



# AA Service News

Winter 2020-2021 / Digital Only Edition

No.185

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 VI**

**The Conference recognises that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.**

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (GSB) alcoholic and non-alcoholic trustees serve AA?

Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve AA?

- Are we clear about the terms “chief initiative” and “active responsibility”?

Can we see a direct link to our home group?

**AA Service News Winter 2020 - 2021 Edition is digital only**

**Due to the continuing situation with COVID-19, the Winter 2020-2021 Edition of *AA Service News* is being made available only as a digital version.**

**Share Your Service Experience!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NEW POSITION:  
Fellowship Web Manager**

The General Service Board has approved the advertising of the position of Web Manager. This will be a paid position and will be open to, but not limited to, members of the Fellowship. The Web Manager could be home based though would have to accept that travel to York will be a regular requirement.

Details will be available from the General Service Office from mid-January 2021.

**Conference Steering Committee Report:  
55th General Service Conference**

Hello Everyone,

I am Zelma K, the Alternate chair for Conference 2020/21.

This has been a very different year for all of us with the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, Conference 2020 had to be postponed due to the virus and making sure that we all stayed safe.

All of the Committee Chairs agreed to stay in place and make preparations as to how to carry Conference forward.

Originally the change of date was that Conference was to be held in York during October 2020; however, this again was not possible due to the virus.

A letter was sent to all Delegates asking them to vote if they wanted to carry on with a virtual conference in October 2020 or postpone – and hold a physical conference in York in April 2021. The results of that vote were as follows:

- 53 Delay Conference until April 2021: 58% overall / 67% of votes cast (that is, minus abstentions).
- 26 in favour of the virtual Conference: 29% overall / 33% of votes cast.
- We had 12 abstentions: 13% overall.

This is a clear decision by two thirds majority of the votes cast.

We sent a letter confirming that all Delegates would continue, e.g., if you were a first year at Conference you would remain that until you had served that term, 2nd year would remain as 2nd years, etc. This would then allow anyone wishing to become a Board member in the future would have the correct term served if they wished to apply.

In the past year we, the Conference Steering Committee, have been working alongside our two Trustees, Brian J and Sandi A, and Sharon and Ranjan B from GSO to enable us to incorporate the two Conferences into one.

We have reviewed the questions sent in for Conference 2021 and formulated responses to the senders of the questions not accepted. We have added extra questions to committees 1, 5 and 6.

We met via Zoom in April, June, July, twice in September, and October, also keeping in touch with each other via email and phone.

We have also reviewed the short film and posters for Young People which were ready shortly after Conference 2019. The YP Subcommittee asked we release them as soon as possible and put them to use. After some deliberation and checking the Traditions, we agreed that these would be released for use. This will enable them to be put to use at a time when they are greatly needed.

The past year has brought many changes in the way we live. I have learned much about technology and Zoom meetings and they are now becoming normal. This enables us to keep in touch with AA and the Fellowship is always there for us. I have been to meetings I could never have imagined I could attend, not only in the UK but in many other countries. I realise how important it is to use the phone and keep in touch with other alcoholics – I am never alone.

However, although we meet virtually, as my Sponsor always says, there is nothing like a live show. I miss the physical meetings with all the hugs, laughter and tears that come along with them. Seeing the newcomer walk through the door to their first meeting brings the reminder of what it was like.

This lockdown has made me realise that the little things are important to me – hugging my family, meeting a friend for coffee – these things and many more I took for granted this time last year. One of the things that AA has given me is to be at peace with myself and accept the things I cannot change.

This extra time spent on the Conference Steering Committee has given me more time to get to know the others: Marc D ,Chair of Conference, and Committee Chairs Adele

S, (secretary), Johnny J, Allan Mac L, Ranald Mac C, and Geoff C, and I wish to thank them for the time and work they have put in this year. Also, our Trustees, Brian J and Sandi A, and Sharon and Ranjan B from GSO. It is a real pleasure working with you all. The hope is that we can go ahead with physical Conference in April 2021 and if it is not possible to all meet in York then we will keep you updated. I thank you all for the service you do especially in these difficult times.

