

Winter 2024

# AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



## Questions for Conference 2025

# 12 Traditions Checklist

**“10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.**

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an “AA opinion” on Antabuse? Tranquilisers?
2. Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Prisons? Alcohol? The Government? Legalising marijuana? Vitamins? AI-Anon? Alateen?
3. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the “AA opinion”?
4. What in AA history gave rise to our Tradition 10?
5. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
6. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
7. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
8. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?”



# AA Service News

Welcome to the Winter Edition of AA Service News.

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

## Share Your Service Experience!

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from **you!**



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# AA Service News

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**What's Happening in Your intergroup and region? Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to:**

**[aainformation@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk)**

**Picture credits, thanks to:  
AAGB Image Bank**

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

# Conference 2024 Literature Update

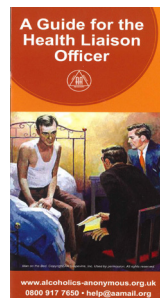
The following new literature items were approved at Conference 2024 and are now available from the General Service Office:



**AA as a Resource for Criminal Justice Professionals**  
*Item code: 2288 - 80p*



**Now that I am an Employment Liaison Officer**  
*Item code: 3102 - 80p*



**A Guide for the Health Liaison Officer**  
*Item code: 3071 - 80p*

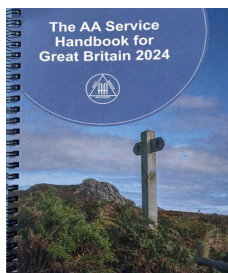


**Does anyone else look like me in AA**  
*Item code: 3082 - free of charge*



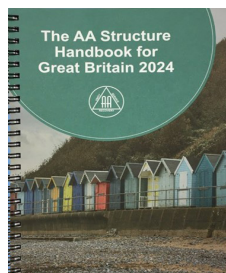
**Little Book 2**  
*Item code 3800 - £1*

The Service and Structure Handbooks with the Conference 2024 updates are now available:



**The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain**

*Item code: 3370  
free of charge*



**The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain**

*Item code: 3375  
free of charge*

Visit the online Shop <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/shop/> or use the 2024/25 Price List & Order Form

**CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Conference 2025**

**Alternate Chair's Report**

Hi, my name is Richard and I'm an alcoholic.

It has been my great privilege to be voted by my Delegate peers on Committee 6 at Conference this year to be the Chair of the Committee for Conference 2025. I am blessed to also be Alternate Chair of Conference for 2025 and honoured to be able to represent the Conference Steering Committee with this report and a subsequent report which will be published in the Spring 2025 AA Service News prior to Conference.

### **What is the Conference Steering Committee (CSC)?**

The CSC consists of The Conference Chair elected at the end of each Conference by the Conference Delegates - Alison F – East of Scotland and the six Committee chairs elected by the Delegates on each Committee

- Committee 1 – Patrick R – London North
- Committee 2 – Phil E – Scotia
- Committee 3 – Pragnya G – South Midlands
- Committee 4 – Rachel D – London South
- Committee 5 – Heather G – Southwest
- Committee 6 – Richard PS – Southwest
- Conference Coordinator - Sharon Smyth
- Two Board Trustees
  - Angela S – PI & E Comms – Northwest
  - Hamish McS – Probation – East of Scotland
- The General Secretary of AA GB - Ranjan B

Other than permanent members of the CSC, the General Secretary and the Conference Coordinator (the board Trustees are rotated), it's members will serve on the CSC for one year unless they are elected Conference Chair. Hence each CSC is unique.

The first meeting of the CSC for 2025 Conference was held on Zoom on 17th May 2024.

The meeting began with the very sad news of the passing of Tom Fox, Non-Alcoholic Trustee, with whom it had been my great pleasure to work on Committee 6 at Conference 2024. He will be sorely missed.

As per it's Terms of Reference each CSC chooses a Secretary to take minutes and an Alternate Chair. It was suggested both roles maybe carried out by one person. I put myself forward and this was uncontested.

The CSC (Only Committee chairs and Conference Chair) voted to accept two Trustees to sit and vote with them. This followed CSC 2023 selecting 2 trustees on consideration of Conference 2023 Committee 1, Question 2 outcome which amongst other points stated: 'Reduce board representation on the CSC from two trustees to one trustee – General Secretary to remain'. The recommendation passed with a simple majority, this means it need not be actioned (a two-thirds majority means that the Board are to carry out the recommendation unless to do so would harm the Fellowship).

## What are the main purposes of the CSC?

The CSC exists to

1. Select Questions for Conference from submissions from the Fellowship.
2. Oversee the agenda and other arrangements for Conference.
3. Be cognisant of the progress of recommendations from the previous Conference.
4. Act as the conscience of the Fellowship in moments of extremity if Conference cannot take place (e.g. during Covid).

This year 85 questions were submitted, up from the 50 the previous year, in part consequent to the template produced by the working group tasked by Committee 2 Question 2 Conference 2023 to improve the Conference process, published in AA Service News Summer 2024 (p30).

These 85 needed to be whittled down to 11. Last year it was 12, but as you'll note from the 2024/2025 Questions in this issue, Committee 6, Question 2 is a large literature question which is a rewrite of an entire chapter of the AA Service Manual for GB, therefore its size justifies it being considered as a question.

This task was both enjoyable and intensive. Each question was assessed for qualification against the CSC Terms of Reference prior to a two-day meeting in York on 7th and 8th September. Reading through all these questions it is hard not to form an opinion on them. The CSC's remit is to decide whether a question is a suitable Question for Conference and not to answer it.

Many of the questions were repeated (many word for word and many in theme or intention). With these we reviewed them as a whole and if deemed a good question, accepted them all as a 'composite rewrite' into one question maintaining the spirit of the originals and making it clear exactly what question needs answering.

Other questions were accepted with the need for a slight adjustment in wording, some questions were 'maybes', some were referred straight for action as they didn't need to be a question and could be resolved by the General Service Board, and some were not accepted.

After two days, one question was accepted as written; seven questions accepted with the need to reword or composite (these were assigned to pairs of the Committee chairs to action); Sharon was asked to request more detail and clarification from the questioner for one question and two questions were 'maybes'.

The next meeting was held on 4th and 5th of October 2024 in York. The composites and reworded questions were reviewed to ensure their wording and context were clear and could be answered by the Fellowship and Conference. This gave us nine questions. On review of the 'maybes', both

were reworded and accepted, making eleven questions. Nine literature questions/reviews were also added taking the total question count to twenty which were randomly assigned across the Committees. No Committee chair chose any of their questions.

## CSC Approach – Openness and Transparency

While reviewing the questions a few themes cropped up which the CSC addressed.

The CSC deliberations are confidential out of necessity of not discussing the questions outside of the CSC prior to the release of the questions to remove potential attempts to influence it's decisions. As a result, some members intimate a lack of transparency and openness around the process. This can be further exaggerated with regards to the way questions not accepted are responded to, short with little detail. So, fuller explanations to questions not accepted will be given and published. This task is assigned to the Committee chair pairings and will be published on the AA GB website.

On review there were a few common themes:

- Misconceptions as to the workings of the Fellowship and the Charity.
- Background and history on certain subjects seem to be confused and not understood (in some cases).
- The Service and Structure Handbooks had not always been updated in line with changes in practices, this may be misleading and so drive a question.
- Outcomes of CSC decisions are not always visible and tracked through to completion.
- The Conference Matrix is unavailable to the Fellowship.
- Mistrust towards to the Board, a sense of 'them and us'. (To this alcoholic, this attitude sits apart from the We, Us, Unity and Trusted Servants which are very much central to my membership of this Fellowship and my recovery as an alcoholic!).

The CSC felt these areas should be addressed as a forum, our strong hope is that some of these activities become part of the CSC Terms of Reference and become common practice, and others are just adopted as good practice by future CSCs.

The CSC proposed remedies to these perceived issues are:

- With the General Secretary, the Alternate Chair is to write a report for AA Service News Spring 2025, which explains some of the commonly held misconceptions to help inform future questions.
- Publication of the Conference Matrix.

The Alternate Chair's report is also printed in full in both the AA Service News and the final Conference Report which is sent out to members who are registered as GSRs or in service at Intergroups or Regions.

