



AA Service News

FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Winter 2004

No 121

What is Service?

As individuals, we can and should work with those that promise success – even a little success.

(Bill W Grapevine March 1958)

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Future Themes

! Articles sharing your experience concerning the TRADITIONS would be appreciated!!

Please let the editor know of any service activities which you feel could encourage other members!

On the Website

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.co.uk>

- Where to find AA
- PI Committee Newsletter

<http://www.aaservice.org.uk>

Editorial Note

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

There will be four issues per year – all of which will contain:

- Financial Contributions
- Donations in Memory
- Calendar

The individual issues will in addition contain:

Spring: Service Articles

Contributions to reach GSO by 25 January

Summer: Conference Report for the year + Service Articles

Contributions to reach GSO by 25 April

Autumn: Service Articles

Contributions to reach GSO by 30 July

Winter: Questions for Conference + Service Articles

Contributions to reach GSO by 29 October

Articles concerning SERVICE are welcomed from all parts of the fellowship (Individuals, Groups, Intergroups, P.I. Teams, Regions, GSB etc.) This includes you! Inclusion will depend on amount received and suitability. Constructive comments will also be welcomed.

Please forward your material to:

The Editor, AA Service News, GSO,
PO Box 1, Stonebow House, York, YO1 7NJ

Practice These Principles...

Conference 2004 recommended an awareness campaign on the 12 Traditions: The following checklist is reprinted from GRAPEVINE 1971

Tradition One: *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.*

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into arguments?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive A.A. remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting A.A. in one place with A.A. in another?
5. Do I put down some A.A. activities as if I was superior for not participating in this or that aspect of A.A.?
6. Am I informed about A.A. as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can A.A. as a whole or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of A.A. members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behaviour that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough A.A. meetings or read enough A.A. literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with A.A. all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the November 1969 Grapevine

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.*

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, A.A. committees and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?

2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with A.A. Twelfth Step jobs or other A.A. responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my A.A. jobs? Praise for my A.A. ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober for a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at A.A. chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the December 1969 Grapevine

Tradition Three: *The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking*

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new A.A. members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my A.A. group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phoney?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at A.A. needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to A.A. before? What his other problems are?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the January 1970 Grapevine

Tradition Four: *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in A.A.?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of A.A.? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

3. Do I put down other members' behaviour when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in A.A., I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths – his lengths, not mine – to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of A.A. tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the April 1970 Grapevine

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers

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

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the June 1970 Grapevine

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

1. Should my fellow group members and I raise money to endow several A.A. beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for A.A.'s familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from G.S.O.)?

4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around A.A. only if we have a TV and card room. If this what is required to carry the message to them, shouldn't we have these facilities?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the August 1970 Grapevine

Tradition Seven: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions

1. Honestly now, how do I do all I can to help A.A. (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a bar-room?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full colour, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If G.S.O. runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidise A.A. groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big A.A. collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant A.A. business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of always being under obligation for charity received?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the October 1970 Grapevine

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

1. Is my own behaviour accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realise how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward – even if not money – for my personal A.A. efforts?
4. Do I try and sound in A.A. like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On

sociology? On A.A. itself on psychology? On spiritual matters? On, heaven help me, even on *humility*?

5. Do I make an effort to understand what A.A. employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own A.A. life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *AA Tradition – How it Developed*?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the December 1970 Grapevine

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

1. Do I still try to boss things in A.A.?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of A.A. because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the A.A. programme – even if no one makes me do so – with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any A.A. job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any A.A. job?
6. Why doesn't every A.A. group need a constitution and byelaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an A.A. job gracefully – and profit there-by – when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity?
With humility?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the February 1971 Grapevine

Tradition Ten: *Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.*

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "A.A. opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquillisers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalising marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impressed I am stating the "A.A. opinion"?

3. What in A.A. history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own A.A. life?
5. What would A.A. be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside A.A.?
Inside A.A.?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the May 1971 Grapevine

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

1. Do I sometimes promote A.A. so fanatically that I make it seem *unattractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an A.A. member?
3. Am I careful about throwing A.A. names around – even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would A.A. be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my A.A. sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the July 1971 Grapevine

Tradition Twelve: *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all A.A. members before individual welfare? What would happen to me of A.A. as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust A.A.'s current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other A.As, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain A.A. group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?