YIF

Zelma K, Alternate Chair of the Conference

General Service Conference Steering Committee 2020/21

## CONFERENCE QUESTIONS: 55th General Service Conference

### Questions for 55th General Service Conference 16th-18th April 2021

**PLEASE NOTE:** These questions include those originally selected by the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) for April 2020. As Conference was first postponed till October 2020, then following the Delegates' vote, till 2021, the CSC selected an additional three questions, which are included here (Committee 1, Question 4 / Committee 5, Question 3 / Committee 6, Question 3). The "new" questions are noted and are in red.

#### Committee One

1. **Would Conference:**
  - a. **Review Chapter 10 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2018.**
  - b. **Consider publishing a telephone responder's leaflet to include malicious calls.**

### ***Background***

Both experienced and new responders have requested guidance on how best to handle such calls.

Chapter 10, pages 65-66, AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2018.

To assist in AA's duty of care to its members.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **2. Would the fellowship share experience of appropriate resources and support for alcoholics who have special needs or disabilities?**

### ***Background***

The group's experience was that a member with autism wasn't treated fairly when sharing, and that inappropriate comments were made about this individual.

We think there needs to be more awareness of members with special needs and disabilities within AA, so groups can have a better understanding of dealing with this when it arises. This would help to support all individuals with disabilities, whether visible or not.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **3. Would conference share its experience and discuss any benefits of separating intergroup meetings into a GSR section and a Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community section?**

### ***Background***

Sometimes intergroup meetings can take up a lot of time with reports and requests from the various public information officers. Would it be better for the PI committee to discuss their reports and requests separately and then send a representative to intergroup so as intergroup can then focus more on the issues and matters arising from Conference (Concepts 3,4 & 5).

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **NEW QUESTION:**

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

### ***Background***

Proposed addition to the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter ‘The General Service Board’, section 3, under heading ‘Appointment of new members of the General Service Board.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **Committee Two**

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

### ***Background***

“Right of Decision” (Concept 3), “active responsibility” (Concept 6), “custodial oversight” (Concept 8), “Good service leadership ”(Concept 9), and “authority” matching their “responsibility” (Concept 10).

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

### ***Intention***

To encourage more active participation by individual members within the groups and among GSRs which then may benefit the service structure at all levels thus bringing the whole fellowship closer together (Concepts 1 & 4).

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

***Background***

Revised chapter The General Service Conference, section 1.5 Delegates, point B, Rotation.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## Committee Three

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

***Background***

*Tradition 4: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups, or AA as a whole."*

*Tradition 7: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."*

For further consideration:

- a. Service positions are more difficult to fill?
- b. The ability to meet essential expenses is being adversely affected?
- c. Less money is being passed along the chain to intergroups, regions and GSO to meet essential expenses?
- d. There is less money available for valuable 12th Step work?

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

***Background***

AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, section 2 'The Group, Officers' states:

- "The group's welfare is of primary concern in choosing officers..."

- “Most groups make sure that their officers have had a known period of continuous sobriety, at least one year, and have shown themselves willing and available to give dependable service through regular attendance at meetings.”
- “Each nominee is usually approached by other members of the group and, if he or she agrees, that name is put forward at a business/service meeting, so letting the group conscience decide the election.”

Can groups, including intergroup and region, consider how well their processes for selecting officers fit with the above guidance? Can groups share their experience of the processes of selecting, nominating and approving officer appointments which work well?

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

### **3. One member, one vote**

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

#### ***Background***

- The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2018, page 75
- “Most members feel more at home in one particular group than in others and consider it their home group, where they accept responsibilities and try to sustain friendships. They do not take part in the business or policy of groups which they visit but in which they would accept no service assignments.” Pamphlet: “The AA Group”, Q22, p.23
- “... The home group affords individual AAs the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure... where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote.” The AA Service Manual (USA & Canada) p.S25\*

\*available from the General Service Office, item code 3360

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## Committee Four

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

(The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, page 10, 1.10, the Older Member)

***“Here we may find service in AA is seemingly being taken over by those much younger in sobriety. This is how it should be: our traditions have always supported the idea of rotation in our service activities....”***

AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2018, p.77

*As Bill Sees It: 307, Circle and Triangle; 207, The Fellowship's Future; 25, We Cannot Stand Still.*

*AA Comes of Age, page 224-page 227.*

Concept XI “Do we practise rotation in all our service positions?”

### ***Background***

Newly appointed Group Service Representatives (GSRs) often find it difficult to integrate at intergroup.

