CONTENTS

Twelve Concepts Personal Checklist – Concept Three

Conference 2017 Recommendations


First Regional Young Peoples’ Liaison Meeting

Restraint of Click and Send

GSB Sub-Committee Vacancies

Calendar of Events

In Memoriam

Tradition Seven

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk
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 Four

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

• Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?

• What does "in reasonable proportion" mean?

• Do we expect that, because we are AA members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

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?
1. Would the Fellowship share experience on the use of Confirmation of Attendance ‘Chits’ in their Groups and consider the benefit of using the ‘Chits’ for other areas such as but not restricted to Employment and Social Services and any adaptations that may be required to accommodate other areas of our Service Structure?

The Committee shared the Fellowship’s experience of the chit system. This ranged from no knowledge or experience to the full use of it. Where there was experience, the outcomes were mainly positive.

Many of the suggestions for its use with outside agencies are already included in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services).

Following sharing of the Fellowship’s experience, we are aware from some members that the chit system is used in Health, Employment and Social Services.

As such, some of the benefits include but are not restricted to the following:

a) Broadening knowledge of AA to outside agencies.

b) Broadening knowledge within the Fellowship, for example, by referring other service areas to the content of the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services).

Whilst recognising that each group is autonomous in deciding whether it uses the chit system, it is suggested that where used, consideration is given to Traditions 6, 10 and 12.

It is recommended that the content of Section 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services) in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, be brought to the attention of all service areas of AA.
This could be for example, by means of an article in AA Service News and a reference to 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services) in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, in future editions of the Service Handbook.

Vote was unanimous

2. **Would the Fellowship consider reviewing the group service handbook page 39 4.2.1 “AA members employed in the alcoholism field”?**

Following detailed and open discussions the committee recommends that paragraph 4.2.1, page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017) be reviewed.

As a consequence of our discussions on paragraph 4.2.1, page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017), the committee felt that should Conference consider it appropriate, the whole of Chapter 4 should also be reviewed.

The committee felt that the Service Handbook considers service and AA as a whole, whereas Chapter 4 is looking at individuals and external employment and therefore not AA service.

The committee recommends to Conference the removal of 4.2.1 page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017). It also recommends the review of Chapter 4 at Conference 2018.

Vote was unanimous

1. **Would the Fellowship consider the role of “-autonomy” in the relationship between Conference, the AA Service Structure and individual groups and share experience?**

In considering the role of “autonomy” in the relationship between Conference, the AA Service Structure and individual groups, we were mindful of the words of our co-founder, Bill W in “Language of the Heart”:
“Tradition Four is yet another confident declaration of mutual trust and love as it flows from each AA group to the other. We give each group full autonomy, the undisturbed right to manage its own affairs. To make this condition doubly permanent and secure, we have guaranteed to all AA groups that they will never be subjected to any centralized government or authority. In turn each group agrees that it will never take any action that could injure us all. Rarely indeed has any AA group ever forgotten that precious trust.” (p. 317).

Autonomy is fully explained in our Service and Structure Manuals, “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” and the Concepts and Traditions Checklists.

An AA group, through its registration with the General Service Office (GB), is assumed to have agreed to affiliate solely to AA and to operate within AA’s Traditions, Concepts and Service Structure.

While each group is self-governing, when making its decisions through its group conscience, it should always consider that AA unity is paramount for our common welfare (Traditions 1, 3 and 4 long form).

In relation to our primary purpose, we would ask that groups acting autonomously do nothing that would prejudice the activities of AA as a whole.

“Unless there is approximate conformity to AA’s Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die.” (“Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions”, Tradition Nine, p.174).

Any group considering ideas that may affect other groups, or Alcoholics Anonymous, as a whole, has a well proven process to do so via the Service Structure. Through our trusted servants, every individual has the right of participation enabling their views to be heard throughout the Fellowship at Intergroups, Regions, and ultimately Conference - the collective conscience of AA Great Britain (Concepts 1 and 2).

Vote was unanimous
2. Would the Fellowship consider adopting Continental European Region’s new ‘The General Service Conference Annual Process Map’?

