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

Concept Three

To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives-with a traditional "Right of Decision."

• Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we instruct?

• Do we trust our trusted servants — GSR, Regional Representative, Conference Delegate, the Conference itself?

Contributions regarding service in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas - individuals, Groups, Intergroups, Regions, Sub-committees, GSB.

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

Share Your Experience

Are you sending in your Region and Intergroup Minutes and Agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk?
2017 AA Structure & Service Handbooks for Great Britain

These ‘Blue Books’ are available now.

They are free of charge.

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Post - GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

On-line - www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/shop
Hi my name is Wullie I, and I am an alcoholic. I was part of the 2015 five-yearly Fellowship survey, which was presented to Conference 2016. The committee tasked me with writing to AA Service News regarding some of the outcomes.

First of all, I would like to thank the great team we had working on this project, Ash Kahn, Chair of the Survey Team (Non-Alcoholic Trustee), Helen S (Eastern Region Trustee), Stephen S (GSO Projects Admin), Miranda W (SSO) and Lorraine M (NSO).

We would like to thank all the Group Secretaries who took time to participate and return in Phase 1, and the resulting Fellowship members who completed Phase 2.

Some of the key points that came out of the Survey results were:

- Over the last five years, an increasing number of people make first contact with AA via the website
- The ratio of 60% Male to 40% female remains unchanged in the last 10 years
- The survey re-emphasised that regular attendance at meetings as well as having a home group is important in achieving and maintaining sobriety
- Membership is estimated to be somewhere between 33,000 and 40,000
- Over 3 million individual attendances at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings per annum

On how people are introduced to AA for the first time; although first contact through the Internet has risen by over 10% to 19% in the last 5 years, still the highest rates for new membership is down to people being introduced through existing members at 28%.

The response rates for Phase 1 of the Survey were, to say the least, disappointing, with only 42% of group Secretaries returning the completed questionnaires. Only three regions reaching returns of over 50% and 3 regions retuning 35% or under.
There may be reasons the response rate has been low. It could be that GSO doesn’t have the correct up to date information for your group secretary. If your group does not receive copies of the AA Service News, it may be worth asking why this is the case as three copies are sent to every group registered with an address at GSO.

We recommend that your group details should be updated every time there is a change in Group Officers and on yearly basis at a minimum, even if there have been no changes. Updates should be done through the “Pink Form” or online via the “Online Pink Form”.

The next Survey will take place in 2020 and the current Survey Team has left a legacy for the 2020 team with respect to the mistakes we have learned from including the salience of the questions in the survey form (i.e. what could be left in and what could be left out in future surveys).

Wullie I (GSB Vice Chair)

World Service Meeting, Rye Brook, New York, 23-27 Oct ‘16

Theme – One World – One AA – One Language of the Heart

GB Delegates – Willie Mac (2nd Term Delegate); Joe H (1st Term Delegate)

Firstly, I must thank the Fellowship for both the privilege and opportunity to attend the WSM. I found it inspiring, it has certainly enhanced my sobriety, and made me more appreciative of AA service structure in GB, and how it developed over the years according to the needs of the Fellowship it serves.

The meeting lasted four and a half days with each day split into four main parts – Country Highlights; Workshops; Committees; and Presentations. Sharing or questions/comments from the floor were taken at certain points in each day as well as in a general sharing session.

Immediately prior to the start of the meeting, there was a Red Ball sharing AA meeting where all delegates sat in a large circle and if the Red Ball came your way you shared a bit about yourself.

The meeting was chaired by the General Secretary of US/CAN GSO, Greg T, with Terry Bedient, the Chair of US/CAN GSB giving the welcoming talk.
Forty-one countries over the course of four days provided highlights of their country’s report. I was privileged to deliver the GB country highlights (enclosed). This was drawn from our two previous Annual GSB Reports to Conference.

There were four Committees:- Agenda Committee; Working With Others; Literature Publishing Committee (Chair - Willie Mac) and Policy Admissions and Finance. When Chairs reported back on the final morning their reports were accepted by the full meeting. These preliminary committee reports along with workshop reports will be available to read in Archives.