Perhaps we could look at how well we cultivate a spirit of willingness for service for the younger member throughout the structure, within sponsorship, and on a one-to-one.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

### ***Background***

Sponsoring into service is a vital link in the ongoing strength of AA to carry its message. Working through the structure of group service and on to intergroup, region and conference should be aspired to but may be considered as unattractive or beyond reach. The intergroup is a fundamental link between the groups and the region and needs people to carry out the work.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

***Background***

Revised Chapter 3, AA and Electronic Communications, section 3.6, The AA GB Website.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **Committee Five**

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

**Background**

Section 8.1 of The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain states that “Prison sponsors are appointed according to the intergroup conscience. It is recommended that sponsors have a minimum of 3 years continuous sobriety”.

There is much discussion regarding the length of sobriety required for:

1. The Prison Liaison Officer
2. Members going in with the prison meeting sponsor to give a main share.

With the exception of Regional Representatives, all other service positions have a minimum continuous sobriety requirement of 2 years. Does this also apply to the Prison Liaison Officer – the liaison officer may not, necessarily, be a prison meeting sponsor – rather facilitating it.

Likewise, many groups are interpreting the chapter as indicating that any member attending the meeting should have 3 years continuous sobriety, even though they are not sponsoring the meeting.

This greatly restricts the number of available members that can support the prison meeting.

Experience has demonstrated that many people are more encouraged by people in early sobriety – say 6 months – as they find it easier to relate to the rawness and problems in their first year of sobriety.

Guidance and clarification would be of great use to our Prison Liaison Officers.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

***Background***

This matter was brought to Conference in 1995 and dealt with by Committee No. 6, question No. 4. Here is the transcript:

“Having considered the implication of the adoption of the practice by AA in Great Britain of inviting speakers from overseas and paying their expenses, the Committee decided that neither AA money nor AA’s name should be used for this purpose, as to do so would be in breach of Tradition 4 and Tradition 12.”

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

**NEW QUESTION:**

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

**Would Conference also consider that intergroup or regions’ archive material, even though stored at the home of the Archivist or under lock and key elsewhere, remain the property of AA, despite voluntary rotation, or the incumbent passing away.**

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## Committee Six

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

### ***Background***

AA Membership Survey 2015

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

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

### ***Background:***

Brighton Intergroup has established the role of Homeless Liaison Officer. The key features of this role are as follows:

- A weekly visit to the town's homeless day centres
- Provision of AA's PI materials to the staff
- Regular communication with clients who are struggling with alcohol problems
- Introduction to local AA meetings

The Homeless Liaison Officer works in partnership with the intergroup's PI, Health, and Young People's Liaison Officers. In Brighton, the team includes a Polish AA member who can communicate more easily with homeless people from Poland and the Baltic states.

Conference is asked to consider establishing additional services within its service structure to reach out to suffering alcoholics in the homeless community.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## **NEW QUESTION:**

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

### **Background**

Things to consider:

- Contactless Tradition 7 payments as discussed at Conference 2018 Committee 2 Q1 or regular direct debit bank transfers from members to groups, intergroups or GSO
- How online groups may become part of the structure of AA GB (e.g. to join existing Intergroups or create an online Intergroup)
- Tradition 4 – each group is autonomous etc.
- Hybrid meetings with face-to-face facility shared with online facility
- Multi-meeting groups so that rental costs can be shared amongst two or more meetings
- Groups moving from church and community halls into lecture theatres in universities and hospitals for greater meeting capacity, projector & screen facilities and social distancing
- It could be helpful to identify online service roles for those in early sobriety. In physical meetings, a common progression might be from tea-making and greeting, through literature and secretary/treasurer, thence to a GSR role and ultimately service outside the group.

***Consider the contribution to the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications when deliberating each question.***

## My Experience as GSB Trustee for Archives

I joined the General Service Board (GSB) on 26 January 2018. At my Induction that morning, I was given the responsibilities of the Archives and the Fellowship Survey service disciplines in addition to my Eastern Region duties as their Trustee. I had no prior knowledge of either and accepted them with gratitude and a willingness to learn. For the purposes of this article, I'm going to concentrate on the Archives discipline.

After the Induction I was taken into the Archives Room at GSO in York by the outgoing Archives Trustee. I learned what the different cupboards contained and where the Microfilms were stored. I also set about looking at various Archives papers on the AAGB website, for example, the Archives Policy and Procedures Manual to become more familiar with the role.