## What is the Conference Matrix?

Every Conference produces a list of recommendations. The Conference Matrix precis these Conference recommendations and highlights their realm of responsibility i.e. The Board, GSO or the Fellowship. The CSC will publish this with Questions for Conference in AASN. The CSC is

informed as to progress made in carrying out these recommendations by the appropriate service arm.

## One final note...

Trusted servants! The Board! Our Trustees have all been Conference Delegates for their Regions (it's one of the criteria for being a Trustee), most have been Chairs of the Committees they were on, some have even been Alternate Chair or Chair of Conference, they have served the Fellowship (and continue to do so) in so many ways, this is why they become the members that Regions choose to put forward as their most trusted servants to become Trustees.

I would like to share one of my many defects of character with you. I would like to think I could call it an old behaviour, but I can't, it lurks, and I have ensure that I am wary of it when checking my motives: I sometimes look at people I perceive to be on a pedestal, and I want to knock them off, regardless of whether I put them there.

Working with Board Trustees, the General Secretary and staff at GSO really is to immerse oneself in the very heart of AA service, they all, without exception, love our fellowship and work tirelessly to ensure that they do their very best in service to all of us. There is no them and us, there is only us and we, as it should be. Recovery, Service and Unity.

**LiF,**  
**Richard PS**  
**Alternative Chair Conference 2025**





# Questions for Conference 2025

## Introduction

Every year, AA Service News presents Questions for Conference. These questions have been raised by the Fellowship and selected by the Fellowship for discussion and resolution by the Fellowship at the annual AA Great Britain (AAGB) Conference. Conference is due to be held in York on April 11-13th 2025. This is your opportunity to read the questions and voice your opinions to your conference delegates, group, intergroup and region over how AA works.

Please consider the contribution each question has in carrying the message together with any financial and practical implications.

Conference questions and background information is available from the AA Great Britain website 'Document Library'. <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Document-Library>

## Committee No. 1

- 1. On behalf of our Online AA meeting, we are writing to request a definition of 'Cross Sharing' to be read out at meetings. The reason for this is that it has become a popular phrase in meetings in our region, yet there is not clear understanding of what this means. This has led to some people thinking that they cannot relate to a concept or theme that another person has shared in the meeting. When we have discussed this as a group, members offer up many different interpretations. We do not want a misinterpretation to inhibit member's connections and shares in meetings. Yet we are sensitive to people in meetings telling others what to do or commenting on the quality of that other person's recovery.**

As such, we contacted the AA head office (AAInformation@gsogb.org.uk) to request any literature that may exist on cross-sharing. This was the response to our question:

### **"Cross Sharing"**

The phrase 'cross sharing' seems to be coming into common parlance in AA however, it is not contained in any AA literature nor does GSO have any interpretation of its meaning or any knowledge of the origin of the phrase. I believe it would be useful if the Fellowship could come to some conclusion on this and similar issues which of course could only happen at AA's Conference. I would like to suggest that your Intergroup draft a question for Conference on this issue to be received at GSO before the end of August 2024, unfortunately, it is too late for the 2024 Conference. It is up to the conscience of each group how it handles matters such as these.

We believe that groups, as a whole, would benefit from having this definition at hand so that the quality of sharing is in the spirit of recovery and fellowship.

## 2. What guidance can Conference provide to ensure the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous are truly open to all those who have a desire to stop drinking - regardless of problems other than alcohol?

Many people come to the Fellowship with other problems especially addictions.

Some groups are concerned that we may be creating barriers to recovery for multi-addicted sufferers. They feel we may not be sufficiently welcoming to them as a solution to their problems, if we have an overly restrictive interpretation of the Third Tradition.

Other groups find that when some members identify only as an addict it is very concerning and confusing for a new member coming in with only a drink problem, particularly at closed meetings.

Some Fellowship experience suggests that newcomers with multiple issues are being put off our Fellowship as they are not hearing that the desire to stop drinking regardless of your other issues and afflictions is what unites members. They are hearing 'you are not welcome here unless your problem is solely with alcohol.'

### **Background**

The Third Tradition states: 'Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, they have no other affiliations'

*"In my experience this is being interpreted, in many instances, that all discussions within the Fellowship should be so restricted to our problems with alcohol such that no other matters should be discussed or considered. Whilst this rightly preserves our Primary Purpose, it doesn't reflect the wider norms in society where many (primarily younger) people are using alcohol and other substances on an interchangeable and a combined basis. This is most evident when carrying the message into hospitals and rehabs."*

*"We had a heated group conscience at my home group and the old timers voted that we introduce ourselves as Alcoholics or Alcoholic / Addict if they needed to. Other members voted to only say Addict and drop the Alcoholic. This is a very serious issue now, we are not NA or CA but AA trying to stay within the traditions of the AA programme."*

*"Someone who suffers with alcoholism and who identifies as an alcoholic, especially the first time, is sending out a plea for help which is an important aspect to staying sober."*

Tradition 3 "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

### **Background - Information/Materials**

Problems Other Than Alcohol Pamphlet (item 3180 - Literature Downloads/ Document Library/ Members Section/AA GB Website)

The AA Member - Medications & Other Drugs Pamphlet (item 3140 - as above)

Twelve Steps and 12 Traditions - Traditions Three and Five

Twelve Steps and 12 Traditions - Twelve Traditions (Long Form) Traditions 3 & 5

Primary Purpose Card (meeting opening statements) – aka The Blue Card

NB This question, or forms of this question, have been submitted by several members independently and the Conference Steering Committee felt that this was an important question for the fellowship to answer. Therefore, a composite of those submitted questions has been drafted into this question by the Conference Steering Committee.

**3. Review new Service Positions Executive Summary for the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.**

***Background***

Service Positions Executive Summary

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

**4. Review revised Chapter 10 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain – Telephone Services.**

***Background***

Revised Chapter 10

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

## **Committee No. 2**

**1. Can the Fellowship consider inclusivity and add clarity as it relates to special interest groups within the AA structure, so we remain within our traditions?**

***Background***

In the past (before large scale online groups and with meeting lists generally printed) many groups such as a Women's group, a Men's group, an LGBTQIA+ group etc. often had the wording "non-restrictive".

Since the 2020 lockdown hundreds of online groups appeared, with a greater tendency towards more special interest groups.

Managing these listings and creating awareness amongst the younger-sober fellowship in particular has proved a challenge to some of the guiding principles of unity and inclusivity in AA.

A male RECLO was ejected from the waiting room of a women's group even though his entire AA service title was on the screen, contrary to the principles of AA. Cases of foreign visitors asking if they would be welcome at a certain type of meeting because the meeting's name suggested a demographic they didn't fit. This suggests that it is more to do with the wording in the meeting listing rather than the intent of the group.

Some of these groups are currently still listed on AA platforms.

Other special interest groups have always existed, including doctors or lawyers meetings, but

they are not listed on any AA platform because they are exclusive. In the modern age there are many social media outlets that may accommodate such groups without affecting AAGB listings, so long as they are not part of the AA structure and do not take Tradition 7 contributions on behalf of the fellowship.

**References:**

Starting a Group:

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members/aa-meetings/starting-a-new-group/>

Tradition 1

Tradition 3

Tradition 4

Tradition 10

**2. Would the fellowship and conference please advise if they believe that the terms Open and Closed should be changed?**

**If yes, what should they be changed to?**

**Would the fellowship consider if meeting finders should be updated with notes defining what Open and Closed or the new terms mean?**

***Background***

It has been suggested by newcomers/the still suffering alcoholic and visitors, that these terms can create confusion when searching for a meeting.

As members, we can often assume that some terms and the way AA functions at group level is clear and obvious. Perhaps through our Primary Purpose we have a responsibility to make attending meetings slightly less confusing e.g. meetings are held weekly but visitors can attend once a month on the 3rd Thursday, rather than meetings are Open once a month.

A suggested alternative to Open and Closed could be Private and Public and we are sure there are many other alternatives which would work well that the Fellowship can share?

Traditions 1,2, 3 and 3 long form, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10,11,12.