I served on the Agenda Committee where suggestions from member countries/zones were evaluated for the 25th WSM, including - overall theme; committee and presentation themes, along with questions to address in workshops. The agreed theme of the next WSM is:

Our Twelve Traditions: AA’s Future in The Modern World

Venue – Durban, South Africa

6th - 11th October 2108

There were 21 presentations to the whole WSM covering 8 different themes. Two that I would draw your attention to related firstly the International Literature Fund (ILF), to which we have contributed to over the past five years, and secondly Country to Country Sponsorship. In the ILF presentation a spreadsheet (attached) of countries supporting the ILF was given covering the years 1991 to date. Requests did come from the floor asking for a more detailed breakdown of costs within the execution of the ILF. We shall have to wait until the next meeting to see if these requests are taken up.

In the Country to Country Sponsorship a presentation was given by a Polish delegate entitled ‘In Countries Where There is No Established Service Structure’ in which she expressed Poland’s gratitude to GB for the financial support of the Polish Conference. This came after other eastern European countries had also expressed their gratitude for the financial support of GB during the past year. At the end of the presentation I took the opportunity of sharing with WSM how that support comes about, namely through the Development Fund established in the 1950’s following Bill W’s donation of his royalties from the sale in GB of the hard back Big Book and subsequently As Bill Sees IT and the Twelve and Twelve.
I would like to thank all staff from New York GSO who had a part in staging a very successful meeting, in particular Mary Cummins the Secretary of the meeting.

Overall, it was a very intense five days. I saw daylight only because I went to the gym before breakfast. Never-the-less it was a highly rewarding experience for which I am prepared to share with anyone who wants to hear.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to Durban in 2018 - one day at a time of course. Thank you once again.

Joe H

Trustee & 1st Term WSM Delegate

World Service Meeting 2016

Just a short note to thank AAGB for the privilege of letting me attending the 24th World Service Meeting (WSM).

It was a great pleasure and privilege on behalf of AAGB, to have attended the WSM in New York and a delight to catch up with old friends and make new ones from around the World. I believe the WSM will continue to grow and more countries will join when they have established service structures. It is important that we continue to share experience and to listen to the share experience of other countries and in doing so we can strive to keep AA whole in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The countries that AAGB supported financially, their delegates expressed their deep gratitude to Joe and me personally, and to pass on their thanks and gratitude to AAGB, who without AAGB’s help would not have been able to attend. My personal opinion gained through experience is that AAGB should to continue to support the WSM and for the finance committee to consider increasing contributions to the WSM while AAGB is in a strong financial position. The next WSM venue was announced and it will be in South Africa. I believe this was the right decision, and will be an enormous boost for AA in South Africa and the surrounding countries that have no service structures and are being supported by South Africa. I was told by the SA delegates after the announcement that, thanks to my faith and confidence in them, they went into the interview
process to hold the WSM in their country full of that confidence and faith. They gave it their best shot. I maybe had played a small part, but it is thanks to the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous which gave me the privilege of attending the Sub Saharan Africa Service Meeting last year. This gave me an insight into the structure and members of South Africa Alcoholics Anonymous - I was in tears when the announcement was made.

I believe that AAGB has one of the best service structures in the world and I am always telling other delegates that. However, it can always be improved. It would be remiss of me not to mention the failure of AAGB’s literature not to be sent to New York. A lot of delegates were asking for our literature, and Joe will be sending some to the ones that requested it. I did apologise to all concerned. I am not bothered about the past now, but it would be good practice if some sort of procedure was put in place so that this did not happen again.

It is difficult for me to put into words the emotions I had at the end of the meeting. The serenity pray was said in all the different languages of the delegates attending. There were tears of joy and gratitude, and I felt very privileged, blessed and humbled. Thank goodness that I believe 100% in rotation. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve - I hope I will meet some of you, if not all, as we trudge the road to a happy destiny.

Love in Fellowship
Willie Mac
2nd Term WSM Delegate

Public Information

Anonymous not invisible

CARRYING a clear and consistent message of AA to the public and professionals is one of the major roles of the Public Information Sub Committee.

It reports directly to the General Service Board of AA Great Britain and is chaired by the Trustee for PI. It usually has six members, including a Non-Alcoholic Trustee.
Any member of the Fellowship can apply to join – the requirement is at least five years continuous sobriety with experience of PI at Intergroup or Region. Applicants are proposed by their Region and ought to have good working experience of The Traditions.