My first task was to attend the Archives Sub Committee meeting a few weeks later in February 2018. I found this to be very informative and I met its members who welcomed me to Archives with open arms. During this meeting a presentation on the recent Kelvingrove Exhibition was given. A DVD of its opening day was also shown. This gave me a real insight into Archives and how it can work extremely well with other service disciplines such as Public Information.

At this time (early 2018) The Borthwick Institute of Archives at the University of York was undertaking a feasibility study on the cataloguing and digitisation of AAGB archives with a view to making it more accessible to the Fellowship. This was in line with the resolution which was unanimously passed by Committee 5 (Question 1) of Conference 2016. The Borthwick had up until then stored some of the archive in its state-of-the-art facility in the University of York Campus. It started doing this in 2006/2007 owing to the lack of space at Stonebow House where GSO was previously located.

The Borthwick Institute produced a report in time for the May 2018 Board meeting. This included a proposal to undertake a cataloguing project over a three-year period. It would firstly involve collecting all the archive material from GSO. The whole archive material, including that which was already stored at the Borthwick would then be catalogued by a professional Archivist employed by the University for the duration of the project. The Board would fund the project. This was unanimously approved by the GSB at the May meeting.

My first meeting as Chair of the Archives Sub Committee took place on 8/9 June 2018. During this meeting, the proposal to set up a separate working group to facilitate the production of a special Publication commemorating the 75th Anniversary of AA in Great Britain was discussed. It was proposed that this working group would consist of one member from each of the following sub committees: Archives, 75th Convention, Roundabout and Share. It was noted that most of the work would be undertaken by Archivists since they had access to material for the publication. I was subsequently asked to take on the role of chairing the working group which I accepted.

The sub committee also started planning an agenda for the annual Archivist Network Meeting to be held on 28/29 September 2018. This continued at the next meeting of the sub committee on 28 September 2018. GSO sent out the invites to all the Intergroup and Regional Archivists currently in post.

The Archivist Network Meeting was held in the Board Room at GSO over the weekend of 28/29 September 2018. It provided the opportunity for me to meet those Archivists working across the UK and Continental European Region. It gave me an insight into the various projects being carried out by Archivists in their local areas. Presentations on Conservation and Preservation were given, along with the Kelvingrove Event. The new Fellowship Archivist (Harry R) was also introduced at the Network meeting. This experience gave me much food for thought and a chance to take inventory of the Archives discipline and what areas within it that could be improved for the benefit of the Fellowship.

The sub committee met in December 2018 where it discussed suggestions to improve communications with the Archivist Network. One of these was to send out a letter to the Network giving everyone an overview of the Borthwick Project which had just started. It was also agreed to send out the Archivist Reports on a regular basis so that everyone in the Network could keep advised of events going on across the whole of AAGB. A brief report of the sub committee meeting was also sent out to the Network.

The Archives Sub Committee met four times during 2019. It also hosted the first Archives Seminar which took place in the Park Inn Hotel over the weekend of 27/28 September 2019. The format for this didn't really differ from the usual Network meeting but it did put Archives on a par with the other disciplines who have held a seminar for their trusted servants across the Fellowship. Presentations were given on the following issues:

- The Borthwick Cataloguing Project
- Preservation and Conservation
- The Kelvingrove Event
- The South East Region Magical History Tours and Roadshows
- The 75th Anniversary Publication Working Group

Discussion also followed on how Archives can work with other service disciplines such as Public Information.

There followed sessions in smaller groups to discuss how the sub committee can Improve support to the Network. The final session brought everyone back together to sum up on the group sessions. All in all, I believe it was a success and the newer Archivists enjoyed it immensely and found it both rewarding and helpful.

The sub committee has been kept updated on the progress of the Borthwick Project at all its meetings this year. The last time it met in person in York was in February. Since the imposition of the lockdown, the sub committee has met twice on Zoom. Although not everyone agrees all the time, I believe that progress is being made in the Archives discipline. This year's Network Meeting was held on zoom on Friday 25 September 2020. There were two main presentations given by James Neill, the Borthwick Institute Archivist, and Nigel P, the current Chair of the General Service Board. Both were well received and generated some good questions. The Fellowship Archivist also gave a brief report on the sub committee's work this year. There was time for Archivists to give a report on their own activities. Sub committee members introduced sessions on the following topics:

- Collecting and Analysing Archive Material
- Group Histories
- Newcomers to Archives
- Expectations of the Borthwick Institute

These generated some lively discussion. The day finished with the second open session where Archivists gave their reports. All in all, even though this was hastily put together with very short notice, I think it was an enjoyable and productive day. The sub committee are planning to hold an additional one-off zoom Network Meeting early next year especially for those Archivists who were unable to attend the September meeting.

