



AA Service News

Autumn 2018

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From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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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 IX

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognise the need for group officers? What are our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone *because it would be good for them*?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

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 Office Funds

In February 2018, following reasonable suspicion that fraud against the Charity had taken place, the General Service Board immediately carried out a thorough investigation, with the assistance of expert third party advisors. As a result of the work by the board and the Charity's chief executive in addressing this matter, losses suffered by the Charity as a result of this fraud, after reimbursement by insurers, will have been limited to £9,328.48. The General Service Board has introduced new measures to seek to prevent similar frauds occurring in future. As the matter is currently with the relevant police authorities, the General Service Board is unable to provide any further information at this time. Please note that these losses will be reflected in the Charity's accounts for the relevant accounting period. The Charity Commission have been informed.

Statement issued by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (GB) Ltd

Pink Form Changes

THE importance of keeping meeting details up-to-date was one of the decisions from this year's Conference.

This article in AA Service News was agreed as one of the ways to raise awareness.

The matter was prompted by finding a solution when a particular Group had no named officers, or when a previously named contact no longer attended. Each Group ought to take responsibility for its registration details. It is suggested this task is undertaken each year. Amendments to the Structure Handbook were also put forward.

Full details of the Conference Question and the response appear below.

Committee No. 6

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?

The Committee shared experience and came to these conclusions:

- a) Where some groups have not updated information because they are unaware of the pink form process, we believe that the Fellowship should raise awareness of how groups' details are updated.
- b) We cannot tell groups what to do, but an Intergroup may offer support and can raise awareness through literature and shared experience.
- c) The responsibility for review of the pink form remains with the groups who ought to be encouraged to update their details annually.

Recommendation: Consider amending the Structure Handbook on page 76 *Where to Find AA*, first paragraph as italicised below:

In order to ensure that it remains accurate, *all groups ought to update their pink forms annually. Group Secretaries, or those responsible* are requested to keep the General Service Office informed of any changes in the address of the meeting place, the starting time of the meeting or the telephone contact numbers for the meeting.

In addition to considering updating the AA Structure Handbook, we recommend that any changes be communicated to the Fellowship including, but not limited to the following:

1. Added to the revised pamphlet 'The AA Group'.
2. Included on the pink form.
3. Include an article about the change in the Autumn edition of AA Service News.
4. Include a pink form in the envelope with copies of the Autumn edition of AA Service News
5. This updated guidance also to be included on the website.

Meeting information listed in the AAGB online meeting finder (and microsite meeting listings) could include the date group information was last submitted, as is currently the case with the national *Where to Find*.

The Committee's decision was unanimous.

Concepts 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:

TWELVE CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an AA group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office, US & Canada. Following the General Service Conference recommendation in 2006, these discussion points have been adapted to reflect the structure of our Fellowship in Great Britain.

While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by Groups, Intergroups or Regions, individual AA members may find it useful along with our co-founder Bill W.'s writings, a service sponsor if you have one and reflection on your own service experience.

Additional information about the Concepts can be found in *The AA Service Manual / Twelve Concepts for World Service* and *The Twelve Concepts (GB) Illustrated* pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- Does our group have a group service representative (GSR)? Do we feel that our home group is part of AA as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the local Intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of AA?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective

conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (“Conference”)?
- Does our home group's GSR, Regional Representative, Conference Delegate, report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference recommendations?
- Is our group meeting its wider Tradition 7 responsibilities?

Concept III: 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?

Concept IV: 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?

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal", to be heard at our home group, Intergroup and Regional meetings and at Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view

being heard before a vote is taken?

Concept VI: The Conference recognizes 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?

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

- Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse?"
- Are we familiar with the Conference Charter and the freedom of action that the trustees must have?
- Do we realise that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the GSB?

Concept VIII: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

- Do we understand the relationship between the two service entities, the General Service Conference and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term "custodial oversight" apply to the trustees' relationship to the two service entities?
- Does my home group receive GSO's quarterly *AA Service News*? Subscribe to *SHARE* and *Roundabout*? Do I?

