

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Forty-Seventh General Service Conference

20-22 April 2012
The Henley Suite
Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York

Attraction

By

Example



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FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2012

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 20 April 2012

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Committee Meetings Commence

Nominations - Conference Chair 2013

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 1)

Saturday 21 April 2012

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 2)

Open Forum

Sunday 22 April 2012

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chair for the Forty-Eighth General Service
Conference

Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 20 APRIL

The Forty-Seventh General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at the Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York – a venue situated in the heart of the City of York and only a few minutes walk from the Railway Station. All plenary sessions were held in the Henley Suite.

After lunch, registration and distribution of folders commenced at 1 pm and was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for delegates to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates and observers attending for the first time. After the opening session which started at 2.45pm, Committee proceedings commenced at 4.00pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 95 delegates from sixteen Regions; 19 members of the General Service Board, Donnie V - Conference Chair (East of Scotland Region), Share Editor, two General Secretaries (outgoing and incoming), 5 members of staff from the General Service Office and 1 from the Northern Service Office. Also in attendance were 10 Observers from the following countries:

Belgium (Flemish Speaking)	(1)
Czech Republic	(1)
India	(1)
Ireland	(2)
Poland	(2)
Portugal	(1)
Romania	(1)
Slovakia	(1)

Total in attendance 134.

Opening of Conference by Donnie V (Conference Chair 2012)

Good afternoon Conference, my name is Donnie and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome everybody to the 47th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous here at York.

Could I start by giving a word of thanks to all the people who have worked so hard over the past year to make this Conference possible? To all the Trustees of the General Service Board, to all the staff here at the General Service Office, to our overseas delegates and members of Share and Roundabout, and to everyone who took the time and effort to send in the questions and, finally, to all you Conference delegates who just keep coming back year after year. Your dedication is proof positive, as Bob said, to your commitment to this wonderful Fellowship.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would also like to warmly welcome our first year delegates, (our future Board members) as I like to think of you. You move among us distinguished by the red dot on your badge, this shows the rest of us where to line up the sights on our laser guns, only joking of course, (that's my first attempt at humour), this red dot of course tells the rest of us to make an extra effort to welcome you here for the first time. Maybe, like I did, you feel a little apprehensive, a little of that old unfounded fear might be creeping in, well let me assure you all that's exactly what it is unfounded. You are going to experience the wonderful

spiritual way this Fellowship works, you are going to witness a coming together of different ideas and opinions from all corners of Great Britain and Continental Europe, and as if by some miracle by Sunday morning, hopefully, all personal differences have been put aside and all individual opinions, no matter how strong, will have taken second place to the common good of our Fellowship. Please just enjoy the weekend our future is in your hands.

Conference, I would also like to thank our steering committee, Liz, Derek, Malcolm, Ricky, Geoff, Eric, Nick and Wullie. These trusted servants deserve a special vote of thanks for their total commitment to the task they were given by the members of this Fellowship. At times they worked into the early hours of the morning without complaint, now that's dedication! You know the wonderful thing is not one claim for overtime was submitted; now that's my second attempt at humour.

Lastly, but by no means least, a very special thanks to Ann our General Secretary, and Sharon, our Conference co-ordinator, who year after year safeguard the continuity of Conference. Their joint experience was invaluable, especially for me, as they kept the ship on a straight course at all times, when maybe I might have put it on the rocks.

Conference, could we now have a moments silence to remember why we are here and also the still suffering alcoholic who might not yet have found our programme of recovery....thank you.

I will now open the meeting in the usual manner by reading the preamble.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

I would also like to read the Declaration of Unity.

This we owe to A.A's future
To place our common welfare first
To keep our fellowship united;
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.

Also, I am responsible.....

When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A.
always to be there,
And for that: I am responsible.

Donnie then introduced the new General Secretary, Roger B, and invited him to read the Twelve Traditions and continued with his **Keynote Address:**

Attraction by Example

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is still Donnie, and I am still an alcoholic, and you know folks its ok to say that to-day, it was not like that when I first came around these rooms. I believe that today I am becoming, or trying to become, the person God originally meant me to be, and it's only with his grace and the help, guidance and the example of the people in these rooms that I now find myself on this part of my journey.

One year ago in this room you gave me the honour of being Chair of this Conference. I can't really describe the feeling that overwhelmed me. First there was complete surprise; no, shock would be a better word. There were people I thought much more capable of carrying out this duty than me. Then came elation, I didn't seem to have time to settle down and think of the great responsibility you had bestowed on me until sitting on the train on the way home that old symptoms of my illness started to creep over me. Fear, ladies and gentlemen, that every alcoholic is so familiar with, that old feeling that I could not do this well. Would I be good enough? Could I impress you enough for you to accept me and to love me! Isn't it wonderful, Conference, that to-day I have a different solution for all these feelings of inadequacy, for we all know what my previous solution would have been? After some time of contemplation and a lot of prayer I knew without a doubt what the title of my keynote address would be, after all wasn't it by the example of the people in our rooms that eventually attracted me to our programme of recovery.

AA history tells us that attraction by example has been largely responsible for the continued growth of our Fellowship, right from the very beginning! Wasn't it, ladies and gentlemen, just two struggling alcoholics, trying hard to help others that they themselves managed to stay sober? By this simple action the seeds were sown and so the Fellowship was born. Their dedication and commitment, Conference, is why we are here today, for without that commitment and dedication this Fellowship might have withered and crumbled, and people might have said "what a great thing this AA might have been" now where have I heard that line before.

Attraction by the individual, that's you and me, means that it is the personal responsibility of every member to become involved in furthering his knowledge of this Fellowship and spreading it by the power of his example, both to the newcomer just in the door, and to all outside agencies willing to hear what we have to offer.

Attraction by the group means firstly welcoming the newcomer, then continuing to encourage him or her to participate more fully, before, during and after a group meeting, and therefore helping them to become "one of us" instead of the "them and me" scenario.

In order to further our attraction to outside bodies and the general public, and to emphasise that the Fellowship of AA is not anonymous, Intergroups and Regions already have elected members and committees who are responsible for these tasks, and a wonderful job they do, for they are all hard working, dedicated members of our Fellowship committed to carrying the message to all branches of our society who wish to hear it, and indeed sometimes to some of those who don't. Their efforts need to be applauded.

I believe that we can enhance our efforts by more seriously reflecting on our individual gratitude for what AA has given us, and the responsibility we should shoulder in trying to make the Fellowship as attractive as possible to the general public which includes so many suffering alcoholics, always remembering the conduct of every member, whether at Group, Intergroup, Region or Board level will always reflect the Fellowship as a whole.

Service, ladies and gentlemen, has been the backbone of my recovery. It gives me the chance to pass on this wonderful gift of sobriety to those who have not yet been introduced to our programme of recovery, and also what they need to do if they wish to keep it.

Everything, yes everything, that I have in my life today I owe to the grace of God and all you people who by your example led me back through the gates of hell to this life I now cherish today.

It was not always like that for me. When I first came to the Fellowship I was a man (if you could call me that) who was filled with both anger and disgust that people could dare suggest that I, of all people, could be anything like the rest of you and be an alcoholic. Contempt prior to investigation springs to mind. If only people would give me time, leave me alone, and stop complaining, I would sort out all my other important problems first and then concentrate on this “drink thing”. I didn’t realise, of course, that if I sorted out my “drink thing” first most of my other problems might disappear, and then eventually the resentment, fear and confusion of slowly realising that, after all, maybe, just maybe, I might be one of you, but still not quite as bad. Slowly I started to see the people that seemed to have the peace and contentment about them were the ones who quietly went about their lives continually speaking the programme, doing service, sponsoring others, never boasting about what service they did and always willing to help others, these, ladies and gentlemen, were the ones who started to “attract me by their example”, so at long last I started going to meetings with a different attitude. Some people, I have heard it said, state that AA stands for “altered attitudes” this I am not sure about for without my actions my altered attitude on its own will change nothing. If I have to make a comparison, which I don’t, altered actions is preferable to me. I began listening at meetings, not to what I used to call “war stories” but to the things that I myself could identify with. People spoke about fear, resentment, feelings of inadequacy, feelings of being less than, feelings of desperately wanting to please and seemingly receiving no praise in return. You see I had never been to prison, I had never lost my licence, I had not lost my wife or family, and I had a thriving business. All these things and many more proved to me that I could not be one of you, but you know, Conference, I never stopped once to think, if I had achieved all these wonderful things in my life, why on earth do I use alcohol the way I do?

Today I have to remind myself that I was a very damaged human being, not a bad person trying to become good, but a very sick man yearning for recovery. I started doing the things that were suggested, I joined a group, I got a sponsor, ladies and gentlemen, who immediately introduced me to the prison service and today I am still a prison sponsor. After a year’s sobriety I became a telephone responder, and went on the 12 step list which I still do today. It seemed to be one of my sponsor’s conditions that in return for his sponsorship I would go into service which is exactly what I still try to do today. My original home group was held on hospital premises and it became one of my duties to visit the wards to invite any patients who might like to come to a meeting. This invite also applied to nurses and doctors. I would also supply leaflets and Fellowship information to the wards. When becoming GSR of my home group some bright spark at Intergroup thought “these simple actions were qualifications enough to become the HLO”. I quickly realised that this job was too big for one person and formed an HLO team made up of both men and women who were willing to support me.

Service has been the most important part in my recovery, not only in the Fellowship, but in my private life. It has helped me to have faith in myself once more. To trust in my own ability to do the things that before seemed impossible, not to be afraid of failure, and to realise it was the taking part that mattered. Service has given me the confidence to stand up and give talks at schools, hospitals, local business’s and the clergy. Funny, when I think about it, it hasn’t helped me one little bit standing up here in front of you lot, but I keep reminding myself that AA only asks me to try my best. It’s ok to be afraid today it just means that I am human. What would be wrong, Conference, would be to run away without trying.

I could not write just about the individuals who attracted me, both to the programme and to service. If that were the case I would have finished my address by now, so where did I turn! The Twelve Traditions, of course, in each and every one there is an attraction if we just take the time to look.

Tradition 1, Conference, tells us our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity. The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole or AA dies. Without unity the heart of AA would cease to beat, our world arteries would no longer carry the life giving grace of God; his gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back in their caves alcoholics would reproach us and say “what a great thing this might have been”. Further along in Tradition 1 it continues to say the AA member has to conform to the principles of recovery, his life actually depends on this obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far the penalty is sure and swift, he sickens and dies, so at first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the AA message.

The moment this Twelve Step work forms a group, another discovery is made that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realisation dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamour of desires and ambition within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.

Tradition 1, ladies and gentlemen, goes on to tell the story of Eddie Rickenbacker. This story will hold identification for every alcoholic in this Fellowship.

Just how do we do this? How can I, one single struggling alcoholic achieve this? Let’s turn the page forward to Tradition 2. John Doe a good AA member moves, let us say, to Middletown USA. Alone now, he reflects that he may not be able to stay sober, or even alive, unless he passes on to other alcoholics what was so freely given him. He feels a spiritual and ethical compulsion, because hundreds may be suffering within reach of his help. Then, too, he misses his home group. He needs other alcoholics as much as they need him. He visits preachers, doctors, editors, policemen and bartenders with the result that Middletown now has a group, and he is not alone. He has, by his example of carrying our message of recovery to all these outside agencies, attracted new members into the Fellowship who may have died without even knowing of our existence.

Conference, when I read page 13 of “As Bill Sees It” he states “AA is more than a set of principals, it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message else we ourselves can wither, and those who haven’t yet been given the truth may die”.

In Tradition 3 “The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking”. This Tradition is saying to everyone anywhere if you think you might have a problem you are welcome to come along and make up your own mind. The attraction here is anybody is welcome, you don’t even have to be an alcoholic, you might not even be one, but if you are having problems with alcohol you are welcome.

In Tradition 4 one of the attractions is that we are never affiliated with any outside organisation, we simply carry the message of recovery to the best of our ability, as our Preamble states, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. We are not interested in your past, your political views, your religious views, or your personal life. The newcomer’s anonymity is safe with the group.

Ladies and gentlemen, I could go on through all the Traditions and quote many more examples of attraction in each and every one, but I would be here imposing myself on you for too long, so I would just like to end by saying one more thing!

In Tradition 5 it states each group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose. We are all here today, one large group of AA members, all involved in service to further our primary purpose. Of course there will be some different opinions on how this end purpose might be achieved and I am sure there will be some interesting discussions, but with patience, tolerance, and open-mindedness, I feel confident that all personal opinions will take second place for the good of the Fellowship as a whole.

Please just enjoy the whole experience.

Donnie went on to introduce the Chairs of the six Committees and then asked Erik to give the Conference Steering Committee Report.

Conference Steering Committee Report

Erik A (Continental European Region), Alternate Chair

Welcome to the 47th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'd like in particular to welcome those of you who are first year Delegates—the red dotters. You are in for an amazing experience and we are all grateful that you are here.

As the Alternate Chair for Conference 2012 it is my responsibility to report briefly to you about the Conference Steering Committee's activities this past year.

As you know, the Conference Steering Committee is comprised of the six elected Conference Committee Chairs, two Board members and the Conference Chair. The Committee is responsible for setting the Agenda for Conference and meets four times. The General Secretary and Conference Co-ordinator attend these meetings and assist the Committee. This work could not be done without them.

Our task as a Committee was to work together to discern those issues most urgent to the Fellowship based on the suggested topics and questions that were submitted by the Fellowship.

We met first in May 2011, again in September and October, and finally in February of this year. In May, we reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference of Conference and the actions decided by Conference 2011. Derek W was selected to be Secretary and take minutes and I was selected to be your Alternate Conference Chair. Donnie V, our Chair, suggested the theme for Conference: 'Attraction by Example'.

In September and October we met to select Conference agenda items from the submitted questions and topics.

The Fellowship submitted forty-two questions and topics for consideration. Six were accepted as written or with minor revision and/or additional or revised background information. One lengthy, multiple-part question was determined to be too large and too complex to be suitable in its entirety, but one section of it was selected as a stand-alone question.

A few of the submitted questions addressed similar concerns although the questions as worded were deemed not to be suitable. The Committee drafted a question reflecting what we believed were the central issues of these questions and included it for the agenda. A further question was deemed to be too local in focus, but as addressing deeper issues. It was therefore re-written to broaden its focus to the Fellowship as a whole and the new question was included. Finally, the Committee drafted one additional question which was felt to be reflective of some of the concerns raised in other submissions.

The Literature Sub-Committee asked that Conference review the revised *Structure Manual* draft and that it be the first question for one of the Committees. We decided that as the draft is

quite long, this review would comprise the bulk of one Committee's agenda (i.e. instead of two questions).

Of the submitted questions and topics not selected, four were thought to be more appropriate for consideration by existing sub-Committees and were forwarded accordingly. Some of the remaining submissions were not accepted for more than one reason, with the following approximate breakdown. Eight were not accepted partly or wholly because they pertained to issues discussed at Conference within the last three years. Four were submitted with insufficient background information. A total of thirteen submitted items were deemed to be issues already sufficiently covered in the Traditions or Concepts or in existing Guidelines, structure and literature. Some from this latter group were also considered to concern primarily local issues, as was one other question, and were therefore viewed as not appropriate for Conference. Two submissions were otherwise beyond the Terms of Reference of Conference. And finally one submission was based on a contradictory premise and another on an incorrect premise.

The Committee also received a very long Minority Report for consideration for presentation to Conference. We accepted the Report and thanked the member who submitted it. We reviewed it at the September meeting, and asked for a revision. That was received and reviewed at the October meeting.

Ultimately, we felt that the report could not be presented to Conference in its present form, largely because of its length. It was over sixty pages long with over one hundred pages of accompanying background material. Additionally, the Report referenced and linked to a number of sources (websites, etc) that are outside of Alcoholics Anonymous and we felt that was inappropriate for Conference.

We did however feel that many of the concerns and issues raised in the Report were reflected in some of the questions selected for Conference. We also felt that our response suggested that the member may wish to re-submit the Report in a revised and condensed form for consideration for a future Conference.

At our final meeting in February we reviewed the itinerary for Conference. We also discussed and clarified the criteria for eligibility to stand for Chair of Conference. That clarified language is included in your Delegate Conference Briefing notes.

We thanked Sharon and Ann for their service and help and in particular thanked Ann for her years as General Secretary and all she has done to make the past fifteen Conferences possible.

I wrote in my report for *AA Service News* that this experience has been both exhilarating and humbling. I still feel that way and I am still deeply grateful for it. If you're anything like me, you've probably sometimes done service in AA hesitantly, perhaps fearfully, but you've done it. The people in this room have spent their AA lives performing whatever service Alcoholics Anonymous asked them to do. And we get to be sober today as a result. AA survives because of the service you've done and the service you're doing.

So I'd like to close by thanking you personally for allowing this drunk to be a part of it.

