



AA Service News

Winter 2017

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From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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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 VI

The Conference recognises that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (GSB) alcoholic and non-alcoholic trustees serve AA? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve AA?
- Are we clear about the terms "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"? Can we see a direct link to our home 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 ?

General Service Conference 2018

Conference Steering report 2018

By Anne W, Chair Committee One, Alternate Conference Chair

My name is Anne and I am an alcoholic. After my husband drunk himself to death in February 2002, all my excuses were gone. My drinking brought me to my knees and I went to see my doctor. All he gave me was a phone number for the local community alcohol team.

About 6 weeks later I had to make a choice. Do I go to Kenya in the morning, or do I go into the psychiatric unit on Wednesday?

Today I am grateful that I ignored the taxi driver at the door, who was booked to take me to the airport, and went into the unit. I was discharged and it was suggested I rang AA.

I would like to say that I went merrily on my pink cloud, but that wasn't my experience. All I did right in those early days was not pick up a drink.

I got into service, eventually for the right reasons, and have been ever since. When I wanted to 'top' myself without a drink, I knew that something had to change. A little old lady gave me some great advice as usual, but this time I heard. I needed to get a sponsor.

I tried for quite a while and 'sort of' got a sponsor and 'sort of' did the Steps but eventually a sponsor found me. They say when the pupil is ready, the teacher appears and this was definitely true in my case.

A few weeks later I went to the Blue Bonnets, I was sat in the Loreburn Hall, with my partner on one side, sponsor on the other and *her* sponsor in the next seat along. I could not have been lonelier.

I was honest about how I felt - really honest. That lady took me through the Steps and taught me how to live without a drink. I'm grateful that she is still my sponsor 13 years later. She showed me love and tolerance that I had never experienced before. Today, I try to show this to others, and take them through our wonderful programme.

I got involved in Conference when my grand sponsor was a delegate. I went around to Intergroups and meetings, taking notes and having conversations in

the car. This was where I really learned. I progressed through the structure of AA, attending Intergroup and Region.

When I was put forward as Conference delegate, there was another delegate-elect and I was overwhelmed with fear of rejection. Well, I managed to get through this and was elected.

I attended my first Conference in 2016, I registered, collected all my paperwork and badge with my red dot. People were kind and I soon managed to get enough courage to ask questions and people were really grateful to answer.

Those of you at your first Conference, please ask any questions you may have however stupid you feel. We will all be really grateful to answer.

In our first committee session, I was unsure how we were ever going to get to a consensus. On Saturday evening, I thought we finished at 11pm which was bad enough. But I had this realisation that we reconvened as a committee at 11pm, so it could be a *much* later night.

We did eventually get to bed, and on the Sunday morning miraculously there was no bunfight and we all agreed. I was elected to be secretary for my committee in 2017. This was a whole new experience and I was so pleased to work with Jo who was our committee chair and seemed to take it all in her stride. I came without the same anxiety that I had the first year, but had brought some new ones and the experience was even more powerful.

I felt accomplished as I came without a red dot. The three days went in a blink of an eye and again I found myself in the plenary session, Jo up on the platform and feeling part of a process that works. Somehow, I found myself elected as chair for Committee 1 in 2018, at this moment in the plenary session the terror started to come in as I knew what I had coming next year.

I had been given an envelope and in here were the dates for the Conference Steering Committee, and so it began. We all arrived, did our homework before each meeting. Some were better at this than others (I include me in that) and we started to go through the 65 questions submitted by members of the Fellowship.

Some were referred to the Board, others were referred to sub-committees, some were rejected and this left our list of questions to be discussed.

Then - for me - life got a bit complicated again. I was referred by my GP on a two weeks cancer referral and my appointment was 2.15pm on the date of our third meeting. I tried to rearrange and was unsuccessful, so had to send my apologies.

It made me grateful that when I was nominated for an award at work and the date of the ceremony clashed with our second meeting that I had made the right decision and arrived in York, dutifully. The appointment has been and gone and although the tests all looked good on the day, I am still awaiting the results of a biopsy.