5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an A.A. group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behaviour reflect the Sixth Tradition – or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can to support A.A. financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain A.As behaviour – especially if they are paid to work for A.A? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfil all A.A. responsibilities I in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give A.A. critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my A.A. membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of A.A. so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among 500,000 A.As?

Traditions Checklist reprinted from the September 1971 Grapevine

Electronic Communications

News from Electronics: A Call to Service

More than a year has passed since our website at www.alcoholics-anonymous.co.uk has invited the still sick and suffering alcoholic to make that first important step and reach out via email to a member of our Fellowship. Our team of E-12th step responders has faithfully answered more than 5,000 requests in that first year. We now are calling on the Fellowship for more members to carry on that service work. The initial group of responders has rotated out of service and new members are in place. We have found that six months is the optimum amount of time for members to do this service. The fourteen people on the present team are due to rotate out soon and we need a new team to take their place. As with Telephone Responders, this service position has the recommended two years of sobriety requirement. Each person is responsible for a 12 hour span of time one

day per week to check the email box and respond to the requests that are there. If you are interested in doing this service work, please fill out the application for service and have your Intergroup endorse your application and have it sent in to GSO. It will be forwarded to the team coordinator who will contact the member.

The application form can be found in the “Services for Members” section of the above website in the document library in “forms” entitled E-12th Step Responder Application.doc. The services for members portion of the website is password protected; if you haven’t registered previously, it is very simple to do so. Just follow the prompts on the website. The Fellowship has heard from numerous groups that newcomers are finding their way to meetings via the website and through these E-12th step calls. We also hear back quite often from the newcomers who have written in and have been to their first meeting and have found “The Solution”. What a great service for the alcoholic who is searching for the hand that is out there to help.

Electronics Workshop 25-26 June 2004

The Electronic Communications Subcommittee (ECSC) of the General Service Board held its first National Workshop this year. It was attended by twenty-one members of the Fellowship interested in “Keeping the Integrity of AA’s Message” as we use electronic media to reach out to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. In the words of Bill W., our co-founder, *“The future success of Alcoholics Anonymous may rest on how well we are able to employ the colossus of modern communications.”*

The attendees worked very hard to examine our purposes for the weekend:

1. Disseminating Information,
2. Building Communication Liaisons, and
3. Promoting “Best Practices” in Electronic Communications throughout the Fellowship

You may find notes that committees generated for the workshop on our national website at www.alcoholics-anonymous.co.uk in the "Services for Members" section under the document library listing under ECSC. These are quite comprehensive and informative.

Three of the members of the ECSC gave presentations of the background history of the website, how Electronic Communications fits into the service structure, the necessity of maintaining the Traditions of the Fellowship in electronic media, what works and doesn't work on our website, and what the future holds for our electronic service work. These presentations are also available for viewing on the website. The remainder of the workshop was spent in discussions of all aspects of our work that is done electronically: communications within the Fellowship, the work of the E-12th step team, the draft Guideline for the Fellowship, and the use of AA websites throughout the Fellowship. The emphasis of the entire weekend was on how we can preserve the integrity of AA's message while using best practices electronically and following our AA traditions. It is our hope that the participants will continue to communicate within their Regions, Intergroups and Groups the experience, strength and hope that was generated at the workshop.

Dora M (GSB Electronic Communications)

Vacancies Literature Sub Committee

The Literature Sub-Committee of the General Service Board has two further vacancies due to the rotation of two of its officers.

The vacancies will occur in April 2005 and August 2005 and applications are welcome until the end of January for the April vacancy and March for the August vacancy. The work is principally concerned with a wide ranging review and updating of British AA Literature; the fulfilling of Conference recommendations regarding our literature; advising the Fellowship on literature policy through Conference. The work is defined by

terms of reference approved by the GSB & Conference. The post is subject to rotation after three years.

We welcome applications via the General Service Office from members who have been proposed by their Region.