While the individual’s anonymity is paramount, the Fellowship should not be invisible - we all have a duty to carry the message to alcoholics.

The sub-committee advertises for new members each year in AA Service News and the AA website. The period of service is four years, with three meetings each year in York plus an annual Regional PI Liaison Officers meeting, usually in September. Meetings are held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

The group is tasked with creating a clear and consistent external message ensuring that the AA name is not confused or considered to be affiliated to any other organisations. The Fellowship has no opinion on outside issues and we do not wish to be drawn into public controversy.

Nationally, we maintain good relations with professionals and members of the media.

We endeavour to increase knowledge of the AA programme among the public and professionals by means of awareness campaigns at national and regional level.

We offer support through resource packs and PI CDs to Regional and Intergroup PI committees. Also, we review and update PI literature and information, the PI section of the AA GB website and liaise with other disciplines to encourage PI opportunities.

The PISC produces a monthly newsletter edited by one of its members. This updates the fellowship on campaigns and PI activity locally and nationally.

Peter F

GSB Trustee for Public Information.
Co-operation with Outside Agencies

I wanted to briefly pass on to you on a very positive PI event we had as part of AA Awareness Month. Please feel free to share any of this information anywhere you see fit.

Zara, Nick (who has been helping me with PI since Zara moved on to YPLO) Alex P and I spoke to about 14 members of the Guildford Street Angels Team.

They have agreed to pass on literature when they are out on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights. They were keen to put our little blue business cards with the new 0800 phone number into their ruck-sacks that they carry with them.

I read out all the Traditions, and made it clear that we were collaborating and not affiliating.

Far more importantly than the letter of the law and semantics, the event was full of feeling and emotion thanks to the wonderful shares from Alex, Nick and Zara. The Street Angels team members, many of whom work in drug and alcohol services, schools and other relevant bodies in the week, were visibly moved and inspired by the honesty and vulnerability that we take for granted when we share in meetings.

The feedback was lovely. One gentlemen said that he could see and feel the compassion that the four of us had for each other. For me this is AA working. I found yet again that it is personal stories and vulnerability that seem to speak to people more than facts and figures. All four of us found saying "I'm an alcoholic" outside of an AA meeting moving. I always do.

I have little doubt that suffering alcoholics will be reached and guided to the rooms as a result of this event. Lots of literature, especially Where to Finds, were taken. We had a good Q and A session.

It was the most positive experience I have had in my time as PILO. I was delighted to hear that one of the people present had already met with Mark (HLO) and is regularly referring people to our phone service.

Jonny
Public Information Liaison Officer, Mid Surrey
Highlands & Islands Region AA Awareness Event

Wednesday 16th November 2016

Inverness Caledonian Football Club Conference Centre

The event was organised in co-operation with Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership. The organising committee felt that we were more likely to attract the Professional Community to the event by developing links across organisations and Health Professionals involved in the field of alcoholism.

The event was chaired by Sandy Mc V, GSB Trustee Highlands & Islands Region.

The speakers were; Dr Ashraf Kahn Consultant Psychologist and Non-Alcoholic Trustee of AA (GB); Natalie Beale Chairperson of Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership and also Governor of HMP Inverness; Dr Hugo Van Woerden Director of Public Health & Health Policy to NHS Highland; A local member of the fellowship shared her experience, strength and hope; so too did a member of Al-Anon.

Following the final speaker presentation, there was a lively question and answer session.

We provided packs containing a selection of AA Literature for delegates from the Professional Community to be available on arrival - also a range of literature for members of the public displayed on the AA stand.

The organising committee felt that an AA Archives display, including presentation boards to give the professionals some knowledge of how AA began in the Highlands & Islands and beyond, would be useful. The Highlands and Islands Regional Archivist was present.

We had 50 people attending the event from across AA, Al-anon and the Professional Community.

It is a concern here and nationally of low numbers of Health Professionals, Doctors and Nurse Practitioners attending these events when given the opportunity. This event was well publicised, also members of the organising committee spoke directly to Doctors and Administrators.
This may be a concern for the GSB to have a serious look at how we resolve this in the future.