Concept IX: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognise the need for group officers? What are our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone *because it would be good for them*?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

- Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions?
- Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of AA? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority?"

Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the role of the non-alcoholic trustee members help serve and strengthen the committee system of the General Service Board and General Service Conference?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation?"
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or Power?"
- How do we practice prudent use of our Tradition 7 contributions and literature revenue?

- Do we ensure the spiritual liberties of all AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of AA's Traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

Country to Country Sponsorship

One alcoholic sharing experience, strength and hope with another is the foundation on which our recoveries are based. AA began spreading to other countries, not because someone at AA HQ had a bright idea but through members wanting to help those they encountered in other countries that needed help.

The World Service Meeting (WSM) has its roots in Bill W.'s 1950 trip to Europe, where he visited AA groups in seven countries. It struck him that these countries were experiencing the same teething problems encountered in the United States when AA was just getting on its feet – the need for AA literature in their own languages, obstacles to growth from outside and within AA itself, and fear of all kinds of calamities. Up to that time, the New York office had been the chief resource for countries where AA was just beginning. Bill believed that if representatives of AA internationally could get together and learn from each other, the day would come when the U.S./Canada service office would simply be the “senior service centre among a number ... around the globe.” “*As a beginning*,” Bill wrote, “I propose a *World Service Meeting* – not a *conference*, since it would not be fully representative of world AA – to be held in the fall of 1969.” Held every two years, alternating between New York and another city, the WSM brings together delegates from AA service offices and boards around the globe to talk over common and not so common problems and share solutions to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous wherever it is needed. AA is estimated to exist in more than 180 countries around the world, and delegates to the WSM are from countries with a service structure, national office or a literature distribution centre.

Zonal meetings, which take place in the alternate year to the WSM, maintain continuity between meetings and offer help to AAs where no structure has been set up. Held in cities around the world, these events provide forums for countries to share their experiences about sponsorship across borders. The meetings include those for Asia-Oceania, Europe, REDELA (Meeting of the Americas), Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Western Africa.

Country-to-country sponsorship is the natural focus at the WSMs and the Zonal Service Meetings. At these meetings, delegates from countries where the Fellowship is firmly established and those from where it has barely a toehold offer progress reports, laced with warmth and humour, on how they are carrying the message. They share their experience, strength, and problems - and frequently return home armed with some very workable solutions.

Probably the greatest example of Country to Country sponsorship in Great Britain was after Bill W's visit to Great Britain in 1950 (three years after the first AA meeting in Great Britain was held). A number of copies of 'Alcoholics Anonymous' "the Big Book" were shipped into Great Britain and this enabled AA in Great Britain to grow much more quickly than it might otherwise have done. In a letter dated 1952, Bill gave his royalties (A percentage {8%} of the money raised from the sales of hardback copies of the Big Book, Twelve steps & Twelve Traditions and As Bill Sees It) for the establishment of a Foundation in Great Britain - this gift of his royalties later became our Development Fund administered by the General Service Board (GB) and General Service Office Great Britain. The Royalties are transferred into this Fund. It is restricted to the development of AA in other countries and, since 1983, the Great Britain Development Fund has been used to support the development of the ESM (which is now fully self-supporting).

"The primary purpose of the European Service Meeting is the same as that of all AA activity – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, whoever he may be, whatever the language he speaks. The European Service meeting seeks ways and means of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of delegates who come together from all parts of Europe. It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout Europe.

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively. The European Service Meeting encourages the planning of the sound structures suited to the needs and capabilities of the

various countries and the exploration of expanding AA Services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, community relations and institutions work.”

In addition, the Great Britain Development Fund and funds from US/Canada AA were used to set up the Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting in 2003 and are committed to supporting it until it becomes sustainably self-supporting.

Contributions from the Development Fund are also made to the International Literature Fund regularly and more recently annually, which helps fund the translation of AA's literature into other languages. The Big Book is currently available in 70 languages including English. Twenty-one translations and re-translations of the Big Book are currently in progress along with countless other translation projects around the world.