I have every faith that whatever the results I will be able to face whatever is in my future - without a drink - with the help of my sponsor and network of special trusted friends which includes my alkie husband and the programme of Alcoholics Anonymous. I know this, as I survived cancer in 2011.

The Steering Committee took place, and questions were allocated to committees. It was agreed who would respond to those who had submitted questions. It is important to respond to all who have shown interest in raising questions, even if they were unsuccessful this time. This all happened without an argument or a brawl and sometimes without me! I'm still learning about that.

This whole experience has yet again shown me the power of our amazing Fellowship, how we work. As my grand sponsor would have said: "It's the upside down triangle at work".

None of this could have happened without my fellow committee chairs, Sid, our Conference Chair, members of the Board and the staff who work at GSO, particularly Roger and Sharon. They attend each meeting, share experience on how it has worked previously and tirelessly work with other colleagues to ensure that our Fellowship is supported in the best possible way.

I would like to thank Conference for the opportunity to be of service, and those who have helped me on my journey.

I hope everyone has a good Conference and remember red dotters - we were all red dotters - and relish the experience.

Anne W (South East Region)

Committee One

- 1. Would Conference discuss: a) whether the Fellowship’s use of the terminology “closed” and “open” to describe AA meeting attendance restrictions confuses newcomers and thereby detracts from our primary purpose, and b) if required, recommend a better solution?**

Background

Some newcomers see an AA meeting listed as a “closed” meeting, and think that it is shut, or closed-down, and therefore may not attend the meeting. If this situation occurs, we may be failing to uphold Tradition 5: each group has but one primary purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Even though the meaning of the words “closed” and “open” is usually explained in the meeting’s listing footnotes (reproduced below) as well as in our literature, the wording may still provide an initial source of misunderstanding to newcomers unfamiliar with our terminology.

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/About-AA-Meetings>

EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED ALL MEETINGS ARE CLOSED.

Definition of Open and Closed Meetings: The Closed Meeting; is intended for alcoholics and for those with an alcohol problem who have a desire to stop drinking. The Open Meeting; is intended for alcoholics and non-alcoholics e.g. family, friends and anyone interested in AA.

Note: This question only concerns the use of the terminology “closed” and “open” to describe different meetings, and not the actual intention of restricting attendance at meetings.

References:

- Meeting Guide Footnotes on the AA GB website
- The AA Group (AA pamphlet)
- 2009 Conference Recommendation C4 Q1

2. **Review Chapter 4 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017 “For AA Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field”.**

Committee Two

1. **Would Conference please discuss and share its experience about Tradition 7 monies being collected electronically?**

Background

Traditions 4, 7, 12

Rents are rising in many meetings across GB. With many members no longer carrying cash, some meetings have asked intergroup and region for guidance around the use of contactless card readers being used to collect Tradition 7 contributions. Several meetings have adopted this method to make it easier for members to contribute, with initial reports of increases in Tradition 7 takings.

While every AA group is free to make its own decisions around how it collects Tradition 7, there are questions being asked which would benefit from guidance from the collective Fellowship.

- Is the use of card payments and the paper trail accompanying this compromising to members' anonymity?
- Is agreeing to the fees charged by card reader companies (usually 1.75%) diverting money away from our primary purpose/against the spirit of Tradition 7?
- Given the inevitability of a societal transition away from cash, especially in urban areas, how can we protect our Fellowship's income from contributions?

2. **Would Conference discuss, consider and make recommendations on whether "speaker tapes" - audio files and/or podcasts of AA members sharing their experience, strength and hope - could be**

incorporated into the AA GB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk?

Background

There are many good examples of AA shares available on the internet, and the success of the Young Persons' short animated video shows that the AA GB website can itself be an effective medium in carrying AA's message of recovery and not just about buying literature and finding meetings.

With 19% of people finding AA via the internet (AA 2015 Membership Survey), a selection of short audio shares by a cross-section of AA members (male, female, old, young etc.) accessible via the website could be a great starting point to enable newcomers to identify with the malady and provide them with a clear message about sponsorship and AA's Twelve Steps.

See also:

Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics [..]