The following criteria may be helpful to those interested:

1. Minimum of 5 years continuous sobriety.
2. A sound grasp of AA structure, principles, history and Traditions gained through service at Intergroup & Region.
3. Accuracy of written grammar and style.
4. Experience in copy-editing, document drafting or similar work would be very helpful, whether gained inside or outside the fellowship. Similarly I.T. skills would be an advantage.
5. Readiness to attend all Literature Sub-Committee meetings (there are at least three a year held in York), and a willingness to work and communicate with the chairperson and other committee members between meetings on allocated tasks.

Ruth I (GSB Trustee – Chair Lit Sub)

TV Advertising 2004

GSB doubles National PI budget with more TV advertising this Christmas

Following the endorsement of outline plans and budgets by Conference 2004, the General Service Board is launching a broad range of PI initiatives for the 2004/05 financial year.

The increased focus on PI activity in recent years is a direct result of both the 2002 Fellowship survey that highlighted a flat-lining in our growth and the subsequent Conference 2003 recommendations.

For the second year running, television advertising will be the cornerstone of carrying the message nationally. This year's TV campaign will run from December 26th 2004 to January 17th 2005 with approximately 2,100 slots, either 30 seconds or 10 seconds. The adverts will be seen by

an estimated 22.8 million adults and each of these will see it 2.8 times on average. The special rates we receive as a charity and the significant number of free slots we receive from TV stations provide us with a value of 5 times the actual cost.

The campaign will run in England, Scotland and Wales across 50 different Sky channels. The campaign will also run on terrestrial stations that missed out last year. These will be London, Meridian, HTV, Granada, Yorkshire and Anglia.

Last year's TV campaign led to a 100% increase in helpline calls in areas where there was both satellite and terrestrial TV and 50% in satellite only areas. We can expect an even bigger increase in calls for help this Christmas and New Year.

With the bulk of the ads running daytime and late night, the campaign is aimed at all adults but with a specific focus on young people and black and minority ethnic communities.

There will also be major focus on public relations in 2004/05. Having acknowledged that this is an area where we can achieve very significant results in terms of free coverage of AA with national television, newspapers, magazines and radio by increasing our resources, the GSB will be working with an external agency, Hill & Knowlton, for the next twelve months. Our goal is to reduce the confusion about AA in the national media, to explain what we do and what we don't do, to make sure that no national journalist ever feels that they don't have access to AA, to be factual, balanced and to position AA as an organisation that can work for everyone.

The GSB and its PI sub committee will also maintain its focus on other on-going national PI work. The next twelve months will see an increased focus on co-operation with national organisations, response to the Government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and continued development of PI materials. For Intergroups and Regions the national campaign may provide an opportunity to increase local PI activity.

The results of all activity will be carefully monitored and reported back to Conference 2005.

Tim S (GSB PI)

Be Prepared

East Kent Intergroup's pre-Conference workshop rattled along in great style this year. "Better than any before" was the comment of our Conference Delegate.

The reason became obvious to all of us. One of our ex-Delegate old-timers had taken the trouble to photocopy not only the Questions for Conference (each Committee's Questions per sheet of paper) but with the main background material as well. These, were mailed, via our Vice-Chair, to all our GSRs a month in advance of the workshop.

This gave our Groups the information and background to the questions as well as the time to get the input from grass roots. The GSRs were then able to come along well prepared and could intelligently present to the Conference Delegate when each question was looked at as the workshop progressed. Bingo! An awful lot of good feedback resulted.

A bonus was to realise how the process of good preparation had encouraged GSRs to get the vital input that put so much 'meat on the bone'.

Harry A (East Kent)

Going to Conference 2004

It was with a mixture of excitement, anticipation and anxiety that I set off on the train for my first General Service Conference at York. Although it rained all the way there I did my best to relax and enjoy the scenery as the train rumbled its way through the Yorkshire countryside. On arrival at York railway station I hopped into a cab and asked the driver to take me to the University Conference Centre. Having said that I had never visited York before; the driver then gave me a wonderfully informative guided tour of the city as we sped our way to my destination.

On arrival at the University I made my way to find out where my room was and to collect my key. So far so good, no collywobblers YET! After a bit of a false start, i.e. walking in circles, I did find my room and was pleasantly surprised that, although not luxurious, it was better than I expected and it was en suite! I unpacked and set off across the campus to register and collect my information pack. Somewhere between leaving my room and arriving at the registration point, those familiar old feelings, DOUBT and FEAR, raised their little heads, but fortunately silent prayers started of their own accord. (The Big Book says that 'we will intuitively know what to do' or words to that effect).