Jim C
Event organising committee member

Notts/Leicester Intergroup AA Awareness month TV series

These features came about following an informal chat, with one of Notts TV’s presenters in September 2015. It then took more than a year to come to fruition. Initially, there was just periodic contact to explore the possibilities. Once the concept was agreed, a lot of effort was needed to get the content and format agreeable to both sides. It had not been expected that it would need so much time, with both the presenter and AA members/serving officers, to ensure that everything would conform to the AA traditions (especially Tradition 11). This included participating members changing their names and Notts TV blurring out faces. Advice was also taken from the Midlands Region PILO.

Notts TV quickly realised the potential of help to the Nottinghamshire Community and expanded upon their original thoughts. They decided they would have a daily three minute ‘interview’ on their evening news programme (repeated three times over the course of each evening), concentrating on personal stories, with a different ‘interview’ on each of the 5 nights. These shorter interviews were broadcast between 14th and 18th November.

As the day for filming got nearer, there were almost daily e-mail/message exchanges.

AA was able to give ‘suggestions’ for the format and content – thus taking a lot of the thinking out of their hands. This went as far as ‘scripting’ certain parts of the feature for the presenter – this helped to ensure we got across the message we had hoped for.

They particularly wanted a cross section of members, with different lengths of sobriety. Five members volunteered from the following backgrounds:

- Retired professional;
- Female company director
• Young family man
• A serial ‘relapser’ now with one year’s sobriety
• A former nurse
• A service provider to say how AA helped clients.

Following the news ‘interviews’ a full-length feature about AA in Nottingham and how it works will be transmitted.

Items covered in the full-length feature include:

• What AA is and is not
• How AA came about and how it came to Nottingham
• How AA works
• Personal stories
• The ‘experts’ view
• How to contact AA

The Intergroup PILO was allowed to have input throughout the production processes. Copies of the televised features are being made available on DVD. These can be used as part of PI presentations.

We are truly grateful for the flexibility of Notts TV in undertaking this project – they demonstrated that they really WANTED to produce such a feature.

Our gratitude also goes out to those AA members who participated. This includes the telephone responders as they were warned that additional calls may be a result of the features – we are waiting to see if this happened.

If we have managed to plant the seeds of hope to others, or attracted just one new member to the Fellowship, it can be deemed a success.

The participants (screen names used) had the following to say about their experience of being involved in the project:

Notts TV

“The crew loved it. All found it very interesting and were impressed at how open everyone was, saying that it must partly be down to the AA meetings and opening up there”.

13
‘Frank’

“Right from the start, the presenter was able to make us feel relaxed. Prior to filming starting we had a “get to know each other” session over coffee. This included getting to know other members of the Fellowship with whom I had had very little contact with in the past. It enabled any nerves to be allayed. It resulted that telling my story was like talking to an old friend – almost forgetting that I was in a studio environment. The whole experience was extremely fulfilling and I would recommend it to anybody should similar opportunities arise”.

‘Tom’

“Having the opportunity to talk about my experience strength and hope with Notts TV was a fantastic experience. Any fears I had about breaking my anonymity were allayed in that we would use an ‘alias’ and that our faces would be blanked out. Although one of my defects is destructive perfectionism, I felt that I did the best I could in answering the questions and hopefully carried the message to those who may benefit from attending AA and gain the many gifts the fellowship has given me”.

‘Katie’

“Right from being invited along to the TV recording, the PILO was informative and clear about what was going to happen. I actually felt excited to be involved as the best thing I have ever done is get sober and the next best thing is giving it away so that more people can feel the way I do without the need, desire or compulsion to drink alcohol. Upon arrival at the studio we were given a table in the Cafe and hot drinks were provided free of charge and we were all made to feel welcome by the lady who was interviewing us. At our slots we were shown into the recording studio and it was just like chatting with a friend in an AA Meeting, relaxed, genuine and honest. The time passed by so quickly and then it was a ‘wrap’! The PILO explained that he would let
us know when it was scheduled to be on the TV and away we went. I understand that it took over a year to set up - a year of hard graft! I strongly recommend anyone getting involved as it is cathartic”.