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

Committee Three

- 1. Would Conference discuss the idea of adding a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) AA Helpline service to the AA GB website?**

Background

Newcomers and members can contact AA via our National Helpline 0800 9177 650 and our new email address help@aamail.org. In addition, in 2015 Conference welcomed the idea of a 'chat now' facility on the AA website as an additional way for the still suffering alcoholic to contact the Fellowship. At Conference 2016, 'Pure Chat' technology

was approved and in 2017 is now successfully integrated on the AA GB Website in the Newcomers area.

There is now the opportunity to utilise further advances in communications technology, such as Broadband Internet access and smartphones, and also provide an AA Helpline over the Internet using a methodology called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

VoIP can be easily used on smartphones, laptops, and tablets, with voice calls made through 3G/4G or Wi-Fi. Many free instant messaging and/or social media services such as Skype, Google Hangout, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp already use VoIP extensively.

In addition to providing a more up-to-date service, a VoIP AA Helpline would also allow the Fellowship to meet the currently underserved needs of both English-speaking suffering-alcoholics and AA members who have difficulty calling the National Helpline (GB), in particular:

1. Ex-pats and/or travellers living in Europe, as they may incur high international-call charges (there is currently no Europe-wide AA Helpline).
2. Visitors to Great Britain from abroad, as they may incur high mobile roaming charges.
3. Younger and more tech savvy generations who are now using smartphones with “data only” plans and do not make voice calls to landline and/or mobile numbers.

A VoIP feature could be added to the Pure Chat service, or it could be a stand-alone voice call feature on the AA GB website. It could also function in much the same way as the current National Helpline service, and in fact could be incorporated to avoid any duplication of service efforts.

A feasibility study could determine the technological requirements, including potential use of “virtual numbers”, and further identify the risks and benefits as well as costs.

References:

- 2015 Conference Question, Committee 3 Question 1
- 2015 Conference Recommendation, Committee 3 Question 1

- 2016 Final Conference Report, pp 18-19
- www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/About-AA/Newcomers

2. Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on how we are able to introduce telephone and internet banking at all levels of service, being ever mindful of our current practice of requiring two signatories on each cheque issued.

Background

The banks have indicated that cheques will be phased out and replaced by telephone and internet banking.

Some banks have indicated that it is not possible to carry out internet banking using our current system of requiring two signatures from three.

Other banks have suggested that this is possible and treasurers at various levels of service appear to be using internet banking.

This raises several questions:

1. If we decide that we will endorse internet banking, will this exclude members who are not computer literate or do not have access to a computer from standing as group treasurers?
2. The only reference to telephone or internet banking in “The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017” occurs on page 95 under “Region Money”. However it also quite clearly indicates that this should only be used where payments and transfers still require authorisation by two signatories.

In order to ensure that the membership feels that AA money continues to be well managed, it is important that any suggested practices are being carried out.

If both telephone and internet banking are discussed and approved by Conference for introduction at all levels of service, then surely reference to them should appear in the literature.

Committee Four

1. Inventory Questions

a) Is AA still carrying the message of recovery effectively, i.e. sharing experience, strength and hope, offering sponsorship, talking about the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions?

b) Would Conference share its experience on how AA can do this more effectively?

Background

AA Survey 2015
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

2. Review new addition “Chat Now Service” to be added to Chapter 3 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017.

Background

Draft “Chat Now Service”.

Committee Five

1. Inventory Questions

a) Would Conference share experience and knowledge of the problems surrounding attracting members into Service at their Group and how to encourage Service at Intergroup, especially in rural areas.

b) Would Conference review the resources available to Intergroups and make recommendations on how best they are used to attract representation at Intergroup by Groups in their area.

Background

The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017: Introduction.

- Chapters 1.5 “A Step Further” and 1.6 “Service within the Intergroup”
- Chapters 1.8 and 1.9 “The Loner” and “The Housebound member”
- Chapter 1.10 “The Older Member”

The problem exists in both directions:

- Many Groups are not represented at Intergroup. This may lead to a potentially uninformed Group Conscience. Consequently, the AA message is not being taken to the suffering alcoholic in that area.
- Finding people to attend Intergroup is becoming increasingly difficult. Many Service posts within Intergroup are not filled and therefore the message is not being taken to the community effectively.