This committee considered adopting Continental European Region’s new “General Service Conference Annual Process Map” and recommends it be adopted with the following modifications:

a. Add a header line above the process map stating “Questions for Conference can be submitted at any time throughout the year.”

b. Link the sections of the inverted triangle as a direct facsimile of the diagram in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain (p. 6).

c. Enlarge the arrow above the text “repeats annually” on the right-hand side of the timeline.

d. Embolden the sentence “The annual process begins with the group conscience.”

e. Include an arrowhead on the red dotted line.

f. Amend the line “More information on Conference” with the addition of “available from the General Service Office” and delete ‘.pdf’ references.

g. Remove all references to specific regions.

Vote: 18 in favour 1 against

Minority view

The minority view is that the process map does not accurately portray:

1. Representation of the views of individual members on the Conference questions.

2. Access of different levels of the Service Structure to Conference delegates and therefore Conference.

3. The decisions of Conference being imposed on the General Service Board for action.

4. Feedback on the recommendations of Conference being made directly available to all levels of the Service Structure including individual members.
1. **Would the Fellowship share experience on how best to liaise between Intergroups and Regions especially where our boundaries don’t match those of the organisations we are trying to work with.**

The committee shared a variety of experiences which had the common factors of communication, cooperation and coordination that were deemed to be the best practice for negotiating problems.

Existing experience from the Fellowship may be found in the Service and Structure Handbooks, in particular, but not limited to:

a) The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017, p54 states: “Consider responding flexibly to the needs of the professional community and, through regular service meetings/workshops, a plan for your area will emerge. Do not be afraid to ask for help or to contact members in similar service positions in other areas.”

b) The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, p87 states: “Practice has shown that boundaries evolve without the overlapping of neighbouring areas. Where two or more intergroups fall within a local authority area their liaison officers cooperate in trying to carry the message (e.g. prisons, hospitals, etc).”

There is a lot of advice on how to organise workshops and discussion meetings on page 92 of the Structure Handbook.

The Annual Regional Liaison Officers’ meetings which normally take place in York, are very useful for sharing information. Where a regional post is vacant appropriate representation, (e.g. an intergroup liaison officer) may attend.

The Fellowship’s shared experience included the following:

a) Neighbouring intergroups often communicate with each other even when not in the same region. This frequently occurs in prisons, telephone services and other services.
b) Two regions and three intergroups have liaised successfully to take AA into prisons, organizing AA meetings in a new super prison in Wrexham, an area with no history of prison service.

c) Fife intergroup has a strong prison liaison representation despite there being no prisons in Fife, working with neighbouring intergroups to cover prisons in their areas. There are similar examples in Kent, Solent and London.

d) The internet and the new standardized AA email formats have made communication easier than ever, so liaison should not be a problem.

e) Experience of Intergroups liaising by setting up a sub-committee of HLOs to provide responders for a new superhospital in Glasgow, following the closure of several smaller hospitals.

f) The TLOs from Northdown and Solent intergroups have been working together for many years to cover their duties. This cooperation led to an arrangement in prisons within the same intergroups.

It is important to encourage and sponsor AAs into service, especially liaison roles, to maximize opportunities for communication throughout the service structure.

Voting was unanimous

2. Would Conference approve a change of wording to The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2013; to reflect the current practice of the General Service Board?

Page 120; “GSO Money”; 3rd bullet point

From:
“...than is required to do the job well including a prudent reserve equivalent to the budget expenditure for the forthcoming year.”
To:

“...than is required to do the job well, including a prudent reserve of more than the previous year’s expenditure, plus a quarter of the previous year’s expenditure to meet the General Service Board’s operating costs”

Following clarification, Committee 3 recommends that Conference approves a change of wording to the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017; to reflect the current practice of the General Service Board.

Page 121: “GSO Money”; 3rd Bullet point

From: “...than is required to do the job well including a prudent reserve equivalent to the budget expenditure for the forthcoming year.”

To: “than is required to do the job well, including a prudent reserve of more than the previous year’s expenditure, plus a quarter of the previous year’s expenditure to meet the General Service Board’s operating costs”.