‘Pablo’

I really enjoyed today’s experience. It was an honour to be of service to our beloved Fellowship. I found the whole experience extremely rewarding and enjoyable. I felt really comfy both before and during filming. I only wish to be able to reach out to the still sick and suffering alcoholic and be able to spread the message of hope and to show that A.A really does work. Another fruit of sobriety”.

‘Catherine’

“The interviewer and team put me at ease. I loved being in a sound proof room, the silence was awesome. I would have preferred to talk more recovery, but as I speak a lot it was my own responsibility. I would encourage all to go for the experience as from the onset it focused me on my recovery in a way that I had not before. I also reflected on my session afterward. It was a positive experience, meeting other alcoholics is always good in my experience, the group of interviewees are awesome and forever part of my journey in sobriety”.

Should you wish for more information please contact the Notts. / Leicester PILO, Mike E, at michael.evans9788@outlook.com
Scottish Parliamentary Event

The Scottish Parliamentary awareness event was held at the Parliament buildings Holyrood, Edinburgh on October 6th 2016.

The host for our event was Rhoda Grant MSP for Highlands and Islands Area.

The numbers were down on previous years with about 12 invited guests in attendance.

They ranged from members of the churches, local councils, drug and alcohol forums, health professionals plus Turning Point Scotland which is a Charitable organisation listing learning disability, drugs, mental health and homelessness services on offer.

We also had a member of SHAAP which is the Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems, plus members of Al Anon along with members of the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

They included Geoff H, Chair of the Board, Wullie I, Vice Chair, Nick Holroyd Non-Alcoholic PI Trustee and Charlie R (Prisons).

Our guest speakers for the event were Sheriff Alistair Duff, Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland; Dr Jonathan Chick, Chief Medical Officer at Castle Craig Hospital and a former Non-Alcoholic Trustee on the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA speaker was Alex H from East of Scotland Region. Chair for the evening was Sandy MacV, Trustee for the Scottish Parliament event, who opened the event, welcoming the host and introducing the main speakers.

The Chair gave a short PowerPoint presentation and an introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sandy was followed by Sheriff Duff who talked about his working life which was entitled - ‘39 Years of Alcohol - a Life in Crime’

This was both an entertaining and informative presentation.

Our next speaker was Dr Jonathan Chick, Chief Medical Officer at Castle Craig Hospital and a former Non-Alcoholic Trustee.
Jonathan gave a riveting presentation on *The Effectiveness of Mutual Aid*.

Our final speaker for the evening was Alex H from East of Scotland Region who shared his experience, strength and Hope with us.

Following Alex’s presentation, we had a short question and answer session.

Following this Sandy invited our host Rhoda Grant to sum up.

Rhoda was amazed by what she had heard. Sandy then thanked Rhoda for very kindly acting as our host for the event. He thanked the speakers for their very interesting and informative presentations. Sandy thanked the parliament staff and the AA members who helped to make the event possible.

Finally Sandy thanked the invited guests for their attendance at the event. Overall, although we were small in numbers, the event proved to be a success.

Sandy MacV (Trustee for Scottish Parliament event)

Share magazine was one of the lifelines of AA for me when I first got sober. Along with the sharing I heard in meetings, conversations with my sponsor, and the magical words in the Big Book, articles in Share magazine bolstered a growing sense of hope that, if these people could get – and stay – sober, then I could too.

Just over seven years later, as Share Liaison Officer for Southdown Intergroup, I was excited to visit GSO York for the annual workshop with Regional Share Reps, other Intergroup SLOs and the Share Team. It was great to meet everyone and get a sense of being part of something not just bigger than myself, but also something that others also feel positively towards.

We had the opportunity of meeting Helen, the magazine’s Trustee representative; we also met Share’s Editor, new into post earlier this year, who spoke about Share’s commitment to carrying the message of recovery. We heard from the four readers, whose role includes making recommendations about publication of articles received from members. We
met Julie, Share’s staff member, whose help, guidance and positive attitude many of us had benefitted from as Intergroup SLOs over the phone. It was good to put a face to the name, not least because of the hard work and enthusiastic support that Julie provides to the Fellowship.