Our Intergroup covers a huge rural area of over 2000 square miles. We appreciate that the best method of recruiting is personal visits but with thirty plus groups in such a wide area this is not practical. The Intergroup does not have access to contact addresses for these groups so it is not possible to write to the groups directly. GSO is not in a position to help with sending out these letters either.

We would like to hear how other Intergroups around the country in similar very rural areas approach and solve this problem and would appreciate the experience and wisdom of the Fellowship in solving this issue.

This is not just recruitment of new members to Intergroup, but also how we can get older members to encourage and mentor new recruits to Intergroup, making their Service that much more fulfilling.

2. Would Conference consider how the Fellowship's social media presence can be improved to enhance AA's ability to carry the message?

Background

Ideas that Conference might want to consider could include, but should not be restricted to:

- a) Allowance given on website and any approved social media in (b) below to posting links to interesting articles and events, e.g. Alcohol Awareness Week, articles about AA on TV and the press, etc. (provided this can be done without suggesting affiliation to outside organisations);
- b) Social media presence on sites such as (but not necessarily restricted to) Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SoundCloud, YouTube, provided of course this can be done without compromising Traditions 11 and 12.

Committee Six

1. Would Conference share their experiences and make recommendations on:

- a. **What can be done when a Group has no named Officers and/or the contact no longer attends?**
- b. **Is there any way in which the local Intergroup can assist, given that we do not govern but are trusted servants?**
- c. **Could GSO be asked to carry out an annual review/renewal process for Pink Form details for each Group to remain on the internet listings, Where to Find etc., and also inform the appropriate Intergroup of any significant changes?**

Background

Every AA Group treasures its autonomy under Traditions 2 and 4, but sometimes Groups can run into difficulties. Many Groups are prompt in

informing GSO, Share etc., of changes to venues, times etc. but this is less successful when Officers have changed or left the Fellowship. Such a Group may have completed a Pink Form with GSO in order to continue to appear on the internet listings and Where to Find etc.

Tradition 2 - short form

Tradition 4 - long form

The AA Group - AA Pamphlet 3270

The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain (2017) pp.74-86

- 2. Would the Fellowship share experience of money in AA bank accounts being inaccessible due to signatories having left the group and make recommendations as to how the Fellowship may make access to our funds possible.**

Background

Our local Intergroup has £400 to £500 stuck in a bank account for a previous convention fund. The treasurer left the area without arranging new signatories for the account. The bank won't release funds.

A local Friday group old timer reports that the group has £200 stuck in a bank account. Despite repeated requests for our money, the bank won't discuss the account with anyone but the treasurer who relapsed and left the group.

If these situations are replicated throughout the UK, it may be that many thousands of pounds are locked in accounts. This is money that belongs to the AA Fellowship.

The 21st General Service Conference strongly recommended that all groups, Intergroups and Regions have a bank account.

Background to 60-year booklet

I came to the Fellowship in January 1981 and within a short time became involved in service as GSR for what has remained my 'home group', Coventry Wednesday Step Meeting. During the intervening years I have been privileged to have remained in some sphere of service within the Fellowship.

In 1992 I became Archivist for Coventry & Warwickshire Intergroup and already had in my possession copies of all Intergroup Minutes from the first Intergroup Meeting in October 1980.

I spent some time speaking to a few of the 'older' members who were around when I started collecting information and compiling their recollections and cross referencing them.

I contacted other individual members and groups to look to establish some of the history that the 'older' members mentioned above, were not aware of. As there were only 8 groups in our Intergroup area when I came to the Fellowship (now 40) and I had at least some information about other groups that started from 1981 onwards, the task wasn't too onerous. For earlier groups I looked to confirm details given by 'older' members by checking old copies of *Where to Find, Share, Newsletters*, and at GSO when there for other meetings.

I decided to compile two separate accounts of our history, with one exclusively about group histories (start/venue changes/closures) and a more detailed account including group histories, Telephone Service, Mini-Conventions history and all related service activities. Where possible, founder members' names are included.