Committee 3 also acknowledges that there were some reservations raised in the Fellowship, particularly regarding the words “more than”, which relate to Board policy and would need to be addressed through the Trustees.

Concerns regarding an accumulation of wealth were alleviated by the Treasurer's presentation of the Board’s policy to spend any surplus funds on additional Primary Purpose activities.

Vote: Yes 16  No 1  Abstentions 0

Committee Four

1. Would the Fellowship discuss and make recommendations on the merits of AA posters that emphasise the positive aspects and benefits of sobriety as an addition to the current posters that concentrate on the negative aspects of alcoholism?
While the Fellowship would like to see AA posters that focus on the positive aspects and benefits of sobriety as an addition to the current posters, in discussion, this committee felt that identifying the merits is not an easy task because:

a) Everybody’s perceptions of the benefits of sobriety are different  
b) Making promises that may not be realised can be damaging to the Fellowship  
c) Existing posters already have positive aspects  
d) Identification with the drinking problem first is most important to the newcomer

This committee recommends the increased use of existing AA posters and that various GSB sub-committees, e.g. Health and Prisons, consider positive aspects when designing target-specific posters. AA members, Groups, Intergroups and Regions are invited to generate new AA posters for submission to the appropriate sub-committee for approval at Conference.

The vote was unanimous.

2. Would the Fellowship share experience of problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings and consider issuing something similar to the letter first issued by GSO in March 1982.

The committee discussed the Fellowship’s experience of problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings. The overall view was that this is not a widespread concern. It was felt that problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings is generally well managed. Our guiding principles are our Twelve Traditions as practised with love, patience and tolerance.

Additionally, there is existing guidance, for example:

a) *The Twelve Traditions*. Particularly 3, 4 and 5  
b) *The AA Preamble*  
c) *Primary Purpose Card*. “The Blue Card”, 4014  
d) *Our Primary Purpose and Problems other than Alcohol*. The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, pages 76-77  
e) *Problems other than Alcohol*. AA Pamphlet, 3180  
f) *The A.A. Group*. AA Pamphlet, 3270

This committee is also mindful of the autonomy of the group conscience, along with their trusted servants, to manage their meetings.

It is recommended that the letter, *Problems other than Alcohol* first issued by GSO in March 1982, be published in the June AA Service News, coinciding with the Conference recommendations.

The vote was unanimous.

### Committee Five

1. **Would the Fellowship ask the General Service Board to conduct a strategic review of the future of its magazine publications, and make recommendations?**

This Committee recommends that a Strategic Review of the future of our Magazine publications is undertaken.

This Committee makes the following recommendations that the Review should:

- **a.** Examine the strengths, weaknesses and values of the three publications (Roundabout, Share and AA Service News)
- **b.** Investigate a reported undertaking regarding the retention of Roundabout following the disbandment of the Scottish Service Committee.
- **c.** Consider making them more appealing to the readership
- **d.** Consider the feasibility of using professional assistance in the design and editing process.
- **e.** Investigate online and audio version through subscription.

Recognising that this may take some time, the Committee also recommends that there should be a reporting process from the Board to Conference. The Committee also recognises that the recommendations are not an exhaustive list.

**Voting:** Unanimous
In 2015 many groups participated in a survey of the Fellowship membership. The data has been analysed by the Board and their findings and conclusions presented to Conference 2016. The survey team were thus able to receive some feedback. Would the Fellowship now discuss the results of this survey and feed back to Conference their perceptions of the survey and their interpretations of the results.

The Committee agreed that the Survey is a valuable tool to the Fellowship and General Service Board, however the Committee found that knowledge of the results of the survey varied across the Fellowship and considered how this might be improved.

The Committee agreed that the Survey contains useful information which facilitates the Primary Purpose of the Fellowship.

The benefits include:

a. Addressing preconceived ideas of AA and thereby increasing the attractiveness to the still suffering alcoholic.
b. Providing information regarding the effectiveness of the Fellowship in assisting people in their recovery.
c. Provide information for the purposes of Public Information.
d. Identifying and responding to the trends.

