



# **AA Service News**

**Spring 2021 / Digital Only Edition**

**No.186**

**From the General Service Office of Great Britain**

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### **GSB Sub-Committee Vacancies:**

**\* Archives \* Armed Services \* Calendar and Diary Editor \***

**\* Electronic Communications \* Employment \* Health \* Literature \***

**\* Prisons \* Probation \* Public Information \* *Roundabout* (Link Liaison Officer and Proofreader) \* 75th Anniversary Convention \* *SHARE* (Assistant Editor) \***

**\* Telephones \* Young People’s \***

**\*\*\***

**A Note on Literature Sales / Literature Orders Flyer & Form**

**Tradition Seven**

**In Memoriam**

**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:**

While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, intergroups or regions, individual AA members may find it useful – in addition to 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 VII**

**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”?
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

**AA Service News Spring 2021 Edition is digital only**

**Due to the continuing situation with COVID-19,  
the Spring 2021 Edition of *AA Service News* is  
available only as a digital version.**

**Share Your Service Experience!**

### ***AA Service News***

**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.

Please send your service-related articles to: [editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

### **What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?**

Are you sending in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas  
to [aainformation@qsogb.org.uk](mailto:aainformation@qsogb.org.uk) ?

## Letter from the Conference Steering Committee

In light of the ongoing restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) met last week to discuss options for holding the General Service Conference in 2021. As the Steering Committee we're committed to maintaining the Service, Unity and Recovery of the Fellowship.

We wrote to you in July of last year to confirm that, on the back of your vote, we were planning to fulfil Conference's obligations for both 2020 and 2021 at the Conference dates set aside in April 2021. We also let you know that we would revisit the possibility of holding a virtual Conference if the impact of the pandemic continued into 2021.

### **Virtual Conference in April 2021**

At our meeting the CSC decided that we can't safely hold a face to face Conference in April 2021. Restrictions continue to be in place across the country and we have no clear guidance on when the situation will change. The CSC therefore decided that we will not hold a physical Conference in April and that, in line with the update we sent you last July, we will run a virtual Conference in April 2021 to fulfil Conference requirements.

### **What happens next**

This will be the first time we have run Conference virtually and so we're now looking at the best way to manage this. In anticipation of this outcome GSO have been working to plan for how we can best run a virtual Conference. There are a number of examples of AA Conferences being run virtually in other countries and we're confident that we can organise this successfully.

We know that you'll be keen to have further information on how this virtual Conference will work. The CSC are meeting again in early February to discuss format, agenda and logistics. As part of that meeting we'll be discussing ways to save time like circulating materials beforehand and shortening the length of Conference.

Following on from this meeting we'll then provide a further update on how Conference will work and will outline the steps we're taking to provide the support and digital platform to host the event.

Yours in service,

**Conference Steering Committee**

## 26th World Service Meeting, November 2020

Nigel P (Chair, General Service Board) and I were among delegates representing Alcoholics Anonymous from around the world who gathered via videoconference November 28-30th for the 26th World Service Meeting (WSM), hosted by the trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous in the US and Canada.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the three-day event was held virtually for the first time in its history, and was attended by 69 delegates from 44 countries.

Originally scheduled as a face-to-face event, numerous logistical and technical challenges had to be overcome once the shift to a virtual meeting had been determined in response to the global pandemic. Since its inauguration in 1969, the WSM has provided a continuing international forum for sharing experience and ideas on carrying the Alcoholics Anonymous message of recovery around the globe. Its success in bringing together AA's far-flung service centres reflect a final vision of AA co-founder Bill W, who believed that there could be "one world for AA" to assure help would be available to suffering alcoholics, no matter where they are or what language they speak. Currently, an AA presence can be found in more than 180 nations worldwide with membership estimated at over two million.

Traditionally, the meeting alternates on a bi-yearly basis between New York and locations as diverse as Durban, South Africa and Cartagena, Colombia.

Circumstances, however, ushered in an historic opportunity this year and, despite being multiple time zones apart, most delegates found fellowship and connection via their computer screen.