In 2004 I was invited by our then 'oldest' member to his house to tape his recollections of the early days of AA in Coventry. Eugene L. first came to the Fellowship in 1958 and had his last drink in 1960. He died in 2010 after 50 years of continuous sobriety in the Fellowship.

I have also got on tape one of the earliest female members in Coventry, Betty Mc who now has 42 years' sobriety. Both tapes are in the national archives.

On the 50th Anniversary of AA history in our area in 2007, I received Intergroup support to produce a booklet charting our history. At that time, I felt it was a good opportunity to publish what I had already mostly written. With Intergroup endorsement I have built on the '50 Year History' and similar to that I have concentrated on a chronological account of our 60-year history. What I was keen to avoid was any distortions of our history. My continual involvement in service throughout most of my time in the Fellowship helped enormously as I have been writing up developments as they occur.

I have found Archives work very rewarding and am grateful for the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for it with others.

Over the years a number of photographs of the front of meeting places, and the meeting rooms have been laminated with a record of the individual group histories in the middle.

Kevin M. Archivist, Coventry & Warwickshire Intergroup

East of Scotland Regional Forum

Following the decision by East of Scotland Region in February 2016 to hold a Forum, preparations were started with co-ordination being carried out with GSO. Following investigation into premises and costings, Region decided on Dundee as a central location with good transport links.

The agreed Topics were:

- the roles of the General Service Board and of the General Secretary;
- an overview of the work of GSO;
- an Archives presentation with particular emphasis on Scotland's archive; and
- a presentation outlining Electronic Communications work.

The Forum was held at Logie and St John Parish Church Hall, Dundee: a first for Alcoholics Anonymous in Dundee, *The City of Discovery*.

The venue was excellent with built in projection facilities and a good kitchen for our great volunteer members who supplied the typical stream of coffee, tea and biscuits.

The following quote was used on our flyers for this event.

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

A.A.s' Legacy of Service by Bill W. The A. A. Service Manual

The event started on the Friday afternoon with the arrival of our speakers from GSO York, who enjoyed a quick tour of Dundee before being dropped at their hotel for their final preparations for the Forum the following day.

Alex H, Chair of East of Scotland Region, opened the forum giving a warm welcome to all present, before handing over to Roger B, General Secretary AA GB to give the first presentation. All presentations were followed by question and answer sessions.

Roger gave a comprehensive presentation, outlining the structure and responsibilities of the General Service Board and its individual members including his own role and that of our non-alcoholic trustees.

He included a clear explanation of how the Fellowship is not part of the Charity. There was an outline of how the Board responds to Conference decisions, implements them and reports back to the Fellowship through Conference. He also gave an introduction of the work carried at GSO. Roger was thanked, and all were appreciative and grateful for the vast amount of work that was carried out on our behalf.

Sharon and Sophie, who both work at GSO, gave us all an in depth view of how our General Service Office operates and what it does, including the satellite offices in Glasgow and London. This included pictures of all the staff members and what they each do. They gave a very useful overview of how GSO operates as a communication hub for AA GB and also with the Worldwide Fellowship.

It distributes our literature and provides our Administrative Centre providing national administrative services for the Fellowship: 16 regions, 120 Intergroups and more than 4,000 Groups. They extended a warm welcome to all members to visit when in York. Usually they can find someone to give a short tour to visitors - do phone ahead if you can and they will be only too happy to help. The ladies received warm applause and were thanked for their hard work and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Joe H, Trustee for Archives, gave an interesting presentation, both on how archivists work, (don't laminate anything you are keeping) and specifically on the role of Archivists in Alcoholics Anonymous. Following this, Joe gave an outline of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Scotland and introduced the display of literature he brought along with items supplied by Jim S, East of Scotland Regional Archivist. Of particular note were the First Edition Big Book with its distinctive cover and the locally produced Scottish Roundabout magazines, which used to be produced in different areas by turn. Joe also provided some handouts and was thanked for a very stimulating and informative presentation.

James K, Trustee for Electronic Communications, gave the final presentation. After introducing himself (rightly claiming to have the best Home Group in the World), he gave an in depth presentation of the remit and work of the Electronic Communications sub-committee. Areas covered included: the Meeting Finder, Info for Newcomers, Microsites, Group details, the Shop, Members services and accessing and using the file storage.

