do about it. “Accept the things you cannot change,” I heard in AA. And I found I could accept this disappointment.

From the beginning, I had been told that AA would not do anything for me but help me keep sober; that it is not a social service or employment agency, and that it would not get any inmate a parole. And I know that when my sentence ends, AA cannot be expected to do more than help me preserve my sobriety.

Since joining AA, I have met a lot of people, all sharing the same problem. Some say they haven’t gained much in the way of material things, but most of them certainly seem to be better off than they were. The thing that impresses me most, however, is the fact that every AA member I have met who has been in AA for any length of time seems to be happy with the way of life offered by the simple program of recovery.

In my own case, even under conditions not of my own choosing, by working the suggested Twelve Steps to the best of my ability, I have found that life has an appeal it never had before. I’m not kidding myself. Maybe life in the free world won’t be the utopia I’m hoping for, but I feel confident that it won’t be the unmanageable mess that it used to be. Keeping sober and living one day at a time will bring me fringe benefits, a happy life with a happy family. Who could ask for more?

- From the AAWS pamphlet “Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic”

AA in Prison Conference in Kalish, Poland, and Prison Service Experience in Vilnius, Lithuania

Doing service is an uncomfortable action. It is against my nature. I'd rather make a hundred people around me uncomfortable than do something myself. I need to believe to start doing service and I came to believe because of the people I met through doing service.

I want to share some thoughts about the AA in prison conference which was held in the Polish town of Kalish last year. It was not an AA event, it was financed by Polish government to show the specialists that cooperating with AA is a good thing. Both AA members and prison employees were invited from across Europe. We heard a lot of statistics there, but all of that went straight to the spam folder in my head. We heard all kinds of different opinions.

The Polish officials talked about the miracle of AA, how it is helping without outside money. They shared about how sponsors are allowed to take their sponsees from prison to meetings.

There are more than two hundred small prisons in Poland and most of them have AA groups. The first man to start this works as a prison psychologist. I asked him how he managed in the beginning. He only said he was naïve, and if he had known what he would need to go through, he would never have done it! It is a story how the strong belief of one man can change a whole country. Of course he also needed friends. His boss, the prison manager, supported him a lot. There was also another prison manager who shared how uncomfortable he felt bringing five prisoners to a meeting—how he was afraid his friends might see him in that company. I felt like all those people really earned their positions, their ranks.

I met some Ukrainians who drove to the conference for thirty hours. I took a plane. I met people who drive to a meeting in prison a hundred kilometres away. I ride my bike to get to my meeting.

They get out of their comfort zone to do service.

At the moment at our local prison in Vilnius, Lithuania, we have three weekly meetings. One is at a rehab, one is in the main ward and one in the officers' ward. We only have four or five people who do the prison service regularly. It really takes some courage to do it. I can't say that I really wanted to go there at first. It happened by chance, really. But that's the way it had to be.

In my head I had this list of “my sobriety – greatest hits” and I used to share these depending on the meeting topic. When I got to the prison meeting I understood that I couldn’t give the prisoners the same old story every time. I started to feel bad a few months into doing service in prison and I was forced to look for a sponsor – an uncomfortable one. I didn’t like the Big Book hype at all, but I went through it and nothing bad happened to me.

Doing service in prison is specific. It is a very closed environment. People do not share openly and I understand why. I wouldn’t like to share in front of the people I live with. Another thing is you don’t get quick results. You need to believe. There was one moment when I thought I should quit. I thought that I could be making more money instead of going to those meetings. But then I met this guy at a meeting downtown who I thought would be back to prison in months. He told me that because of our stories he came to believe and he started going to AA. That made me believe too. Sometimes you see a guy who is in prison for the first time and he finds it funny. But then you meet someone who’s there for the fourth time and he understands that life might be unmanageable.

I feel that this kind of service is changing me. I came to believe because of going to prison meetings. I don’t want to waste my time any more. I have a lot of free time and I am going to prison because I don’t want to lose it. It pays back double every time I do it.

- **Ruslanas, Vilnius, Lithuania**

- Translated by Balys K, Vilnius

“Through the Gate” Scheme

For many inmates, the hardest part of a prison sentence is the end. Temptations faced on the outside are still there, and without help many succumb on release. The ‘Through the Gate’ scheme has proved to work across the country, linking newly released inmates with AA members who can get them to meetings and provide support.

In order to do this successfully, a 12-Step list is needed, drawn from AA members in the UK willing to cover prisons in their catchment area. If you would like to go on the list, please contact your intergroup or region PLO and ask for details.

- Originally published in *Beyond the Bars* (5th Edition, March 2019)

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 AA (GB) website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk.

The Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the sponsoring Region or Intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. The deadline for *ALL* applications is Friday, 18th October 2019.

Archives Sub Committee Vacancies

There are up to four (4) vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

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 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, AA Service and Structure Handbooks* 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.

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

Clive K, GSB Trustee for Archives

Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies

Vacancies for the Electronic Communications Sub Committee

**Four vacancies exist for membership on the Electronics Communications
Sub Committee.**

Five years continuous sobriety is required, as well as a good understanding of the AA Programme, 12 Step work, the Traditions and Guidelines. Applicants will require to be endorsed by their Intergroup or Region.

It would be of help to the team if applicants are reasonably conversant with either web page design or website administration, or have CMS experience which they can bring to the team, and can be fairly flexible in terms of time commitments, so as to assist in the Sub-Committee's activities. The Sub-Committee may meet in person in York up to four times per year.

For details and to obtain and return the application form please see the website at:

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Vacancies>

Norman B, GSB Trustee for Electronic Communications

Probation Sub Committee Vacancy

There are two vacancies on the Probation Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

We have 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.

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

Maxine W, GSB Trustee for Probation

Public Information (PI) Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Public Information (PI) Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The PI Sub Committee (PISC) is looking for two new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to the public, professionals and the still suffering alcoholic at a national, regional and group level.

Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies; members of the media and journalists at national level
- Offer support and advice to Regional PI committees and liaison officers
- Provide leadership to the PI network through national projects

- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.
- Update the PI web site and other PI resources
- Publish the *PI Newsletter* and *Newsletter for Professionals*.

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 and Traditions of the Fellowship
- To provide guidance on media projects
- To work within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference
- To attend up to four PI Sub Committee meetings and “teleconference” meetings.

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

Peter F, GSB Trustee for Public Information

Roundabout Sub Committee Vacancies

FOUR VACANCIES FOR *ROUNDAABOUT* SUB COMMITTEE

Roundabout is looking for four new team members to be part of the *Roundabout* Sub-Committee. The positions would include Assistant Editor, two proofreaders and a Diary Editor – a shared position with *SHARE* magazine. The positions of Assistant Editor and proofreaders would include editing and rating articles suitable for publishing and general support in the preparation and presentation of the magazine in accordance with the *Roundabout* house style. The Diary Editor has the responsibility of producing the annual Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AAGB) Calendar and the annual AAGB Diary working in conjunction with *Roundabout* and *SHARE*.

Those who wish to apply should have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety, be an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous, be able to read and reply to e-mails and have good English literacy skills.

Applications should be endorsed/supported by your intergroup or region. We welcome applications from all parts of Scotland. Application forms are available from

the General Service Office (GSO) or can be downloaded from the website document library.

Should you have any questions regarding the positions, the Sub Committee would be only too happy to reply. Please contact roundabout@aamail.org or call 0141 226 2214. Please forward applications to:

The General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited,
PO Box 1,
1 Toft Green,
York,
YO1 7NJ.

The closing date for applications for all posts is 18 October 2019.

Stevie S, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout*

Survey Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Survey Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

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. All applicants should 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 application must be endorsed by way of a covering letter from the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the sponsoring intergroup or region.

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

Mani Mehdikhani and Clive K, GSB Trustees for the Fellowship Survey

In Memoriam

APRIL – JUNE 2019

Stevenage Spring House Meeting	£ 124.00	In memory of Phil H
Glasgow East	£ 66.00	In memory of Bridget R
Hodge Hill Birmingham	£ 64.00	In memory of Julie
St. Leonards Tuesday	£ 60.00	In memory of Danny M
Mastrick Sunday PM	£ 70.00	In memory of Jim McG
Inverclyde Intergroup	£ 115.00	In memory of Michael C
Norwich Thursday	£ 200.00	In memory of Neil H
Peebles Friday	£ 80.00	In Memory of John A

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 January – March 2019	Contributions £s
East of Scotland Region	£ 4.323,00
Eastern Region	£ 21.037,00
Glasgow Region	£ 20.030,00
Highlands & Islands Region	£ 300,00
London Region North	£ 1.516,00
London Region South	£ 14.314,00
Midlands Region	£ 5.751,00
North East Region	£ 9.650,00
North West Region	£ 1.767,00
Scotia Region	£ 15.769,00
South East Region	£ 340,00
South Midlands Region	£ 543,00
South West Region	£ 15.270,00
South West Scotland Region	£ 12.150,00
Wales & Borders Region	£ 1.134,00
Continental Europe Region	£ 1.161,00
Sundry & Unidentifiable receipts	£ 1.183,00

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 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.

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@btconnect.com

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

Those in Receipt of *AA Service News*

Three copies 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.

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