"This has been such a challenging year for everyone," says Mary C, acting International Desk Coordinator at the AA General Service Office in New York, who led the team which hosted the virtual WSM. Nevertheless, she noted, "It's especially important to communicate openly with each other and to share ways in which we can keep AA sustainable and available to everyone."

Simultaneously translated into Spanish and Japanese, workshops, presentations and general sharing sessions addressed such issues as developing AA literature in multiple languages, the importance of women's participation in AA's service structure, and maintaining AA's traditional anonymity in an age of social media. A strong focus of delegates was on the effect the pandemic has had on Alcoholics

Anonymous in terms of members' ability to meet face-to-face as well as the ability of newcomers to find and connect with AA.

Nevertheless, with the onrush of technology and its impact, it was hoped by many delegates that the next World Service Meeting, scheduled for 2022, will be taking place in person. As selected at the 26th WSM, the 27th meeting of delegates from around the world will be taking place in Japan, the first time this meeting will have been held in Asia.

**Amanda S, GSB Trustee**

**House of Commons Parliamentary Event  
11th May 2021**

**Parliamentary Alcoholics Anonymous  
Awareness for Professionals**

**Online event 11th MAY 2021 at 10am -12noon**

**Hosted by Caroline Ansell, MP**

**We are planning now for an ONLINE event.**

**So, the good news is that we can open up invitations all across GB.\***

**Please help us publicise this event among professionals in your area who would benefit from learning about Alcoholics Anonymous. They will hear professional and personal AA experiences and find out more about how to signpost people to AA.**

So, dear Liaison Officers, *please* tell your local professional contacts about the event and let us know details of those interested in receiving an invite. Professionals including health and well-being workers, social & criminal justice system professionals and students are welcome. Ideally not people who have attended before, but if they have, could they bring or send colleagues who are not so familiar with AA.

Please help us compile a list of invitees, with the

- professional's name,
- job title and
- organisation /place of work
- email address.

Invites will be sent out via Eventbrite e-mail.

**Please send contact details of potential invitees to:**

[sophie.perring@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:sophie.perring@gsogb.org.uk)

*As you know this is not a general event for AA members. If you are both an AA member and a professional in the field, please free up places by encouraging your colleagues who are not so familiar with AA to come along.*

*Places online will be limited to 100.*

\* **NOTE:** Scotland and Wales will hold their own separate parliamentary events.

We will review in 2021 whether an additional physical event at Portcullis House, Westminster, will also be possible, for those who want and are near enough to come to a physical meeting.

Many thanks for your help!

**Louise F, Secretary, House of Commons Event Committee**

[pi5.sc@aamail.org](mailto:pi5.sc@aamail.org)

## **2020 Survey: Thank You from the Survey Sub Committee**

On behalf of the Survey Sub Committee (SSC), I would like to convey our gratitude to all AA GB and Continental European Region (CER) groups – to those members who participated individually, to group contacts for distributing passwords, to members who announced the survey at meetings and finally, to GSO staff for distribution of emails and for keeping the AA website up-to-date with survey information.

A pilot online survey was originally intended for CER groups only, with paper questionnaires for AA GB groups. Because of COVID19, however, the paper option

was not possible, so we decided to go digital for the whole Fellowship. This required extra SSC meetings and a working group was set up to perform most of the tasks.

GSO staff did the best they could reaching groups who have an email address registered with York. If your group did not receive email invitations or reminders to participate in the survey, now is a fantastic time to contact GSO and update them with a valid email address for your group.

A full report will be made available in due course.

Once again, thank you to all those who made the 2020 Fellowship Survey possible.

**John W, Survey Sub Committee member**

## **Keeping an AA Prison Group Active in Lockdown**

It seems a lifetime ago, but it was only on 18 March last year that the Dorset Prisons Group of AA were informed that our prison meetings would be curtailed due to the pandemic. The following day one of our prison sponsors (with security clearance) asked if he could correspond with the group at The Verne. By return, our main contact in the prison's Substance Misuse team agreed to facilitate this by receiving an email letter, then copying it for distribution to all the inmates who might normally attend our meeting. GSO in York gave us a PO Box to which prisoners could write back, should they wish. All the Verne sponsors agreed to take part and since then we've written letters on a weekly rota.