Ann N, General Secretary, was asked to read the orientation containing last-minute changes and safety information, and the National Convention dates which are:

Scottish Convention	-	18 th – 20 th May 2012
Welsh Convention	-	8 th – 10 th June 2012
Southern Convention	-	7 th – 9 th September 2012
Northern Convention	-	21 st – 24 th March 2013

Donnie went on to explain the voting procedure and how these votes would be counted to which Conference agreed and eight tellers were selected from 2nd year delegates to undertake this task for the whole weekend.

The first full session of Conference ended at 3.45 pm with Donnie asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING

Donnie welcomed everyone back and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence and the Preamble, asked for nominations for Conference Chair 2013 before handing over to Sheila D, Chair of the Board, to introduce the General Service Board Report.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIR 2013

The under mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chair of the Forty-Eighth General Service Conference 2013:

Erik A	-	Continental European Region
Mary Kay F	-	Continental European Region
Ricky N	-	London Region North
Derek W	-	South East Region

The nominees signified their willingness to serve and each gave a brief summary of their AA service background. The formal election, by way of a modified Third Legacy procedure as recommended by Conference 1998, to take place at the final session of Conference.

General Service Board Report

(Sheila D – Chair GSB)

My name is Sheila and I am an alcoholic and it is my privilege to present the Board Report to Conference.

Welcome to those of you who are here for the first time (the red dotters) and the observers - I hope you find it a valuable and rewarding experience.

I would like to thank Donnie and the Conference Steering Committee for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

In 1964, 18% of AA members in Great Britain were women. At the first AA Conference in 1966, the General Service Board was made up of all men. By the following year change was taking place and I read that a woman, though not a Trustee, was invited to join one of the Committees. Last year the AA survey showed 40% of AA members were women whilst the Board of Trustees was made up of 25% women (although due to rotation the number shows fewer women trustees in 2011/12) and for the first time AA Great Britain has a female Chair. Chairing the first Board Meeting in May 2011 together we made a small piece of AA history. It was the 200th Board meeting with a female chair and female General Secretary. What does that mean? My name is Sheila and I am an alcoholic who happens to be a woman!

I would like to thank all the Trustees for their hard work and support. Currently we have four non alcoholic Trustees whose hard work and dedication is amazing, we are truly fortunate to have them, they are not treated differently to alcoholic Trustees, we work them very hard and surprisingly they seem to stay.

I would like to thank also our hard working, dedicated staff at the General Service Office. They have been led for the past six years or so by Ann N who will be retiring following Conference. She has worked with and supported many new Trustees, fielded enquiries from many sources and all communications have been answered with a calm and considered manner and always with her signature 'Love and best wishes Ann'. Thank you, Ann.

The relationship between General Secretary and Chair of the Trustees is an important one, it is symbiotic, and pivotal to the success of fulfilling our primary purpose. Like any service position you can't fully understand it all until you do it.

In January we welcomed our newly appointed General Secretary, Roger Booth. Roger has served as a Trustee and was Vice Chair for four years, rotating in 2009.

Due to rotation we will be saying goodbye to some trustees and welcoming others which will be done on Sunday morning.

Karen Martin joined GSO as Accounts Management.

Lorraine Mulholland joined the Northern Service Office as Office administrator, in place of Caroline Dixon who left in December.

Ian Blunt joined the Southern Service office as assistant administrator.

The Board continues to meet four times annually, plus a workshop every July. Each Board member carries responsibility for their allocated service discipline, plus other duties as required, such as projects, seminars, parliamentary events, Regional Forums and attendance at Regional Assemblies.

The Board continues to work hard on behalf of the Fellowship in its efforts to fulfill AA's primary purpose and, during the past twelve months, we have seen continuing work on the British Sign Language DVD which will be presented at this Conference.

Work is continuing on the AA Website.

A PI seminar was held in York in September 2011 and Tim W, Archives and Jim T, Finance presented to the Highland and Islands Service Forum in Inverness.

Trustees attended Conferences as observers in countries such as Poland and Ireland, and in March 2012 the Russian Conference which unfortunately it has not been possible to attend. AA Great Britain continues to sponsor delegates from Eastern Europe to the Polish Conference.

From the Development Fund we also continue to fund jointly, with AA USA/Canada, delegates attending the Sub Sahara South African Service Meeting, which is biennial, took place in Johannesburg in June 2011. Ann N and myself attended from AA GB.

The European Service Meeting hosted by GSO York was held in Frankfurt in October 2011. Jim T and Penny A attended as our first and second year delegates.

More detailed reports of the above will be available to Conference and the Fellowship.

During Conference 2012 Board members will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding their individual disciplines.

At Conference 2011 we were privileged to have the Chair of Trustees and the General Manager of AA USA/Canada as observers. In May 2011 Martin B, our Vice Chair, and myself were invited to attend their Conference as observers. Both Conferences have similarities and differences, yet both adhere to the Traditions/Concepts of AA.

As you can see a busy and productive year and we can be pretty sure that work on our primary purpose will continue apace following this Conference.

Finance

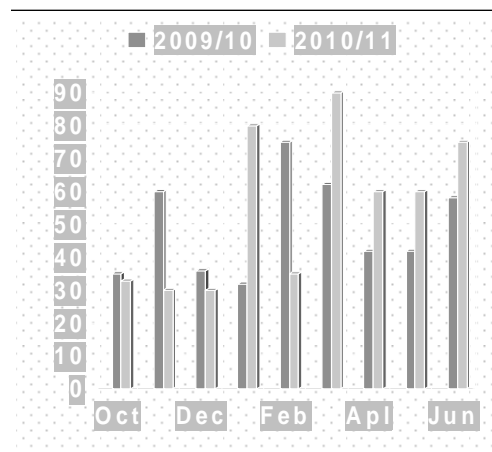
(Jim T – Treasurer GSB)

Good evening Conference, my name is Jim, I am an alcoholic and Honorary Treasurer of the General Service Board.

Consistent financial difficulties and, just as consistently these difficulties were being overcome by the efforts of our membership throughout the Fellowship, through the simple act of passing The Pot, maintaining a prudent reserve, the Fellowship has encouraged the proposal that the surplus passed on through the Service Structure helps to save the lives of those still suffering from alcoholism. People that we may never meet yet, nonetheless, have been given the same opportunity as ourselves to seek sobriety.

The journey so far, since last we met, approaching the third financial quarter, the graph shows how Group and Intergroup contributions, compared with 2009/10 and 2010/11, continued to increase.

March had the highest contribution figure of £92,437, since 2000 while April also had the highest contribution figure in ten years, £62,057 with the total for the period being £200,051. The Gift Aid figure of £2,447 for June showed an increase of £1,346 on May but, unfortunately Publication Sales were down £2,017 for the



same month and, as I have said on more than one occasion, Literature is a major part of our income. In the accounts under Expenditure I changed “Replacement Literature” to Free Literature to possibly highlight that free literature has a printing cost although we distribute it where and when the Fellowship requires it.

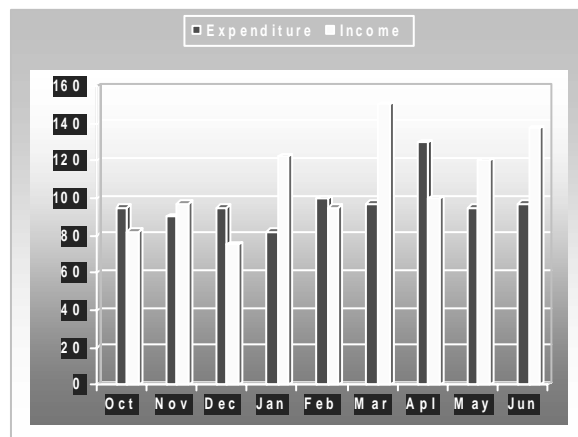
I’d like to quote from *As Bill Sees It*, page 8:

‘SOBRIETY IS THE FIRST GIFT AND IF MORE GIFTS ARE TO BE RECEIVED, OUR AWAKENING HAS TO GO ON’.

In other words our work will never be done and, most probably, should never be done.

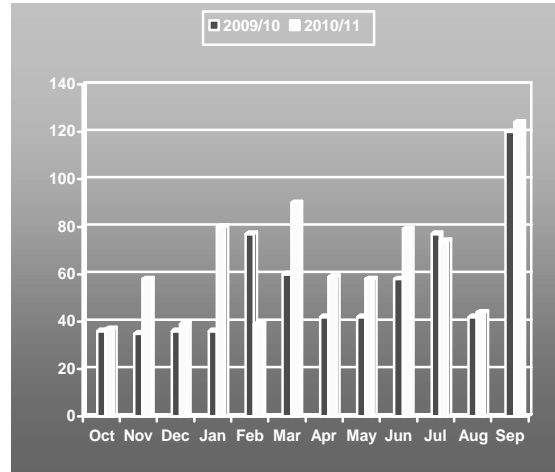
Income & Expenditure 2010/2011

If those before me took responsibility to offer me that same gift of sobriety at a time when I wasn’t even aware that the gift had been made, then I should participate in the same way to give others that same opportunity within that same process and as you can see financial progress has continued as in five of the nine months shown Income has been more than Expenditure by a considerable amount.



The past few months' contributions confirm that the Fellowship works together under any financial circumstances.

So, regardless of another period of financial peaks and troughs; during our last financial quarter Group and Intergroup contributions totalled £236,285. Personal Contributions were £40,014 compared with £27,590 in 2010 making an increase of £12,424. Gift Aid donations totalled £18,297 while 2010 revealed £6,414, and increase of £11,883. Gratitude Week contributions showed £46,302 for 2011



with 2010 being £37,467. You will remember the cut-off point for receiving Gratitude Week contributions was 30 September; contributions after that date were shown in the accounts as a contribution. Beginning this year contributions coming in after that date will still be shown in the accounts as Gratitude Week to help give a more accurate figure.

SNAPSHOT OF CONTRIBUTIONS			
	2009	2010	2011
	£643,870	£665,697	£785,780
GRATITUDE WEEK	£60,664	£37,467	£46,302
GIFT AID	£8,887	£6,414	£18,298
PUBLICATIONS	£534,205	£509,631	£503,272
PUBLICATION EXPENDITURE	(£376,110)	(£371,045)	(£349,288)
REALISED SURPLUS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR	(£13,492)	£64,221	£267,423

I can well appreciate that it would be unwise to measure our efforts as a Fellowship in fulfilling our Primary Purpose solely by the amount of contributions we receive. But, I do have a difficulty in separating the concept of passing The Pot for voluntary contributions and, saving lives. The above snapshot is taken from the annual accounts (Publications difference '09 £158,095 - '10 £138,586 - '11 £153,984).

BEGINNING OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR				
2011 / 2012				
The first Financial Quarter of 2010/11 produced a Contribution figure of £97,946 compared with the first quarter of this year of £131,576				
2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	
139,657	154,111	153,629	146,243	
2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	
141,925	136,932	140,440	125,477	
Contributions over the last 10 years				

Although, 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 shows an increase of £33,630 in contributions, the figures above indicates that should we wish to compare over a longer period, there is still scope for continued financial efforts throughout the Fellowship. This in no way undermines the efforts in contributions over the last period of time as it has been made possible to enjoy further projects, such as British Sign Language now in completion. The cost of which was £15,324.

September 2010/11 was the lowest over the last 10 years although 2011/12 showed an increase of £33,630 and that year had the third lowest contribution figures which would indicate that there is some room for continued efforts that have already been made throughout the Fellowship to continue to pass our message on.

Just for Today				
To bring Conference up to date, here are some figures which represent contributions, right up until today.				
Group/Intergroup Contributions 2nd Quarter (January to March)				
2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
£165,252	£211,485	£171,690	£146,608	£159,045
2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
£151,474	£128,606	£158,077	£180,207	£125,978

As you can see the second quarter Group and Intergroup contributions are £165,252 making an increase of £33,676 on our first quarter. Although this is a quarterly increase, when compared with last year there is a decrease of £46,233. As I have said before Conference we can all look at a set of Accounts and come to varied conclusions. On this occasion, as with others, we cannot isolate one month in particular, we have to look at it globally. For example when looking at 2002/03 there is almost a £40,000 increase when compared to 2011/12.

Before I take any questions I would like to thank you for your time and your patience and for the opportunity to serve AA over the last six years.

Literature

(Penny A and Willie MacD)

First of all we would like to thank the Literature Committee for all their hard work during the past year. Several members of the Literature Committee rotated out of service together at the beginning of this year which was something of a challenge. However, during the year four new enthusiastic members joined us but we are still quite short of people on the Literature Committee.

What we find is that people are quite keen to ask for Literature, to tell us what we have done wrong and how we could make literature better but, when we put adverts in AA Service News for people to help us to do that, we get no response. We could do with a few more volunteers and if you could take that back to your Regions we would be grateful.

The committee's work comes from Conference recommendations and requests from individual members of the Fellowship, sub-committees and liaison officers to review pieces of literature. There is also an ongoing systematic review of all literature.

The Literature Committee works to the deadline of completing pieces of literature to go out to the Fellowship in December for consideration and discussion before Conference.

We normally hold three committee meetings a year in York where we meet face to face, we hold one telephone conference and the rest of the work is done by email and telephone.

Two members of the committee work together on a given piece of literature which is then presented to the whole committee and a consensus arrived at.

As Jim pointed out earlier literature helps us support our Primary Purpose work and we have some fabulous literature – our books and loads of other stuff helps me stay sober and it would help our Fellowship if people bought more of it. Please take the message back that sobriety between meetings is in some of our books and if you could buy them it won't only help our own sobriety it will help our Fellowship to carry the message to those who we may never meet.

What has the Literature Committee been working on since the last Conference:

- Structure Handbook – going to Committee this Conference
- All the items of literature you will be voting on this evening
- Service Handbook – will be presented at Conference 2013 if the Structure Handbook is approved at this Conference
- Other items of literature that are still 'works in progress' – including the illustrations for the 'Twelve Concepts Illustrated'

Willie presented the **Proposals**:

1. Social Networking Guidance Pamphlet

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority with the following amendment:

Item No. 4 will now read

It is advisable not to publish pictures from AA functions unless you have the permission from the people in them. If pictures are published it is advisable not to tag/identify people by full name, and then ensure that these pictures are viewable by your friends in the Fellowship only.

2. Probation Pamphlet

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Wall Chart

Having the following three amendments:

- General Service Board section: 'as a consequence of AA's charitable status' to read 'as a consequence of the Board's charitable status'
- Intergroup section: Group Service Representative as passed by Conference 2009 not General Service Representative
- Sub-committee section: comma after Share not slash
- Last line change 'depends' to 'depend'

These corrections would be applied as standard practice before publication but we wished to inform Conference of the amendments. You are asked to vote on the chart with these changes.

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Definition of Open and Closed Meetings

Revised definitions:

The Closed Meeting;

is intended for alcoholics and for those with an alcohol problem who have a desire to stop drinking.

The Open Meeting;

is intended for alcoholics and non alcoholics e.g. family, friends and anyone interested in AA.

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority.

Willie thanked Conference and Penny thanked everybody for their input and that it had been a pleasure being Chair of the Literature Sub Committee.

Non Alcoholic Trustees

(Paul Myles)

Good evening, this is not so much of a report it's a bit of a story of how I came to be here and how I perceive the role.

I am new and have not been here quite a year yet and this started for me about 8 years ago, going in this direction, as I had paid the mortgage off, the kids had left home and our ancient dog died and it was time for a change so I went to University and did a degree in Experimental Psychology.

I'd had a lifetime of running structural steel and arts businesses and I got interested in behaviour and why people did the things they did. I was a steel erector putting up the high buildings in London and observed some interesting behaviour over the years. I wondered what drove people really, what was it all about so after my three year Bachelor of Science degree in Experimental Psychology I carried on and did degree in Substance Misuse, a Master of Science degree at the University of Sussex and I concentrated on alcohol actually as it always seemed more interesting to me. The aspect I looked at closely was the effect of alcohol advertising – did it affect people if they were more dependant on alcohol, did they pay more attention to those adverts and if they did what happened next.

So the experiment proved interesting and the University wanted me to carry on in that but I looked at the kind of field of research as a whole, and I realised I was a tiny, tiny voice against huge forces in this world which sell alcohol so I took a pause to think about it all. I had actually started a doctoral research degree in that and stopped because at the age I was and what I could do I didn't feel that I was in the right place.

Professor David Nutt got the sack, I don't know how many of you remember that, David Nutt being dismissed by the Home Secretary, for saying that cannabis was not as dangerous as alcohol and that incensed me into action, I was infuriated actually, to the point where I rang him up and talked to him and said I would like to do something about this and he encouraged

me, so I did something about it. So I took on the British Medical Association's pamphlet *Under the Influence* which shows clearly how the Alcohol Industry is targeting youth as young as 8, 9 and 10 year olds through the dreaded Facebook, social media, email, you name it, they do it.

Professor Nutt pointed me in the right direction and I did some of my own research, digging around the Office of National Statistics, numbers on fatalities, because Professor Nutt did a Measure of Harm but I did not feel that that went far enough, I was more interested in fatality, the more serious stuff. I put together a graph and wrote a two lesson module for a local School in Lewes and they helped me do this and now this two lesson module is being taught in every school in East Sussex and we are waiting for feedback on that and, if that works, hopefully it will go out to the rest of the country. Alcohol Concern took these modules on and are working with them as well.