A useful overview of the Electronic mail system followed with a clear explanation of the choices for using the system. James finished up giving us information on the latest developments with the Online Response Service and Chat Now facility. He was thanked for an insightful presentation and gratitude was expressed for the development work being done by the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee.

Alex H in closing, remarked on a memorable and productive day. Four out of five Scottish regions were represented, some of which may soon put on their own Regional Forums. Several Intergroups and many individual members all enjoyed the event. Alex ended by thanking our Guest Speakers for giving their weekend, and all those involved for their selfless contribution.

Hamish McS, East of Scotland Regional Secretary

European Service Meeting

The 19th European Service Meeting held in York 2017 was a great success with 32 Countries represented by 50 delegates.

The one downside was the Danish delegation did not attend due to some technical problem with their plane which had to return to base for repairs.

The atmosphere around the hotel and within the meeting rooms was electric with much happiness and goodwill directed to all participants.

This was coupled with a willingness to complete the tasks at hand with diligence and great knowledge.

Old friendships were regenerated and new friendships forged during the weekend.

A massive vote of thanks to all GSO staff and Hotel personnel who worked tirelessly during the whole weekend to make the Convention a great success.

The delegates were split into three committees very similar to the procedures used for GB Conference structure.

On the Saturday morning the delegates split into three Committees and the topics discussed were as follows:

- Committee 1 UNITY
- Committee 2 SERVICE
- Committee 3 RECOVERY

On the Saturday afternoon the delegates split into 3 Workshops and the topics discussed were as follows:

- Workshop 1 PREPARING NEW PEOPLE FOR SERVICE
- Workshop 2 SPONSORSHIP IN AA
- Workshop 3 UNDERSTANDING OF PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES

In all six sessions, a draft report was derived and this draft was then discussed at two plenary sessions and a final report was produced. These reports will be issued when the ESM final reports are issued.

The topics for 20th European Service Workshops 2019 were decided and they are

Workshop 1 **How can we benefit from the experience of rotated Trusted Servants?"**

Workshop 2 **'Back to Basics'**

Workshop 3 **'Understanding and application of the 12 Concepts'**

The theme for the 20th European Service Meeting 2019 will be

'An Unchanged Message in a Changing World'.

The 19th ESM conference was closed by Michal S (Chair 2017) with a rendition of the Serenity Prayer given by all delegates in their native language and finally with the Serenity prayer by all in English.

A truly moving moment for all who participated in the ESM Conference.

Brian J and Amanda S, Trustees European Service Meeting

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 (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 22 December 2017

Vacancy for Fellowship Archivist

Requirements

- At least 5 years sobriety plus experience of local archives
- 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 4 or 5 visits per 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 work would also be useful in order to develop the AA National Archives.
 - This is a voluntary position but all expenses for the duties of the National Archivist will be paid.
 - The successful candidate will become a member of the Archives Sub-committee.
-

Archives Sub-Committee Member

A vacancy exists for a member of the General Service Board Archives Sub-Committee.

The Archives Sub-committee works to preserve the history of the Fellowship as well as aiming to develop its network of Regional and Intergroup archivists. The Sub-committee reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years sobriety, will normally serve for a period of four years and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain..* 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 and/or experience of archival work would also be useful. The successful candidates would be required to attend up to four meetings a year in York.

Joe H, Trustee for Archives

Electronic Communications

A vacancy exists for Membership of the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee.

Five years continuous sobriety is required, as well as a good understanding of the AA programme, 12 Step work, the Traditions and Guidelines. Applications will need to be endorsed by their Intergroup or Region.

It would be of help to the team, if applicants are reasonably conversant with either web page design or webpage or forum administration experience which they can bring to the team, and can be fairly flexible in terms of time commitments, so as to assist in either of the above activities.