The welcome I got at registration was fantastic. Sharon, who recognised my name straight away, said how nice it was to meet me face to face. I had had reason to call GSO some weeks before on an unrelated matter and Sharon had dealt with my enquiry. She explained that my nametag had a red spot, as did everyone else's who was attending Conference for the first time. This she said would encourage other delegates to give us a warm welcome – and they did. I soon met up with the other delegates from my Region and settled into what was to be a weekend that I will never forget as long as I live.

It was a great relief and comfort to me, when I went into our committee room for the first time, to see the trustee from my own Region and a couple of old friends and more that I had yet to meet. What first struck me most over the weekend was that all the people present, delegates, staff members and board trustees both alcoholic and non-alcoholic had one common desire, to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, to ensure that this Fellowship – OUR Fellowship, continues to grow and help to save the lives of those who without us may never know the truth and die. Each time our Committee sat down to consider its questions I was amazed by the respect shown to each other, the humility expressed when an idea was rejected, the encouragement given to try to bring a

solution to a question that could apply itself equally across the sparsely populated areas of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to the vastly populated cities like Glasgow, London, Manchester and everywhere else in between, regardless of race, creed or colour. To say it was a privilege to have been there is an understatement.

I cried when Dave C (conference chair) opened the Conference at 4.00pm on the Friday afternoon and was still crying at 12.00 on Sunday when the Conference ended with Pravin saying the Serenity Prayer in Gujarati, accompanied by Dave C. followed by the whole of Conference saying it in English. That experience almost blew me away and brought home to me just how far reaching this fellowship is, how far that hand of friendship has to reach to answer our pledge of responsibility. Nowhere else have I ever found such love, such respect, such compassion as in this Fellowship. If anyone had told me that I would experience such a strong spiritual feeling at what I regard as business matters of the Fellowship, I would not have believed them. I have never left Intergroup moved to tears of joy, despair yes! But never joy.

If you ever get the opportunity to go to Conference I hope you experience the great joy that I did – ask someone to sponsor you into service NOW.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Wyn J (Marple Recovery Group)

AA & AI- Anon

Conference 1980 RESOLVED that Alcoholics Anonymous recognises the special relationship which it enjoys with the AI-Anon Family Groups, a separate but similar Fellowship. It was further RESOLVED that Alcoholics Anonymous recognises the great contribution which AI-Anon Family Groups have made, and continue to make in assisting the families of alcoholics everywhere.

Therefore AI-Anon events are advertised in the calendar of AASN provided that there is AA participation.

(ed)

Questions for Conference 2005

Committee No. 1 – Internal

1. **Would Conference make recommendations on a specific Guideline for telephone 12th Steppers in addition to the Hints & Suggestions for 12th Steppers card?**

Some members of the Fellowship, after they receive a 12th Step call from the AA helpline responders, are using their telephones to do the 12th Stepping instead of arranging a visit.

Background

Hints & Suggestions for 12th Steppers.

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

2. **Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:**
 - **To promote communication and co-operation between neighbouring Intergroups, thus implementing our tradition of Unity and creating service boards or committees where needed.**

Background

Guideline No. 5 – Regions.

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

Committee No. 2 – Internal

1. **Would Conference 2005 consider the formation of a Welsh Region?**

Background

1. At present the Wales and Borders Region is made up of seven Welsh Intergroups (comprising 108 groups) and two English Intergroups (comprising 32 groups). The Welsh Intergroups are: North West Wales,

Carmarthenshire, West Wales, Swansea & District, South Glamorgan, South East Wales and Welsh Speaking, The English Intergroups are Welsh Borders and Shropshire. North East Wales is currently in the North West England Region.