Concepts 2 & 4

The AA Group AAGB product code 3270

Primary Purpose Card (blue card) product code 4014

**AA GB Website – Members section: About AA Meetings**

**Open meetings** are open to non-alcoholics too, such as family and friends supporting a loved one.

**Closed Meetings** are limited to alcoholics and those who think or know they have a problem with drinking.

**AA GB Structure Handbook – page 100 Group Meetings**

**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.

NB This question, or forms of this question, have been submitted by several members independently and the Conference Steering Committee felt that this was an important question for the fellowship to answer. Therefore, a composite of those submitted questions has been drafted into this question by the Conference Steering Committee.

**3. Review revised Introduction, Point 3 – What professionals have said about Alcoholics Anonymous, AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.**

***Background***

Revised What professionals have said about Alcoholics Anonymous  
[Link : https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/)

**4. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 6 (Health), Point 6.13 - Alcoholics Anonymous/12-Step Facilitation (AA/TSF) NICE Recommendation and Cochrane Evidence Review**

***Background***

Alcoholics Anonymous/12-Step Facilitation (AA/TSF) NICE Recommendation and Cochrane Evidence Review  
[Link : https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/)

## **Committee No. 3**

**1. Would Conference recommend creating a new leaflet explaining the use of the language in the Big Book and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the historical period it was written.**

***Background***

Examples in the BB include the use of the word God.  
Use of language in the chapters "To Wives" and "The Family Afterwards".  
Examples in the 12 and 12  
Use of "men" and "boys".  
Tradition 3

**2. Would Conference consider recommending changing the terms of service for positions within intergroup and region, to attract more members into service by increasing or decreasing the term.**

***Background***

Currently the recommendations are for lesser periods. In the case of intergroup it is minimum 2 years and maximum 3 years, and for region a maximum of 3 years.

It has become more difficult to fill service positions at these levels and although rotation is a very good practice which should be maintained, the period of years in post at present leaves many positions vacant.

The intention of this question is to make best use of the experience and commitment of members currently involved in service, whilst encouraging more members to be inspired by their example and come forward to take up service positions.

Traditions 1, 4, 7 & 9 Long form.

- 3. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Introduction, New Point 5 – for the new Appendix – the former Chapter 4.**

#### ***Background***

New Point 5 – for the new Appendix – the former Chapter 4

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

- 4. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 13, Publications new section 13.6 Literature.**

#### ***Background***

New Section 13.6 Literature

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

## **Committee No. 4**

- 1. Would the Fellowship discuss how to improve our common welfare at all levels of AAGB and encourage groups to seek their own conscience in regard of the safeguarding guidance when an issue arises, e.g.**
  - a. outside the law**
  - b. within the law**
  - c. if someone feels they have been falsely accused**

#### ***Background***

Traditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

#### **Safeguarding Policy (GSB)**

**Safeguarding Policy (GSB) - Alcoholics Anonymous ([alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk))**

#### **Safeguarding and Personal Conduct Version 2**

**Safeguarding and Personal Conduct Version 2 - Alcoholics Anonymous ([alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk))**

NB This question, or forms of this question, have been submitted by several members

independently and the Conference Steering Committee felt that this was an important question for the fellowship to answer. Therefore, a composite of those submitted questions has been drafted into this question by the Conference Steering Committee.

**2. a. Can Conference review the use of the phrase “men for men and women for women” in the ‘Sponsorship: Your questions answered’ pamphlet, and make recommendations?**

Would Conference recommend changing the wording in the pamphlet to the wording used in The Structure Handbook “A man for a man, and a woman for a woman has often been suggested as working best. Today, however, we recognise that sexual and/or romantic attraction, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, can be problematic and may create safeguarding issues.”

**b. Would Conference recommend producing a card, for groups to read out when a newcomer is attending, giving guidance around seeking help/sponsorship from members within the Fellowship?**

***Background***

a. The Structure Handbook, The New Member 7.1 Sponsorship P118 says “A man for a man, and a woman for a woman has often been suggested as working best. Today, however, we recognise that sexual and/or romantic attraction, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, can be problematic and may create safeguarding issues.”

b. Our home group and other meetings in our town have had some really bad experiences with certain older members hitting on, harassing, unsettling, and generally behaving inappropriately towards newcomers - often people who are vulnerable and attending their first or second meeting. This applies to both sexes but primarily towards young females.

We have become much more aware of this since the fellowship has addressed safeguarding. Members have said that the Safeguarding Statement, which talks about “within” or “outside the law”, is unclear and confusing, and worries some newcomers. A new card could give complete newcomers some valuable advice in the first few days - possibly before they’ve even spoken to anyone - while they begin to navigate the rooms.

**Literature already available to groups in card form:**

**Safeguarding in AA** Table Topper

**Safeguarding in AA** card contained within the newcomers pack as a table topper

The pamphlet to align with changes.

**Safeguarding in AA**

This group wants all members, whether new or long-standing,  
to be kept safe while participating in meetings and other AA activities.

We seek to follow the recommendations in our AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain  
(The Group, Section 5)

**None of us is above the law.  
If an issue is within the law, our Traditions apply;  
if outside the law, then contact outside agencies**

### **Safeguarding in AA**

Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain has a policy on safeguarding, which individual groups are recommended to follow. This is to ensure that new and long-standing members alike do not suffer harm from actions by members or non-members while participating in AA activity.

If something feels wrong, it is suggested to discuss the matter with another member, a Group officer, or consult our AA Structure Handbook for GB, (The Group, Section 5) for guidance.

If the issue is within the law, our Traditions apply; if outside the law, then contact outside agencies.

#### **Safeguarding section in Structure Handbook**

Group – P115 - 122

Annex C P196

#### **Website – Document Library**

Safeguarding Policy

### **3. Review revised AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 3 – AA and Electronic Communications**

#### **Background**

Revised Chapter 3 – AA and Electronic Communications

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

### **4. Review AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, The General Service Board page 162, add new paragraph between the part paragraph at the top of page before the first full paragraph.**

#### ***Background***

New paragraph to be inserted on page 162

**Link :** <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

## **Committee No. 5**

### **1. Would the fellowship consider the creation of a video which is aimed at encouraging Men into AA. This would complement the suite of videos already available for Women, Armed Forces, People of Colour, Bluelight Services and LGBTQIA+.**

#### ***Background***

A video explaining AA to men will be invaluable in helping to encourage them to seek support



offered by the fellowship. As in the other videos we can show that AA is welcoming to all who wish to stop drinking.

The AA Survey (2020) shows that just over 50% of our membership are men.

Stats describing the disproportionality of alcohol abuse for men.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/drugusealcoholandsmoking/datasets/adultdrinkinghabits>

Directly addressing alcoholism with a focus on a male perspective will help men to identify with AA and encourage them to attend an AA meeting.

The cost should be in line with the other videos already produced.

The hope is we can offer those men who are still suffering a way to easily identify and understand AA in a way that will encourage them to come to a meeting.

Tradition 5.

## **2. Would the Fellowship discuss and offer experience of the use of the 'Pink Form' and suggest ways for groups to more regularly update their group information.**

### ***Background***

The Pink Form was and is most likely still the primary tool by which meeting information is kept up to date on the website's meeting finder section.

While some 'older' members are likely to be aware that the original paper 'Pink Form' was actually a pink form, and the term is still used as such, perhaps now that we are operating in the more digital world, the term has become somewhat 'lost in translation'. A more modern reference is now required. Perhaps something as simple as the 'Add or Update Meeting Information' facility.

Extract from the AA Structure Handbook/The Group/Where to find AA (p103 - new edition):

*"In order to ensure that it remains accurate, all groups ought to update their pink forms annually. Keeping the WTF up to date is not simply an administrative exercise. Keeping the WTF up to date is an integral part of carrying the message within the fellowship. There has to be a deep understanding that making it "easy to find" is an essential tool of recovery".*

## **3. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Old Chapter 4 now Appendix (TBA): For AA Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.**

### ***Background***

Appendix (TBA): For AA Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

[Link : https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/)

## Committee No. 6

1. Would the Fellowship share its experience on how our message of recovery can be carried to online platforms such as:

YouTube  
Instagram  
TikTok  
Facebook  
Snapchat  
Twitch  
Vimeo

Whilst remaining faithful to our Traditions.

### *Background*

Tradition 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12

2. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 1 – Public Information.