Going forward I feel very positive about the Archives discipline. I believe that our Archives, now stored in the Borthwick Institute and the online catalogue when

complete, will make them more accessible to the Fellowship. The Archive complies with the GDPR and Data Protection Legislation as well as protecting Anonymity, thus keeping well within the spirit of Tradition 12. I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with the sub committee in the future one day at a time.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board for having faith in me by giving me this wonderful discipline to look after. I would also like to thank our Fellowship Archivist, Non-Alcoholic Trustee and all the Sub Committee members past and present for their hard work, support and encouragement.

**Clive K, GSB Trustee for Archives**

## **My Experience as a YPLO**

I got sober at the age of 24 so I know at first-hand what it meant to have a support group of my own age. When the role of Young Peoples' Liaison Officer (YPLO) became available in my own intergroup, it was a brand-new role, so no sponsor was available to show me the ropes, but it was a role that I knew, based on my own experience, would be invaluable.

The role could be as little or as much as I could afford. Having a family and running my own business, it was an ideal service position for me. Service, for me, has been and continues to be a huge part of my recovery. I haven't yet been without some sort of service position in the time I have been sober, which is over 20 years thanks to this fellowship. It most definitely keeps me coming back!

I would urge anyone who has not been to an intergroup meeting to just simply go as a visitor and see what it's all about. I was apprehensive myself to start, but there is invaluable work that is done and not often seen in these meetings. In my own intergroup there was a lot of crossover between the Liaison Officers so we formed little Sub Committee groups to help each other out, which allowed me to get to know people at both intergroup and region.

I attended a workshop in York for all the intergroup and regional YPLO's and it was there I learned more about the role of the YPLO Sub Committee, a small group of people who were passionate about helping and keeping young people in the Fellowship and supporting them into service. After this workshop, I applied to join

the sub committee and have now been in this position for over two years and I love it! Our aim is to support all the wonderful work the regional and intergroup YPLOs are already doing as well as taking on our own individual projects. These are sometimes small and sometimes large tasks such as running workshops nationally, but collectively we all work together sharing ideas, supporting each other, and having fun along the way.

Helen Y, YPLO

**REMINDER:**

**House of Commons AA Awareness Event / Westminster**

**Westminster Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness for  
Professionals Event**

**NEW DATE – 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at 10am**

**Please help us publicise this event among professionals in your area who would benefit from learning about Alcoholics Anonymous, and how to signpost people to AA.**

**The event will be held on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, at Portcullis House, Westminster.**

This year it is being held during working hours, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, rather than an evening.

The event is to raise awareness among Professionals of how AA works and how to facilitate engagement. It is open to all those working in the health and well-being fields, social sphere and criminal justice system.

Please tell your local professional contacts about the event and let us know contact details of those interested in receiving an invite. Ideally, we will invite professionals

in positions of influence in their fields. There may well be other potential invitees, all health and well-being workers, social & criminal justice system professionals and students are good to be invited.

Please help us compile a list of invitees, with the

- professional's name,
- job title and
- organisation /place of work
- email address.

Invites will be sent out via Eventbrite e-mail in due course.

**Please send contact details of potential invitees to:**

[sophie.perring@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:sophie.perring@gsogb.org.uk)

*As you know, places are limited, costs are kept to a minimum, and budgeted to cover as many external professionals as possible, so this is not a general event for AA members. If you are both an AA member and a professional in the field, please free up places by encouraging your colleagues who are not already very familiar with AA to come along.*

Many thanks for your help

**Louise F, Westminster Parliamentary Reception Committee ([pi5.sc@aamail.org](mailto:pi5.sc@aamail.org))**

## How a Non-Alcoholic Found Spirituality in AA

### A Non-Alcoholic Trustee's Experience

As a little boy growing up, and into adolescence (and indeed into my twenties), I would say that I was extremely baffled by "Religion". I couldn't understand why there were different "types" of it and, quite honestly, I have to say I felt overwhelmed and perhaps even scared by this thing called "Religion".