2. Conference 1975 - Report on Regions stated that a Region should be made up of a convenient number of Intergroups in a convenient geographical location, with common internal and external interests. It was suggested that such areas might be London, Southern, South Western, Midlands, North Eastern, North Western, Scotland and Wales.
3. Conference 1975 - the Committee's consensus was that regionalisation was desirable. The process was slow and although by 1979 Scotland had completed regionalisation it had barely begun in some parts of England and Wales. Conference 1980 tried to facilitate this process by passing a recommendation stating that a group or Intergroup may move across a regional boundary if there was a good reason for this and that all concerned were in agreement. This enabled the Welsh Intergroup and the Borders Intergroup to start discussions to form a Region. The South Wales and Borders Region was formed in 1980. In 1983 Conference recommended that North Wales join, and so the Region was renamed Wales and the Borders. This is an inaccurate description as North East Wales is not in the Region.
4. The population of Wales marginally exceeds 1/14th of the total UK population and as such validates its own Region.
5. In the last 20 years there has been considerable growth in A.A. on both sides of the border and a Region stretching from West Wales to Worcester and from Hereford to Anglesey is unwieldy.
6. With the Advent of Devolution Wales now has some legislation which differs from England and Scotland, particularly in education and health. For example the Government's Alcohol Strategy which was launched in Scotland in 2002 and in England

in 2004 does not apply to Wales as yet.

7. We believe that AA in Wales has a positive contribution to make to the UK as a whole, and that members wish the Principality to be acknowledged in its own right by forming a Welsh Region. This new enthusiasm is being seen in the planned AA Welsh National Convention, due to be held in May 2005, the first for over twelve years.

It is clearly an anomaly that Wales is split between two Regions. Its unification as one Region should be given urgent consideration.

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

2. **Could Conference share experience on how the Fellowship uses Electronic Communications in such a way that members of AA are not excluded from communications within the Fellowship due to lack of access to electronic media?**

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

Committee No. 3 - Finance

1. **Would the Fellowship be served better by having just one new Fellowship Journal for Great Britain instead of the current situation of two, SHARE and ROUNDABOUT, with their two parallel infrastructures and their resultant direct and indirect costs?**

Background:

The Fellowship currently has two members magazines. **SHARE** Magazine is the Official Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in England and Wales and **ROUNDABOUT** is the Official Journal in Scotland and both are registered as such. Each is bought by members by subscription either by group or individually. SHARE currently has an average monthly circulation of 4,200 copies. Roundabout averages 2,200 copies per month. These figures are broadly maintained despite the transient nature of membership and each title achieves an incredibly high level of penetration when measured against similar

magazines in other markets. There is, however, a long standing trend of reducing circulation.

SHARE has a cover price of £1. (36 pages, 8 full colour) ROUNDABOUT cost £1. per single copy and £0.80 each for 2+ copies. (28 pages, 4 full colour).

The content of each magazine is made up of articles written and sent in by members, plus additional Fellowship material where necessary. Very few members contribute articles, however, and each magazine often struggles to find enough suitable material. Each magazine is produced in their entirety by members but is printed by separate commercial printers. (One in York, the other in Glasgow).

The Editorial/Production Team for each magazine is a sub-committee of the board, comprising at least: a Board Trustee, Editor, Production Editor, 3 Editorial Readers, Circulation Manager, Proof Reader and Team Secretary. Share additionally has a Team Chair. Each Team meets monthly at the Southern Service Office in London and the Northern Service Office in Glasgow respectively.

For many years the two magazines were very different in their appearance and, to some degree, content. In recent times, ROUNDABOUT has adopted the formula of SHARE in production and team structure and is now very similar.

The two subscription databases and distribution of each magazine are managed by one member of the GSO (York) office staff plus a level of accounting/banking support for subscriptions. All GSO staff assist with labelling, envelope stuffing and bundling magazines for posting.

Each magazine is currently self-supporting, largely by utilising the professional skills of members in the editorial/production area. Printing, paper, postage and administration costs do however increase. As with most printing, the greatest cost is in the setting up - (Typesetting/illustration/plate making/machine make-ready and cleaning up/setting up the collating machinery etc). Once a magazine is set up and ready to print, it costs comparatively little to print more copies. The per copy cost for printing, say, 6,500 copies of just one magazine would therefore be significantly less than the current situation.

Additionally, the SHARE team produces an annual Calendar and Pocket Diary for the Fellowship under the SHARE banner which is predominantly promoted and sold in England and Wales. Few Scottish members are aware of these additional Fellowship items but it is known that they would be popular, particularly if marketed separately under the ROUNDABOUT banner too. Costs currently preclude this possibility.

Is the message different in England, Scotland & Wales?