We've used our letters to share what's been happening in our own recovery and letters have covered our gratitude for the AA programme and some frank assessments of our character defects, past and present. All our correspondence explores how we seek to live a sober life. One member is using his slot in the rota to give his overview of the Twelve Steps; the Traditions are often referred to, as we describe how we've approached life's challenges, often peppered with quotes from the Big Book.

Receiving letters from the men (even Christmas cards!) has been very gratifying and we were touched to realise that our incarcerated fellows were concerned about us, and the unfamiliar curtailment of our liberty that lockdown had inflicted. We learned that inmates whom we had not yet met -and who had never attended a meeting - were asking to be added to the distribution list for our 'shares', and that we had an ever-growing group.



The Substance Misuse team asked if they could write to “AA Head Office” to commend us for this work. We thanked them for their enthusiasm and their part in the exercise and explained that AA doesn’t work like that. Our group conscience thought that a report on how the scheme had worked might be useful to share with other AA members doing prison service and answer any concerns that other prisons might have. We shared this with the High Sheriff of Dorset (the Queen’s representative for the justice system in the county), who asked if we would accept an award for this initiative.

This kind offer posed its own challenges. While egos might be stroked, the award would only have use if it could show how ‘the hand of AA’ can ‘always be there’. We made it clear that individual anonymity was essential. We asked that the award could be to the Dorset Prison Group of AA, not individuals. We also sought permission for the framed award to be displayed in the reception area of the prison, to remind those entering that AA is alive and well in the establishment.

Had we not had our Higher Powers, the Traditions, the support of each other and the wisdom of other members, we might have made a different call. It would have been easy to decline this award, thus avoiding lengthy discussion and soul-searching, but missing out on an opportunity to demonstrate that AA service is alive, despite the pandemic.

Now we’re looking forward to the day after lockdown when the award will be accepted on our behalf by the Deputy Governor in a presentation by the High Sheriff, who will be in full regalia of frock coat, trews, stockings and buckled shoes. Funny old world of recovery and service, isn’t it?

**Justin T, former PLO, Dorset Prison Group**

## **A Member’s Journey in Prison Service**

“I have hung up my boots!” My prison service boots, that is – after 35+ years’ service.

I remember all too well that first visit, the fear and trepidation I felt at the prospect – “False Expectations Appearing Real”!

I was welcomed in with respect and kind inquisitiveness by the inmates attending. Our message to them was that of change, a change of spirit, perhaps a new opportunity for the soul.

Armed with “one-liners” like “God is not lost”, “Try adding another ‘o’ to God”, or “God can stand for a Group of Drunks”, a tiny bit of confidence crept in.

I had already been primed with the knowledge that many would come for the free coffee and cigarettes. That was different to the outside, but though often coming for the wrong reasons (pretty good reasons under the circumstances if you ask me), many continued to stay for the right reasons.

It was “Sugar Bill”, legendary for his devotion to service in this neck of the woods, who inveigled me into carrying the message “inside the walls”.

HMP Longport Canterbury was a classic 19th-Century prison. High walled, stone-built, with tiny barred windows high in each cell, seemingly endless gates with an escort guard jangling keys shouting “Coming through”, announcing our passage through the many barred gates to the iron grid stairs and landings. Sometimes thronged with inmates but at other times eerily quiet in “lockdown mode” – no pandemic – just a shortage of staff or a security count taking place, then on to our room, sometimes allocated and at others simply a large cell. I very quickly learnt to feel comfortable amongst the inmates – AA the great leveller.

The message of love came through me and not from me. This was picked up quickly by inmates who sensed that my sharing was “with them”, not “at them”. The language of “screws and cons” soon became familiar and somehow I always felt protected by the blanket of recovery in which this astonishing Fellowship had lovingly enveloped me.

Inexorably I found myself commandeered (you know, like when in an auction room where you are attending purely as a spectator, you take out a handkerchief to blow your nose and discover you just unwittingly purchased something – so it was when they announced a vacancy at an intergroup meeting) to take a Prison Liaison Officer (PLO) position for East Kent Intergroup.