There is a graph that goes up on the wall that makes everyone go quiet when they see it (I give public talks on this in town halls and it was after one of these a friend of mine, actually a member who is here tonight, who I have known for 30 years) helped me do a public talk in my home town of Lewes and these are Government figures, which are way off the mark because they don't count and attribute the deaths to being alcohol related when clearly it is, but even on their numbers two years ago it is 40,000 deaths from alcohol and 890 from opiates. Clearly alcohol is far more dangerous then it goes down from 890 being the highest to other substance such as cocaine and there is hardly any from cannabis, 1 from MDMAI. People go quiet when they see that and Professor Nutt thought the same. I have had some success with that and the drinks industries are paying some attention and I will carry on that work anyway.

It was curious really that through all my work at the University there is very little in the academic literature about AA and I take it that that is fairly well known and as a result of that it is rather negative literature because they, the academics, like numbers and evidence. AA is, as I now know, an outcome based organisation so I didn't know what to think about AA when my friend came forward and said he thought that I might be of some use and would I consider becoming a NAT. It was a leap of faith for me because I didn't really know anything about AA, I went through two interviews and made that leap of faith and, oh, what an organisation you have, it is fantastic. I am in awe. I love the rotation; I think it is really healthy. I love that upside down triangle and there are lots and lots that you should be very proud of. The humanity I have experienced at Board meetings and getting to know more of you is in a way that you do not find in other groups, it's really humbling to be allowed in.

In my professional life I still run some business activities, I teach psychology but one of the main things I do is write and render, as I did with the lesson modules, the academic language which is often incomprehensible to anybody else so that the general public can understand. What I do generally is write articles for newspapers and magazines and some history work as well.

I hope I can be useful on the Board I understand to bring a certain perspective and balance to the Board which I hope I do and I enjoy it very much indeed. Perhaps over time I can put another grain of sand in the wall to assist the primary aim in helping people out there who need some help. It is free at the point of access and they can keep coming back – the patience is endless. I can see so much positivity in this organisation, for it still to be considered in the academic world and perhaps the wider public, as to be not positive in the way that we know that you know it is and as I do now and I think perhaps there is a little role for me there if I could help in that direction. Thanks for letting me in – it's really fantastic.

Donnie closed the Friday evening session at 10.15pm in the customary way by asking everyone to join him in the saying of the serenity prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports

Donnie welcomed everyone back and asked for a moment's silence, read the Preamble, the Declaration of Unity and invited Phil W (GSB) to commence the continuation of General Service Board reports.

British Sign Language Project

(Phil W)

Good evening Conference, my name is Phil and I am an alcoholic. I'd like to start by giving a little bit of background of how we got here.

Committee 3 (2008) expressed a minority opinion which was subsequently recommended by Conference that:

The General Service Board investigate the feasibility of:

- Producing a translation of the Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions into British Sign Language (*4 In favour 9 against*)
- Sign language be added to existing DVDs and videos (*2 in favour, 1 abstention, 10 against*)

At Conference 2009 the General Service Board undertook to consider this project in terms of need and cost and will take this feasibility study forward.

That was the time that I came on to the Board and in the summer of that year I became shadow Health Trustee and the project was awarded to the Health Trustee, because the other guy was on the way out it dropped into my lap. Initially, it was a bit daunting for me because I did not have any real experience to draw on and I was conscious that there was a strong lobby for this especially from the SW1 Group in London which does sterling work carrying the message to profoundly deaf alcoholics. Imogen who works in the Southern Service Office was a strong campaigner on their behalf. The other thing I was conscious of was that this could be a big financial item for the Fellowship particularly at a time when money was tight. My task was to produce a feasibility study for Conference 2010 which examined the project in terms of need and costs.

The following are a few points from the report that came back to Conference 2010:

“British Sign Language (BSL) is the first language of some current AAs and many more to come. Reading and writing ordinary printed English is either dreadfully difficult if not impossible for many who are born deaf.”

“We need to publish the Big Book up to page 164 and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in BSL on DVD”

How many profoundly deaf people are there in Great Britain?

- *The RNID states that 104,000 have severe or profound deafness (approx. 0.17% of the population)*
- *Estimates of the number of BSL users range from 30,000 to 100,000 (RNID estimates 50,000)*
- *Number of AA members (by extrapolation based on national norms) would range between 17 and 56*

Do profoundly deaf people have sight and lip reading abilities?

- *“BSL is a language in its own right, has its own grammar and uses hand shapes in defined space, facial expression and body language.*
- *Any skill at reading and writing in the profoundly deaf group would be rudimentary or nonexistent. Therefore AA’s written literature is pretty meaningless...”*

The way forward:

It is suggested:

- *that further research is done and alternative suppliers are asked to quote for the work.*
- *that Conference recommends to the Steering Committee that this, with all other background information, is referred to Committee 3 to consider at Conference 2011.*

We looked at costs and at that time there was one leading company called Remark and we had some figures from them which were around £18,000 for the Big Book and rather more for the 12 x 12, but those were, of course 2009, prices so a bit more today.

Coming towards the end of the report I showed this:

Matters of Conscience

- *“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there...”*
- *Concepts for World Service 8 and 12*

The pledge, for me, summed up the dilemma, in a way, that we want every potential member to have access to the Big Book just like we did and nobody would argue with that. We have a Braille Big Book and we have an audio Big Book for partially sighted and blind people so it is only right that we should have a BSL version for the profoundly deaf.

The other thing that I was mindful of was the Concepts for World Service. Concept 8: Trustees are the principle planners and administrators for overall policy and finance; and Concept 12 which talks about Conference: Conference should observe the spirit of AA Tradition taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power, and this bit: Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle.

So, on the one hand we want to do all this, of course we do, and on the other we are in dismal economic times and can we afford it and how do we get best value for money.

The suggestion at the end of the report in 2010 was that further research be done and quotations be invited from other suppliers so at least we had a competitive element and see what was best value. Also that Conference 2010 recommend to the Steering Committee that these costs together with all the other background material we had would go to Committee 3 last year (2011) for consideration.

After all this was presented there was a question and answer session from the floor and two delegates in particular gave some very perceptive and helpful comments. Dave from South East Region and Eddie from Eastern Region and Eddie, himself, is severely deaf, but not profoundly, but he understood all the issues and we kept in touch after the Conference and their input, together with Imogen’s from the Southern Service Office, was invaluable.

The other thing we did was to invite quotations from four specialist companies but we only managed to get three back but just having the prices was just one thing, we felt we needed to evaluate their work. So after some cagouling, we managed to get a five minute sample disk

from each one of a passage of the Big Book which gave us something to compare. It was relatively easy to evaluate the production quality, the presentation and the general look of it and, of course, the costs which are easy to compare. Crucially, we needed to assess the translation and that it not easy unless you are fluent in British Sign Language, but AA came through. We heard about a professional British Sign Language Practitioner, Vicki, eminent in her field who was also 14 years sober in our Fellowship – and that is not all – she lives in York and was delighted to come on board. She looked at the samples and she produced a report on the relative merits of the three translations we had, and I am sure you are aware that the Big Book was written in American English in 1939 and is not the simplest text really, so having a sensitive and accurate translation was paramount.

In the final analysis the preferred bidder company selected itself as it scored highest on translation, best value for cost by some margin and production quality.

I had no inkling on how last year's Committee 3 would respond to the questions that we put together, but I have to say that I was really impressed by the work and consultation that they did in their Regions, and there was very strong support with a substantial majority in favour of pressing ahead with the preferred bidder company, first with the Big Book and the voting was 19 for and 1 against.

After Conference last year, during the summer, there was a period of consultation with the company to discuss our detailed requirements, what each disk would comprise, how the menus would work, some dotting 'I's and crossing 'T's. We agreed that the company would simply provide the masters and all the copying, printing and packaging would all be done in house at GSO. Filming took place last December and Vicki came back on board, she spent time at the studio with the company up in Glasgow, she spent time with the presenter both before and during the filming work as a consultant. I have to say that the company absolutely played their part in making a very positive and harmonious collaboration.

Here we are at Conference 2012 and this is the launch of the British Sign Language Big Book – it's in a boxed 4DVD set and is now available from GSO priced £8.00.

Conference was shown two extracts from the set.

Probation\Criminal Justice Service

(Martin B AND Geoff H)

Good evening Conference, my name is Martin and I am an alcoholic. It has been my privilege over the past five years to be the Probation\Criminal Justice Trustee – four in the role of Trustee and one in a temporary role until we appointed a new Trustee who now along with me, Geoff. Geoff is also a member of the Probation\Criminal Justice Sub Committee.

I would like to explain the fact to you that in 2008 there was a Seminar of Intergroup and Regional Liaison Officers in the Holiday Inn, York and a lot came out of that seminar. They were asking Probation how we could best improve the support we could give to the liaison officers.

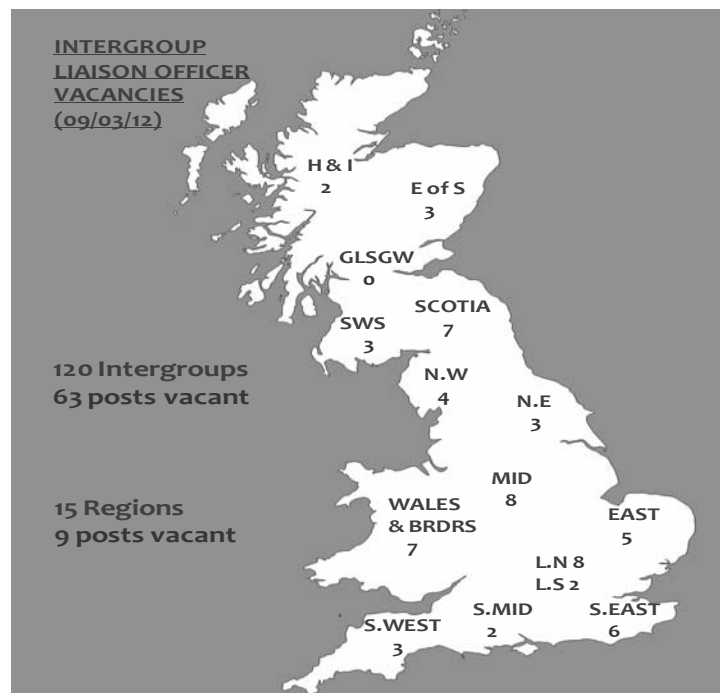
I was asked to get a sub committee together to look at how that could be done which I did. Geoff is one of the members of that sub committee. There are three members of that committee being Chris S, Richard and Geoff, and there used to be a fourth one from the Scottish Regions but we are still looking to replace that person. One of the main aims of that sub committee was to work themselves out of a job and that is still one of the main aims of that committee, after they have provided enough support to the liaison officers in Intergroup and Region so that they can deliver the message at the coalface or in the field. We firmly believe that that is where the message should be delivered. Sub Committees are there to provide support for liaison officers.

We would like to outline what are the issues with liaison officers at this time and what are the issues in the Fellowship as a lot of positions are not filled. We would also like to say what we have tried to do to support them in the filling of these posts or the support to help them fill these posts. When Geoff does the presentation next year, as the Trustee for Probation\Criminal Justice, I hope to see a vast, vast increase in the Fellowship.

I will now hand over to Geoff who is going to tell you about the overall aim of Probation\Criminal Justice.

I'm Geoff and I am an alcoholic and I just want to say that when I first started working in the area of Probation Liaison, because I had worked in the Health Service for quite a long time and thought in terms of referrals, I thought other agencies would refer people to me and I would kind of sort them out. I thought that was the aim of Probation when I first got into it, the idea was to have an arrangement with a local Probation Officer and they would refer vast hoards of offenders to me and I would take them to the meetings and they would get better but you know the story. The seminar Martin referred to in 2008 made me even more enthusiastic. I think that the bit we did get right was to set up an arrangement with the local Probation offices in various parts of the country and some of that was, and still is, very well advanced indeed, but these vast hoards of people did not come, so I realised it was time to pause and think quietly about what the real aim is, and this is what we have come up with here.

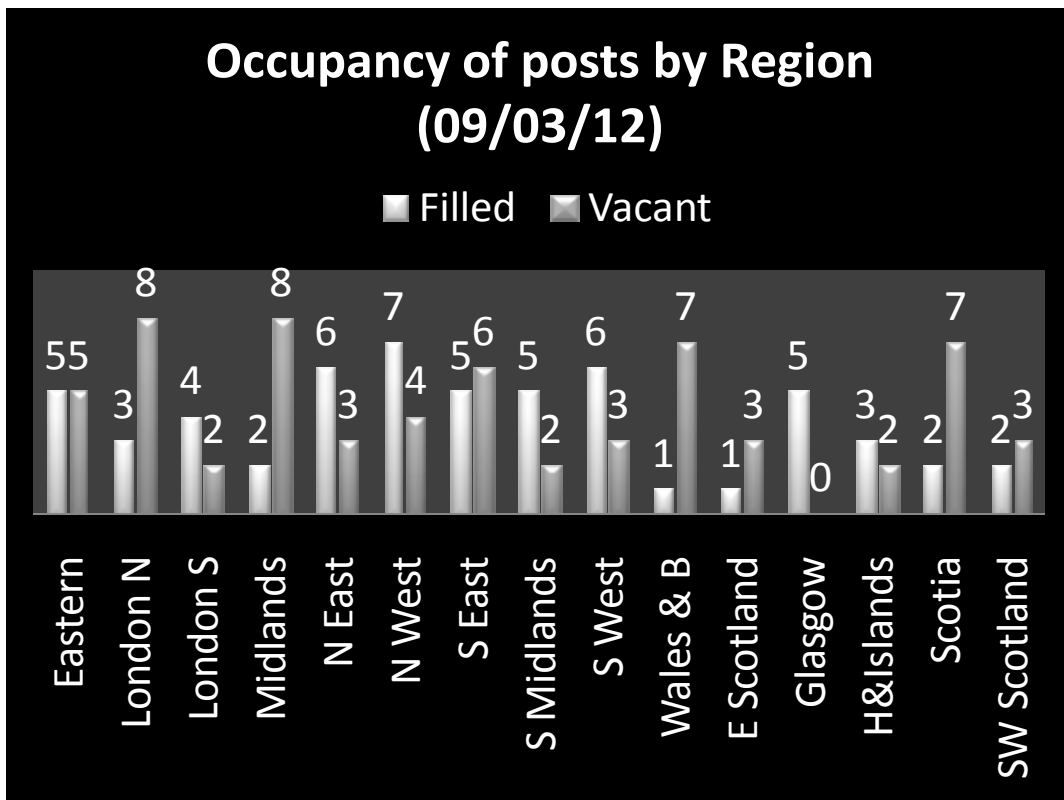
It's simply about carrying the message in the usual way and I think that what we would like to do is to raise the awareness of AA in the minds of all offender managers. I am aware that they will discuss other treatment options with them – AA is perhaps just only one of them, but I would be very happy indeed if they would at least mention AA to the people who they work with who have alcohol problems and, if they are interested, then we can make ourselves available to them and take them to meetings and that is what has been happening. Martin will now carry on with the presentation.



This is showing you the InterGroups and the posts that are filled and as you can see it is not painting a hugely great picture. We need to find out why this is happening and in a committee meeting we were talking about apathy and fear, and I believe it is not often

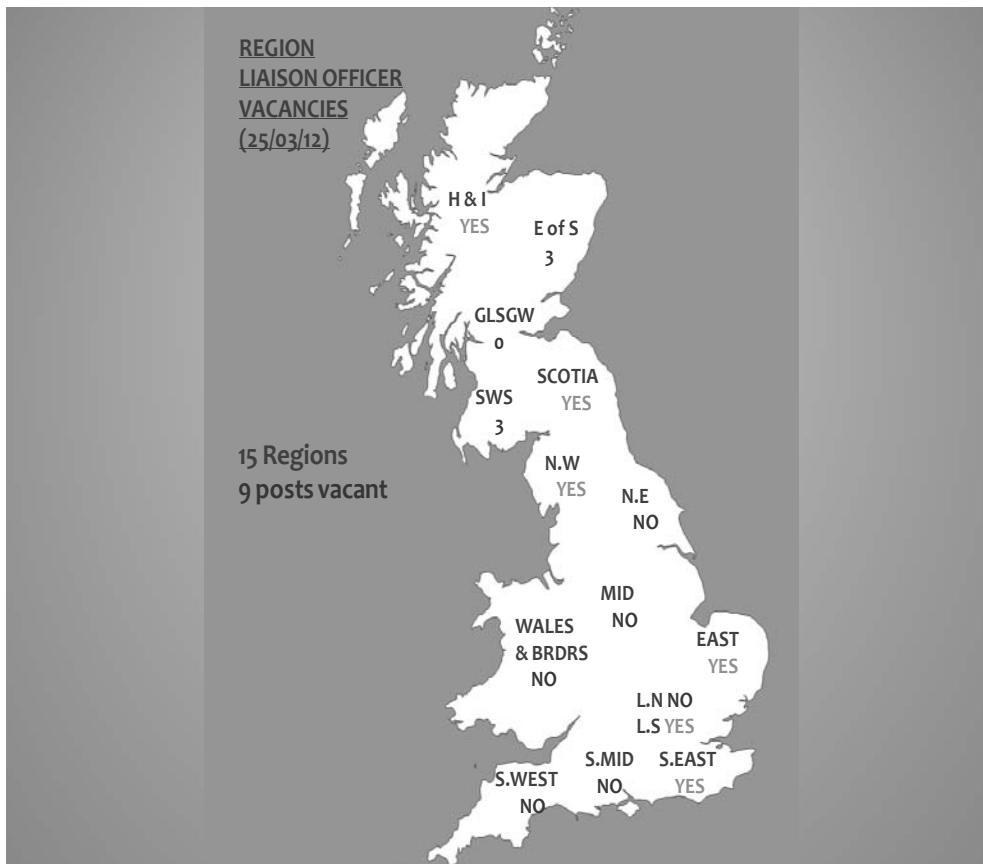
apathy but quite often fear. When people become liaison officers and the last liaison officer forgets to leave them the liaison box with all the information and contacts, these are the simple things that happen and bit by bit we start to go down and down.