It is the role of SLOs to promote Share magazine among members and groups. Although subscriptions had dropped the previous year, the meeting was positive and optimistic: contributions from members to the magazine have been steadily picking up. SLOs actively encourage the contribution of articles and letters to Share, and we were able to listen to the various successful experiences of fellow SLOs who have been injecting a bit of fun into this activity.

Probably the best thing about the workshop for me was the sharing of experience, strength and hope around the roles being performed. I’ve come away knowing that there are people I can reach out to for ideas and encouragement as well as with a bolstered sense of enthusiasm for the magazine and my service commitment. Thank you to the Share team for hosting the workshop and to Southdown Intergroup for the opportunity to have been part of it.

The Share workshop was held at GSO in York in the evening of Friday 14th October, then reconvening the following morning.

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**Delivering Quality Offender Health Provision in England and Wales 2017**

I attended (by invitation) a seminar/conference in late January hosted by *Inside Government*.

There were 3 Keynote speakers and 11 other (very) qualified speakers.

From National Offender Management Service (NOMS) HM Inspector of Prisons. (HMIP) Healthcare professionals from prisons -all categories National Probation Service Magistrates Association (MA) and offender healthcare from NHS and charities throughout England and Wales.
The message from the conference was that the mental as well as physical health in the Criminal Justice service was both a legal requirement (Care Act 2014), and the issue of security within prisons.

The correct diagnosis and treatment during and after release was paramount. Mental health was taken to including drug and alcohol. Examples of good (and occasional bad) practice with case histories along with details of the commissioning processes were given throughout the day.

On the face of it, there was not much for the Fellowship - especially as most discussion was on admin or Government, NHS and local authority policies. However, over the years the surprise factor in meeting a sober member of AA at a senior seminar is invaluable. Contacts made or maintained, especially within the Government legal system, is sometimes important.

During the breaks I had the opportunity to talk to members:-

**MA** - (I gave a ‘Newcomers’ pack to one)

**HMIP** - Agreed to talk to a group of Inspectors

**NOMS** - Agreed to further contact from Prison and Probation trustees

**Barrister** turned out to be a member of the Bar association who half promised an invitation for me to come to talk to Chambers.

Clive D
Trustee for Probation Criminal Justice Services.

*Inside Government is the public policy division of Government Communications for providing public sector forums.*

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**Polish Conference Report**

**18th and 19th November 2016 GSB**

First and foremost, I would like to say that it was a huge privilege to be asked to attend the 45th Polish Conference in Warsaw and I thank the General Service Board for giving me this opportunity in my first year as a Trustee.
Also, being given the chance to accompany Peter, my fellow Trustee, to the Conference was an absolute bonus. This trip provided an opportunity for us to get to know each other better, which was a truly enlightening and fascinating experience for both of us I’m sure.

I cannot really put into words my thoughts, feelings, experience and insight that I gained through attending this wonderful uplifting and truly inspirational Conference. All I can say is that it was the most moving, inspirational and humbling experience I have ever had in 12 years of my sobriety and service.

I have many highlights of this conference too numerous to mention here. One of them was on allocation of our rooms; I was introduced to Elena from Romania, whom I was to share a room with. She spoke some good English and told me that she was just eight months sober. Her role was on the Public Information Licensing/Translation Committee. In our time together, we both shared some precious sobriety and valuable service experience. She was at the conference with another delegate. They wanted to know more about Structure, and what they could do to improve how they carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in Romania.

The Foreign Delegates’ briefing session was a superb introduction to the Conference with representatives from all over Eastern Europe. Everyone introduced themselves in the language of their country, which was interpreted into English and other languages for the benefit of all the attendees. Seeing people come together to gain from the shared experience of others and to gain a better understanding of the Polish Conference structure was incredible.

Taking part as an observer at the Conference was a fascinating experience. While I did not understand the majority of what was being said, it did not matter. Tadeusz, a final year Conference delegate provided the majority of
support to me and others by summarising and interpreting the important elements of information. This in itself was a ‘cherished experience’ as he tried to communicate the voice of the Polish Conference delegates to those that did not understand their language. I owe a debt of gratitude to him because without his voice I would not have had a clue of what was going on, and what was being said.