The International Literature Fund is managed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., and that helps ensure the consistent interpretation of the AA message of recovery and supports the management of copyrighted AA material through licensing arrangements. This also helps to preserve the integrity of the AA message. The Publishing Department Licensing & Translation Process (to quote from a report to the SSASM) *takes much care. It is essential that we follow our long-established, thorough procedure of licensing and translation, which includes our obtaining independent reviews of every translation, to ensure the accuracy of all translations. This is of foremost importance, as Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) holds the copyrights for our literature in trust for the worldwide A.A. Fellowship.*

We encourage and uphold the principles of Group Conscience and Unity as we set about our translation and licensing endeavours.

A.A.W.S. has a legal, moral, and spiritual responsibility to maintain the integrity of the A.A. message in all translations of A.A. literature.

Our collective commitment to the accurate translation of A.A.W.S. material provides all of us the opportunity to work together in unity to protect and share the spiritual core of A.A.'s message as we fulfil our primary purpose.

More recently the Great Britain Development Fund has been used in conjunction with the tremendous efforts in AA Poland to assist Eastern European AA to grow and develop. Funds have also been used to assist with the costs of printing AA literature in a couple of countries which have recently been licensed to print AA literature in their own language - this passes on the spirit of the gift that Bill W gave to Great Britain in 1950.

AA Great Britain operates the European Service Centre which, among its other duties, administers the European Service Meeting which I am delighted to say continues to serve the purpose for which it was set up. The European Service Meeting has an email system which enables delegates past & present to the ESM to discuss issues in their countries with members from other countries who can then respond with their own experience on the topic concerned.

What is most heartening to me is the continuing development of unity within Europe to help to solve difficulties encountered in other countries. Each country is autonomous and therefore develops its own structure to suit the fellowship as it grows in that country, usually with reference to older AA structures. AA Great Britain invites observers from other countries to their annual Conference to learn from experience and tries to send delegates to other Countries Conferences when invited. Other Countries do the same where they are able; this again has proved a popular and useful way to share experience.

What has been the result of all this effort? In Great Britain, the help given by Bill W quickly increased the ability of AA to grow and currently we are in a sound financial position – although this has taken decades to happen. In 2013 and 2015, I was privileged to attend the Sub-Sahara Africa Service Meeting (which is administered by AA South Africa). - It was like going back in time to early developments in AA – apart from South Africa there was virtually no structure in any of the other English-speaking nations and South Africa suggested that in order to support those countries which wished it, GSO South Africa would act as their General Service Office until they could reach the stage where their own structure was strong enough to become self-supporting. While this took a while to happen several countries have taken up the offer and thereby will hopefully be able to grow more effectively. For me the principle is 'Pass it on'. If you would be interested in reading the Reports on the SSASM the last 3 years are available on the South Africa AA Website:

<http://www.aasouthafrica.org.za/Home.aspx> you would need to register in order to get to the SSASM reports in the Library section.

In order to meet the needs of individual developing countries delegates at a Zonal meeting determined that the following steps have been useful in helping countries carry the message more effectively: (1) Setting up committees to

provide information about AA to health-care and other professionals; (2) working to form a service centre with a telephone to speed distribution of AA literature, provide information, and function as a focal point for communication between groups and the public; and (3) helping people understand AA's Seventh Tradition: "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." - Regarding how to help new and fledgling groups understand AA's Seventh Tradition of self-support, several delegates at a World Service Meeting said their countries were trying to focus not so much on the financial aspects of group participation but, rather, on getting the members to express their support and involvement in the work that the service structure does on the groups' behalf. They found that when there was a sense of involvement and participation, the funds usually would follow, whereas focusing on the monetary aspect alone was less effective over the long run.

These AA services work best when adapted to the needs and capabilities of the country that is sponsored in order to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, and Public Information work. New AA structures take a long time to develop and are prone to the same arguments that have gone before. If we can share our experience as Bill W did when he shared his experience and wisdom in the writing of the '12 Traditions' and later on the '12 Concepts for World Service', then we can carry on the principle of Sponsorship Country to Country to our mutual benefit.