### *Background*

Revised Chapter 1 – Public Information

Link : <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

Please consider the contribution each question has in carrying the message together with any financial and practical implications

## Literature Items to be presented in plenary session:

Draft 'Mental Health' Pamphlet

Link : <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

Draft 'AA in Prisons' Pamphlet

Link : <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

Professional Leaflet Series 'Employment'.

Link : <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

'A brief guide to AA' (item code 3540)

Link : <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/conference2025/>

## Conference 2024/5 Matrix

Committee/question	Recommendation	Responsibility	
<b>C1</b> Q1	Overhaul of Service structure	Fellowship	Group consciences on how they perform service
Q2	No Online Observers –		
<b>C2</b> Q1	Working Group Step 9 Simple Majority	Board?	Board conscience not to have Working Group
Q2	Forum for aamail.org	GSB	PI Sub-Com to investigate
Q3	Structure Handbook Introduction	GSO	Change to be made by staff; on website and printing of new edition
<b>C3</b> Q1	Autonomous formation of Online Intergroup	Fellowship	Groups to create IGs according to their own collective conscience
Q2	Importance of Rotation	Fellowship	Groups' consciences interrogate their practice of rotation in each
Q3	Revision Service Handbook Chapter 9	GSO	Change to be made by staff; on website and printing of new edition
<b>C4</b> Q1	Amend Service Handbook Intro, appendix; pamphlet summary	GSO, GSB Lit Com	Change to be made by staff; on website and printing of new edition;
Q2	New LGBTQAI++ pamphlet	GSB Inclusivity Comm (by 2026)	Working Group to research and write new pamphlet
<b>C5</b> Q1	Group Conscience Anonymity	Fellowship	Groups to interrogate their consciences on anonymity
Q2	Creation of GB Big Book	GSB Lit Comm	Working Group created – interim report to conference 2025
<b>C6</b> Q1	Consider AAGB App as part of Web services	GSB	PI-EComm SC to look into viability
Q2	Service Online pack /podcast; workshops	GSB; Fellowship	Sub-committees to develop better online resources for each discipline; Groups to run relevant workshops
Q3	AA Publications Chapter Service HB	GSO	Change to be made by staff; on website and printing of new edition
<b>Literature</b>	AA as Resource for Criminal Justice... Does anyone else look like...? Now that I am an ELO A Guide for the HLO Little Book 2	Literature Sub-committee to write the new publications	

Conference Matrix is an at-a-glance guide for the Board and CSC to follow over the course of the year and not a tool of governance.

# Get your story published in the new AAGB edition of the Big Book

Conference 2024 approved the publication of a new edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous with an updated story section to better reflect the fellowship in AA Great Britain and Continental Europe (AAGB) (GSC 2024, Committee 5, Q2).

All members who have got sober within AAGB are now invited to submit their story to the Big Book Working Group. Submissions meeting the following criteria will be considered for publication:

- **Structure:** Describe your alcoholism, outline the progression of your disease, tell the reader how you found Alcoholics Anonymous and how you are now living life sober by recovering through the AA programme.
- **Format:** Submit your document as a Word document, (.doc or .docx) and as a guide 2500-3500 words in length. In line with our tradition of anonymity, do not indicate your name in the file name or in the document itself.
- **Demographics:** Only stories of members who got sober in the geographical area served by AAGB, which includes Great Britain and English-Speaking Continental Europe, will be considered. We welcome stories from individuals from various backgrounds.
- **Suggested Sobriety:** 12 months
- **Singleness of purpose:** The stories that will be considered for inclusion in the AAGB edition of the Big Book will focus on alcoholism and the recovery of alcoholism through the AA programme. AA has no opinion on outside issues.
- **Submission:** Please email your manuscript to the Big Book Working Group no later than 1 April 2025 to [trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk) or send them to: General Service Office (GSO), Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 10, Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

If your story is accepted for inclusion, the Working Group reserves the right to make small editorial changes (grammar, punctuation, language) but will still retain the original voice of the author. The Big Book Working Group will be in contact with authors once a decision has been made. This is likely to be a lengthy process.

## Thank YOU

# FROSC at the Southern National

This year the Southern National Convention kindly invited the **First Response Online Sub-Committee (FROSC)** to attend the convention on 20th to 22nd September. We were delighted to be invited and given an opportunity to carry the message about our two online response services and the need for new responders.

On the Friday we set up our stand near the main hall, which included banners, information and flyers about the two services. Chat Now is the live chat service which can be found on the AAGB website homepage, and the Online Response Service is the email service, using [help@aamail.org](mailto:help@aamail.org). Both are services for the newcomer reaching out for help. Members came to chat with us throughout the weekend to ask questions and take information away for themselves or their group members.

On the Saturday afternoon we were given a slot on the program to hold a workshop for members to attend to learn more about the two services. Holly A (Trustee for FROSC) and myself, Sam H (Sub-Committee member & Chat Now Administrator), ran the workshop where we explained more about where the services sit in the structure and what they are about. Chat Now and the Online Response Service are administered by The General

Service Board, via FROSC, and are therefore not represented at groups, intergroups and regions. This highlights how important it is for us to carry the message that these services exist, and to explain that due to rotation we need new responders. Afterwards we had a Q&A session and lots of questions were asked, and flyers were taken. Around 20-30 people attended the workshop, which made it a great success, thank you all!

On the Sunday we were able to distribute leaflets on seats before the spiritual meeting for members to take away for their groups.

We felt there was a good level of interest in the services. We would like to express our gratitude to the SNC Committee for inviting us and assisting us in carrying the message about these vital first response services.

If anyone is interested in being a responder to help the still suffering alcoholic coming into AA via either of these online response services, please email our FROSC Secretary on: [secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org](mailto:secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org) for a job description and an application form.

**Sam H**  
**First Response Online Sub Committee**

# Alcohol and Older People – A Silent Epidemic

Were you aware that since we are all living longer, problem drinking in older people is on the rise and a 'silent epidemic' has been developing!

## Take the story of 'Granny Smith' and her tragic death...

'Granny Annie Smith' (not her real name) was 86 years old, widowed, living alone, neglected, malnourished and taking large doses of strong painkillers for severe arthritis. Family and friends used to bring her alcohol from the Off-licence and supermarket. One bitterly cold Monday in the middle of winter, Annie had spent most of the day in bed so as to save on heating bills. She had been drinking brandy alone to 'warm her up.' Alcohol actually causes a fall in body temperature and can induce hypothermia. Older people are especially vulnerable to alcohol, due to this misapprehension, particularly in winter.

As she came downstairs in the afternoon, Annie tripped and fell all the way down, breaking her hip. She lay at the bottom of the stairs, unable to move. Annie became hypothermic and dehydrated, vomited, aspirated the vomit into her lungs and developed pneumonia. Annie's cries for help went unheard and she was not discovered until the following day, when she was eventually brought into hospital. Tragically, it was too late and she died.

## Alcohol-related hospital admissions in older people - Primary Reasons

- Surprisingly, perhaps, among both men and women, older people drink more frequently than younger people. Alcohol misuse in older people, however,

is underestimated and often goes undetected, since it presents in a large number of non-specific ways, many of which are linked to the ageing process.

- Alcohol causes around 200 health harms, but few people know that the most significant harm is that due to the effect of alcohol on blood pressure and the complications. There is a close relationship between alcohol consumption and hypertension (elevation of blood pressure).
- Whilst alcohol contains calories and provides energy, it has little nutritional value. This is why people dependent on alcohol become malnourished. Their diet lacks essential nutrients, including thiamine and protein.
- Older people tend to underestimate alcohol consumption, while family members and carers often collude out of a sense of embarrassment and a feeling of, 'this is all that's left for the drinker'. Healthcare workers also have a lower degree of suspicion when assessing older people, and are less likely to refer them for treatment.
- People with alcohol-related problems often give inaccurate histories, due to denial or dementia. People may also omit to report alcohol for 'medicinal' purposes (e.g. spirits in beverages). Drinking at home is particularly likely to be underestimated because the quantities consumed are not measured, and are usually 'larger' than those dispensed in licensed premises. Alcohol intakes may, therefore, be inaccurate.

## How you support and help our older alcoholics...

Members of the fellowship regularly take or drive older members to AA meetings, especially accessible ones with wheelchair access or where there are sign language interpreters.