At that time, we had four establishments in East Kent: HMP Longport, HMP Aldington, HMP Dover, and Dover Young Offenders. Members were always there to form teams of AA sponsors and visitors. Seemingly it wasn’t such a big step after three years in that role to find myself being thrust forward for the position of South East Region PLO. Fast forward another three years and I was to find myself volunteering this time to take part, as one member of four, to form the first national sub committee for prisons (General Service Board Prisons Sub Committee) to help the Board member responsible in what had become an onerous task for just one person to carry out. What a privilege, what a joy to attend those meetings at the General Service Office (GSO) in York with dedicated servants of our Fellowship from the four far-flung corners of Great Britain. One contribution lovingly worked on by myself and a sponsee, John S, was a national map of all prisons in GB served (or otherwise) by meetings of the Fellowship, and it was hailed as a meaningful contribution at the time by the Ministry of Justice.

It is almost a decade since I served my three years on the sub committee, at which point, I was gleefully made redundant by the Board. (You need a sense of humour in this game!)

All prisons in East Kent have now ceased to exist. HMP Longport has been purchased by canterbury Christchurch University with part of the old prison being retained for heritage purposes in the future. Perhaps they will have me back in the form of an old waxwork likeness as an exhibit covered in cobwebs!

I continued with prison visits until the arrival of the pandemic last year, sometimes alone, latterly as part of a team, to sponsor meetings in HMP Maidstone under the auspices of West Kent Intergroup until attendance was arrested forcibly under COVID-19 guidelines, a troubling situation which one hopes will soon be addressed.

About 55 years ago, in the early days of my dalliance with this disease, I ventured out on the evening of the first day of use by the police of a piece of equipment called a breathalyser, to take advantage of the last opportunity, as I saw it, of being able to take my car out to celebrate a good drink in my transport of choice – if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. Funny how, even in blackout, the memory of the blue flashing light remains indelibly printed on the memory. When I opened the car door at their request, I fell, stupefied, onto the road at the officer's feet. They helped me into the back seat of my car and suggested I "sleep it off" before attempting to drive home. Some twelve years later, the same thing happened (the definition of insanity – "doing the same thing twice and expecting a different result"!), only travelling on this occasion on the wrong side of a dual carriageway at two in the morning – this event costing me my licence for a year. This I believe would be an imprisonable offence these days. "There but for the grace" and "footprints in the sand" come to mind.

The cup of gratitude (unlike some beer mugs) has no lid to cap it off and mine overflows. So, thanks eternally, Sugar Bill, and our Founders, Bill W and Dr Bob, all deceased in body, but never in spirit, for all those wonderful opportunities and for all those who have knowingly or otherwise afforded me the support to "serve my time".

Who was it who said the "t" in "can't" stands for "try"? When it comes to prison service or even the Prison Postal Service, why not go on and give it a go? ODAAT.

Love in Fellowship,

"Jimmy Guitar"

## Reinventing the Wheel

Much has been written about Service! Unsurprisingly here in *AA Service News*! How does our great Fellowship recruit, encourage and maintain members in service? Sharing and sponsorship into and within service is always the key. How do we know what the other is doing or even know how things are done if we don't open our mouths? Obviously being mindful to listen too!

I'm part of the Telephone Service Team for the Wales and Borders Region. I was encouraged by one of our Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officers (TLO's) to share our recent experiences through the pandemic. He remarked that he had got ideas to take back to his intergroup from articles in *Service News*.

Our Telephone Service nationally can be both blessed and cursed by our wonderful AA structure. There are 40 odd helplines active through the freephone 0800 number that pretty much all do things differently! There are a multitude of members across the UK from the Trustee through the sub committee, TLOs at region and intergroup, the Telephone Responders available 24/7 through to the thousands of 12th Steppers – we could always do with more! All working hard with the aim of trying to achieve our Primary Purpose and by some miracle of, I suspect a Higher Power, it seems to work!

The general guidance within our *Service Handbook*, Chapter 10, Telephone Services, is due for review at Conference this year. This will take some time though. In the mean time we work with what we've got. This inevitably means we sometimes re-invent the wheel so to speak! Each helpline coming up with ideas and solutions to the issues and running of our telephone helplines.