One place I have found extremely useful is other countries websites, which includes generating material for this presentation! A lot of them have handbooks / manuals for service which are invaluable for finding experience and potential solutions for difficult situations.

What did I have to do to recover? – ask for help! To me, this applies Country to Country as well as one alcoholic talking to another.

This is something we can all take part in - passing on our experience to others who are experiencing issues which have arisen previously elsewhere – sounds very familiar to me in terms of Sponsorship.

After all AA's responsibility statement says: *"I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."*

Roger B (General Secretary)

Highlights of Service

My name is Clive and I'm an alcoholic. I was inspired into service in the Employment discipline by our then Regional Employment Liaison Officer, her enthusiasm was infectious as she spoke at my Intergroup. She explained the role of Intergroup ELO concisely. I found myself putting my name forward for election as the new Essex Intergroup ELO.

I found the AAGB website informative - it contained some valuable resources on employment.

These resources included some literature geared to professionals and some past copies of the newsletter HELLO ELOs.

I also contacted GSO who kindly sent me a copy of the latest Employment CD. After a while, I spoke with Regional Employment Liaison Officer when she was due to rotate from her role as Eastern Region ELO. She again encouraged me to put my name forward as a possible replacement. I was duly elected at the next Regional Assembly.

'Generated interest'

Like my predecessor, I saw the role as one of providing support and encouragement to Intergroup ELOs within Eastern Region.

During my time as Regional Employment Liaison, I was invited to speak at some of our Intergroups. This generated interest in this service role and one Intergroup elected its new ELO there and then. I also attended the Annual General Meeting for RELOs which is held at GSO in York in June. I found this meeting very inspiring and was able to hear of many mainly positive experiences of RELOs from across the UK.

I also came into contact with the Employment Sub Committee for the first time. They helped set the agenda for the AGM with welcome participation from the RELOs present. They are also responsible for putting together many of the resources found on the website, (for example, the past editions of HELLO ELOs and the hints and tips leaflets), the Employment CD and Starter Pack for new ELOs.

I applied to become a member of the Employment Sub Committee in November 2015. I gained the support of my Intergroup at its December meeting. Everyone who applies to become a member of any of the Board's Sub Committees is required to be sponsored by their Intergroup or Region. My Intergroup Chair and Secretary wrote a covering letter to support my application following the meeting. I then had two separate telephone

interviews by members of the Board's Nominations Committee. These were informal affairs, but covered the questions that they asked fully.

I received a letter a couple of weeks later from the General Secretary congratulating me on my appointment to the Employment Subcommittee. I attended my first meeting in May 2016 and was thrust into action straight away as the new Editor of the newsletter HELLO ELOs, a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

I didn't have to work alone, thank God, as I had another member as part of the small editorial team. The Sub Committee were also discussing and putting together the new Employment Starter Packs.

These include some literature pamphlets addressed to Employers and Professionals, Hints and Tips and the updated CD. We also got busy preparing for the upcoming Employment Seminar which took place at the Park Inn Hotel in York in June 2016.

'Don't have to be alone in Service'

This was one of the highlights of my whole service history and was a privilege and pleasure to be involved with. I learned so much about team work and it has been wonderful to be part of such an industrious bunch of people. The summer 2016 edition of HELLO ELOs was my first as editor and I'm forever grateful to Maxine who helped me put it all together. I'm also forever grateful to Sandy and all the Sub Committee for their support, encouragement and contributions.

One of the most over riding lessons I've learned through my time as a member of the Employment Subcommittee is that I don't have to be alone in service. The subcommittee has gone from strength to strength and I believe it has an exciting time ahead. It has a new editorial team for HELLO ELOs and a team who will liaise with RELOs and provide support when requested. I will miss working with the subcommittee but I look forward to challenges in my new role as Board Trustee for Eastern Region.