Assistance for members with mobility issues, particularly in the winter months, by accessing online platforms and staying with an older person in their home to give support and help with any IT problems is a wonderful act of service.

Hopefully, we all care for our older neighbours, family and friends, especially during the winter. We should look closely for alcohol consumption in older people. Thankfully, more people have personal alarms that can help.

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***The Cochrane Evidence Review and the National Health and Care Excellence 2023 Guidance 'Alcohol – use disorders: diagnosis and management' have highlighted the superiority of Alcoholics Anonymous/12-Step Programmes over other conventional treatments in achieving long-term abstinence and remission. Alcoholics Anonymous members are finding that more health and social care practitioners are aware of this evidence and guidance and this is leading to increased knowledge about and engagement with AA.***

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'Granny Smith's' desperate cries for help were never heard in life. We can only guess how many 'Granny or Grandad Smiths' will die this winter, particularly if it is a cold one and with concern about heating bills. Alcoholics Anonymous, with our self-defining historical traditions of compassion and service, will always take the lead in caring for all members of society, especially our older and most vulnerable ones with alcohol-related problems.

For further and more detailed information on alcohol and misuse in older people, please refer to the full article by Kieran at <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/professionals/health/alcohol-problems-in-older-people/>

**Kieran J Moriarty CBE, MA, MD, FRCP, FRCPI**

Non-Alcoholic Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous 2022 – Current  
Consultant Gastroenterologist and Liver Specialist Royal Bolton Hospital 1990-2018  
Alcohol Lead, British Society of Gastroenterology 2009-2020  
Government Alcohol Adviser 2000-2020

**E-mail: [trustee.nat6@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.nat6@gsogb.org.uk)**



# Dear Fellowship...

Hope you're all well and that sight of Questions for Conference is welcomed as the first falls of autumn.

Our Annual General Service Conference articulates the Fellowship's voice in regards the services provided by the General Service Board and all elements in the structure of AA in Great. They ask us to reflect and recommend as to how we carry the message of recovery, our tools of communications and the messages carried as well as to where and to whom our message is directed.

Questions (& answers) tend to fall into 2 main categories: Conscience Questions and Service Questions, although most involve both, with the latter further divided between goods and communications with a further discrete subset of new literature or changes to existing literature to be approved.

Example of Conscience Questions last year include those about step 9, importance of rotation, and the principle of anonymity. There may not be any recommendation to give but the fact of 4,000 + groups discussing them during the cold dark months of January through to March creates a very powerful Hive Consciousness of our common purpose. By asking the question of the fellowship, we raise a common consciousness or awareness of the issue. The fact of the discussion is the answer.

Examples of direct recommendations for new products last year included a new LGBTIA++ pamphlet and the 'British' Big Book which are currently being worked upon by the Board. These may be seen in the Conference Matrix published alongside this coming year's questions.

Other recent recommendations include the new website, launched in May, which has seen visitor numbers doubling. The new videos on Women in AA and People of Colour in AA and the subsequent creation of new Board Inclusivity Committee that oversees the Race2Day working group, the LBGTQIA++ group and the Accessibility Working Group, following Conference 2021's and Conference 2024's recommendations to fulfil our Third Tradition.

And following on from the request for Safeguarding Guidance at Conference 2019, with the Guidance approved in 2022 there are now at least 10 Safeguarding Liaison Officers at Intergroups acting on recommendations for all elements of our structure to be conscious of Safeguarding our Fellowship and its Traditions.

Conference changes how we serve by Safeguarding our Traditions. And may these questions this coming winter sharpen our spirit of fellowship one day at a time.

**Ranjan B**  
**General Secretary**



# Board Bullet Points September 2024

- In the third quarter of the financial year 2023/24, the Charity finances continue to be weak with reserves approximately £300k below this year's prudent reserve (W2 level) This is because of a continued reduction in contributions from Intergroups. A regular steady flow of contributions through the service structure helps us as Trustees of the Charity and the chief service arm of Conference, to plan and co-ordinate projects effectively for the benefit of the whole Fellowship across AAGB and CER. Without sufficient contributions we will be unable to continue this key work which is of vital importance to us all.
- The following will be joining sub committees
  - Barbara M, Southeastern Region –Archives Sub Committee
  - Ian C, Midlands Region – Literature Sub Committee
  - Trevor A, Midlands – Prisons Sub Committee
  - Colin A, Southwest Scotland Region – Probation and Criminal Justice Sub Committee
  - Sean M, Eastern Region – Literature Sub Committee
  - Greg V, Eastern Region – Telephones Sub Committee
- Sub Committee application forms can be found here: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/document/sub-committee-application-form/> Please use those forms and not any older documents you may be holding from past applications.
- The three films approved at Conference 2024 are on the website on the media page here: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/media-enquiries/> These films are a great resource, and we encourage Intergroup and Regional Liaison Officers to use them in their PI initiatives.
- On Monday 1st July until 4th July AAGB launched its first national poster site campaign on digital billboards across GB provided by JCDecaux as part of their Community Channel program. An increase in activity on the website measured against previous weeks and last year at this time would indicate this has been successful. The campaign will run again for a five-week run between Boxing Day and 31st January 2025. For more information see here: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/2024/07/01/national-advertising-campaign-1st-4th-july-2024/>
- The new Southern Service Office, Unit B, 15 Bell Yard Mews, London SE1 3TY, tel. 020 7407 9217 email: [sso@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:sso@gsogb.org.uk), now has literature for sale for people to come in and buy. There is also a lot of service literature for people to take away.
- AAGB will be bidding to have the next World Service Meeting in 2026 to be held in York. Monies for the World Service comes from the World Service Pot of which AAGB is contributor.
- The Conference Matrix will in future, be published in AA Service News.

- Parliamentary Events
  - Welsh Parliamentary event on 27 – 28 November
  - Scottish Parliamentary event 12 March 2025.
  - Westminster Parliamentary event TBC
- National Conventions
  - Southern National Convention: 20 – 22 September 2024
  - Scottish National Convention: 9 – 11 May 2025
  - Welsh National Convention: 30 May – 1 June 2025



## **‘A Photograph is the pause button of life’**

**What better way to stop and take a breath than to capture a moment in time. If you would like to share your moments with the fellowship, then GSO invites you to submit your photos to our image bank where publications affiliated with AA can browse and select images.**

**Interested?**



**If so, please email [imagebank@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:imagebank@gsogb.org.uk) for further details**

# Finance, GSO and the Board - what really happens?

One of the key functions within the General Service Office is finance.

Tens of thousands of transactions are carried out each year. Be it a sale of literature, the logging of contributions through the structure, salaries of the staff working in the offices, to conference approved activities, such as the recently approved videos or the recent advertising campaigns. These need logging within the finance system so that they can be tracked and monitored and the information used to produce the quarterly finance report that is issued to the Fellowship. Within the process of getting transactions to the finance system, there are checks and balances to ensure that expenditure is appropriately signed off and approved before payment.

Each quarter, the finance report is produced by myself, alongside the office staff to check for accuracy. This is then scrutinised by the Finance Committee before being recommended to the Board. Key discussions will take place around the financial position of the charity, along with any key transactions and projects that are having an impact on the finances. Each year, sub committees are also required to produce a budget, which details their proposed expenditure for meetings etc. Any additional projects also need to be approved by both the Finance Committee and the Board. Conversations can and will be, robust!

As well as the quarterly report, the charity is also subject to an annual external audit. An external audit is undertaken to ensure an independent evaluation of the charity's financial statements by a qualified independent third party. In this case, auditors review the transactions and balances of the charity's accounting records to determine whether they are complete and accurate. They will also review the financial position of the charity to ensure we are able to continue operating. Two years ago, we went through a thorough process of tendering for new auditors. This included receiving proposals, and then interviewing companies scoring highly within those. Each year the auditors present an audit report to the Finance Committee and Board. This details the work they have conducted, and adjustments that were required to the financial statements and details of system improvements they have identified as part of their work. All information greatly received! The staff at GSO are then able to use this report to enhance the financial systems further.

Over the coming period, the Finance Committee and I will be working to improve financial reporting to the Fellowship, and so help the Fellowship with carrying out our primary purpose.