Here are just a couple of ideas our region has worked on during the pandemic in the hope your helpline may find them useful, or you might have, or they might generate other ideas. Maybe an item for next quarter's *Service News*?

In November we used our new found familiarity with Zoom to hold an online meeting of our seven Intergroup TLO's. Our Region is geographically large so this was the first time most of us had met "face-to-face" as it were! It was very successful! It was so much easier to share ideas and discuss issues rather than through endless emails or texts and to put faces to voices and names!

One reason for not coming forward for service is perhaps fear of the unknown? So, support (sponsorship) into service is important. As a result of our discussions at the Zoom meeting one of our TLOs shared that he had used "role play" in order to train new Responders. So, we were able to put together a new training aid for Intergroup TLOs. It is designed to give new Responders confidence, where the ITLO acts as the

“caller”, using their experience on the helpline to suggest ways of dealing with different types of call. For example: “I drink too much, am I an alcoholic?”, “My Doctor suggested I go to AA – what is it?”, “My partner drinks too much – what can I do?” When you go on your first shift you don’t know what to expect, so the sharing of experience is a vital tool.

If you would like to know more detail please contact me. My contact details are on the Confidential Directory. I’ll happily forward our training sheet. You may already do something like this – if so, that’s fine. Please will you share your versions? It may save us from “re-inventing the wheel”!

I’ve also heard, by talking to other members connected with the telephone service how they have used Zoom as a tool to help 12 Steppers guide newcomers onto their first Zoom meetings. A bit like meeting them outside the physical venue! What a great idea and I’m sure there are many more!

Service for me has been life changing and I happily share that experience. I am optimistic that we will continue to combine our shared experience to provide the best Telephone Service we can. Realism too that things will happen in my Higher Power’s time not mine! Sharing though will hopefully “grease the wheels”!

In the spirit of Fellowship,

**Graham S**

## **Employment Sub Committee Report on Presentation to a Major Insurance Company**

### **Mike P:**

My name is Mike and I am an alcoholic and I have the privilege of being the Trustee for London Region North. I am also the Chair of the Employment Sub Committee.

I came into Alcoholics Anonymous a beaten and broken man, but today, thanks to a twelve-step programme and the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, I am a sober man.

My commitment as a Board Trustee has been to report back to the Board of Trustees what the Sub Committee reports to me. They in turn report to me what the intergroups and regions have reported to them. I also attend Board Meetings and chair various other sub committees.

The recent presentations, (there were two which were one week apart for a major insurance company) was a real success, and the feedback from the people present by

a poll that was made via Zoom evidenced this. The Q & A session at the end was a great way to see that the people were engaged.

I would like to thank the sub committee for their professional attitude and the way the technology was handled by the sub committee, including a Power Point presentation.

Due to the above presentations, I think there are now a few more people who now know what Alcoholics Anonymous is (and is not), and they are going to be able signpost any employee who needs AA. Again, I would like to thank the sub committee for all their hard work.

## **Mike, Employment Sub Committee Chairperson and General Service Board Trustee**

### **Roger E:**

After some sterling work by Andrew, James, Jim, and Rob in setting up this presentation with assistance from the rest of the sub committee, we have now completed two presentations to managers of the major insurance company, and these are my observations on how successful I believe they were.

Looking at the faces of the managers as they listened to the presentations was a very good insight into the effect it was having on them as Zoom is a very good tool to see this I believe. The introduction, slides, and Rob's experience, strength and hope were very powerful, and this could be seen by the expressions on the managers' faces, especially during Rob's share.

The question-and-answer session, I feel, was very helpful, and by the quality of the questions we know that we had held their attention throughout. Also, in my humble opinion, the evaluation poll we held at the end of the session proved that Zoom presentations work, are a really powerful tool, and an inexpensive way to move forward for AA as a whole.

Further, I would like to inform anyone reading this that might feel that they could never play a part by joining a sub committee or doing similar service at this level, please do not tell yourself this, as you will be missing out on a very positive piece of Twelve Step work as well as a special spiritual experience.