To increase awareness of the Fellowship to the value of the Survey this Committee recommends that the General Service Board establishes a Survey sub-committee tasked with:

a. Managing the Survey process
b. Analysing and extracting the information of the Survey and,
c. Disseminating this to the Fellowship using the AA website and AA Service News at regular intervals.

Minority View: Surveys

Surveys in an anonymous organisation can be misleading though well meaning, recovery is often qualitative and not quantitative – “How long is a piece of String?” The heart of AA is the Home Group.
a. Surveys may lead to increased professionalism of the 12th Step
b. Interpretations are subjective
c. Professional recovery organisations compete for funding and we should be wary of AA being used to promote profits

One ex-drunk talking with another is our modus operandi and our experience validates this – we don’t need a survey.

Voting: For 18 Against 1


This Committee accepts the amendments as presented and notes the change of email address shown in para 3.8 for the Online Responder Service to help@aamail.org

Minority view:
The minority view welcomes many significant developments encompassed in this question, fulfilling the recommendations of Conference 2013, and other Conferences.

It regrets the removal of this sentence from the Service Handbook 2013 para 3:6, Local Websites. “It should be noted that the only websites which can be truly called AA websites are those which are endorsed by an official AA Service body (i.e. intergroup, region or country)”.

This may be a question for a future Conference.

Voting: For 17 Against 1 Abstain 1


This Committee accepts the amendments as presented.

Voting: Unanimous
1. **Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on the use of mobile ‘phones and other devices for photography and video recording during conventions?**

This committee’s experience that mobile phones and social media are already in common use by members of the Fellowship.

This committee recommends that, in accordance with Tradition 11, the Fellowship raise awareness of the importance of anonymity throughout conventions, including meetings and social events therein.

This ought to include but is not limited to:

a) Publishing in Share and Roundabout, the AA website, and convention publicity, a reminder of the potential breach of anonymity by taking photographs at conventions.

b) Amending p.123 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain to include reading the AA anonymity announcement at all meetings, not restricted to public meetings.

c) Amending p.123 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain after the sentence “thus we respectfully ask that no AA speaker — or any AA member — is identified by full name and that no photograph is published or broadcast in reports on our meetings” to be added: “This includes taking photographs and/or videos at convention social events (as well as the meetings) and publishing on social media.”

d) Amending p.86 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain to add a new boxed text with a reference to Tradition 11 and social media, e.g. a phone or camera with a line through it.

e) Raising awareness of the “*Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety*” card at Conventions

The vote was unanimous
2. Would the Fellowship discuss and share experience on the size of Intergroups both in terms of geography and number of constituent groups which would be effective.

Could the Fellowship provide guidance on how Intergroups too small or too large effect change?

It is this committee’s experience that due to the vast difference in size, geographical area and numbers of Groups and Intergroups, there is no standard formula for effectiveness and Intergroups have adapted according to local conditions. Factors which may affect local decisions about size of Intergroup are travel distance, population, number of groups and local services. This committee recognises that the size of an Intergroup does not always correlate to the number of service vacancies.

This committee feels that this is an Intergroup issue. Guidance is suggested in The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, p.87 Intergroup.

The vote: 18 Yes, 1 No
FIRST ISSUED IN MARCH 1982

Over the years the General Service Office receive numerous calls from A.A. members who, after attending certain meetings, come away with a sincere concern that some A.A. meetings are used as a blanket therapy for problems other than alcohol.

We all have varying degrees of compassion for other social ills, such as over-eating, anorexia, narcotics, not forgetting problems within our own families, but the following quote from the pamphlet written by one of our Co-founders, Bill W. might help clarify the situation:-

“Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore we have to avoid distractions and multi-purpose activity. An A.A. Group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world.

Sobriety – freedom from alcohol – through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. Group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities and they have always failed. It has also been learned that there is no possible way to make non-alcoholics into A.A. members. We have to confine our membership to alcoholics, and we have to confine our A.A. Groups to a single purpose. If we don’t stick to these principles we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone.”