**Emma G, Non-Alcoholic Trustee**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



# The Principle of Rotation

As a long-term member of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the current secretary of a local group, I'm ever mindful of the 12 Traditions and the principles they contain which help to guide each AA group and the Fellowship, as a whole.

When new members enter the Fellowship of AA for help with their drinking problem, they are encouraged to concentrate and practice the suggested 12 Step programme of recovery and are, understandably, often ignorant of AA's 12 Traditions.

Hopefully, over time, AA members are also encouraged to study and practice the principles contained within the 12 Traditions as they take on service positions within the Fellowship and attend their local group conscience/business meetings.

The 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions are, for most people, not that difficult to comprehend with the help of a good sponsor. However, practicing the principles they contain is a different matter and is a challenge requiring a high degree of self-discipline, integrity, and strong determination. Though if practiced conscientiously, emotional sobriety and spiritual growth are the much-valued rewards. The spiritual essence of the 12 Traditions is self-sacrifice for the greater good. A real humility that is willing to forgo personal ambition, desires, and social status for the good of the group and AA, as a whole. Our human instinctual desires and egotistical tendencies often rebel at the restraints suggested by the 12 Traditions, and adherence to these spiritual principles can often feel counter intuitive – particularly for type 'A' personalities such as AA's co-founder Bill Wilson, who was highly ambitious and a natural leader. There are many similar types in

today's AA Fellowship, and the 12 Traditions help to keep their egos in check (mine included!) and protect the Fellowship from self-seeking behaviour.

As someone with a fairly dominant character, I have found the 12 Traditions very helpful in my efforts to practice humility – both inside and outside of the rooms of AA.

This brings me to the principle of rotation in relation to service positions within the Fellowship, which is primarily inspired by Tradition Two: "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."

I would also suggest that the principle of rotation is inspired by Tradition One, with its emphasis upon 'unity' and 'group welfare', Tradition Nine, with its emphasis upon service rather than government, and Tradition Twelve, with its emphasis upon anonymity and humility.

Each AA group is responsible for electing its group service officers (chairperson, secretary, treasurer, tea/coffee maker etc) who help the group to function effectively and are the 'trusted servants' of the group. The AA group, via its group conscience, is also responsible for regularly rotating these service positions, and allowing others within the group the opportunity to serve within the Fellowship. Service is an important principle in AA and has been a key factor in my recovery and in the practice of the 12 Steps.

The terms of service in AA are limited by the principle of rotation, in line with the principles contained within the Traditions. Each AA group is encouraged to hold regular group

conscience and business meetings to help manage group issues, take its own inventory, and elect group service officers. Ultimately, the group decides who serves it and for how long they serve. Ideally, most group service positions are held for no more than 12 months at a time, although, the GSR is generally expected to serve for a minimum of two years.

The principle of rotation is an important safeguard against egotism within AA and helps to prevent ambitious individuals developing a sense of prestige, status, and power within the Fellowship. It promotes individual humility, group unity, and equality. It also allows newer group members to engage in service, encouraging them to share the responsibility of carrying a message of recovery “to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

My experience in AA is that it's often difficult to let go of a service position that I find satisfying, that gives me a sense of meaning and purpose, and that may also meet certain instinctual or emotional needs within me. The 'AA Group' pamphlet, published by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc, suggests this difficulty too, but also encourages 'letting go' for the greater good of the group and one's own spiritual benefit:

*“Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth — a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity. Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us “to place principles before personalities.” Many outgoing*

*service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. “status” at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise — we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.”*

Although it's hard letting go of a service position that I enjoy, it's vital to the lifeblood of the AA Fellowship that I do so. As the acting secretary and principal officer of a relatively new AA group, I'll soon be confronted with the prospect of letting go of a role I find rewarding and personally meaningful. Hopefully, I will have the integrity and humility to step aside when the time for my service position rotation comes and not be a 'bleeding deacon.' As detailed in Tradition Two in 'The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions', the term is used to describe “someone convinced that the group cannot get along without him/her, who constantly connives for re-election to office, and who continues to be consumed with self-pity” at the loss of his/her service role.

Instead, I'd like it if I could adopt the humility of the more enlightened 'elder statesman'

*“who sees the wisdom of the group's decision, who holds no resentment over his/her reduced status, whose judgement is sound, and whose example and quiet opinion is the real leadership within the fellowship.”*  
(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions).

Steve K



# Crystal Palace Recovery Walk



On Saturday 14th September 2024, I had the privilege and honour of holding a stall for the Alcoholics Anonymous Race2Day working group at the UK Recovery Walk and Conference, London 2024. This was the 16th annual recovery walk that was being held for the first time in London at Crystal Palace.

I am grateful to the Fellowship for identifying, through the conscience of Conference, the need to find ways to address the normally unseen and underappreciated inequities that exist within the Fellowship and for the work that is being done through the 'People of Colour Working Group' also known as Race2Day.

As a black African male, I feel well placed to fulfil my primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers to help them to achieve sobriety through, among other ways, my active involvement with The Race2Day Working Group.

I do not intend to focus on the background and work that the group has done thus far, as a lot has already been written about this

in previous editions of AA Service News. I will limit myself to my experience at the above event.

The event provided a platform from which I was able, in a small way, to carry the message that the Fellowship recognises the extra obstacles that some people of colour may face on their journey into or in recovery. I am grateful for Sophie at GSO for proving me with Conference approved literature to display at the stall.

Overall, albeit with no precedent by which to judge, I believe that the day was a success. What I found interested people the most, was the flyer 'Does anyone look like me in Alcoholics Anonymous?' The interest varied to include members of the Fellowship - some of whom took the leaflets to distribute at their meetings, professionals in the recovery field, suffering alcoholics who were not sure if AA was for them, friends and relatives of 'suspected' alcoholics and the odd passerby.

The one challenge that I had - and I use that word loosely - was from two white men. They appeared to be sceptical about the unseen

inequities that exist in not only AA but society in general and were dismissive of the need for AA to address these inequities. On the whole, though, most of the people with whom I engaged with were supportive of our aims of and the work that the group is doing. Having said that, it was clear to me that a lot more needs to be and can be done to carry the message, and we need to build on the work that has started.

**Gary**  
**Member Race2Day**  
**Conference Delegate -**  
**London Region South**



# North East Regional Forum

My name is Lesley, and I am an alcoholic in recovery who, by the grace of God, the strength of this Fellowship, and a good deal of hard work on my part, and patience from my sponsors, will soon be celebrating 31 years of continuous sobriety. One day at a time. The celebration belongs to AA - proof that the 3 legacies work, if I work them. Not least, in my experience, being active in service - which brings me to our recent North East Regional Forum.

A Forum is an event which a region can request only every 5 years, and it involves staff from our General Service Office (GSO) and two trustees.

I first encountered trustees at my first year at Conference as a 'red dotter' and was totally blown away by their dedication to, and passion for, their allocated disciplines and to the Fellowship generally. Some also had full time jobs and were travelling to GSO four times a year as well as all over the UK and even the globe, hailing as they do from every region in the country, as well as English Speaking Continental European Region. Inspirational, and I have total respect. I currently have the privilege of working very closely with a trustee and am overwhelmed by the dedication that they devote.

North East Region held a Forum in July 2024, which was very ably and amusingly hosted by our newly appointed Chair, Jane.

GSO was represented by the Office Manager, Sophie (in place of our General Secretary, Ranjan), Sharon and Mandy who between them gave a good all-round view of what the work of GSO involves - and what it doesn't. A huge amount of work is covered by a very hard working and approachable team of mostly non-alcoholics, who are as passionate

about our Fellowship as we are. The trustees we requested, and were fortunate could attend, were Holly for First Response Online (that's email responding and Chat Now to us) and Carmel for Health. Both presentations were very interesting and its clear the trustees devote hours of their own unpaid time to their topics.

After lunch, we heard from Alison from Hull and East Riding Intergroup about the project that she and Sarah had carried out to carry the message of service and the service structure to their constituent groups. A very ambitious undertaking and one of which they should be immensely proud.

Jane – our Chair and outgoing Conference delegate and steering committee member - gave a very interesting account of her experience and Jonathan, likewise, shared very passionately about his experience as a delegate and generally in service.