In conclusion I'm so very grateful for being able to play a small part in the Employment service discipline.

Love in Fellowship and Service

Clive K, Board Trustee

Passing the Message in Employment

My name is James, I am an alcoholic and a Sub Committee member for Employment and I have been looking through the Confidential Directory and what I found is that there are only 4 out of 16 Regions with Regional Employment Liaison Officers (RELO) listed. For Intergroups there are 30 out of 118 listed. While other members of the Sub Committee and myself tried to reach out to all these ELOs some we never got a response from. So, there could be less ELOs in post or maybe more.

What I am looking at is if there is an enquiry received at one of the Service Offices, or anywhere, in lots of areas, there is no-one to refer these Employers to.

Then I looked in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and there is a whole chapter dedicated to the Employer. Bill and Bob knew, right back a long time ago, that going to the Employer to talk about alcoholics is important, to get the Employer to help us to help the suffering alcoholic.

So what is happening in your Intergroup, in your Region? There is fantastic work going on and a lot of people are doing a lot of things. I know that Employers are being approached but it be through other disciplines and in your areas, I know there is a lot of hard work going on in Public Information, Health, Prisons, Probation, it's fantastic but why are we waiting until an alcoholic is in the hands of the medical profession or the legal profession before we get near them. We need to do something about that.

What are we trying to do with employment? We need to let the Employer know that Alcoholics Anonymous is out there, that we have something to offer the workforce. Alcoholics cost employers money because they don't come into work, because they come in late, because they have accidents and because employers have to let them go, people who they have trained and are skilled workers. We want to talk to Employers, we want to help them help the people they employ. We want to get a poster on their staff notice boards, get one of our helpline cards up there. We want to be invited to give presentations to HR departments or managers. We want to let them know that there is a free service to help their workforce and really what we want to get to is the suffering alcoholic.

The Region Employment Liaison meeting was held over the weekend 15th/16th June. Only four regions were represented, 2 by RELOs, one by the Chairperson and one by the Vice Chair.

I was encouraged by the enthusiasm and the wealth of ideas on how to reach out to the suffering alcoholic through the workplace. This proved to be a valuable meeting with the sharing of experiences and best practice. There were also some reports sent in from ELOs who could not attend the meeting which were read out.

There was also discussion around how to encourage members into this area of service and once they are in position, how to help them fulfil their role. A list of suggestions was put together. One of the ideas that were suggested is to for the Sub Committee members to get in contact with the ELOs at both intergroup and regional level which was in progress, but also to get in touch with the Regional Chairs if there is no ELO. Also, ELO starter packs were to be given to the Regional Chairs at the Region Chairs meeting. A new AA poster for Employment has also been suggested. Resources to take around the country to trade shows, regional forums and service workshops. There were also a few reports from some ELOs expressing the difficulty of carrying the AA message to employers particularly if companies are using Employment Assistant Programs and Occupational Health Suppliers. The Employment Sub Committee are continuing to investigate how best to get in touch with these companies. We may not know the answer but someone reading this article could be working in these fields or knows how to get in contact with these companies and we gratefully appreciate any ideas.

What's happening now? There is a lot happening, but perhaps not under the name of Employment. Employment Liaison Officers have been in touch with The Department of Works and Pensions, Legal Practices, Occupational Health, The Health Centre, Banks, Marks and Spencer's, John Lewis plus other mainline stores, Drug and Alcohol Partnerships Public Companies, Local Councils, Trade Unions and many others, to pass our message of recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous.

We contact national Employers and local Employers who want to know what AA has to offer and how we can help them with their problem with their employees that they know are under-performing.

What help is available for the ELO? There is a lot available to help ELOs. There is the ELO starter pack which contains useful material and suggestions. They are members of the Sub Committee willing to offer any advice to any new or current ELO. They are current members out there who had previous experience as an ELO they will be willing to 12 step anyone into the post.

James C Employment Sub Committee

Roundabout 'going well'

Glasgow North West Intergroup has implemented a pilot scheme and have been ordering 100 Roundabout magazines, on a monthly basis, for local distribution to Prisons, Hospitals and treatment centres.