Alcoholism is the same the world over. We gain understanding of what we suffer from through identification. Within meetings, and in Twelfth-Stepping situations, colloquial language is naturally an important factor in gaining such identification. But what of the printed word? The Fellowship has but one Big Book. The Fellowship has but one AA Service News for the whole of Great Britain. Do we need two magazines?

A New Title

Each magazine naturally has members/brand loyalties but which are often based on little or no knowledge of the other magazine. It would therefore be detrimental to the power of any future magazine to carry the message (i.e. circulation may be lost) if they were to retain one of the existing titles. For this potential change to be of full benefit, therefore, it might be considered advisable to launch a magazine with a completely new title.

Protecting our Future

With an ever increasing reliance on TV, Film and Web based communication, circulation figures for all newspapers, magazines etc, are declining across the western world. The printed word becomes less and less popular. The Fellowship' magazines, whilst very successful within their limited market, have likewise experienced a slow but steady fall in circulation. If this pattern continues, as is likely, both magazines will in the future struggle to be self-supporting with the potential demise of both publications.

This question is therefore asked to urge the Fellowship to not only best manage its current resources, but to safeguard the future of our great publishing tradition.

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

2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:

- **To ensure that the Region recognises areas that are sparsely served by the Fellowship do not remain in "no-man's land" but become part of that Region's responsibility.**

Background

Guideline No. 5 – Regions.

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

Committee No. 4 - External

1. Would Conference please consider the status of Jersey Intergroup with regard to Conference representation?

Background

In 1976 when representation at Conference was based on Intergroups, Jersey was invited to send a single delegate. Two delegates from Jersey attended (sharing the cost) and this continued in future years. At the 1980 Conference when regional representation was agreed upon, it was determined that the 'Channel Islands Intergroup' should send two delegates to the General Service Conference and that *for other purposes* it should be linked to South West Region (Region 8). This decision was made with due consideration to the geographical position of the Channel Islands. The term *for other purposes* did not clarify how Jersey's representation on the other 4 committees was to be achieved. During the next 24 years a custom and practice arose whereby representation took place through 2 Jersey delegates and, on an informal basis, through 4 of South West Region's delegates. Jersey Intergroup was satisfied that it had adequate representation and has not requested a change. South West Region also has not requested a change. The Channel Islands Intergroup was a misnomer and did not exist as such. Jersey Intergroup existed with no membership from other islands. Guernsey members formed an independent Intergroup and

became part of the South West Region, with no Conference delegates of their own.

At present Jersey have 2 Conference delegates. See: **The Conference Charter -Great Britain, Article 2. Composition. The Conference (Great Britain) shall be composed of six delegates from each region and two delegates from Jersey Intergroup (Channel Islands) and... Section 10 3 (b) Composition of Conference states:** Jersey Intergroup shall continue to be represented by two delegates, but for other purposes it shall be linked to the South West Region.

A question regarding representation was raised at Conference 2003 but was not supported by sufficient background material.

Committee Four recommended that:-

"Jersey Intergroup, Guernsey Intergroup and South West Region along with other interested parties examine all the options available to them and resubmit the question for 2004, with researched options, including the status quo and sufficient background material to help conference formulate an informed group conscience.

In the mean time the status quo be maintained as set out in the Conference Charter in that two delegates represent the conscience of Jersey Intergroup at Conference 2004."

A sub-committee of all the interested parties was set up to examine the matter and clarify the position. The recommendation of that committee of 7 March 2004, which was ratified by the full regional assembly, is:-

"Jersey should be regarded as an Intergroup and its status henceforth be the same as all other Intergroups."

There was a minority view that the status of Jersey should remain as present. The status quo is uncertain, and subject to different interpretations.

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

2. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Would Conference consider how in this modern age of worldwide mobile, digital and electronic

communication, can we best preserve Traditions Eleven and Twelve?

Background

All members of AA are guaranteed anonymity. This is the bedrock on which much successful 12th Step work is achieved. Much of today's small digital equipment may undermine the principle of anonymity.

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

Committee No. 5 – Special Interest

1. Would Conference consider restoring AA's public anonymity by removing the letters 'AA' from the hanging 'symbol'? (The AA Meeting Room sign – Item code 3830).

Background

'Look for the triangle in the circle', the symbol of Alcoholics Anonymous. Or, rather, it used to be a symbol, used to be anonymous. The letters 'AA' now appear within the triangle.