I came in to my first meeting on 2nd January, 1989, at the Seamans' Mission in London's Docklands – a dyslexic plumber from the East End of London who believed his life to be over! If you told me then that I would be playing a part 31 years later in a presentation to managers of a large insurance company on the internet (which didn't exist at that time), I would have blasphemed, that is for sure, but the power of service pushes the boundaries slowly, slowly, like taking baby steps, and you move on through service positions with the help of a sponsor and others on the way. It

truly is a powerful programme! Also, my disability (Dyslexia) has proven to be an asset as I tend to look at things from a different perspective to my fellows.

Finally, I will always remember being the Tea Maker in my early days at a Friday night meeting, and on my way there, I walked past a famous seafood stall in Aldgate, London, and there having a bowl of eels was a boyhood friend and drinking partner of mine whom I hadn't seen for a few years. He was pleased to see me and invited me to go for a drink with friends of ours, and as much as I wanted to go (as it set that Phenomenon of Craving off once again), I was able to say "No thanks!" as I was on my way to meet some other friends. I didn't say who or that the reason that I had the tea, sugar and milk in my hand was for an AA meeting, but I didn't want to let you down, and that piece of service saved my life, so I think I will keep coming back ~ it works!

### **Roger E, Employment Sub-Committee**

#### **Rob D:**

I have been part of the Employment Sub Committee (ESC) for just over two years. My background to this was that I had worked in the Civil Service for 44 years, in the course of which I met employers of all types and sizes, and thus built up an understanding of how they "tick" and what their prime motivators are.

My 30 years of heavy drinking which became alcoholic, brought me to AA. Once I was established in AA and doing service, I had always been interested in becoming an Employment Liaison Officer (ELO), but whenever vacancies arose, either at intergroup or region, I was always in another post, so the opportunity didn't arise.

In 2018, our region didn't have a Regional ELO, and as I was Regional Secretary I attended the annual Regional ELO meeting in York. Talking to the ESC members, I learned it was NOT a requirement (for membership of the ESC) to have had a position at intergroup or as a Region ELO. I applied for the ESC vacancy and was accepted onto it in October 2018.

Around three months ago, the Vice Chair of the ESC asked me to give a main share at a major presentation to managers of a national organisation. I was delighted to be offered this opportunity to serve and gladly accepted.

As time grew nearer to the presentation, I was a bit nervous and unsure of precisely what I should say. This would be the first time I had addressed any employers as a member of AA. Obviously, my experience as an alcoholic manager would be part of it, but I wasn't certain of what else to include – or, just as importantly, what to leave out. I prayed about it and made some "bullet points" to guide me during my share, and having put them into semblance of a reasonable order, I waited for the big day!

I was thankful to have become used to Zoom meetings (this was a Zoom presentation) and I found that once I started sharing, the words just came naturally. I thank my Higher Power for guiding me through!

The feedback after the meeting clearly showed my share had been well received. Most importantly, this and of course the main presentation opened the managers' eyes to what AA was all about and gave them suggestions and encouragement to point anyone with potential or actual alcohol issues to us.

So, to sum up, I felt really grateful that I had been used to carry our message, which of course is part of Step 12, especially in the current COVID lockdown, when so much outward-facing service seems impossible. But it's not!! Opportunities may be difficult to find, but they ARE out there.

### **Rob D, Employment Sub-Committee**

#### **Andrew Wetherell:**

My name is Andrew Wetherell, and I'm a Non-Alcoholic Trustee on the General Service Board, and a member on the Employment Sub Committee (ESC). I have also recently joined the Literature Sub Committee where I have been warmly welcomed.

The ESC recently received a request for some "Alcohol Awareness Sessions", and my colleagues & I developed a package which we have successfully delivered to around 30 Team Managers at a major insurer in December.

The two Zoom sessions were very well received and the post-session feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The company concerned are already speaking with us in respect of further sessions in 2021 where we would be looking to deliver them to their broader staff group across Great Britain.