For a long time, I guess I tried to connect with what I would now call a "Power Greater than Myself" and to achieve some form of inner happiness and peace through religion, but I failed at it miserably! That said, I am always happy to hear about other people's spiritual beliefs, particularly where they reap great benefits through their chosen religion.

Then, over 25 years ago (and at the suggestion of a friend of mine who was an AA member), I attended an “Open” Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous at Claybury Hospital in Essex, and for me this was to be the start of a more spiritual, fulfilled and meaningful life, all thanks to AA and the lovely people I have been privileged to meet through it.

Today, I only have an understanding of a “Power Greater than Myself” thanks to the AA Big Book and the Programme of Recovery. I continue to benefit greatly from some of the wonderful principles I have learnt in this connection, and the key pieces of wisdom which spring immediately to mind are as follows:

- I am powerless over people, places and things.
- My main role is to keep my side of the street clean and not judge anyone else.
- Love is the answer to many a difficult situation.
- I can offer my experience to others, but it is unwise to give advice to anyone.
- What other people think of me is none of my business.
- Having faith is crucial, but putting in some actual work is equally essential.

Over the past 25 years or so, like any other human beings on the journey of life, I have experienced challenging times, and the hardest thing for me to deal with always seems to be issue of LOSS. Of all losses, the bereavement of loved ones has proven to be the most difficult of all.

The above challenging times took me into various periods of Clinical Depression, (dark times indeed), but Alcoholics Anonymous (and particularly the people in the Fellowship) helped me to survive, get through, and comprehend the importance of such gifts as Acceptance, Gratitude, Humility, Patience, Tolerance, etc., and that through pain we can become stronger, more understanding, and less judgemental people.

I do, of course, acknowledge that the AA Programme of Recovery is primarily for people who have a desire to stop drinking and get into recovery from Alcoholism, but I would have to say that the principles and values I have learnt through reading the Big Book, attending “Open” meetings and listening to AA members, have had a significant positive benefit on the quality of my life.

Further, due to finding a “Spiritual” way of life through Alcoholics Anonymous, I no longer feel as though I have been “*parachuted into enemy territory with no Ordnance Survey map*”, and I now have a “Moral Compass” that works!

I guess in the same way as for Alcoholics in Recovery, the AA programme doesn't protect me from significant life events and challenges, but it does help me to deal with them in the best way possible, and I feel that I now have an ego which is "right-sized".

So, to summarise, I am extremely grateful to AA for giving me what I was unable to find through religion. Thanks to the Fellowship, I feel I now have a connection to a "Power Greater than Myself" and a way to live life in a more comfortable and meaningful way.

In short, and with sincere thanks and gratitude, Alcoholics Anonymous has provided me with a new outlook on the world – it's like I have a new pair of glasses for my soul.

**Andrew Wetherell, GSB Non-Alcoholic Trustee ("NAT")**

## 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@gso.gb.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gso.gb.org.uk) or in the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

Please get your form from either GSO or the Document Library, as the application forms are regularly updated and it is essential to use the most recent form.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or a currently serving Liaison Officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. The deadline for *ALL* applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Qualified Sub Committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through a video platform in a time agreed by the applicants.

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

Thank you!

## Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor Vacancy

### Vacancy for Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor

The Fellowship Calendar and Diary Production Officer is rotating out of post and we need an enthusiastic person to take on this exciting role, continuing production of this important means of carrying the message.

This is a service position for which the candidate must have a minimum of five years sobriety and will be required to attend a minimum of two sub committee meetings per year.

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

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

This is a shared post with Roundabout magazine. If the Editor comes from England or Wales, he / she will be attached to the SHARE Editorial Team; if from Scotland then he / she will be attached to the ROUNDABOUT Editorial Team. This is a four- / five-year term.

A detailed description of duties can be sent on appointment.

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

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

The sub committee of the Roundabout magazine invites applicants from all regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team in this new and challenging role of Link Liaison Officer for a service period of four years. If you consider you have experience and interesting observations, the Editorial Team will work closely with and support and guide the successful applicant.

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

#### **ROLE REQUIREMENTS**

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

#### **ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Link Liaison Officer will support the Editorial Team by establishing and maintaining regular contact with the Group, Intergroup and Regional Roundabout Liaison Officers.
- The Link Liaison Officer will regularly review the Roundabout Magazine web pages and liaise with the Editor and Chairperson to effect changes.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Secretary to maintain and update the contact database of Intergroup and Regional Roundabout Liaisons.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Editorial Team to ensure that they are appraised of the feedback from the Fellowship.

- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Chairperson to maintain and implement the AA Safeguarding policy within the Roundabout Sub Committee.
- The Link Liaison Officer will present a brief report to each Roundabout Sub Committee meeting.
- The Link Liaison Officer will have a working knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, and AAGB's Structure and Service Guidelines along with Conference Approved Literature.

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

Or on 07823 484 597

**Terri SSB Trustee for Roundabout**

## Young People's Sub Committee Vacancies

### There are vacancies on the Young People's Sub Committee of the General Service Board

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

The YP Sub Committee is looking for new members who are enthusiastic about helping and encouraging young people into service within AA. The sub committee

meets up to four times a year in York (where accommodation is provided and expenses paid) and also stays in touch by using various forms of technology. The position is for four years.

**Main aims are:**

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

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

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

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or a currently serving Liaison Officer of your region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of covering letter.

If you have any questions contact Sandi A (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application – email address:

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

**Sandi A, GSB Trustee for Young People  
([trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## National Telephones Sub Committee Vacancies

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

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

The Telephones Sub Committee's role is to:

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

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## Public Information 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 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.

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

**Charles R, GSB Trustee for Public Information**  
[\(trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk\)](mailto:trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)

## **Health Sub Committee Vacancy**

**There are three vacancies on the Health Sub Committee for applicants with a minimum of five years' sobriety. The term of the appointment is four years.**

### **Essential requirements:**

- Good communication and organisational skills
- An ability to work independently and in a team
- An ability to produce and deliver digital, written and verbal reports
- Proven experience of interaction with and / or delivering presentations to Healthcare Professionals.

### **Preferable requirements:**

- Proven experience at intergroup and / or region as a Health Liaison Officer
- A thorough understanding and enthusiasm for the Health Discipline
- Availability to attend Health related Conferences and events, if required

### **Role and Responsibilities:**

- To have a working knowledge of the AA structure and to adhere to the Traditions, Concepts and guidance contained in the *AA Service and Structure Handbooks*
- To work within the Terms of Reference for the Health Sub Committee (These are available in the Health Discipline area of the AA website.)
- To acquire a thorough understanding of the working relationship between the Health Sub Committee and the General Service Board
- To build and maintain supportive relationships with at least two allocated regions

- To be mindful of the Traditions, particularly Traditions Six, Eight, Ten and Eleven when interacting with professionals or attending conferences or events
- To maintain communication with conference and event organisers, to ensure that requirements for equipment are met and Health and Safety legislation is adhered to
- To liaise with GSO when ordering literature and equipment for professional conferences and events
- To attend four Health Sub Committee meetings in York each year, giving prior notice to the Trustee of the Health Sub Committee if unable to attend.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## Prisons Sub Committee Vacancy

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

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

### **Its objectives are to:**

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

**Role requirements are:**

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

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## **Probation Sub Committee Vacancy**

### **There is one vacancy on the Probation Sub Committee of the General Service Board.**

We have one vacancy on the Probation Sub Committee.

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

**Basic Role Requirements:**

- A working knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts and the AA GB service structure are essential;
- Willing to work within our Terms of Reference as presented on the AA GB website
- Prepared to attend up to four meetings per year held at GSO York

- Good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- The willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board of AA.

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## **Employment Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **Vacancies for Employment Sub Committee**

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

**We have vacancies for new sub committee members.**

**Our Primary Functions are to:**

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

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

The post is subject to rotation after four years.

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

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

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## **Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies**

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

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

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

Various roles exist within the sub committee:

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

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

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

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

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

## Archives Sub Committee Vacancies

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

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

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

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

Clive K, GSB Trustee for Archives ([trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee Vacancies

### **There are two vacancies on the 75th Anniversary Sub Committee of the General Service Board.**

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

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

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

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

The sub committee will meet up to four times a year in York.

Experience of serving on the Committee of one of our National Conventions (Northern, Southern, Welsh, Scottish) would be very helpful.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 18th December, 2020.**

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

**Thank you!**

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

## **Notice on the Calendar of Events**

**Due to ongoing public gathering restrictions in Great Britain and Continental Europe, this edition of *AA Service News* contains no Calendar of Events, as there was no reliable way to determine which events would still be planned and no efficient means of verifying all of the necessary information. It is hoped the Calendar can once again be included in the Spring 2021 Edition.**

## **Literature Sales**

Dear Fellowship,

As the result of recent pandemic meeting closures and the diminishing funding received by GSO, I would encourage all our members including those from Continental European Region (CER) to purchase AA approved literature from our General Service Office in York, UK.