This letter was issued by G.S.O., Redcliffe Gardens, London SW10 9BQ. The pamphlet referred to is “Problems other than Alcohol.”
“ Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.” Is a quote from the Bible - Proverbs 21:23 – and dealt with the most common form of communication of the time.

The 12 & 12 brought this up to date with the technology of the time with “Nothing pays off like restraint of tongue and pen.” It goes on to tell us that “We must avoid quick-tempered criticism and furious, power-driven arguments. The same goes for sulking or silent scorn. These are emotional booby traps baited with pride and vengefulness. Our first job is to sidestep the traps. When we are tempted by the bait, we should train ourselves to step back and think. For we can neither think nor act to good purpose until the habit of self-restraint has become automatic.” Not a new thought then, but an updated expanded version of an old one.

So what about today, when modern communications allows me to respond in an instant? Not only quickly, but with a few clicks of my mouse, my hastily tapped out thoughts and reactions can be sent out not just to one person but to many. How much more careful should I be with my restraint, indeed what can I do to ensure that I exercise it?

I’ve had to learn four things to keep in mind when I am upset, they are speed, content, audience and medium, I’m a long way off perfecting it, but it has saved me from a lot of regret, and several apologies!

First though, I start off with “Why?” – Why is this upsetting to me? I need to understand this so that I am responding to the right thing. Is it simply fear? If so, are my fears justified? Is it simply ego? If yes, does it really matter to me, and why? Is it something else altogether? Sometimes this can be the most difficult part of the exercise, but how can I know if I should “restrain” myself I, or not, if I don’t even understand my motives, be they good or bad.

Once I have at least a basic understanding of my part in this, next for me is trying to avoid the “quick” in “quick tempered criticism”. I’ve had to learn to develop the 24 hour rule. What this means for me is that when I am upset about something, I will compose a response, but I won’t send it for 24 hours. I find very few things are so urgent that they need response in less time than this. At the end of this time I will re-read it and consider it having cooled off enough; if I’m still upset, I might even give it another day. There are quite a few emails that have never left my draft folder either because during this time...
I’ve learned something new, or I’ve simply decided it was not the best way to deal with it.

Anything that passes this first test then needs to be assessed for content. Am I sticking strictly to the principle involved and avoiding responding to personal jibes, or indeed launching a personal attack of my own? When people launch a personal attack I’ve found that there is little I can do about that. If people don’t like me for whatever reason, I’m fighting their personal taste, and I’m never going to get around that. What I can do however is not allow myself to be drawn into that argument, and try to bring it back to a discussion about the principles involved.

So having ensured that I’m just dealing with principles, who am I addressing it to? This can take some soul searching, too but really I need to apply this to every email I send, or even emails that I forward. Why am I including these people in the list of addressees? Do they need to be included or am I just indulging my ego? Even worse, am I involving myself in some sort of attempt at public shaming? This seems to be coming ever more frequent, I don’t know if it’s a result of such things getting at be almost common practice on social media. In some of the worse cases I’ve seen whole sections of the AA community have been included, except for the one person that is being accused of some form of bad behaviour, clearly with the intention of denying them even the right to be aware of what is being said about them. I’ll allow you make your own judgement on such practices, but I must ask how would I feel if it were done to me?

Last but not least is the medium of the reply, instant messaging (even with emoticons) or email is at best emotionally clumsy, lacking both subtlety and nuance, and often even true honesty. When I have been upset emotionally my preferred method, when possible (and it isn’t always so, but I need to examine the option) is to either pick up the phone (having first calmed down – all of the above still apply!) and talk through the problem, or better still, when possible, to try and meet the other person face to face. This simple technique has saved me a great deal over the years. Simple misunderstandings can cause me a lot of grief!

At some point, invariably, I will speak to someone else about this, normally my sponsor, or if they are not available then some other trusted friend, just to check my thinking, and to make sure my ego isn’t getting in the way of clear thinking.

Of course you may not agree with these ideas, but think about it tomorrow 😊
GSB Sub Committee Vacancies

When applying for any of the vacancies below please note that forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026 or N.B. jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk or in the Document Library of the AA website:

http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Vacancies

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 25th August 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

Vacancy for Prison Sub-Committee

Four vacancies exist on the Prison Sub Committee for applicants with a minimum of five years of sobriety and previous experience at intergroup and/or region, and with enthusiasm for prison liaison work. The term of the appointment is four years.