Last, but by no means least, we heard from Ashley who is the PI officer for North East Region and is so imaginative in his methods of carrying the message to the public and private sectors, including a stall at Leeds marketplace and I believe spearheading our involvement with JC Decaux which culminated in our new very 'outside the box' anonymous posters.

Then the day was over, and we said our thankyou and farewells.

There were about 60 members in attendance and, speaking only for myself, I found it to be a day of learning, positivity, fellowship, inspiration and humour.

Thank you, North East Region.

**Lesley B**



# Hull & East Riding

## Service Opportunities Roadshow



Travelling back from our North East Regional Assembly one afternoon, we lamented the fact that the list of vacancies at regional level reflected our own at intergroup, with a lack of willingness to take up service positions. We were acutely aware that at intergroup meetings we were constantly seeing the same faces which was a reflection that Group Service Representatives (GSRs) were finding it difficult to rotate out. Whilst we appreciated their commitment, fresh faces with new ideas and enthusiasm would certainly be appreciated. One factor may be the 'aftermath of COVID' but, realistically, that excuse is wearing a little thin!!

After consideration, we decided that rather than organise a service workshop or similar event probably attended by the usual people, we would take ourselves on a 'roadshow' and visit every meeting. The fact that the majority of the 20 meetings in Hull and East Riding are located within a ten-mile radius of Hull meant that travelling did not pose a problem.

Having outlined the idea at our intergroup meeting, we asked our secretary to contact all the groups and advise us who would be the best person to contact. Without exception we were welcomed, and dates were easily arranged - especially when we explained that the basis of our presentation would effectively be a main share on our experiences of our initial service at home group level.

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***This was a useful starting point as we were both able to stress that bringing the milk, making tea, or greeting newcomers were some of the most important service roles, with no length of sobriety required.***

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Sarah concentrated on explaining the service structure and the significance of the inverted triangle. It was also an opportunity to highlight the importance of Questions for Conference, especially as this is often overlooked by some groups. Alison focused on the specific roles available for people to do, going from home group level right down to attending the General Service Conference. In addition, we promoted the Prison Postal Service and Chat Now. We used a six-page hand out which people could take away with them for future reference.

Newcomers were sometimes in attendance, and we did not find this to be a barrier. We would discuss it with the home group members who either changed the order of when we shared, or we sometimes shortened the length of our share - it was important to be flexible to the wishes of the home group on these matters.

An immediate effect was that we had an excellent response to the request for more volunteers to support our Unity Day event. We had specific feedback from a group which was well attended but struggling for home group members. The following week they had a group conscience and gained six new home group members all wanting to fill the positions! We are hearing other positive stories on the grapevine.

When we started out on this venture, we said to each other that if we get just one more member attending Intergroup and filling a position, it will all be worth it! It is still early days to see what effect this is going to have on our service structure at that level. However, we are full of joy and optimism at the initial surge of service, and it has renewed our faith in the unity of the Fellowship.

We agree that whilst this has been a little time consuming, it has certainly not been onerous and has been the most wonderful opportunity to enhance our own sobriety. We are yet to discuss how we are going to take this forward, but we plan to do a similar thing in the future with a different topic, and different people doing the main shares.

**Alison S and Sarah M**

## *Just a Christmas shout out to GSO Staff at all 3 offices in Glasgow, London and York*

The General Service Office is blessed by its dedicated and loyal staff. Every year the General Service Office answers 165,000 emails and 22000 telephone calls, has 50 visitors a week and even opens 80 odd (and some very odd) letters a week. Almost a weekly Conference in terms of the Fellowship's 'Voice' being heard as to service. This Voice is received by the ears of an accumulated 200+ work experience, averaging 10 years per staff member, a vast reservoir of knowledge. Experience and collective institutional memory. This again is only possible because the General Service Board is an exemplary employer and a credit to the Fellowship of AA in Great Britain.

The GSO staff have an intimate relationship with the Fellowship it serves, an intimacy enabling staff to anticipate and meet Fellowship requirements through innovating and evolving services to help fulfil the Fellowship's Primary Purpose.

GSO is a publisher - over 200 titles and it sends out approximately 40,000 orders annually; it is a web and database manager and a communications hub with the 0800 helpline, CHAT NOW and ORS and the aamail.org system to name a selection Primary Purpose domains. These are constantly being developed to renew media and keep the message fresh.

Most recently a new database that underpins the website meeting finder, was created. In 2024, an electronic voting platform for Conference 2024 was successfully trialled, and in 2021, the first online Conference was a success through the innovative 'training zooms' staff ran in the preceding months. These developed the practices required for the subsequent hybrid seminars and sub committees.

Similarly, understanding of the day-to-day needs of the Fellowship helped staff to fulfil the Fellowship's vision of a new website with its meeting finder, searchable document library, intuitive shop and new services such as the Image Bank. Visitor numbers to the web have doubled and visitor engagement per visit has also increased.

This work, the development, this willingness of staff to change requires research and training to keep GSO developing the unobtrusive service it provides the Fellowship. So please remember, your contributions are vital to the ongoing excellence of GSO staff, and that any shortfalls will affect GSO's ability to recruit and retain the very best of workers.



# 68<sup>th</sup> Scottish National Convention

**‘A NEW BEGINNING’**

**9-11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Queens Hall, 9 Argyle Street,**

**DUNOON PA23 7HH**

(Travel by road or ferry)

**Weekend Registration £20** (including dance ticket)

**Saturday Day Ticket £15** (with dance ticket, £18)

**To register and find out more information about  
the weekend programme, hotels and ferries:**

**[www.scottishnationalconvention.co.uk](http://www.scottishnationalconvention.co.uk)**

**Any questions, email:**

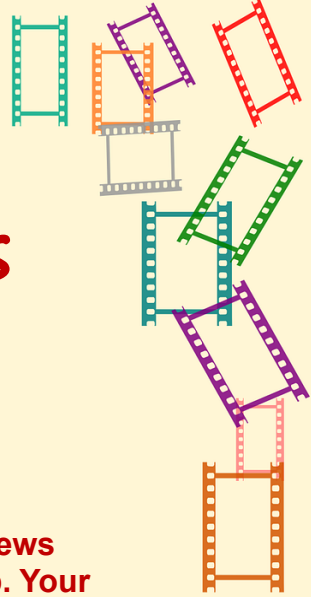
**[convention.snc@aamail.org](mailto:convention.snc@aamail.org)**

**Full Al-Anon programme throughout the weekend**

**Sponsored by all 5 Scottish Regions**

**Alcoholics Anonymous GB**

# AA Service News Is Yours...!



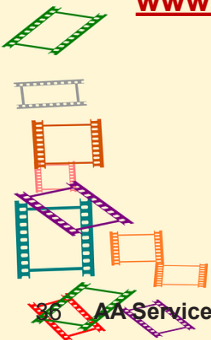
All of the service articles in AA Service News are written by members of the Fellowship. Your experience is valuable and very welcome, please do share it with others...

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

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

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

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



# GSB Vacancies

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

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

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

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

**Interested? Please read on...**

## Application

When applying for **any** of the sub committee vacancies below, please obtain an up-to-date application form from either Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York Y01 7NJ: 01904 644026; [jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk) or from the Document Library (select 'Forms') at the AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

The chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer or a currently serving liaison officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. GSO will need to receive this covering letter by the application deadline.



**If there is no covering letter by the specified deadline, then you will not be eligible for interview.**

For any of the vacancies, you will need:

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

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

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

**The deadline for application is 13th December 2024**

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

**For up-to-date vacancies, please read on...**

# Archives

There are vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB). The Archives Sub Committee advises the GSB on issues concerning the care and management of AAGB's Archives and reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives.

The Archives Sub Committee works with archivists at the Borthwick Institute to develop and enhance AA archive, while managing access to it for the purpose of research. Other AA archives are held by regions and intergroups, and are looked after by local archivists. The Archives Sub Committee liaises with these archivists through the Archive Network of regional and intergroup archivists.

The main AA Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives of the University of York.

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

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

# Armed Services

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

## Experience

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

## Aim

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

Its objects are to:

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

- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations

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

## Employment

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

Our primary functions are to:

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

**For more information about these vacancies, please contact Tony S, Trustee for Employment [trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk)**

## First Response Online

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

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

### Chat Now:

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

Responders working from their home computers have live 1-on-1 conversations with people who are often just starting their journey or maybe questioning if they should do so.