We only have 9 posts filled in the 15 Regions and out of 120 Intergroups there are 63 posts vacant. It shows the level of liaison officers we have; we are struggling in Probation\Criminal Justice Service and in other posts generally. We are tasked with working in Probation and we would like to see, next year, when Geoff tells you that this sub committee has worked itself out of a job, that we have these posts at least 20% up if not fully filled. I am quite sure that you will go back to your Regions tomorrow and tell them that we need to get the Intergroup and Regional posts filled. That's my dream. Geoff is now going to talk about the occupancies by Regions.



The previous map was based upon this bar chart but we have put them in this order because the previous slide showed the vacancies and you could see that there were more vacancies than there were posts filled, only 42% of posts are filled at Intergroup.

This shows the position in relation to each Region and we are showing this so that you can pick out your own Region, the white bars show the posts that are filled and the grey shows the posts that are vacant. As you can see, there is no real pattern, I looked and looked at this but could find no real pattern, is it geographical? It does not appear to be and that will come apparent in the next slide which shows the Regional position.



Of the 15 Regions in Great Britain only 6 Regions have liaison officers in post but if you look at the distribution again, there is no real pattern - it's not unlike those weather charts that you see - this North West - South East divide, when you first look at it you think it is like that, but if you look at it carefully, there really is no pattern at all.

So part of our work is to try and stimulate interest at both Regional and Intergroup level so that more people will come forward to fill these very important positions.

Martin is now going to talk about the main achievements of the Probation/Criminal Justice Services Sub Committee so far and where we want to go to in the future.

I am in awe of all the work all the sub committees do and tonight I am in awe of the Probation/Criminal Justice Services Sub Committee. Everything that we were asked for in the Seminar in 2008 we have managed to do and that is three guys trying their hardest to do what they had to do.

They produced an Information Handbook which was first started quite a few years in the North West Region by Charles W, and Chris S and the sub committee have finalised that Handbook for England and Wales but we still have a bit to add in for the Criminal Justice Service Scotland. That book has been sent out to every Intergroup and Region and there is a whole host of information in there that can be used by liaison officers such as a section on Hints and Suggestions and a section on Contacts. The first response I got about that handbook was that it was too thick and I wondered if it was the handbook they were talking about at the time! I explained that you could extrapolate the bits that you need to use, you could extrapolate the sample letters, you can take the contacts, and all you need to do is open the pages instead of judging it by

the thickness.

We have developed the AA website in the Members and Professional areas and also in the Document Library. The aim is to have all the information on Probation/Criminal Justice Services available on the website for those with internet access and it is available in hard copy for those who don't. We are trying to include everybody in this.

We are trying to contribute to AA Service News quarterly with letters from Regions and Intergroups on the successes and the problems of working with Probation/Criminal Justice Services. We have been partially successful in that and it is not due to the lack of effort of the sub committee members, it's probably due to the difficulty in getting information from the various Regions, although there have been some good articles in it.

We are ready to give presentations to Regions and other bodies and we have already started that and the sub committee has offered to support liaison officers and come along and explain the role of Probation/Criminal Justice Services.

Inter-Region communication is still in its infancy but it has started to happen.

We are planning to have another Probation/Criminal Justice Services Seminar and that will be happening in June this year in the Park Inn and we really want you to go back and remind your Intergroup and Regional officers that we would love to see your Probation/Criminal Justice Services liaison officers or their representatives attending that seminar.

The 2008 seminar helped us to move forward and was deemed to be a great success by the liaison officers because they were able to share their experiences with each other, so I trust that you will go back to your Regions and Intergroups and take that message, because Probation/Criminal Justice Services needs you and we do, really, really need you.

Telephones

(Brian L)

Good evening Conference, my name is Brian, I'm an alcoholic and the Trustee responsible for Telephones.

The Terms of Reference for the Telephone Sub-Committee state:

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.

To keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.

To be responsible for all changes to the system and to liaise with the system providers following consultation with Regions.

To investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service.

To keep a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

The committee is a subcommittee of the Board and will be chaired by the Trustee with responsibility for the telephone service.

Membership will normally consist of three members drawn from participating Regions, who are suitably experienced to participate in committee functions. Where possible this will recognise geographical spread.

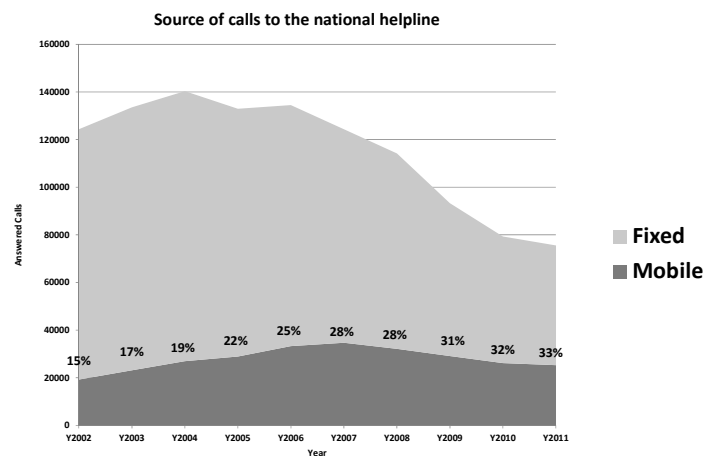
Membership of the Committee will be for a period of four years, allowing one year for sponsorship, thus the committee will be increased during sponsorship periods.

1. BT Business Plan

In September 2011 we signed a new Business Plan which combines per second billing with call capping and is forecast to save an additional £4,125 per year on local telephone bills. This is a combined plan covering Fellowship numbers and GSO numbers. In the past we have had separate plans because GSO numbers are paid for from charity funds whilst Fellowship numbers are paid for by the Regions. There is a financial advantage in combing the plans and is easier for BT to administer if there is only one plan for the whole organisation. We will monitor the plan closely over its two year life and if any difficulties arise we will go back to separate plans

2. Inbound Services Contract

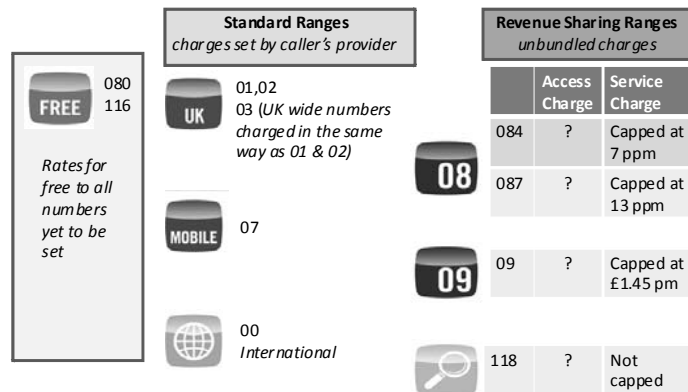
We experienced a substantial drop in call traffic to our 0845 national Number in 2009. Since then call volumes on a month by month basis have been volatile but the underlying trend in 2010 and 2011 was to remain level at about 385,000 call minutes per year. This is comfortably above our contract commitment level of 200,000 minutes. The cost of the directory entry on the helpline page at the front of every telephone directory was increased in August but the increase has been absorbed within the current £30 monthly contributions from Regions to Inbound Services.



3. New factors affecting the type of number we use for our National Telephone Number

Ofcom are proposing changes to the telephone numbering system in the UK which would make an 0845 number unsuitable for use by the Fellowship.

Proposed Simplified Numbering



Under the new scheme the cost of the call will be calculated from an Access Charge - a set price, in pence per minute, which goes to the caller's phone service provider and a Service Charge paid to the terminating provider for sharing with the organisation whose number it is. All our advertising would have to state the service charge for our number even if we declined to take any share of it. It is expected that the new scheme will be announced at the end of 2012.

The Telephone Sub-Committee has been studying this situation and recommends that we change to a 030 number (where revenue sharing is not permitted) as detailed in the following proposal to Conference.

Proposal to Conference 2012:

To change the National Helpline Number from a 0845 number to a 030 number

It has become increasingly evident that callers are reluctant to use 0845 numbers due to the high cost to mobiles and some non BT Landlines. In light of this, Ofcom has assigned 030 numbers to not-for-profit and government organisations with charges regulated to rates for calling 01 & 02 numbers and to be included in mobile pay monthly minutes.

Background

When Conference 1992 approved a feasibility study for a Fellowship national number, the BT monopoly was still in place and the number 0345 697 555 was adopted because the caller was charged at the BT local rate in all parts of the country. (At the time very few mobile phones were in use.)

By 1998 when Conference approved adoption of the 0345 number nationally, the BT monopoly was in the process of being dismantled and Oftel (since replaced by Ofcom) gathered together several different number ranges into the 08xx block. Our number was converted to 0845 769 7555 (the extra 7 denoting a former BT number). We had no choice in this change as the 03xx number range became dormant. The guarantee that the caller would only pay the "local" rate was only true if they used a BT line and callers with other landline providers had to pay a higher rate while mobile phone users were charged a much higher 'Mobile to Fixed' rate set by their service provider.

In December 2010 Ofcom concluded that people are confused about how much calls cost to non-geographical numbers. As a result, they lack confidence and trust in these services. Consequently, consumers make fewer calls and sometimes go to great lengths to contact organisations in other ways, possibly at higher cost or inconvenience.

Ofcom is proposing that the charges for 0845 numbers should be unbundled so that callers pay an 'access charge' set by their own telephone service provider plus a 'service charge' which goes to the number provider. To continue to use a number type where revenue sharing is the norm would conflict with our traditions even if we chose not to accept any revenue ourselves.

Ofcom has reserved the 030x number range for government departments and not-for-profit organisations. Revenue sharing is not allowed for these numbers. The caller pays the same amount for these calls as they would for calling a geographic number (01 or 02) on whatever package they have. Mobile users pay the 'mobile-to-fixed' rate and calls must be included in any inclusive minutes or free call packages.

We will have to pay a call charge of 1.5 pence per minute because there is no revenue to BT from the caller's service provider. The estimated annual cost is £5,642 based on our call traffic over the last 12 months.

Calls to the new number will be routed to local numbers in exactly the same way as calls to the 0845 number are currently handled. The 0845 number can remain active for as long as we require. This would allow time for literature to be updated as it is normally reprinted without incurring additional expense. Callers using the old number would be charged at the prevailing 0845 rate.

We will receive stats for both numbers and will be able to monitor the usage of each.

Changing to a 030x number gives a financial advantage to our callers and is firmly in line with our Tradition not to accept outside contributions.

After discussion Conference decided not to accept the proposal to change the 0845 telephone number to a 030 number by a two-thirds plus majority vote.

AA Service News Update

(Tim W-M)

I took over the responsibility as editor of AASN a little over six months ago. While the flow of articles submitted is a little erratic, as is much else in AA, so far I have received enough material to produce two editions without any major problems. Furthermore, thanks to co-operation from the Fellowship, the content of the articles so far received covers nearly all disciplines in a reasonable and fair manner. Please keep the articles and reports coming as AASN is one of the main vehicles for communication within the Fellowship.

Archives 2011 Update

(Tim W-M)

The year has been one of quiet and steady progress. Our Archivist, Stephen S. has continued with the long, tedious but necessary process of cataloguing and digitalizing our records during his several prolonged stays at York. Once digitalized, the original documents are then stored under ideal conditions at the Borthwick Institute attached to the University for permanent safe-keeping.

The group histories project is progressing well and now all the information gathered for it, is housed on its own dedicated computer in the Archives department at GSO. This computer is not on-line and has an extra hard disc to increase its storage capacity. Thus it is totally secure to protect anonymity. It can be consulted by any interested member who wishes to do so.

In keeping with the financial climate one of our two sub-committee meetings was held by conference call to save costs.

The annual archives network meeting was greatly appreciated and well attended. We heard presentations about AA history in the Channel Isles and in English speaking Europe, Central European Region. Further progress will be reported after our next sub-committee meeting in early March.

Armed Services Update

(Robert M)

I would like to start my report with a huge thank you to all of the Groups, Intergroups and Regions who have been 'Carrying the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous' to the Armed Services and their families. No initiative goes unnoticed and my grateful thanks to all members concerned for making my role a great deal easier.

Excerpt From Guideline 21 - AA And The Armed Services:

'Intergroups and Regions are responsible for the appointment of an Armed Services Liaison Officer [ASLO] to work in conjunction with other Intergroup and Regional officers. The role of the ASLO is to establish and maintain communication between Alcoholics Anonymous and The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force and to report back at all levels within Intergroup or Region.

It is also important to cultivate similar contact and communication with Community Welfare Officers and organisations such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and Veterans-U.K. Familiarity with the local area and a thorough working knowledge of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain are vital before accepting the role of Armed Services Liaison Officer'.

Update

In 2012, our AS Sub Committee lost a few valuable members but one new member has recently been appointed bringing our Committee to three. The Committee met twice during the year in York, once in July 2011 for our full Sub Committee meeting and once in January 2012 for our Workshop.

The Armed Services Sub-Committee of the General Service Board follows a Terms of Reference which was reviewed and approved in July 2011 and subsequently published in AA Service News.

The January 2012 Workshop was very positive with 8 Regions sending representatives. Topics such as Armed Services Twelfth Step List, Armed Forces Day, Template Letter, Armed Services Pack CD and how best to improve communication and knowledge between ASLO's were discussed, along with other items. The meeting was very productive with a great deal of information exchanged.

I can also report that we now have 5 Regional Armed Service Liaison Officers and 16 Intergroup Armed Services Liaison Officers in place.

AS Sub Committee has compiled a Twelfth Step list of AA members who are currently serving in the Armed Forces or who used to serve. Members who can talk to the Service person in familiar language *and* with an understanding of their environment. This list will be used to provide telephone responders with names and phone numbers of members of the fellowship in their local area who can best talk with and 12th Step people in the Services who phone for help.

This confidential database will be maintained at General Service Office in York, and the complete list will be given to Regional Telephone Liaison Officers. They will provide Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officers with the names and phone numbers of Armed Forces 12th Steppers in the Region, so that they can pass on this information to their telephone responders. To the Armed Forces 12th Stepper, it will be exactly the same as acting as a telephone service 12th Stepper.

The list will be updated twice a year by GSO from updated information provided by a member of the Armed Services Sub Committee.

Events Attended

1. Display stand at a Health Fair at the Imjin Barracks (ex RAF Innsworth) near Gloucester.
2. Provided a display at Health Fair being organised by 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles, based in Folkestone, Kent. Garrison is home to approximately 1000 soldiers.
3. On 25th June there was a large Armed Forces day event at Plymouth on the Hoe. This was held as part of National Armed Forces Day UK. Three members of AA manned display stand and provided lots of information and literature. AA participation at other locations in UK during Armed Forces Week UK.
4. Meeting held with the Welfare Officer at 40 Marine Commando, Fitzwilliam, Somerset. Discussion very positive regards AA giving presentations on what we have to offer.
5. ASLO reports a positive response from Combat Stress HQ in Leatherhead.
6. ASLO received a positive response from SSAFA in Southampton who has asked for an AA speaker at one of their local Caseworker meetings.
7. A presentation given and literature available for a Soldier, Sailor, Airforce Family Association (SSAFA) training day at Harrow & District Masonic Branch, Northwick Circle Kenton HA3 OEL.
8. Contact has been made with St Dunstons, a charity that deals with blind ex service personnel.
9. Drug and Alcohol awareness morning given by the Master-At-Arms of HMS Diamond to the Ship's Company. AA was invited to give presentation aboard HMS Nelson where some 65-70 members of the Ship's Company could be accommodated.
10. Following this successful presentation, AA received a request from the Medical Department, HMS Diamond, requesting another talk in January 2012. The ship organised a morning 'health fair' event as an extension of the Fit for Life, Fit to Fight campaign that has been working for the last couple of years.