The Glasgow NW Health liaison rep has advised us that the scheme is going well with the Roundabouts being much appreciated by patients in hospitals and rehab centres.

HLO said, "The patients enjoy reading and identifying with the stories. They recognise how far they've gone and the solution talked about in the rooms. Often they'll ask for a magazine just to be able to say The Serenity Prayer printed on the back of the magazine. Of course, we remove the middle pages before handing them out".

We at Roundabout would like to thank Glasgow NW - it's a terrific example of our local dues and fees being used locally to help carry the message.

Stevie S, Trustee Roundabout

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; 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 27 October 2018

Share Magazine

Vacancy on the Share team

SHARE Magazine is a Sub-Committee of the AA General Service Board, and it has a vacancy for the **new** position of proof-reader/secretary.

The job involves proof reading the monthly edition of Share, and assisting the annual proofing of the Fellowship Diary and Calendar.

The position will involve secretarial duties including taking minutes of meetings which take place up to four times a year at GSO, York.

Most communications are carried out electronically. Secretarial and computer experience are desirable, along with ability to work as a team.

This is a four-year voluntary post, which requires a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety and a working knowledge of Conference approved literature.

The applicant should be conversant with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the Concepts, AA Comes of Age, AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain.

Maxine W, Trustee Share

Prisons

The Prison Sub Committee is looking for one new member to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery within the Prison walls.

The principal aim of the Sub-committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain of service to the Prison community.

Its objectives are to:

- Offer support and advice to Regional Prison Liaison Officers (PLOs).
- Help promote and encourage the appointment of Liaison officers.
- Provide a more coordinated approach to Prison work throughout GB.
- Carry out a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to help identify both successful and problem areas.
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations.
- Hold a Regional Prison Liaison Officer's meeting annually in York.

Role requirements are:

- The position is rotational after four years and requires a minimum of 5 years sobriety at the time of applying.
- A sound knowledge of the service structure & Traditions of the Fellowship.
- To work within Prison Sub-Committee Terms of Reference
- To attend two Prison Sub-Committee meetings and 'teleconference' meetings

Pat Mc G, Trustee Prisons

Archives

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.

Clive K Trustee Archives

Health

Two vacancies exist on the Health Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee. (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 Subcommittee 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.

Terri S, GSB Trustee for Health

Employment

We have a vacancy for two Sub Committee members.

Our Primary Functions are:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level

- Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme
- Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers
- Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events
- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA

The committee meets up to four times a year in York, although some of the meetings may take the form of telephone conferencing. (Skype). Much of the work is done in the interim generally in partnership with the other members of the committee.

The post is subject to rotation after four years

It is suggested that we follow the following criteria:

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety.
- A sound knowledge of the AA Structure, Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- Sub- Committee applicants should be endorsed by the AA structure i.e. a serving officer in their Intergroup or Region. The serving officer's endorsement should be in the form of a letter attached to the completed nomination form.
- Application forms are available from GSO and can also be found in the document library:

Denise H - Trustee for Employment

In Memoriam

Colwyn Bay in memory of Sailor John (P + I R)	50.00
Harrogate Groups - In memory of Richard M	262.96
Mablethorpe Mon & Fri Grps - In memory of Caz C	20.00
Birmingham IG - In memory donation	27.85
Swansea & District - In memory of Allan B	31.00

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 FORM** 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: editor.aasn@btconnect.com

Tradition Seven

“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.

From Regions Jan-Mar 2018	Contributions £s
East of Scotland	250.00
Eastern	13150.00
Glasgow	22300.00
Highlands & Islands	
London North	24614.00
London South	420.00
Midlands	17728.00
North East	16213.00
North West	1242.00
Scotia	14550.00
South East	150.00
South Midlands	360.00
South West	10150.00
SW Scotland	7274.00
Wales & Borders	6530.00
Continental Europe	1061.00

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 4,600* 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' * number of Groups updated.*