

To:	All Regional Electronic Communications Liaison Officers
From:	Trustees, Electronic Communications Sub Committee

This is a newsletter to inform you of progress in several areas since our last meeting in August. Please pass on this information to ECLOs in your Regions.

## **Email server/software**

The email server replacement project has been planned and the new email domain [aa@mail.org](mailto:aa@mail.org) has been purchased along with a trial package for 1 month. The new hosting company is called [Names.co.uk](http://Names.co.uk) and it is a fully managed service with our own 50GB storage on a physical hosted (not cloud) server.

The next steps are to further test email migrations from the old to the new service prior to signing up to a monthly contract. We will then start a programme of migration to the new server and allow a 6 month migration period before closing down the old emails to allow for retention of any late landing emails on the old server.

In parallel to the migration activity, we will plan a training programme for the administration of the email service to be carried forward by GSO. This will encompass hands on training when the staff are in place.

We are also developing tools to help staff keep email addresses on a consistent and role-based footing across all of our Regions and Intergroups which will make life much easier for handover when email account holders rotate their positions. It will also remove the need to keep adding new email accounts for the new post holders.

## **Chat Now Pilot**

The General Service Board was presented with a proposal for taking this forward and agreed to a budget for running the pilot.

The ECSC evaluated several packages, and decided to proceed with PURE CHAT. The London Regions have expressed an interest in taking part in the Pilot and trial runs. We hope to have these completed by the end of January 2016.

## **Upload of local WTFs (PDF format) to Document Library**

The proposal discussed in August was deemed to be feasible but when discussed with the General Secretary in GSO, the question of data integrity came up. The Meetings List provided on the main website is maintained by GSO and is as up-to-date as the information provided by the Fellowship. If allowed, the new uploaded PDF lists could represent different data to that originally submitted to GSO via the Pink Form.

The ECSC, therefore, is not proposing to take on this function at present.

## **Short URLs**

There are 2 short URLs for our main site namely [aa-gb.org](http://aa-gb.org) (pointing to the main site home page) and [aa-gb.org.uk](http://aa-gb.org.uk) and these will be used going forward as we already

have ownership. We will also discuss with our web designer how best to replace the long URLs that currently exist.

## **Improvements to the Microsite Editor & URL conversion**

There will shortly be a meeting between members of the ECSC and our software supplier and these two items will be on the agenda.

## **Volunteers**

### **Chat Now**

As mentioned above, the Pilot will, we hope, be run from the London Service Office, with input from London Regions. We also need people from around the country to use the website during the Pilot as if they were newcomers seeking help. If you would like to be involved, please contact us.

### **ORS**

The ORS is always looking for new responders to enter training. Please direct any interested person to:

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Disciplines/Electronic-Communications/Online-Responder-Service>

### **ECSC**

The Terms of Reference of the ECSC allow for more members than we have at present. In addition, one member is due to rotate out during 2016. If you know anyone (with at least 5 years continuous sobriety) who might be interested working with this Sub Committee, then please ask them to contact us.

## **Point of Contact**

You can always get through to a member of ECSC by using the website's Helpdesk:

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Helpdesk>

## **In service**

Tom S  
James K  
Trustees ECSC