**For more information on the service and an application, please email us at: [chatadmin@aamail.org](mailto:chatadmin@aamail.org) or Holly A at [trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk)**



## Online Response Service:

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

For more information on the service please email Holly A [trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Please specify whether you are applying for Chat Now or ORS on the application form.

## Health

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

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

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is to:

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

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Carmel G, [trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.ork.uk](mailto:trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.ork.uk)



# Probation/Criminal Justice Services

We are looking for members who:

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

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



# Public Information and Electronic Communication

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

The Public Information and Electronic Communications Sub Committee (PI & EComms SC) invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of:

- Carrying the message of recovery
- Making the most of electronic communications to help those who need help
- Keeping existing members informed

The primary functions of the sub committee are to:

- Create a consistent message externally, that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies, members of the media, and journalists at national level
- Offer support and advice to regional PI and ECLO committees and liaison officers
- Provide leadership to the PI and ECLO networks
- Assist region and intergroup ECLOs with micro-site set up and maintenance within the AAGB website
- Monitor and maintain the AAGB Filestore area, supporting users, and ensuring access requests are properly validated
- Promote and administer the use of WorkPlace as a communication tool for AA service, ensuring secure access and assisting new users
- Respond to service-related requests and queries submitted to the AAGB Helpdesk
- Monitor the AAGB website, working with the Web Content Manager in keeping it up to date and relevant
- Identify PI and E Comms information in other resources which requires updating
- Contribute to publication of the PI Newsletter
- Communicate effectively with all levels of the Fellowship
- Comply with the Traditions, principles and guidelines of AA

An interest in electronic communications and/or public information, with a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area, is more important than anything else in these roles, along with an understanding of how people communicate / the desire to help us improve what we do. Good basic computer literacy is required but our various IT suppliers provide direct technical support where required.

You will be working within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference. You should be flexible in your time commitments, and be prepared to join us online, as well as attending meetings in York where accommodation is provided and expenses paid.

**GSB Trustees for PI & EComms**

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

**Angela S [trustee.northwestregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northwestregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

# Roundabout

## Roundabout - Could You Be Our New Assistant Editor?

Following our recent article on the role of a proofreader we had an excellent response and look forward to welcoming new members to the Roundabout Sub Committee soon.

For some time now, we have been without an Assistant Editor and this is a role I used to do myself before taking over as Editor, so I think I can give you an honest view of the role and work involved!

The Assistant Editor is there to back up the Editor who logs the incoming articles, arranges editing with the proofreaders and creates the magazine from scratch each month along with various other tasks. In an ideal world, the Assistant would create the magazine one month in every three to give the Editor some room for other work and would take over the administration of articles. This involves logging each submission and sending batches on to proofreaders for editing, and then logging them 'back in' afterwards.

General knowledge of computer use is essential but full training will be provided on the software we use (called Adobe InDesign).

All of the magazines follow a template and this, therefore, can make it a simple task of copying and pasting. If this sounds daunting, remember the Editor is always there for help and support, so you are not alone. With Roundabout being a monthly publication, the work needed is regular (weekly) but not too onerous.

There is no pressure for the Assistant Editor to take over as Editor after rotation. This is a four-year service position, and if you do take over as Editor, you can extend the term to six years.

If you think this is something you would like to consider, please get in touch with me by dropping me an email at the address below.

**Cath Editor**  
**[roundabout@aamail.org](mailto:roundabout@aamail.org)**



# Share

## **The Share Sub Committee has a vacancy for a Liaison Officers' Coordinator (LOC) for Share**

This is a new role created to undertake some of the tasks currently carried out by the Editor.

The LOC will support the Share Sub Committee through maintaining regular contact with the regional and intergroup Share Liaison Officers (SLOs), regularly reviewing Share web pages and overseeing the Share FileStore. In addition, you will maintain and update the contact information regarding intergroup and regional SLOs by liaising with the General Service Office Admin staff (GSO).

Feedback from AA members, which is sent directly from the website or emailed via GSO, needs to be collated and made available to the team. The role will also involve reading and scoring all articles, circulated weekly to the team, to providing a guide for suitability to publish.

The monthly production of Share magazine is a team effort; it is essential for the LOC to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA, including service at intergroup and preferably service at region. Computer and email competence is indispensable.

## **Vacancy for an Editorial Reader for Share**

Our Readers are part of a team. The job involves reading and scoring all articles and letters submitted, to provide a guide for suitability to publish, checking quotations, suggesting titles and supporting the team to develop Share magazine. Most of the work is done electronically and requires working to deadlines.

Readers should have a good standard of English language and be able to work to deadlines. The monthly production of Share magazine is a Team effort. It is essential for a Reader to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at region. Computer and email competence is indispensable. Full training will be given.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed for both vacancies. They should be familiar with Conference-approved literature, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts and the AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain. The Share Sub Committee holds up to 4 meetings per year, either in person at York GSO, or online. These meetings are an integral part of this role and attendance is a requirement. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

**Charon B Trustee for Share**  
**[trustee.LRN@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.LRN@gsogb.org.uk)**

# Survey

## Rare Service Opportunity to Take the Pulse of AA

### Summary

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

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

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

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

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

### Rare Opportunity

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

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

### Apply Now

Send your application (or questions) to Max J GSB Trustee for the Survey at [trustee.  
midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

# Telephones

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

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

Requirements for the telephones sub committee are to:

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

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

## Young Persons

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

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

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

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

#### **Main aims:**

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

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

To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies

#### **Requirements:**

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

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

# 33rd Welsh National Convention 2025

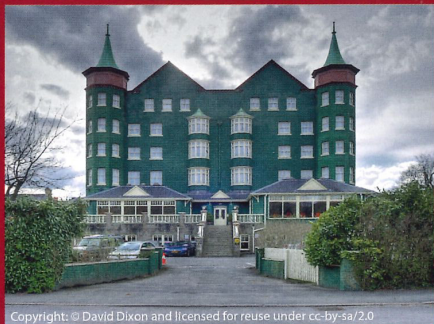
Confensiwn Cenedlaethol AA Cymru

**LOVE & SERVICE**  
**CARIAD & GWASANAETH**

**30 May - 01 June, 2025**  
**30 Mai - 01 Mehefin, 2025**

**With Al-Anon participation.**

**Gyda chyfranogiad Al-Anon.**



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## The General Service Office (GSO)

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

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Taken from AAGB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

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

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AA Comes of Age, page 140

## The Role of GSO

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

## Prudent reserves

Suggested prudent reserves set out by Regional Treasurers at their Regional Seminar, January 2024

- Groups - 1 months running expenses
- Intergroups - 3 months running expenses
- Regions - 3 months running expenses
- AAGB - 1.25 years running expenses (as per warranty 2 in Concept 12, and the Charities Commission)

# Tradition 7

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

Tradition 7 Contributions July - September 2024	Contributions £
Some of these contributions come from regional assemblies, whilst others may come from individual members or groups	
Eastern Region	33,294
London Region North	13,247
London Region South	891
Midlands Region	11,382
North East Region	15,847
North West Region	13,187
South East Region	11,136
South Midlands Region	27,415
South West Region	2,194
Wales & Borders Region	6,589
East of Scotland Region	4,502
Glasgow Region	25,019
Highlands & Islands Region	7,000
Scotia Region	14,012
South West Scotland Region	19,809
Continental European	5,152
Sundry- Unidentifiable receipts	2,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,748</b>

# In Memoriam

1 July 2024 - 31 September 2024

In Memory of Alisa	Amersham Group	£168.50
In Memory of Tom Fox	Trustees Collection	£180.00
In Memory of Bill G	London South East	£140.68



# Subscribe to AA Service News

For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form' or contact Sharon at GSO [sharon.smyth@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:sharon.smyth@gsogb.org.uk)  
Alternatively, complete the below and send to the address provided.

Printed AA Service News is mailed in a plain envelope.



SEND TO (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Group Name/Day:

Group No.\*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email to:

**AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ**

\*GSO reference for each AA group - register with GSO by filling in the group registration, or 'pink' form