All income from our literature above our costs goes directly towards carrying the message both here and in those areas covered by our friends in (CER).

When we buy literature from Amazon, etc., the profit goes to outside agencies. If we buy from other countries' AA General Service Offices, that income used in those countries' service structures not in ours.

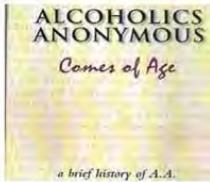
I send my best wishes to you all in these difficult times and hope we will all be able to meet again soon.

Love in Fellowship and Service,

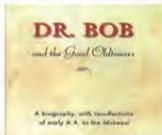
**Maxine W, GSB Trustee North East Region**

## AA Conference Approved Books New Items and Revised Prices

### AA Comes of Age Soft Back

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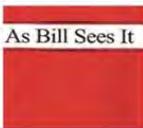
### Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Back

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

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

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



### Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

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

Item code 2250      Price £5.00

## The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

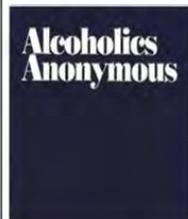


### The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine.

Item Code 2230      Price £5.00

## Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth Edition (2001) Hard Back



### This is the Big Book

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

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

Item Code 2020      Price £8.00

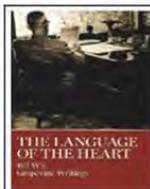
## Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back



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

Item Code 2040      Price £7.00

## The Language of the Heart



### **The Language of the Heart**

Bill W's Grapevine writings.

**Item code 2220**

**Price £7.00**

## Experience, Strength & Hope



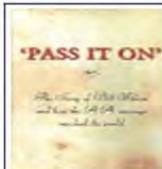
### **Experience, Strength & Hope**

Stories from the first three editions of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Item Code 2210**

**Price £7.00**

## Pass It On



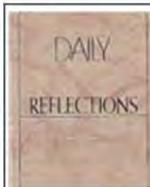
### **Pass It On**

The Story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world.

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**Price £8.00**

## Daily Reflections



### **Daily Reflections**

This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members.

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**Price £5.00**

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

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Dr Bob & the Good Oldtimers	2181		6.00	
Our Great Responsibility	6070		6.00	
As Bill Sees It	2100		5.00	
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions Pocket Size	2250		5.00	
The Home Group	2230		5.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Hard Back	2020		8.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back	2040		7.00	
Language of the Heart	2220		7.00	
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Pass It On	2200		8.00	
Daily Reflections	2260		5.00	

TOTAL PAID £ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Shop | Alcoholics Anonymous - Great Britain**

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

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

## Seventh Tradition

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

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

“All groups, intergroups and regions should accept responsibility for the funding of the General Service Office. The financial operations at GSO, the methods of accountability to Conference through the Board, and the broad financial strategies adopted on behalf of the Fellowship, are all subject to continuous review.”

*- Taken from AA GB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”*

“Services can require committees, Delegates, Trustees and Conferences. They include small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and AA as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of *all* these services is AA’s Third Legacy”

*-AA Comes of Age, page 140*

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### The Role of GSO

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

<b>From Regions July – September 2020</b>	<b>Contributions £s</b>
East of Scotland Region	£ 4,495.00
Eastern Region	£ 40,961.00
Glasgow Region	£ 11,429.00
Highlands & Islands Region	£ 2,930.00
London Region North	£ 9,186.00
London Region South	£ 4,300.00
Midlands Region	£ 12,792.00
North East Region	£ 17,223.00
North West Region	£ 12,323.00
Scotia Region	£ 6,816.00
South East Region	£ 16,399.00
South Midlands Region	£ 12,800.00
South West Region	£ 22,830.00
South West Scotland Region	£ 1,731.00
Wales & Borders Region	£ 5,589.00
Continental European Region	£ 14,473.00
Sundry & Unidentifiable Receipts	£ 4,585.00

## In Memoriam

### July – September 2020

North West Intergroup	£ 100,00	In Memory of Brigid
Sleaford Friday Multi-Meeting	£ 40,00	In Memory of Tina

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

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

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

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

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