HMS Diamond is a front line RN Unit, albeit alongside in Her Majesty's Naval Base but this means we are now quite able to honestly say AA has attended, by request, a warship in commission to offer information in support of the professional body and spread the message to those who may be concerned about their drinking. So, responses to any contacts our Fellowship may receive from other ships in HMNBs – Plymouth, Rosyth or shore establishments can be improved on with this experience.

11. Presentations have taken place this year and are ongoing at Joint Services Command College in Shrivenham. Currently 3 - 4 presentations per year with a further request to give a presentation in February 2012.

AA Website

The Sub-Committee are always looking at ways to improve the Website with regards to Armed Services and are exploring ways of best using this facility. We have good communication with the Electronics Team and welcome any suggestions that you would like to see on Armed Services Web pages.

Armed Services Plans for 2012

- This year the National Armed Forces day is coming to Plymouth and it is hoped AA Armed Services will have a substantial part to play in raising awareness which will coincide with the times of their events. We hope to contact many of the Tri Services establishments/events throughout the UK regarding this event and look forward to providing presentations, literature and information where and when required.
- Maintain lasting links and raise awareness with organisations offering non-military support to service people e.g. - HIVES, Royal British Legion, SSAFA, RAFA, RNA.
- Presentations are expected to continue at Community Support Course in Shrivenham.
- Continue to raise the profile of Armed Services Liaison Officers within the Fellowship. We are at present a comparatively small band of dedicated members, but with your help, we can perhaps pass on what was so freely given to you.
- To continue carrying out our primary purpose of carrying the AA message to UK Armed Forces personnel past and present and their families who may have a problem with alcohol.

EUROPEAN SERVICE MEETING OCTOBER 2011

(Penny A1st Term Delegate)

The primary purpose of the European Service Meeting (ESM) is the same as that of all AA activity – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The meeting seeks ways and means of accomplishing this by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of delegates who come together from all parts of Europe. Although it is not a voting forum, it can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout Europe.

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively. The ESM encourages the planning of the sound structures suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries and the exploration of expanding AA Services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, community relations and work with institutions.

The European Information Centre at York issued invitations to General Service Offices across Europe. Delegates from 27 European countries gathered together at the Hotel National in Frankfurt, Germany on the 21st to 23rd October 2011, to take part in the 16th ESM.

I was privileged to attend as a first year delegate from AAGB. Jim T, our Honorary Treasurer, attended as outgoing second year delegate.

The European Service meeting is organised and supported by the General Service Office in York. Ann N, Angela, Sophie and Jenny were there from GSO York and I am very grateful to them and proud as an AAGB delegate to witness the warmth and efficiency with which they run the meeting. Phyllis Halliday, the General Manager from GSO New York and Mary Clare Lynch from the International Desk were also there.

The ESM is run along similar lines to our Conference. Registration and reception is on Friday afternoon and the meeting closed at lunch time Sunday. The Chair, Jacek Chmielewski from Poland had been elected in 2009. Committee and Workshop Chairs had also been elected in 2009 and met with the Chair and GSO staff in York during August 2010 to set the agenda for the meeting. The theme was 'Unity is our Safeguard'.

Following introductions and the Chair's opening address, one delegate from each of AA's national structures was invited to share highlights of activities which had taken place in their country since the last ESM in 2009. This set the scene for exchanges of information that range from more formal discussions in committees to brief but valuable snippets over coffee.

Some of the countries represented are in their infancy as regards structure. For example:

ESTONIA - Today in Estonia there are 21 AA groups, the oldest of them has been in action for 20 years. In the beginning of 2011 there were 251 members in Estonian AA. But our serving structure is only 2 years old.

SLOVAKIA - The Beginning of AA in Slovakia comes back to the year 1990 In the present time 35 AA groups operate in Slovakia. They are spread all over the country. The estimated number of AA members in Slovakia is about 450 – 500 members.On April 10, 2010 the first Annual Conference of AA in Slovakia was held.....

(extracts taken from submitted reports)

Other countries have a well established structure. As always in AA, the sharing benefits us all and I myself came away inspired by the enthusiasm and love for the Fellowship that was expressed in so many different ways.

The meeting splits into three committees and later three workshops that look at various questions about structure and service. Topics discussed included website links, non AA literature at conventions, format of meetings, the Seventh Tradition, the Concepts, insurance and much more. The Chairpersons report back to the full meeting and recommendations are voted on.

During an open question session delegates are given the opportunity to ask about how to deal with particular issues and other delegates respond with the experience from their country. The value of the presence of countries with more mature structures and experience was evident when Jim T, our Honorary Treasurer, reported back on a workshop topic about finance.

Phyllis Halliday gave a moving closing address:

..... In 1943 Bill W wrote to an AA member and shared that "the grim fact is that we alcoholics, as people, who are slowly dying of a fatal malady must learn to work together or perish. Honesty with ourselves and others got us dry but it is tolerance that keeps us that way." Today with our estimated worldwide membership in excess of 2 million we still must continue to work together or perish. It takes more than one alcoholic to keep the flame of hope burning, it takes all of us. Unity did not appear in a flash of light. None of our legacies, including the Steps, were achieved without trouble or difficulty; they were brought about through struggle

and conflict. Time and again since the beginning of our fellowship the importance of and need for AA unity has been demonstrated.

The European Service Meeting is a powerful example of unity in action.....

Electronic Communications Update

(John S)

Whilst front facing web pages are almost complete and convey a strong professional impact, there is still need for update of the actual content in relation to all disciplines. This, ideally, should come from the respective disciplines themselves, or via their sub committees, thus addressing some of the questions arising in the current Conference Questions. The reasons for this should be obvious to most members with experience of the AA service structure.

Whilst acknowledging recent experiences in the “Meeting search facility” have been to some extent disappointing, these are being addressed with the provider.

The introduction of new Regional and Intergroup Microsites together with File-Store facilities have been delayed due to technical problems with the new server.

It should be noted that whilst previously Conference was eager to retain the full range of forums facilities, there has been little support from within the Fellowship to administer the various forum disciplines.

The majority of the correspondence / postings on the Conference Forum in respect of Conference Questions appear to have come from a very small minority. That would suggest the majority of the Fellowship are not that interested in discussion of Conference Questions on the forums. One Question has no comments whatsoever.

Perhaps it is time that the Fellowship and Conference reconsider the value of forums on the basis of the lack of support for them throughout the whole service structure.

Number of posts:	46	Posts per day:	0.59 since launch
Number of topics:	11	Topics per day:	0.09
Number of users	1268	Users per day:	2.84

This number is suspect due to the number of non bona-fide registrations.

Moderator 3 has possibly removed as many as those currently shown as a result of erroneous registrations.

On a more positive note, the Online Responder Services are showing upward trends in contacts from potential new members. (See following report ORS Report Jan1).

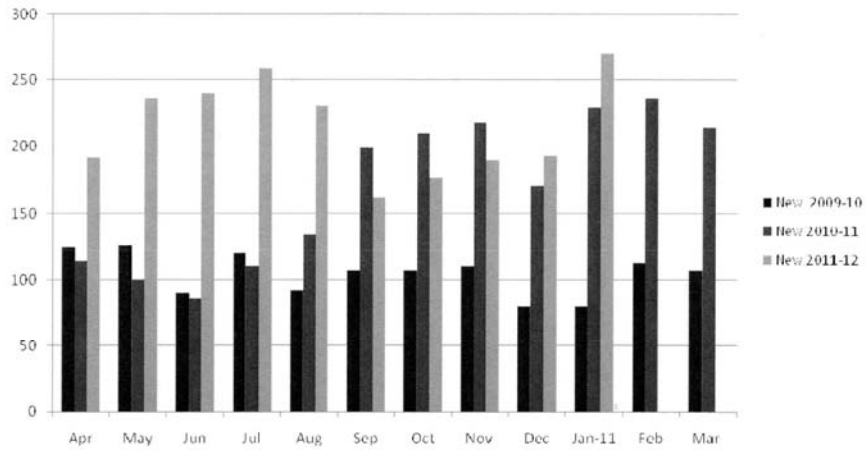
My time as Trustee for Electronics Communication has been a great experience and one I am most grateful for. It has on occasion been quite frenetic and on others a steep learning curves both technically and in terms of application of the Traditions in respect of this burgeoning media resource. Certainly there is much more to be considered in terms of media web application and our inter-action with the Public and the Fellowship.

I trust Conference and the Fellowship will support future developments and the New Trustee, Wullie I, together with the duly appointed Electronics Communications Subcommittee to take these forward in fulfilment of our primary purpose, in the best interests of the Fellowship as a whole, and for the sake of those who are yet to come.

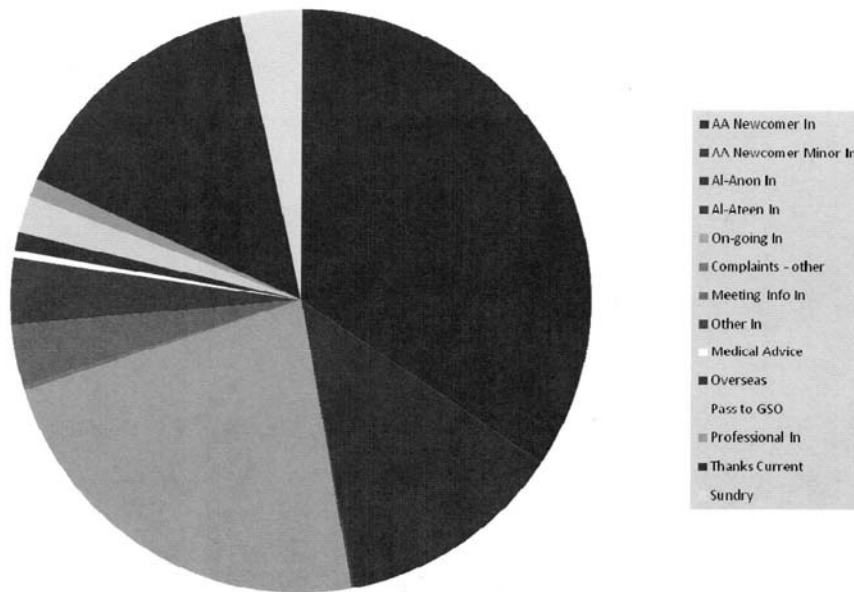
From the Problem Drinker Seeking Help

NB: AA New Website launched August 2010

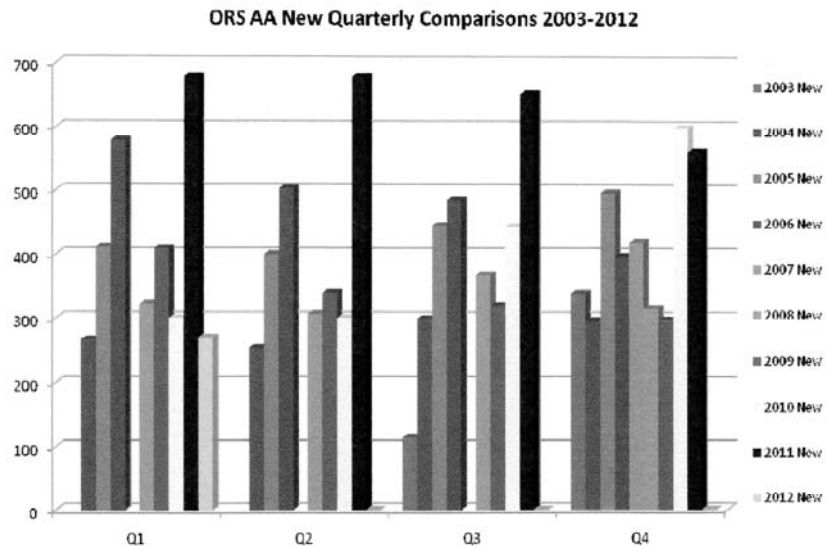
Annual Comparison - AA Newcomers



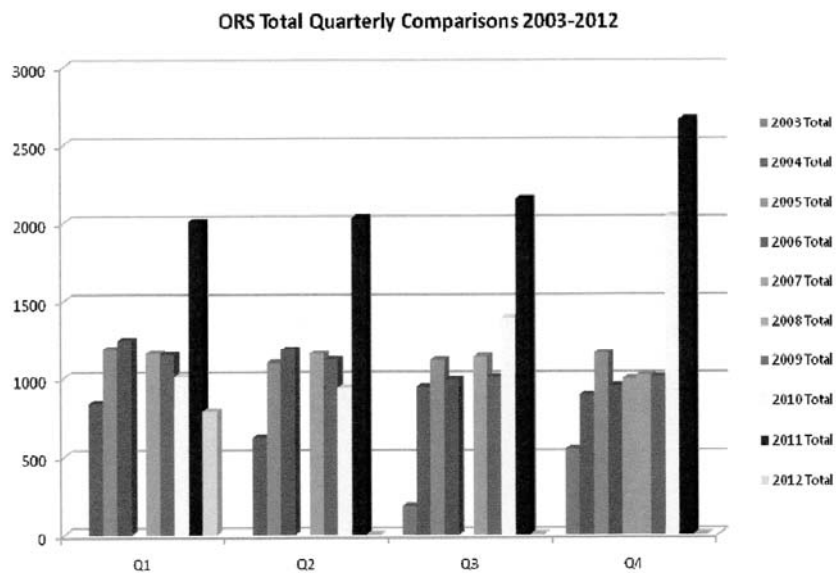
Breakdown of E-Mails Received in January 2012



Comparison of AA Newcomer Calls since 2003



Comparison of Total Calls since 2003



ORS Monthly Statistics Jan 2011 – Jan 2012

ORS Monthly Statistics April 2010-March 2012

	New 2009-10	New 2010-11	New 2011-12	Returnee	Minor	Al-Anon	Al-Ateen	Complaints ORS	Complaints Other	Meeting Info	On-going	Other	Overseas	To GSO	Professional	Thanks	Totals 2009-10	Totals 2010-11	Totals 2011-12
Jan-11	80	229		14	2	87	1	0	0	23	139	31	6	20	3	84	327	644	
Feb	113	236		13	0	54	1	0	0	35	170	33	3	17	7	74	359	672	
Mar	107	214		15	1	68	1	0	1	37	156	48	4	30	6	81	316	686	
Apr		114	203	11	1	52	0	0	1	23	184	6	5	14	3	72		341	582
May		100	236	15	3	100	2	0	3	31	179	11	4	12	20	101		276	745
Jun		86	240	7	5	81	0	0	3	38	160	22	3	18	11	99		317	701
Jul		110	259	13	0	81	0	0	4	36	231	33	6	14	16	135		381	838
Aug		134	231	9	1	85	0	0	1	32	226	34	3	13	10	105		470	757
Sep		199	162	12	0	78	1	0	0	42	128	9	6	16	12	86		535	555
Oct		210	177	4	1	51	0	2	1	74	285	12	8	17	12	72		629	738
Nov		218	190	9	2	71	1	0	2	25	534	25	5	22	4	83		829	984
Dec		171	193	8	0	65	4	1	4	31	469	23	2	23	8	85		580	939
Jan-12		229	270	10	0	99	1	0	2	27	179	14	8	16	8	116		644	785

Employment Update

(Winnie C)

I am pleased to say that in the last twelve months much work has been carried out by Employment Liaison Officers.

The National Employment Liaison Meeting held in July was well attended, many non ELOs were in attendance and we discussed the importance of ELOs at Intergroup and Region level. Looking through the Confidential Directory I see many positions are still vacant.

The responsibility of Employment Liaison is to carry the message to Professionals within their local area with the support of Intergroup, Region and Service groups, where one exists.

Employment concerns any organisation employing or serving staff companies, Trade Unions, Government Departments and related agencies. Guided by our Traditions, ELOs can offer recovery to problem drinkers who come to the attention of employers.

I am pleased to report Liaison Officers in position are working closely with the above mentioned agencies and Unions have received an AA article for inclusion in their company magazine.

I attended a Human Resources Conference in Edinburgh which gave us the opportunity to reach the Director of Police Training, Principle of Telford College, Human Resources Cosla, Investors in People, Local Councils and many others.

There is a fast growing interest in Alcoholics Anonymous from the Employment field and the importance of Employment Liaison at Intergroup and Region is paramount.

I can only now ask that we, as a Fellowship, try to reach the Employment field through our service structure by filling vacant positions at Intergroup and Region level.

Health Update

(John A)

I took over as Trustee with responsibility for Health in October 2011, having had a couple of months of shadowing Phil W, the outgoing trustee for health. I would like to acknowledge the work that Phil has done and to thank him for his continued support in moving into this role.