If anonymity is to remain the spiritual foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous, the triangle should once again be a plain triangle with no letters placed inside it.

A symbol is 'instead of', it *represents* AA. Why have a symbol at all if it's just a piece of design and not allowed to perform its essential function, not just for the newcomer, all Friends of Bill's deserve its fine subtlety.

However, the plain triangle in a circle is used by other organisations.

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

2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:

- **To share Intergroup experience in the field of co-operation with outside agencies, prisons, health services, schools, social services, alcohol abuse agencies, churches, courts, Probation**

Service (Social work department, in Scotland), industry, and any other appropriate institutions and areas of society.

Background

Guideline No. 5 – Regions.

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

Committee No 6 - External

1. Should Regions have Electronic Communication Liaison Officer positions?

Background

During Conference 1998, Committee Six recommended, in the words of Bill W, that we embrace computer communications. "The future success of Alcoholics Anonymous may rest on how well we are able to employ the colossus of modern communications." Now that we are using Electronic communications in most areas of our service work, it is imperative that we keep the integrity of AA's message foremost in our work. We also need service workers who will help promote "Best Practices" in our electronic communications. We need liaisons who will be able to encourage members to continue the electronic 12th step work that has only recently begun and has been a huge success in terms of bringing new members into the Fellowship. In order to facilitate this service work, the Workshop participants recommend that Conference propose the Fellowship create a new service position called "Electronic Communication Liaison Officer".

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

2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:

- **To increase opportunity for members to participate in our Third Legacy of Service.**
- **To enable members with particular experience to serve a wider area.**

Background

Guideline No. 5 – Regions.

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

The background information for the Conference questions is available from Regional and Intergroup Secretaries.

Archives

Use of archival videos captures the imagination at the Wirral 'Road Show'

The third of the four planned Archivists Road Shows was successfully staged at St. Agnes church hall in West Kirkby on Saturday 16th September, despite the inclement weather. There were three workshops based on archival themes, several archivists brought along memorabilia to display and there was room devoted to showing various archival videos. The event concluded with an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The informed workshops delivered by archivists from around the country were on a broad range of archival subjects:

- The experience gained from creating and publishing an historical booklet for an I/G's anniversary celebration.
- An evaluation of archival material on the internet.
- Personal perspectives on the role of an I/G Archivist, of which there were two.
- Collecting and collating information on Group Histories within an I/G.
- Experience gained from starting up an I/G Archives Working Group

All the above stimulated a great deal of informed debate long after people went home on the 16th.

The displays lined the main hall and were the focus of much attention during the various breaks. Items included:- the development of Newsletter/Share; photographs from the displays at GSO; minute books from early service

structure committees; the Big Books inscribed when gifted by Bill W to Canadian Bob; Joe T; Alan of Bolton and Bill H. Many archivists brought local memorabilia to display, and some brought memorabilia to donate to the Fellowship.

However what seemed to capture the imagination was the archival videos. AA World Services has now turned the film strip version of 'Markings on The Journey' into a video, this is a comprehensive account of the start and early development of AA. This along with 'Bill W Discusses The Traditions' and 'Hope' were very popular. Any of these can be bought from GSO in New York via our own General Service Office in York. **BUT** please be aware that a video bought in the US may not play on all but the newer VCR's, and it could cost anything up to £25 for the video bought to be converted to a GB format.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Archives Committee of the GSB to thank all those involved in delivering the presentations, the sharing of their archival experience generated much informed opinion; those who shared their wealth of experience at the Open AA meeting. To those who were involved in organising the Wirral Road Show, many, many thanks. There were many tasks, all entered into in true AA spirit, especially those people who laid on the refreshments who gave credence to the saying heard in many AA rooms, 'I didn't get sober to be miserable'.

In archival terms the Wirral Road Show emphasised that we need people to volunteer to talk to those who have had the experience within the Fellowship and record their recollections.

Can you volunteer?

The Road Show 2005 moves to Baldock, Herts.