James K, Trustee Electronic Communications Sub-Committee

Health Sub-Committee

Two vacancies exists on the Health Sub-Committee for applicants with a minimum of five years of sobriety and previous experience at intergroup and/or region, and with enthusiasm for health 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 Health Sub-Committee. (These are available in the Health 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 be able to work within a team and to communicate with HLOs within the service structure

- To attend Health Sub-Committee meetings in York, giving prior notice to the GSB Trustee if you cannot attend/participate
- If attending any conferences or events, to be mindful of the Traditions, particularly Traditions Ten and Eleven when interacting with professionals
- To check with conferences and events' organisers as to their requirements for equipment and health and safety issues, and to allow time to make these arrangements. GSO will always assist as required
- To liaise with GSO when ordering literature and apparatus for professional conferences and events
- Good organisational and communication skills are desirable, as well as the ability to produce written and verbal reports.

We currently have no representation from Scotland on the Subcommittee, while application would be welcome from across the whole of the service structure, we would especially encourage applications from Scottish Regions.

Nigel P, Trustee for Health

Survey Sub-Committee

Conference 2017 determined there should be a new Survey Subcommittee to be given the task of preparing and producing the 2020 Survey, and all subsequent surveys.

The GSB of Alcoholics Anonymous has been conducting a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972. The intention of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship in Great Britain so that the AA message can reach the still suffering alcoholic more effectively, thus helping us to fulfil our Primary Purpose in the most effective manner.

Additional reasons for conducting this survey include: estimating the number of people in the Fellowship; informing the GSB regarding the effective allocation of resources; and gaining information that could be useful in communication with Professionals.

The GSB is now looking to appoint up to three members of the Fellowship to the Survey Sub-Committee.

It would be preferable for applicants to have experience in conducting surveys, and also to have experience in data management and statistical management, ideally using SPSS software or similar.

Applicants should be able to work as part of a team, and to liaise and work with professional advisers. They should have the expertise to consider previous surveys, and draft additional questions to assist in improving and building upon the data available.

There will be a minimum of two sub-committee meetings a year in York. All applicants should be able to commit to those meetings, and be prepared to undertake additional work where necessary.

A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety is required. All applicants should have an understanding of Service and Structure Handbooks, the AA Traditions and Concepts.

Nick Holroyd, Non-Alcoholic Trustee Survey Sub-Committee

Young People's Sub-Committee

There are two vacancies on the newly-formed Young People's Sub-Committee of the General Service Board.

Experience of working as a YPLO at either Intergroup or Regional level would be an advantage, but not essential.

The aim of the Young People's Sub-Committee is to raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within the youth community.

Main aims are:

To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLOs at Regional and Intergroup level.

Support the development and sharing of good practice and review and update literature, media resources and guidelines as necessary.

Establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies.

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:

- *A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety at time of application.
- *A strong grasp of AA Service Structure, Guidelines and Traditions.
- *A personal service history at either Intergroup and or Region in this discipline.
- *Good organisational and communication skills.

Young People's Sub-Committee members usually serve for a period of four years. There is a requirement to attend two meetings a year in York plus an annual Young People's Liaison Officers meeting and participate in work between meetings if needed.

Amanda S, Trustee Young People's sub-committee

In Memoriam

South Midlands Region	£90	In memory of Veronica S
Northamptonshire Intergroup	£25	In memory of Veronica
Leeds Sat 'Keep It Simple'	£50	In memory of Jean S
Wirral & Chester, Arrow Park	£193	In memory of Beryl D
Sleaford Monday Group	£45	In memory of David H
Leeds Saturday Keep It Simple	£50	In memory of Kevin McP
Simon Bolton, Langley Saturday	£35	In memory of Sandra W
Edenbridge Weds	£347.90	In memory of David
Lowestoft Monday	£140.74	In memory of Kevin H
Ashton-in-Makerfield Friday	£50	In memory of David J
London Chelsea Beginners	£428.00	In memory of Robert N
Lincoln (L T group)	£250.00	In memory of Teresa

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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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

From Regions July – Sept 2017	Contributions £’s
East of Scotland	3,000
Eastern	13,000
Glasgow	21,500
Highlands & Islands	2,000
London North	5,000
London South	2,000
Midlands	0
North East	11,000
North West	14,000
Scotia	6,200
South East	38,957.19
South Midlands	12,200
South West	16,000
SW Scotland	7,000
Wales & Borders	4,500
Continental Europe	435.09

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’