I am also fortunate to have the support and enthusiasm of the Health Subcommittee. Our meetings, which are now mostly conducted over the telephone by conference call, have been very effective in focussing on our objectives which as laid out in our terms of reference are to stimulate interest and encourage service in health liaison throughout the Fellowship and to monitor national policies on alcohol and to identify opportunities for AA as a resource within the health sector. Rotation is a principle which runs through our service structure and the Health Subcommittee is no exception and as a result of this, at the end of our last conference call meeting, we had to say our farewells to Johnny J, from Plymouth who has served his four year term. Donny V. who has already served as a member of the subcommittee for a period of time will continue on though now as Shadow Trustee for Health (subject to his ratification at Conference). For this reason the subcommittee has two vacancies which will be advertised in AASN.

From the 2011/2012 directory of Intergroup and Regional Officers it can be seen that at the time of printing, twelve out of the sixteen Regions had Health Liaison Officers (75%) and of the 125 Intergroups, 74 had Health Liaison Officers (Approx 60%). I was encouraged by these figures as I am aware that even though a Region or Intergroup may not have an individual HLO in place, the service area is usually still being covered by another serving officer from that Region/Intergroup.

Since taking on this role, I have been struck by the amount of work that is being done nationwide by Intergroup officers/members in so many varied ways to carry the message in care/treatment facilities/hospitals that are in direct contact with the suffering alcoholic. I have received reports from around the country of tireless hospital ward rounds, slide shows in GP's surgeries and developing links with many different agencies that are working with suffering alcoholics. Talks to medical schools are on the increase. It is all very encouraging news.

AA continues to be represented at various Conferences around the country. For instance in June in Manchester there was a Management in Practice Conference at which AA had a stand where much interest was shown and literature given out.

Already booked for this year are stands at Nursing in Practice events in Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, Bournemouth and Cardiff and in Birmingham we have a stand at the Health and Well Being at Work Conference at the NEC and later in the year a Primary Care event.

We are very fortunate to have Dr Jonathan Chick, an eminent psychiatrist, who joined the GSB last year and who has already been very busy presenting at the Scottish

Parliament event and the Welsh Assembly and is due to give a presentation at the Westminster event in May of this year. He also plays an active role within the Health Subcommittee making a valuable contribution from his professional perspective. He has drawn our attention once again to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines in which AA is recommended as a resource for problem drinkers.

The Annual Regional Health Liaison Officers Meeting is on the 10/11th February. On the Saturday morning, Dr Chick will be giving a presentation on evidence based results of treatments for alcoholism comparing results where patients have been introduced to AA and where patients have not been introduced to AA.

Northern National Convention Update

(Jim T)

Developments throughout the year beginning 29 May 2011 have included such matters as:

- The Al-Anon committee, formed by local groups, have rotated out of office and have made way for two new delegates to take over responsibilities for the awareness and running of Al-Anon meetings during the various weekends over their term of office. There is a continued, healthy relationship, between both Fellowships which has revealed itself by the comments by those attending the convention from both AA and Al-Anon.
- The sponsoring bodies of the convention, North West Region, North East Region and Midlands Region have decided that the position of NNC Archivist should be one that is rotated between the three Regions beginning this year with Midlands Region.
- In regards to positions needing to be filled due to rotation or resignation, the committee has decided that whenever possible a lengthy sponsorship into these positions should take place.
- The committee has decided to introduce a Non-Alcoholic Trustee to share his experience on the opening night of the convention in March 2012.
- The Chairperson for the committee, through health reasons, had to resign from office and, although her in-put has been missed, the committee have pulled together to try to ensure that all information pertaining to the convention has been distributed throughout the Fellowship.
- At present, due to rotation, 2 delegates are needed from North West Region, 1 from North East, and 3 from Midlands Region. The *new* committee forming in May 2012 will have the benefit of 5 members remaining for continuity. The vacancies that will occur through rotation will be filled by the full committee in May when nominations and elections take place.
- At present, February 2012, there has been 63 pre-registrations for the convention which, when compared with last year at this time, is approximately 50% less.
- Due to the continued financial situation the possibility of a conference calling process was investigated and could be set up to include one of the four committee meetings. This will be presented to, and decided by, the newly formed committee in May of 2012. With the same concept in mind, the committee have saw fit to reduce expenditure by altering some procedures which over a period of time can only be of financial benefit to the Fellowship as a whole.

- The Treasurer produced a simple income and expenditure sheet on the 19 February 2012 which showed that the balance at that time was £4,665 which is inclusive of printing and raffle prizes costs already being paid.

Prisons Update

(Del H)

It seems only a short while ago that I first nervously put my fingers to the keyboard and wrote my first report to you last year, so how is it that the time has gone so quickly? I think in some small part is the number on meetings I have been privileged to attend and the amount of discussion we have had in maintaining our presence in our Prisons.

Things are going well in Scotland at the moment with meetings still being maintained in all Prisons. Last year I reported that I was able to attend a meeting with Tom Fox from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS,) and at that meeting it was decided that we would try to have at least two meetings a year with them. The second meeting last year took place in September, and the first of this year in February, unfortunately I was not able to attend either, but Willie D from the Sub-committee attended on our behalf. At the September meeting it was decided that the SPS would seriously address the areas of Disclosure Scotland payments and 'guest speaker' procedures. At the time of writing (Feb 6th) I am not sure if this has been done.

Due to a change in personnel within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) I have lost contact with them, and not met with the new Intervention Manager. We last met in September 2010, when Roy Dawson, our previous contact, told us that he had been given a new role, but I am hoping that we get these meetings with them back on the agenda. At this last meeting a member from NOMS said they recognised that the vetting procedure probably needs looking at again, and perhaps it could be streamlined in some way or other, but as we have not met with them since I do not know if this is still the case.

On a more positive note I am happy to report that the situation of the Prison Postal Service (PPS) has improved. Last year I reported that the data base held in GSO was a little on the small size (approx 40 people registered) at the annual meeting of Regional Prison Liaison Officers, and in all my conversations (mail and verbal) the request was made to try to highlight this important area of service. The requests made have been answered in a very positive way as Jenny has informed me that now there are 125 people registered. In the area of Prison Liaison Officers (PLO) there is little change from last year with 12 Regional Officers (13 last year) and 73 at Intergroup level (74 last year). This still shows a great level of commitment of maintaining our presence in our prisons.

Another area of change and improvement is the Prison Sub-committee. In response to an advert in AA Service News we welcomed a new member to the committee in November as the Web Co-ordinator to enable to us to update and add any new documentation into the library. This is being done at the moment and hopefully new updates will be completed shortly.

The first rotation of this committee happens in June of this year as two of the founder members come to the end of their commitment. We will be welcoming the first of their replacements at our meeting in February.

Once again my thanks go to all who are involved in this area of service, sponsors, sponsees, PLOs and those on the PPS who are doing such an amazing job in what, for some at least, has been a bit of difficult time for them.

Public Information Update

(Nick R)

I have come to the end of my time in service as a Board Member. The question I really want to ask is this: “Have I done what the Fellowship has required of me?” Only you can answer that question.

When I took over from Andy 4 years ago he had brought in the catch phrase, “Anonymous but not Invisible”. I really liked what that phrase was saying and encouraged its use within the Fellowship. I truly believe we have been “hiding under a bush” and it is time we stood up and took our place in pointing the way to recovery from alcoholism.

To do that, we have to be seen. During my time as Board member for Public Information (PI), I have tried to encourage this work to be carried out at Group level not; as I saw previously, mainly by the tremendous work that the PI sub committee was doing at a national level.

I can only judge how things have changed or improved by reading your reports which, certainly in PI and I think most of the disciplines, are not exactly numerous or rapidly forthcoming. However, even that area has improved and I get the impression that a lot more work is being done by an increased number of PI committees working at Group and Intergroup level. Our PI News abounds with different projects and ideas of how to pass the message and is an ideal way of encouraging new members to have a go at something they have not yet tried.

I was given the opportunity by the Board to hold a seminar this year for PI as I felt the services that deal with alcoholism in this country were at a place of change. Governmental attitude, the NHS and all the supporting industries are at a point of change encouraged by the government’s new holistic approach to dealing with addiction and the recent restraints on finance which, as a service provider that has no cost implications, act in our favour.

The attendance at that seminar, the interest and enthusiasm for new ideas, and the willingness to share with each other showed me there was a new wave of PI work emerging. Every Region was represented at that seminar which in itself is more than encouraging.

I believe that seminar answered my question. Alcohol Awareness week this year was evident in more areas than I have ever known. Several PI committees tried new events: stands in hospitals, shopping malls, libraries, railway stations – you name it – we seemed to think of it. But most importantly of all, we were willing to get out there and do it!

One Intergroup, in close contact with me and GSO to prevent any traditions being broken, provided a television company with a story which was supported during the following week, with a daily radio interview through Alcohol Awareness Week. Congratulations to that Intergroup.

Several members of the Fellowship contacted me asking how and why we were doing this sort of thing. “We shouldn’t be doing this” and “We are breaking anonymity etc. etc. etc.”

Let me quote from Bill’s Third legacy:

“We need the increasing goodwill of editors, writers, television and radio channels. These publicity outlets need to be opened ever wider.”

And of course there’s the well known piece from one of his letters:

“Nothing matters more to AA’s future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.”

Anonymous BUT NOT invisible.

Our PI Sub Committee continues to help and encourage Groups and Intergroups to be more effective in PI work. The production of the PI News and our regular distribution of news to the professional community are ongoing. Their work and support has been invaluable.

The three parliamentary events have gained status over the last 3 years and are now very much part of the political calendar. I have absolutely no doubt as to the value of the input of our Fellowship at these events. It puts us regularly into contact with the very top professionals and politicians who have to make decisions on how the country can best protect itself from the disease of alcoholism. Today AA has the privilege of having a say in those matters because of our contact with those professionals.

Much of the work done with professionals on a day to day basis is done from GSO and it would be very remiss of me if I did not thank Angela and all the staff at GSO for all the work they have done for this Fellowship and the help and support they have given me during the time I have been in service.

I can now only pass the baton to Phil W and hope he has the continued support that I have had during my time with the Board.

Roundabout Update

(Winnie C)

What is the Roundabout Magazine?

Roundabout is Scotland's monthly AA magazine. It helps newcomers as well as people who use it as their 'meeting between meetings'. It also helps with Service for those working in Prisons, Hospitals and the Courts (make sure we remove the Diary Pages first). The Diary Pages keeps the Fellowship informed with regards to new AA meetings and AA meetings that have closed down and it also keeps group contacts updated, gives dates of Region and Intergroup meetings and details of Conventions. The production of the magazine involves a lot of work each month by the Roundabout Sub Committee, without whom the magazine would not be what it is today. They are a committed and responsible team and as a result of their hard work all production dates are being met.

In May last year the magazine was added to the official AA Website and can be accessed by clicking on the 'Roundabout' link on the left side of the page at: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/> Each month two articles from that month's magazine (one from a male and one from a female) are uploaded in audio and another two articles are uploaded for reading. We are delighted that we have had some very positive feedback from this.

Our Annual Liaison Officers' Workshop was held in November and this was well attended by both Region and Intergroup Roundabout Liaison Officers (RLO) from all over Scotland. Our RLOs have the task of raising the awareness of Roundabout by having the Flyer read out at meetings and encouraging new subscriptions. They are also very pro-active in getting members to write articles and as a result of this we have had a steady stream of articles throughout the year.

At the Workshop in November our circulation figures for the whole of 2011 averaged 1741 per month, which was slightly down on the previous year, but figures at the end of December show an increase of 52 copies per month sold. In view of the current climate this is good news and we hope to build on this further.

Roundabout Objectives for 2012

- ❖ We are always looking for ideas and suggestions for new features for the magazine and will continue to do this in the coming year.
- ❖ With the help of our Sub Committee and Liaison Officers, we will strive to further raise the awareness of Roundabout and increase subscriptions.

Many thanks to all who have supported Roundabout over the years and especially to all those involved behind the scenes to ensure that each month the magazine is produced, printed and distributed.

Share Update

(John S)

There has been slight fall off in subscriptions over the last 12 month period, though not entirely unexpected in the light of the current economic climate, whilst slightly disappointing this should be viewed as a positive, when compared to other commercial magazine production.

Share continues to be both an opportunity for members to share their “Experience Strength and Hope” and as a “Meeting between Meetings.”

There is still much need for articles to be submitted by members for inclusion in the monthly magazine productions. Articles sharing experience on the Twelve Steps and Traditions would be much appreciated, bearing in mind that the magazine commences to be put together at least 6 weeks before the month in which it is circulated, usually the first week of the months.

Calendar and Diary sales appear to be on par with previous years.

There is also need for photographs to be submitted in both portrait and landscape for inclusion in both the Magazine and the Calendar. Usually anything taken on a relatively modern digital camera will suffice.

Would delegates please inform their respective Regions and Intergroups that the “Share Display Stands” are available free of charge for delivery and return from GSO, for use at local Conventions.

It would be helpful if delegates also informed their Intergroup and Regions that the post of Editor and/or assistant Editor will become vacant immediately on closure of this Annual Conference.

A vote of thanks to Jean Mc for her stalwart efforts in picking up at short notice the role of editor and bringing the magazine back on track, in terms of regular deliveries.

I have enjoyed my time as Trustee for Share Magazine and have been privileged to have worked with people on the team with such dedication, despite on occasion meeting with unexpected obstacles.

The experience has been both educational and rewarding reinforcing my belief that the ultimate authority resides in the properly informed group conscience.

Scottish National Convention Update

(Robert M)

The 2011 Scottish Convention was very well attended and is deemed to have been successful. The convention committee worked very hard to ensure that the Convention ran smoothly and the most important feature was the members who shared and chaired and did such a wonderful job of carrying the message.

The work for the 2012 Convention is already underway and the dates are May 18th, 19th and 20th again in the Corran Halls in Oban.

Meetings format are: Scotia Region, Friday night: Glasgow Region, Saturday morning: South West Scotland Region, Saturday night and Highlands and Islands, Sunday morning.

This year, GSB approved the project of a Literature Roadshow and they requested a presence at the Scottish Convention.

The Roadshow will be an opportunity to inform Fellowship members of the importance of literature in continuing to develop AA in Great Britain and in other countries where AA is less developed. They also hope to raise awareness of the range of books available.

There has been a decline in sales of literature in recent years which adversely affects the ability of the Fellowship to support the still suffering alcoholic both in Great Britain and other parts of the world where AA is in its infancy. The General Service Board has agreed that a proactive attempt be made to reverse this decline and one of the ways is to create this Roadshow.

I would like to record my thanks to all members of the Scottish National Convention Committee for their hard work in organising this year's Convention.

Flyers, raffles, entertainment, programmes etc, have been organised or are ongoing and all bodes well for another successful and enjoyable weekend in Bonnie Scotland.

Southern National Convention Update

(Del H)

Last years convention was held on 9th to 11th September at the Mill Rythe Holiday Camp on Hayling Island for the second year. From comments made to me and other members of the committee it was said to be one of the best that some have ever attended.

I attended the AGM of this committee in January this year, and all six of the sponsoring Regions were represented by their Chairs. The importance of two representatives from each of the Regions was reiterated. This is not the case at the moment, but is being looked into, and hopefully will be rectified during the coming year.

Although the numbers were slightly down on last year the money raised through registration, raffle, literature, and the pot, was roughly the same as last year, making the convention fully self supporting.

The workshop on the Saturday afternoon was on 'Sponsorship' – personally I did not know how well this would be received, but the room was packed with standing room only by the start of the meeting. This meeting was so well received that I heard people talking about it on the Sunday afternoon as they were preparing to go home.

This year's convention will take place at the same venue on 7th to 9th September with the theme 'Gratitude in Action' and we are hoping to host a Literature Road Show on the Saturday afternoon.

I think the representatives from the sponsoring Regions deserve a big pat on the back for the tremendous amount of work they do each year on organising such a wonderful event.

5th Sub-Saharan Africa Meeting

(Sheila D)

The meeting was held in Johannesburg 3rd, 4th & 5th June 2011, first and second year delegates from each of the following twelve Sub-Saharan countries participated:

Botswana	South Africa
Ghana	Swaziland
Kenya	Tanzania
Lesotho	Uganda
Namibia	Zambia
Malawi	Zimbabwe

Also present as joint sponsors of the meeting were Phyllis Halliday (General Manager USA/Canada) Warren Stafford (International Desk USA/Canada) Ann Napier (General Secretary GB) and Sheila Davis (Chair GB). Members of the secretariat were also present.

The first meeting was held in 2003 where the 17 delegates were given literature to take away with them to use as an attempt to establish an AA Structure in their respective countries, from these building blocks the AA message in Sub-Saharan Africa began to grow.

The statement of purpose was read by the Chairperson Charles McNab. The welcome address was also given by Charles. The keynote address was given by Phyllis Halliday, Warren Stafford spoke about Literature, and Sheila Davis shared 'From Home Group to Conference'.

All the delegates reported on AA in their own countries and although this was my first attendance at the meeting it became clear as the weekend progressed that AA in many Sub-Saharan places is working towards putting structure in place, such as Literature and Public information committees and although in some countries growth is from a small base (sometimes three or four groups per country) the wish to become self supporting when and where possible is growing. Considering factors such as poverty, political difficulties and sometimes lack of transport these are not small achievements. Sharing of individual and country experience is invaluable here and the work enthusiastically undertaken in the workshops was shared with the whole meeting.