Eastern Region have kindly agreed to stage the final Archivists Road Show at their meeting venue, the Community Centre, in the market town of Baldock Hertfordshire, just north of Stevenage on the A1. The venue is ideal for such an event and long standing members of London,

South East and Eastern Regions will be invited to attend. The event will work to the same formula of Archives Workshops; Displays; and Videos. The concluding event will be an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Refreshments will be provided, but please make your own arrangements for lunch. There are also ample parking facilities. A more detailed outline of the programme will be given in the Spring edition.

It promises to be a very enjoyable and informative occasion so please put **Saturday 3rd September 2005** in your diaries now.

For further details please refer to the 'flyer' enclosed or contact:-

Derrick A - 01223 290678 or armson@clara.net

Joe H - joeh693@btopenworld.com

Rodger P - 07710 290170

AA Memorabilia on the 'High St'

I regard part of my work as an AA historian is to trawl charity shops and second hand bookshops for AA publications. Recently I was fortunate enough to come across a second edition of the Big Book, it was in very good condition and it had made its way to Otley from the Watford Monday Group.

Why don't you start up a new hobby, by going round second hand book shops and high street charity shops searching for and maybe discovering that 'holy grail', a first or second edition of the Big Book, I know quite a few AA members who have.

**Intergroup Contributions
July – September**

EASTERN REGION	10110	SOUTH EAST REGION	
ESSEX	667	BRIGHTON AREA	1571
FENLAND	557	EAST KENT	1530
LEA VALLEY	389	EAST SUSSEX	1761
NORTH HERTS	542	MID SURREY	9101
NORTH THAMES	84	NORTH EAST SURREY	1320
SOUTH EAST ANGLIAN	22	NORTHDOWN	3211
STORT & RODING	329	SOLENT	1535
		SOUTHDOWN	6460
		WEST KENT	3585
		WEST SUSSEX	1483
LONDON REGION		SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION	
CITY OF LONDON	616	AVON NORTH	4550
CHELSEA	10657	AVON SOUTH	743
CROYDON, EPSOM & SUTTON	2280	CHILTERN & THAMES	6892
LONDON EAST	3500	SEVERN	7000
KENSINGTON & FULHAM	1000	SOUTH MIDLANDS I/G	4500
LONDON NORTH	4000	THAMES VALLEY	500
LONDON NORTH KENT	1553	WILTSHIRE	1500
LONDON NORTH MIDDLESEX	1500	SOUTH WEST REGION	9042
LONDON NORTH WEST	1650	BOURNEMOUTH DISTRICT	404
LONDON SOUTH EAST (EAST)	1100	CORNWALL	325
LONDON SOUTH MIDDLESEX	3543	DEVON CENTRAL	641
LONDON SOUTH WEST	7681	GUERNSEY	207
LONDON WESTWAY	400	JERSEY	1033
		SOMERSET	280
		WEST DORSET	248
MIDLANDS REGION	9000	WALES AND BORDERS REGION	
BIRMINGHAM	5000	CARMARTHENSHIRE (SIR GAER)	161
COVENTRY & WARWICK	249	NORTH WEST WALES	96
DERBYSHIRE	296	SOUTH GLAMORGAN	364
LINCOLNSHIRE	219	SWANSEA & DISTRICT	405
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43	WELSH BORDERS I/G	536
POTTERIES & DISTRICT	208	WEST WALES	1413
WEST MIDLANDS NORTHERN	522		
NORTH EAST REGION		GLASGOW REGION	13000
DURHAM & CLEVELAND	6558	GLASGOW EAST	133
HULL & EAST RIDING	1311	HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION	5000
NORTH YORKSHIRE	1411	SCOTIA REGION	12000
NORTHUMBERLAND	58	EDINBURGH	255
SUNDERLAND & DISTRICT	117	KELVIN VALLEY	47
TYNE & NORTHUMBRIA	2850	SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION	3000
WEST RIDING	3930	AYRSHIRE & SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND	18
YORKSHIRE SOUTH	1388		
YORKSHIRE WEST	1546	SUNDRY	50
NORTH WEST REGION	14800		
CHESHIRE EAST	1607	TOTAL	£209756
CHESTER CITY	230		
CUMBRIA	132		
WIRRAL	200		

Why not take a picture of your meeting room (no people in shot please) once it is set up before a meeting, and/or take a picture of the building you meet in, and pass a copy to your local archivist.

Archivists might take picture of where meetings used to be held, even if the building is not standing!

Joe H, Fellowship Archivist