Role requirements:

- To have a working knowledge of the AA structure and to adhere to the Traditions, Concepts and guidance contained in the Service and Structure Handbooks.
- To work within the terms of reference for the Prison Sub-Committee. These are available in the Prison discipline area of the AA website along with the role description and other information.
- To have an understanding of the working relationship with the General Service Board
- To attend Prison Sub Committee meetings in York, giving prior notice to the Trustee if you cannot attend.
- Good organisational and communication skills are desirable, as well as the ability to produce written and verbal reports.

Roger E. & Charlie R. Trustees for Prisons
Vacancies for Literature Sub Committee

The Literature Committee is a Sub Committee of the General Service Board. Its role is:-

- To undertake selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain.
- To assess its suitability for revision or discontinuance.
- To consider needs for new literature.

The work of the committee is generated by the requirements of Conference, requests from the Fellowship and a systematic, proactive review of current literature and handbooks.

The committee meets up to four times a year in York. Much of the work is done in the interim by email, generally in partnership with another member of the committee. The Sub Committee functions very much as a team to ensure that our literature is of the highest possible standard.

The post is subject to rotation after four years.

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria;

- Minimum of five years’ continuous sobriety.
- A sound grasp of AA structure, Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.
- Accuracy of written grammar and style.
- Experience in copy-editing, design, document drafting or similar work would be very helpful.
- IT skills would be an advantage.
- A personal service history at Intergroup and/or Region.
- Sub-Committee applicants should be endorsed by the AA structure i.e. a serving officer of their Intergroup or Region. The serving officer’s endorsement should be in the form of a letter attached to the completed nomination form

Denise H. Trustee for Literature
Vacancy for Webmaster

The General Service Board is looking to appoint a Webmaster, who will become a member of the Electronic Communications Sub Committee. The ECSC meets in York 2/3 times per year, and members are in constant contact through email and conference calls. The post is unpaid but expenses are claimed for authorised travel and other disbursements.

The role requires a minimum of 10 years’ sobriety and familiarity with AA Literature. In particular, he/she should have a good working knowledge of AA’s Service Handbooks, Legacies, Traditions and Concepts of Service. The applicant should be endorsed by Intergroup or Region.

The person appointed will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of online services provided to the Fellowship. This includes:

- oversight of the AA website and liaison with the third-party company which manages it;
- implementation of basic changes within the website;
- oversight of the email server and liaison with the third-party company which hosts it;
- integration of the Online Responder Service and of the Chat Now Service with the AA main website.

He/she will also respond to technical queries raised by members of the Fellowship relating to our online services.

Since our website and email service are maintained by third-party companies, the webmaster will not be expected to personally deal with structural amendments or emergencies. However, the oversight required means that the candidate should ideally have a working background in the uses of HTML, CSS and JavaScript. It may also be an advantage, but not essential, if the candidate has working knowledge of PHP, SQL and MYSQL with CRUD interface implementation.

James K Trustee for Electronic Communications

Vacancy on the Probation and Criminal Justice Services sub committee

Applications to join this sub-committee are invited from the fellowship.

The main aims of the committee are to produce information to the liaison officers in this service discipline throughout GB by use of the website and
newsletters etc. and to be a focus for enquiries both from the fellowship and outside professionals.

Another important part function is to host the annual Regional Liaison officers meeting.

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:

- Minimum of five years’ continuous sobriety at the time of application.
- Sound grasp of the service structure, Service Handbook and Traditions
- Personal service history of this discipline at Intergroup or Region
- Good organisational and communications skills
- Availability to attend at least 2 committee meetings a year at GSO

Appointment will be via interview of the GSB appointments committee and will be for a period of 4 years.

Jeff B Trustee for Probation & Criminal Justice
In Memoriam

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>£40.00</td>
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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

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

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Email: aanews@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk
“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

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The Role of GSO

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

*Taken from GB Conference approved pamphlet ‘The Pot’*

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