My most unbelievable and captivating experience of the conference took place in the Committee Questions sessions. These were quite long with what seemed like heavy debate, which was obvious as to how important these questions were to the Polish delegates. The speed and intensity of these conversations gave me an insight into how important it was for all alcoholics to be given a voice and a vote where everyone is truly listened to with patience and tolerance - Concept Four in action.

As Peter has already mentioned, we were given the opportunity to address the Conference on two occasions; the final session on the Sunday gave all the foreign delegates the chance to say something, which was communicated to the Polish delegates through the interpreters. Again, this was an amazing and humbling experience, as the Polish Delegates came to me after the Conference, looked into my eyes with warmth and compassion, and gave me the biggest ‘bear hugs’ I have ever had. These hugs spoke to me more than a thousand words ever could.

Being an observer at this Polish Conference was a truly ‘unforgettable and moving’ experience, one which I will never forget

Thank you

Denise Hartley; North West Region Trustee.
When applying for any of the vacancies below please note that forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026 or N.B. jenny.pryke@gsogb.org.uk or in the Document Library of the AA (GB) website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk.

The Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the sponsoring Region or Intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

The deadline for ALL applications is 24th April 2017

Vacancy for Fellowship Archivist

Qualifications –

- At least five years’ sobriety
- Experience of local archives

- Candidates should be sponsored by their Intergroup or Region.

- In keeping with Conference recommendations, this post does not rotate.

- The Fellowship’s Archivist will need to become familiar with the National Archives housed in GSO, York, although it is not expected that more than four or five visits a year will be necessary.

- The candidate should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, the Twelve Concepts, AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain and the AA Archives ‘policy and procedures’*. An interest in AA history, good communication and IT skills along with an ability to work as part of a team would be highly advantageous. Some knowledge of archival or preservation techniques would also be useful.

- This is a voluntary position but all expenses for the duties of National Archivist will be paid.
The successful candidate will become a member of the Archives sub-committee.

Joe H. Trustee for Archives

Telephones Sub-Committee

Vacancies exist for new team members. Experience as telephone responders and of data handling would be an advantage.

The telephones sub-committee’s role is to:-

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

The team meets three times a year in York and also stays in touch with conference calls and email.

The appointment is for four years and requires a minimum of five years’ sobriety with a sound knowledge of AA Traditions and Concepts.

Judy F. Trustee for Telephones
PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED - 2018 Calendar

The format must be A4 Landscape and be free from any possible identification of persons, implied endorsement or affiliation with any specific organisation, political, cultural, ethnic or denominational identity. Photos should not include identifiable public buildings, properties, notices or similar content. Only photos taken in Great Britain or Central European Region can be considered for inclusion and must be taken by you, personally.

Please email to Julie Fox at GSO, with your name and address for acknowledgement (if published): AAShare@gsogb.org.uk

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DEADLINE: 15 June 2017
In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree AA Group</td>
<td>£533.00</td>
<td>Terry (Duck Pond Terry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cropwell Butler Thurs 8 pm</td>
<td>£50.00</td>
<td>Nigel U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newark Tues 7.30 pm</td>
<td>£200.00</td>
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<td>Liss, Petersfield</td>
<td>£64.45</td>
<td>William</td>
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<td>Wakefield Wed St Catherine's</td>
<td>£75.00</td>
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<td>Congleton Groups</td>
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<td>Susan B</td>
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<td>Haywards Heath</td>
<td>£294.00</td>
<td>Willem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle u Lyme M’group</td>
<td>£46.45</td>
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Please note that the opinions expressed in AA Service News may not necessarily represent the view of the General Service Board.

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

Email: aanews@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Those in Receipt of AA Service News

Three copies are posted to the mailing contact for all Groups in the GB Service Structure. It is also posted to all Intergroup and Regional officers and the General Service Board.

If your Group is not in receipt of AA Service News please contact GSO and check who is the “mail contact” on your Group’s PINK SHEET and if necessary update it. Thank you
“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

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

Services can require committees, delegates, Trustees and Conferences. They include small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and AA as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of all these services is AA’s Third Legacy” - AA Comes of Age page 140

The Role of GSO

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

From Regions Oct – Dec 2016

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<td>London South</td>
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Taken from GB Conference approved pamphlet ‘The Pot’