There is a growing feeling that increased sponsorship between the Sub-Saharan Countries is now possible, with the largest Fellowship, South Africa, offering help to neighbouring countries.

June, of course, is the middle of the African winter and although the days were sunny the temperature plummeted in the evening. Delegates wore jackets and coats at dinner but the warm atmosphere of Fellowship continued despite the cold.

Following the meeting Ann N and myself were invited to GSO South Africa, where the office has one employee, all other service requirements are covered by Fellowship members. We also attended an AA meeting and over all generously welcomed and looked after.

The Fellowship in Sub-Saharan Africa seems to be at the beginning of an exciting journey. It was a privilege to be part of the meeting and as always sharing experience is a two way process.

Welsh Assembly Presentation Update

(Phil W)

The event at the Senedd (Welsh Assembly) on 11th October 2011 was the third to be held there and was the best yet. Numbers of guests attending from the professional community were up (48) and ranged across many disciplines including health practitioners, managers, clergy, NOMS and treatment agencies.

We were given the main atrium area for the presentation with views out over Cardiff Bay so it was an impressive setting for the session. The committee had worked hard on the preparations and it was gratifying to see the attention to detail coming to fruition on the night.

Andrew RT Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservatives, was our host and introduced proceedings. Kelvyn, Region PILO, chaired the panel with presentations from Phil W, Dr Jonathan Chick and 'shares' from Jenny (Cardiff) and Andy (Swansea). Jonathan's session about the efficacy of AA from the clinical perspective added special value in carrying our message to the professional community.

The pacing and range of the presentations were well received and produced an enthusiastic interest during the Q&A session and networking at the end. The Assembly's caterers provided good quality buffet fare which provided the icing on a very filling (and enjoyable) cake.

Welsh National Convention Update

(Phil W)

The theme of the 2010 Welsh Convention was '*Keep it simple*' and was held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells in the scenic heartland of mid-Wales. The first weekend in June generally gives the convention fine weather and a summer break ambience.

Numbers of residents at the hotel were slightly down but this was more than offset by a much increased number of day visitors. Many guests had travelled long distances to attend. Good shares, full AI-Anon participation and a Sunday morning spiritual gathering which attracted a lot of positive feedback, all made for a great weekend of fellowship. The music and dancing in the evenings was enjoyed by many and the Metropole Hotel played its part with its high standard of food and friendly staff.

This year's convention will be held 8-10^h June and the theme this time is '*Pass it on*'. The format will be similar to previous years with come and go meetings, service workshop (Public Information), Literature Roadshow and spiritual service in addition to a full programme of main platform sessions. One of these will include Welsh speaking shares with simultaneous translation into English.

The organizing committee is working hard to ensure that the Convention is a success and a weekend to remember. Whilst it may be smaller than the other national conventions, it is exactly this which provides its character and charm. As ever, *There'll be a welcome in the hillsides...*

Northern Service Office Update

The Northern Service Office has had another productive and rewarding year, our function being to carry out administrative duties involving the update of Northern groups and many various tasks involving service. We also provide an information service to the general public

and professional community and the office has seen another year of being a channel between callers and fellowship services. We have passed on all relevant enquiries to the appropriate liaison officers in order to make AA's 12th step work possible.

Our regular items include Media Link between NSO, GSO and SSO, Prison Postal Service, Electronic Communications, General Communication with the Fellowship and Roundabout Magazine. We also have many incoming and outgoing mail, calls and faxes. We distribute various lists of meetings to the professional and voluntary community and basically to anyone who wishes general information regarding AA or members enquiring daily about AA meetings. The office receives a great deal of student requests regarding aspects of our Fellowship, alcoholism or attending 'open' AA meetings. On occasion we have foreign visitors paying us a visit and other visits from serving officers or other general enquiries such as literature. The office has a display stand of all the literature that can be purchased and members are given an order form to order this. The office also provides details of events and Conventions. There are also many 12step calls and friends and family calls; these are passed on to the helpline, appropriate contact or AI-Anon.

We are in regular contact with the General Secretary and the General Service Office and communicate items to them such as Regional and Intergroup minutes, reports and updates. We exchange Health and Safety procedures and any general information required. Our reports comprise of regular updates for GSB meetings, our Annual Conference report and Service reports for each discipline for the GSB.

Our staff help out with administration work for events such as the Scottish Parliament, the Annual Scottish Prison Liaison Meeting, the Annual Roundabout Meeting and anything else required.

The Northern Service Office will continue to offer support to the fellowship services, encourage service at all levels and continue to help make the 12 step work possible.

The Northern Service Office has seen a change in Administrator this year. We would like to take this opportunity to pass our thanks and sincere best wishes to Caroline D (our outgoing Administrator) for her much appreciated commitment, hard work and enthusiasm over the past ten years.

The new Administrator, Lorraine M, took up post in December 2011 and is very much looking forward to supporting our Fellowship at Group, Intergroup and Regional level and being part of our ongoing endeavour to provide the best 12th step experience possible.

Southern Service Office Update

Over the past year the staff at SSO have ensured that the office has served our primary purpose to *"make Twelfth Step work possible"* (Trad.8, p 172, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*)

An overview...

SSO as a satellite of GSO exists to aid groups in the London and Southern area in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Communication is key to the effectiveness of SSO as a clearing house for the circulation and exchange of information. The office holds up to date lists of Intergroup and Region assemblies and officers supplied to us from GSO who receive the information direct. Whilst AA groups maintain their own separate contacts with GSO regarding meeting changes, the two offices cooperate with updating the website and publishing the London Where to Find.

SSO provides space for the London Telephone Service. The helpline (020 7833 0022) operates 365 days a year 10am-10pm and in 2011 passed out 1,876 12th step calls to the responder and 12th stepping network. We are on friendly cooperative terms with other AA helpline services around the country should the need arise to pass on or receive a 12th step.

SSO is an ideal contact point for London based professionals in the alcoholism field seeking information or closer cooperation with AA. SSO volunteers and staff responded to over five hundred such calls in 2011 with immediate answers or by passing the request on through the service structure to the appropriate intergroup officer.

A closer look...

- Christmas and New Year: telephone volunteers and SSO Staff work hard to keep up to date with what meetings are on or off at this busy time. Hundreds of calls are made to the London helpline by members of the Fellowship over the holiday and happily volunteers gladly give up their time to come in and answer the phone.
- The London Where to Find (WTF) – Elaine at GSO, (amongst other things) and Ian at SSO are responsible for updating the London AA meetings database (now 800+ a week). This keeps the website and the telephone service desk folders current. The WTF directory is published two or three times a year.
- The AA Presentation at the House of Commons – the SSO administrator will be liaising with GSO regarding label printing and assisting at the reception desk on the day along with members of the AA HoC Committee.
- Hospital Appointment Cards As a result of being contacted by Calco, the printers of many London hospital appointment cards (South Middlesex Intergroup was first with this and put Calco on to SSO) the SSO administration advised the London Intergroup Health Liaison Officers of this potential PI opportunity. A few of the Intergroups have now co-operated with Calco independently to have AA contact details on the back of the hospital appointment cards in their catchment area.
- Public Information requests from outside agencies: Requests from hostels or drug and alcohol centres range from wanting a one-off visit from an AA member with literature to a proper presentation or setting up a regular meeting. SSO staff and/or experienced volunteers pass the information on to the relevant Intergroup PI officer
- Adding professionals to the SSO/GSO database: Telephone calls from professionals in the alcohol field are mostly dealt with by staff. Callers are asked for their details and whether they would be interested in attending public information events held by AA. These are fed to GSO to be added to the list of invitees to the AA presentation at the Houses of Parliament.
- AA & CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS Every Christmas CRISIS, the national charity for single homeless people sets up centres in London to provide shelter over the six days of the holiday. Over the past few years AA members have volunteered to “carry the message” into the centres. The coordination begins in the early Autumn with an AA / CRISIS at Christmas briefing meeting at SSO. Thereafter SSO acts as a communications centre between the AA coordinators and the CRISIS hub. This Christmas a hundred or so AAs carried the message into eight CRISIS Centres spread throughout London.

Responding to requests from within the Fellowship on AA matters

- SSO staff have decades of sobriety and service experience between them. We are occasionally asked to listen to a member's problem at her/his group or intergroup, encourage enthusiastic members with ideas to contact their intergroup etc.

Providing space for quarterly service meetings

- The office meeting area can be booked by service officers of both London Regions for their quarterly service meetings. One advantage is the SSO reference library and up to date guidelines should they need to be consulted. Health, Prisons, Share, Public Information, Employment, Electronic Communications, TLOs all take place here and all their dates are in the calendar for 2012.

Supporting the London Telephone Service

- Holding regular First Monday of the month Telephone Service orientations at the office, where AAs over a year sober learn about the basics and what the two further training sessions comprise. Last year 118 AAs attended the orientation and went on to complete their training. Many went on to become regular telephone service volunteers.
- Hosting the bi-monthly Telephone Liaison Officers' Committee meeting. Business covers how the teams are doing in the office as well as those responsible for the wider network of telephone service volunteers – the Home Responders and 12th steppers. Communication, rotation, training and sponsoring into service are constant topics on the agenda. It is estimated that a thousand volunteers are involved in the London telephone service.
- Posting temporary London meeting changes on the notice board and updating as appropriate.

Coming up...

- **27th July Olympics ... and Paralympics** It is expected that telephone traffic will increase in the run up to and during the Olympic Games with AA members from abroad needing directions to meetings. It is also possible there will be unexpected meeting changes or closures. The 2012 sub-committee of East London Intergroup have hired a venue very close to the Olympic park for the duration of the games where there will be a schedule of daily meetings. Telephone volunteers will be given a map and written directions so they can direct visitors accurately. New A-Zs will be provided and there will be full teams from July onwards.

Open Forum

The final session of Saturday evening was given over to an 'Open Forum' with contributions from the floor ranging over a wide spectrum of AA's service structure.

The evening ended at 10pm with Donnie asking all to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

SUNDAY 22 APRIL

Donnie welcomed everyone to the final session of Conference, asked for a few moments silence, read the Preamble, Declaration of Unity and I am Responsible.

As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded.

Donnie then invited the Chairmen of the six Committees to present their respective reports which were fully discussed and adopted.

These Committee Reports are included in this report on the pages indicated below:

Committee No. 1	Pages	52 - 54
Committee No. 2	Pages	55 - 56
Committee No. 3	Pages	57 - 58
Committee No. 4	Pages	59
Committee No. 5	Pages	60 - 61
Committee No. 6	Pages	62 -63

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR CONFERENCE 2013

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Erik A (Continental European Region) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Sheila D, Chair GSB)

Good morning Conference, my name is Sheila and I am still an alcoholic. Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to Conference this weekend, it's been a happy, positive atmosphere all the way through and I would like to thank Donnie for his Chairmanship, for his honesty and humour, and getting us through to this point this morning.

We have six new Trustees to introduce to you, two of whom are not actually at Conference and they are:

Tom B	-	London Region North
Joe H	-	North East Region

The others at Conference:

Geoff H	-	North West Region
Tom S	-	South East Region
Tom T	-	South West Region
Donnie V	-	East of Scotland Region

As in all areas of service we know that we rotate out and we have three Trustees who are rotating out this time:

John S – Midlands Region who is unable to be with us and we send him our love and we will write to him and thank him for his service on the Board. John has done a lot of work over the

last few years with the Electronic Sub Committee, has been involved in the Website and also with Share magazine. Thank you, John.

Nick R – South West Region has been involved in Public Information in the last four years and I know it has been his intention to take PI back to the Fellowship and encourage the membership to get involved in PI. I had the pleasure of attending the Public Information Seminar at the end of last year and there were lots of ideas that came forward. Thank you, Nick for your service and I will miss your sense of humour.

Jim T – Honorary Treasurer. When Jim took over being Treasurer three years ago, the country, as far as finances were concerned, was in a mess. Obama had just been elected President of the USA and I said to Jim that he was taking over at a similar place, because our finances were not wonderful at the time, in fact a very inclement time, but I think we have done better than Obama. Jim has done sterling work and he has concentrated a lot on communication within the Fellowship. Personally, Jim has been a great support to me with his cool wisdom and thoughtfulness and I will miss him and I know that the Board will. He has struggled backwards and forwards to York, often not feeling well but he has carried out the duties that he felt he had to. We wish you well and thank you.

So, we have our Honorary Treasurer rotating out and we have a new incoming Honorary Treasurer who is Penny A.

I'd like to introduce you, again, to our new General Secretary, Roger B, who started at the beginning of January. He was a Board Trustee when I first came to Conference and was Vice Chair when I joined the General Service Board and we wish him well.

We, as Fellowship members, rotate out and we know that we are going, we say thank you and you are out, but not so with the General Secretary. The General Secretary is an employed post and our current General Secretary, Ann N, is retiring after eight years as General Secretary. Earlier, at the May 2011 Board Meeting, Ann and I, and the Board together, made a little bit of AA history, because we had the first female General Secretary and we had the first female Board Chair for AA and it was also the 200th Board Meeting. It was an honour to be able to do that.

Someone earlier this morning said you take on a job and then you learn how to do it as you go along, and Ann has been a huge support to me, we have been many places together and she has a wonderful way of teaching you how to do things without you realising it.

The relationship between the Chair of the Board and General Secretary is an important one; it's symbiotic and so important. We have been able to work together and I know that I am not the only Chair of the Board that Ann has worked with, she has worked with many Chairs and many Trustees and, I might embarrass her by saying this, she has sometimes talked about it being like 'herding kittens' and I can believe it.

She will be missed and has given an awful lot her time and I didn't realise what the job of General Secretary was like until I came onto the Board and particularly becoming Chair, and even now I only know a tiny bit of what she does. She has answered many letters and queries over the years and no matter what their tone, she always responds with 'Love and Best wishes, Ann'. We wish you well.

Ann thanked the Board for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and went on to say "I have not stopped crying inside since last Thursday when the staff said an official goodbye to me, it is not until every service I have done (and this is not service, I was paid for this) but at the end of the session I think, damn it, I can do it now.

I have had the most positive years of my life in AA and 15 years ago I answered an advert, I think I saw it in Share, for a job at GSO. I thought I can do that, I can type because I had just retired from teaching and I had no idea, exactly the same as I didn't have any idea when I came into AA, what was going to happen to me. I'm going to keep it simple, every Conference has been the best, you're the best because I am getting better day by day and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that experience I really, really do. I won't remember your names but I will remember your faces.

I have to commend to you the Conference Steering Committee, different ones I have seen over the years, working so hard and so dedicatedly to make this possible. The Trustees who have come and gone and I think I might be the only person on earth who knows how hard they work. They are told they have three meetings a year when they first put themselves forward, but don't you believe it for a moment. They work extremely hard on my behalf, your behalf and the Fellowship's behalf.

I must commend to you your staff, the GSO staff, the NSO staff and the SSO staff. They have made me look good, they are the best team, and I'm not going to look at them or I will cry again, and I am going to miss them desperately, and I hope they are going to miss me, but I don't think they will because Roger has taken over my desk from day one, he walked in to the office and sat down in that chair. It's not quite true – I passed it over and thought it best to stand back and he has done a wonderful job since and I have thrown everything possible at him.

Thank you for allowing me to be imperfect, thank you for allowing me to make mistakes and for allowing me to grow in my sobriety. I love you and I love this Fellowship and looking round I am charging you with making sure that this is here for people like me who come through the doors, because I very nearly missed this and I know that, and I am so glad because I would have never met you if I hadn't been in AA, and that's what AA has given me, its given me my life and I thank you for that.

Thank you for the experience and I hope that I have done just a little bit to make life easier for you".

Close of Conference

(Donnie V)

Ladies and gentlemen, I went through my thank you list at the opening of Conference, but if I have forgotten anyone please accept my apologies. I wasn't too sure if I would survive to this stage but here I am, and now I have to bring to a close this wonderful weekend.

You gave me the privilege of being your Conference Chair and for that I will be forever grateful.

Conference, over the past three days I have gone through such a mixture of emotions, first of all there was fear, gratitude and then joy and relief, and now sadness that it's all coming to an end. So what now – we all go home to our groups, our Intergroups and our Regions. We must carry to all of them the experience we have shared here this weekend. The spiritual experience, for that, Conference, is exactly what it has been, a coming together of all for our common welfare. If we do this, Conference, to the best of our ability we cannot fail to attract all who come in contact with us, especially the newcomer.

As Tradition Eleven states, our public relations policy is based on attraction, rather than promotion.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to finish with a quote from our co-founder, Bill, as he addressed the first Conference in Cleveland in 1950 when AA celebrated its 15th year:

“Some day we hope that every alcoholic that journeys will find at his destination the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous”.

Once again thank you for the privilege of service and may God bless you all.

Donnie closed Conference by asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer using the word God as you understand him.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Forty-Eighth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Park Inn, North Street, York on 19-21 April 2013.

FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2012

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIRMAN DEREK W SOUTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY MICHAEL H LONDON REGION NORTH

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. **Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how to make AA more visible to the general public, particularly by increasing awareness and understanding of how the AA programme works?**

The Committee reiterated that carrying the message is the **primary purpose** of the Fellowship, which is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

While remaining within the spirit of Tradition 11 the Committee believes that whereas members of Alcoholics Anonymous ought to remain anonymous, the Fellowship and its message ought not: we are Alcoholics Anonymous and not 'alcoholics invisible'.

The Fellowship needs to raise its public profile, stating that recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous works by following its Twelve Step Programme. The Committee shared experience of PI work and heard many innovative ideas.

The Committee recommends to Groups, Intergroups, Regions and General Service Board the following approaches for further PI work, focusing on the solution not the problem and further recommends that the term Alcoholics Anonymous rather than AA be used in all PI activity. A more focused approach to PI might emphasise that the programme of Alcoholics Anonymous is a spiritual programme.

The Committee recommends that the General Service Board:

1. considers the implications of uploading appropriate AA DVDs to Internet platforms and report to Conference 2013.
2. launches a national awareness campaign using Non Alcoholic Trustees to engage with national and local government, the academic community, health professions and others, with Groups and Intergroups continuing to organise seminars for professionals
3. continues with the optimisation on search engines to maximise Internet hits
4. initiates a feasibility study on an app to incorporate a 'Where to Find' and the fundamentals of the Fellowship (e.g. Preamble, Steps and Traditions) and report back to Conference 2013.
5. takes steps to ensure that AA helplines are easily accessible to all users with telephones and computers
6. revisits the issue of a national listing in the Yellow Pages
7. investigates at the national level the possibility of co-operating with sporting associations with a view to raising the profile of AA.

The Committee recommends that Groups, Intergroups and Regions:

1. work to raise AA's profile in universities, colleges and medical schools during Freshers' weeks
2. In order to target the problem drinker, members might be encouraged to write short articles for local newspapers about Alcoholics Anonymous while preserving their anonymity, within the framework of the local PI team.

The Committee recommends that the General Service Board remains constantly aware of effective PI initiatives in other countries such as the slogan: 'if you want to drink that is your choice, if you want to stop we can help.'

The Committee vote was substantially for with one vote against.

2. Would the Fellowship ask itself the question: "Are there too many meetings and not enough groups?"

The Committee shared experience of the Fellowship asking itself the question: there was some confusion within the Fellowship about the difference between a meeting and a group.

The Committee acknowledged that the Fellowship had undertaken a valuable exercise in considering what a group and a meeting is. The Committee reaffirmed section 25 on page 24 of the pamphlet 'The AA Group', which is 'What is the difference between a meeting and a group?'

The Committee reiterated the value of a strong Home Group and noted that a meeting is but one activity in which a group may engage. A group also (among other things):

1. operate within the full meaning of Tradition Four
2. hold regular group consciences
3. operate within the full meaning of Tradition Seven
4. have effective leadership
5. practise the spirit of AA service (rotation and sponsorship)
6. welcome and nurture newcomers
7. carry out Twelfth Step work
8. become involved in PI activities.

The Committee recognises the value of multi-meeting groups.

The Committee recommends that new groups register with the General Service Office and with their Intergroup and that existing groups reregister similarly on an annual basis.

The Fellowship felt that the answer to the question depends on the definitions used.

The Committee vote was unanimous.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Charlie R of Glasgow Region as Chair of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2013.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Mick D of North West Region as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 1 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority

FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2012

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIRMAN RICKY N LONDON REGION NORTH

SECRETARY CLAIRE B SOUTH EAST REGION

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on how the Telephone Liaison Service and its relationship to Twelfth Step work might be further improved?**

Committee 2, discussed, shared experiences and has made the following recommendations to Conference for consideration:

1. To promote good practice through Workshops and Sponsorship applying Guideline 6.
 2. That the positions of Telephone Responders and 12 Steppers have separate and specific job descriptions.
 3. We recommend that a 'Hints & Tips' card is produced for Telephone Responders by relevant Intergroups.
-
2. **"In view of the need for AA to find further cost savings, would Conference consider...**
 - A) **...whether Service News, Share and Roundabout should be amalgamated into a single paid-for magazine, integrating recovery and service topics.**
 - B) **...if Service News should remain a stand-alone publication, then it should be by paid-for subscription, like Share and Roundabout.**
 - C) **...if Service News is to remain "free", then it should be distributed primarily by email/online, and mailed by post only on request.**

Committee 2 note with regret that the background information was insufficient. After due discussion we recommend that:

- A) AA Service News ought not to be amalgamated with either Share or Roundabout
- B) AA Service News ought to remain a stand-alone publication and remain free.
- C) AA Service News ought to continue to be mailed. AA Service News is already available to download from the AA website.

All votes were unanimous on all recommendations.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Claire B of South East Region as Chair of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2013.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Jens V of Continental Europe Region as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 2 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIRMAN GEOFF H NORTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY DAVE M SOUTH EAST REGION

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. Share experience and make recommendations on involving members without computers in liaison service work e.g. PILO, ELO, HLO.

We accept through shared experience that information technology is being increasingly used by the organisations with whom liaison officers communicate in their service work. The committee felt also that the lack of such resources must not be a hindrance to such individuals or deny them the opportunity of service. Liaison officers who do not have access to a computer, or who consider that they are unable to use them, may continue to use methods of communication such as the telephone, face to face and postal service as well as support and assistance from other members with the necessary equipment and skills.

Shared examples that have been shown to be effective include, using a member to pass emails to and from members without facilities, giving old computers to members without a PC, using facilities at public libraries, working a buddy system to pass on skills and confidence to members, role sharing so computer tasks can be delegated, and printing hard copy of emailed reports.

Unanimous.

2. Would the Fellowship review and re-affirm what constitutes an AA Group, within the Fellowship in Great Britain with specific reference to Traditions 4 – 6?

Having considered and reviewed the question with reference to Traditions 4 to 6, the committee re-affirms that, "what constitutes an AA Group", is contained in existing Conference approved literature i.e. the pamphlet The AA Group, the Traditions, The Home Group : Heartbeat of AA and the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain that states the following from Bill W in Warranty Six : "Much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the AA Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group; no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to AA principles, no fees or dues to be levied – voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from AA – membership always to be the choice of the individual; each AA group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes – it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure AA as a whole; and finally that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that , as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation."

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Michael I of London Region South as Chair of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2013.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Liz W of North East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 3 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2012

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIRMAN MALCOLM M LONDON REGION SOUTH

SECRETARY AVI M LONDON REGION NORTH

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. Review the draft Structure Handbook.

This committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Literature Sub Committee for all the hard work that has been put in over the last year to improve the draft.

This committee approves the draft Structure Handbook subject to the following amendment:

On page 94 of the draft Structure Handbook Section 1 paragraph 4 substitute *'For the rest, Conference can only make suggestions to the Fellowship'* with *'For the rest, Conference can only make suggestions to the Fellowship which the Group conscience is free to accept or reject'*

The committee recommends that the draft Structure Handbook be proof read, checked for inconsistencies and updated to reflect recent Conference decisions before sending to print.

Unanimous

2. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Avi M of London Region North as Chair of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2013.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected John B of North East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 4 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIRMAN ERIK A CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

SECRETARY MICK C LONDON REGION NORTH

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. Inventory Question

Are we using and responding to reports by the General Service Board and Conference to the best of our abilities and for the utmost good of AA as a whole?

This committee agrees that reports from the General Service Board and Conference are not always responded to or used for the utmost good of AA as a whole.

In consideration of the Fellowship's response we offer the following:

- The existing AA Structure, when understood, is adequate to enable the communication of Board and Conference reports
- Apathy and fear are barriers to effective communication and participation which good sponsorship can help address
- It is worth noting that in their reports, the General Service Board and Conference address questions and other matters submitted by the Fellowship

Clear communication of reports throughout the Fellowship is key. We are of the view that members ought to encourage each other to read and take interest in AA reports for which we are all responsible.

Vote: Unanimous

2. With specific regard to the history of our AA service structure, can the Fellowship share experience on how we can best strengthen unity by trusting and valuing the decisions of the group conscience at all levels of the Fellowship?

In consideration of the Fellowship's experience, the view of this committee is that we can best strengthen unity by:

- Understanding the history of AA service structure
- Being part of the group conscience
- Valuing the importance of love, tolerance and the right to participate
- Trusting in a loving God, as we understand Him and as expressed in Tradition 2.

Vote:

16 in favour
0 Against
2 Abstentions

No minority opinions were recorded

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Alex H of East of Scotland Region as Chair of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2013.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Nicki W of Eastern Region as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 5 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIRMAN LIZ G SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY ANDY G MIDLANDS REGION

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make practical suggestions as to how we can highlight the importance, effectiveness and value of Sponsoring into Service?**

This Committee has discussed and agreed the relevance of this question owing to the current lack of service positions being filled throughout the Fellowship. The Committee has shared its experience and agreed the importance of sponsoring members into service. We make the following practical suggestions:

- a) Each group has a visible copy of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.
- b) To consider including a specific meeting or share at their Convention based upon sponsoring into service.
- c) For groups to invite a speaker, on a regular basis, to share their service experience.
- d) To encourage members to submit articles to Share, Roundabout or AA Service News based upon their service experience and how it has enhanced their recovery.
- e) To encourage all groups and members to highlight, in a timely manner, when officers are rotating out of their service position, to allow other members the opportunity to shadow and be sponsored into the role.
- f) Service workshops to be held at all levels and all members informed and encouraged to attend.
- g) To create and display a service saying or slogan e.g. Service Helps Keep You Sober.
- h) Groups at all levels are reminded to hold regular Inventory and Conscience meetings.
- i) The leaflets "Sponsoring: Your Questions Answered" and "Growing into Service" to be reviewed by the Literature Sub Committee as it is the view of this Committee that neither leaflet emphasises Sponsoring into Service.

Unanimous.

2. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how a greater understanding of the Traditions and Concepts of AA might be increased among the Fellowship?

This committee welcomes the question and understands the importance of the Traditions and Concepts within the Fellowship. From our own experience, a greater understanding of both is essential to safeguard the future of AA, to fulfil our primary purpose and lead to a greater unity within the Fellowship.

This Committee recommends:

- a) Maintaining our clearly defined structure for a continuing working relationship between us all (Members, Groups, Intergroups, Regions, GSO & GSB) by referring to the existing literature.
- b) .Groups to consider holding regular Step and Tradition meetings.
- c) Intergroups to consider inviting Board Members to share their experience of service based upon the Traditions and Concepts.
- d) Members to be encouraged to share their experience of service based upon the Traditions and the Concepts.
- e) Groups to consider reading the Traditions at all meetings.
- f) Groups at all levels to consider holding regular Tradition and Concept workshops.
- g) Committees to consider including a specific meeting or share at their Convention based upon the Traditions and Concepts.
- h) Sponsors are encouraged to raise awareness and an understanding of the Traditions and Concepts with their sponsees.
- i) Ensure that Tradition meetings are clearly identified within the Intergroup Where to Find or Meetings list.

Only by having a better understanding will we be able to ask ourselves, at all levels of service, the question; “Are my actions (or those of my Group, Intergroup, Region, Conference and General Service Board) in line with the Traditions and Concepts?”

Unanimous.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Andy G of Midlands Region as Chair of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2013.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2013.

The Committee elected Nick B of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2013.

All recommendations on Committee No. 6 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2012

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: DONNIE V (East of Scotland Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Sheila	D		
John	A	3	
Penny	A	4	
Martin	B	5	
Winnie	C	2	
Del	H	6	
Wullie	I	5	
Brian	L	2	
Willie	MacD	4	
Robert	M	6	
Nick	R	1	
Tom	S	3	
Jim	T	6	
Tom	T (Elect)	4	
Tim	W-M	2	
Phil	W	1	
Ash Kahn		5	
Paul Myles		3	
Martin Weegmann		1	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ann N General Secretary
Roger B General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Chris North
Angela Varley
Karen Martin
Jenny Pryke
Lorraine M (Northern Service Office)

SHARE

Jean	McQ	6	3
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ROUNDBOUT

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Carol	P	1	1
Helen	S	2	2
Charles	I	3	1
Jim	F	4	3
Nicki	W	5	1
Gloria	R	6	2

LONDON REGION NORTH

Michael	H	1	3
Ricky	N	2	3
Michael	S	3	3
Avi	M	4	2
Mick	C	5	3
Gregory	M	6	1

LONDON REGION SOUTH

Robert	B	1	2
Craig	F	2	A
Michael	I	3	2
Malcolm	M	4	3
Bob	N	5	3
Simon	H	6	3

MIDLANDS REGION

Michael	G	1	A
Elaine	E	2	2
Neal	C	3	3
Jack	B	4	1
Anita	S	5	3
Andy	G	6	2

NORTH EAST REGION

Neil	W	1	2
Roger	R	2	2
Liz	W	3	1
John	B	4	1
John	W	5	3
John	W	6	3

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER****TERM OF
SERVICE****NORTH WEST REGION**

Mick	D	1	1
Pauline	J	2	2
Geoff	H	3	3
Mike	W	4	3
Denise	H	5	3
Maxine	J	6	1

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek	W	1	3
Claire	B	2	2
David	M	3	2
Chris	E	4	2
Sue	M	5	1
Nick	B	6	1

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Dave	W	1	2
John	N	2	2
Kevin	A	3	2
Brian	J	4	2
Dave	B	5	A
Chris	D	6	2

SOUTH WEST REGION

Ross	G	1	2
Pauline	M	2	1
Gloria	P-B	3	A
Dave	S	4	1
Adam	D	5	1
Liz	G	6	2

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Adrian	K	1	1
Dee	L	2	A
Kelvyn	J	3	1
Keith	D	4	1
John	H	5	1
Paula	G	6	2

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Colin	M	1	2
Dave	S	2	1
Norman	B	3	2
Tommy	M	4	1
Alex	H	5	2
Ellen	L	6	2

GLASGOW REGION

Charlie	R	1	2
Jim	T	2	1
John	D	3	1
Alastair	McC	4	2
Gerry	Mac	5	2
Pat	McG	6	2

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

		1	
Sandy	McV	2	2
Gordon	S	3	3
Kim	G	4	2
Donald	MacE	5	1
Val	McK	6	1

SCOTIA REGION

Davie	D	1	1
Stuart	W	2	3
Margaret	R	3	1
Simon	C	4	2
Stevie	S	5	3
Jamie	B	6	1

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Isobel	G	1	A
Joan	P	2	3
Ian	M	3	2
Henry	H	4	2
Richard	L	5	1
Cathy	W	6	3

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Nicola	K	1	3
Jens	V	2	2
Evyan	D	3	2
Mary Kay	F	4	3
Erik	A	5	3
Marketa	K	6	1

OBSERVERS

Manu	K	(Belgium – Flemish Speaking)	1	2
Michal	S	(Czech Republic)	5	2
Bhalla	S K	(India)	4	1
Helen	H	(Ireland)	3	1
Martin	L	(Ireland)	5	1
Piotr	H	(Poland)	2	2
Witold	D	(Poland)	4	1
Virginia	P	(Portugal)	2	1
Liviu	D	(Romania)	1	1
Kris	S	(Slovakia)	3	1

Glossary of Abbreviations used in this report

AA	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
AASN	-	<i>AA Service News</i>
AAWS	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
ASL	-	<i>American Sign Language</i>
ASLO	-	<i>Armed Services Liaison Officer</i>
BSL	-	<i>British Sign Language</i>
CER	-	<i>Continental European Region</i>
CSC	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
DAAT	-	<i>Drug and Alcohol Teams</i>
ECLO	-	<i>Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
ECSC	-	<i>Electronic Communication Sub Committee</i>
ELO	-	<i>Employment Liaison Officer</i>
ESM	-	<i>European Service Meeting</i>
GSB	-	<i>General Service Board</i>
GSO	-	<i>General Service Office</i>
GSR	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
HLO	-	<i>Health Liaison Officer</i>
HSC	-	<i>Health Sub Committee</i>
NAT	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
NHS	-	<i>National Health Service</i>
NNC	-	<i>Northern National Convention</i>
NOMS	-	<i>National Offender Management Service</i>
NSO	-	<i>Northern Service Office</i>
ORS	-	<i>Online Response Service</i>
PI	-	<i>Public Information</i>
PLO	-	<i>Prison Liaison Officer</i>
PPS	-	<i>Prison Postal Service</i>
PR	-	<i>Public Relations</i>
P/SS	-	<i>Probation/Social Services</i>
RECLLO	-	<i>Regional Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
RELO	-	<i>Regional Employment Liaison Officer</i>
RTLO	-	<i>Regional Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
SSASM	-	<i>Sub Saharan Africa Service Meeting</i>
SSO	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
TLO	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
TOR	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>

The Twelve Traditions

1 Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

2 For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

3 The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

4 Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

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

6 An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7 Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8 Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.

9 A.A., as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10 Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name never be drawn into public controversy.

11 Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

12 Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