In what has been such a challenging and worrying year, it was a wonderful experience for us to be able to deliver some 12 Step work to a large employer, and I think it gave all of us on the ESC a major and enormously welcome morale boost. The sessions ran for about an hour, were chaired by Jim L, and took the following format:

- Welcome, introductions, and a look at the format / running order
- PowerPoint presentation by James C and myself (alcoholic and non-alcoholic working in partnership, as per our AA history)
- Screening of our Employment video
- Experience, Strength and Hope share by Rob D
- Question and answer session (questions answered by all those mentioned above, plus Mike P [ESC Chair], Sean N, and Roger E)
- Details of further information and support (via PowerPoint)
- Evaluation session and Close



As mentioned above, both sessions were extremely well received, and the following comment is just one of many which provides the overall flavour:

***“This was a really good session. I was really touched by their honesty and bravery. I have spoken very highly of this session to all my peers and Team Managers and encouraged them to attend a session”***

I would have to say that the element which had the biggest impact on the audience was Rob D’s personal share, together with the answers provided by my alcoholic colleagues, and I am sure we were successful in dispelling some myths and at the same time educating people about what AA is and what we can offer to the still suffering alcoholic.

We are all thoroughly looking forward to delivering further sessions for this major employer, and we very much hope to use the model we now have to deliver similar sessions to other employers. Further, we will be looking to share the above experiences and associated presentation / handout materials with colleagues in the regions.

On a final positive note, during the most recent session, I did a quick calculation of sobriety, and on a modest estimate the cumulative total of my ESC colleagues’ sobriety came out at over 90 years!

**Andrew Wetherell, GSB Non-Alcoholic Trustee  
Member, Employment Sub Committee**

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Article originally published in the February 2021 *PI Service News*.  
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## **The Power of Online Meetings**

The first known online voice AA meeting in Europe, first164yp, was started in January, 2009, as a Monday night meeting on Skype by Dallas T, an American living in Milan, Italy, who had served as the Young People's Contact\* for the Continental European Region (CER). Hence, the “yp” in the name.

At the beginning, there were technical challenges. Skype had its limitations. Our computer devices, connections to the internet, and internet provider all had limitations.

However, Dallas had a vision to provide a weekly English-language AA meeting for English speakers in Europe who were not close to or could not get to a face-to-face English-language meeting. He left to pursue studies abroad, but today, deep into the

pandemic quarantines, first164yp continues to be a “god-send” to many alcoholics in recovery. Hardly a week has gone by when somebody doesn’t express how first164yp has saved their life and is continuing to do so.

Greeted with enthusiasm by younger members of AA around Europe in 2009, online meetings met resistance as “fake AA”. We explained we were not trying to replace face-to-face meetings, but to offer more alternatives for sharing experience, strength and hope in recovery from alcoholism and for carrying the message of AA.

Meeting attendance waned, but we publicised the meeting on the CER website (<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/>), attracting new members, and the meeting survived. A meeting group conscience was taken and together we created an AA group, a 7th Tradition collection, and expanded to offering meetings five nights a week. The challenge was and still is to attract a stable, reliable cohort of trained tech hosts.

As more were attracted to first164yp, the group conscience made the bold decision to offer ten meetings a week – two simultaneous meetings Monday through Friday at 20:00 CET (Central European Time / GMT+1), first164yp and first164yp2. Our technical coordinator sends out a weekly schedule to all tech hosts and the tech host team is connected today in a WhatsApp group to instantly text each other if a last-minute substitute is needed or a tech host is encountering technical problems.

Over the past two years, meeting attendance gradually rose to an average of 250 participants per week (25 per meeting) before drifting slightly downward. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, our two simultaneous meetings suddenly shot up to 90 participants each. We quickly opened first164yp3 to address the explosion of demand for online meetings and kept that open until shell-shocked face-to-face groups discovered for themselves appropriate online platforms.

Today, demand is back to pre-COVID “normal” of around 140 participants per week, an average of 14 per meeting, ranging from 8 to 28 per meeting. There is usually a core of regulars, a wider circle of frequent attenders, and always someone new to AA or new to online meetings.

The link below includes our group-conscience-designed first164yp meeting chairperson’s script, fine-tuned by the group conscience throughout our nearly twelve years of experience. The last update was May 2020. Please feel free to use it and adapt it to your group’s needs.

May we all continue to “carry the message” through whatever media become available as humanity continues to progress in offering ways to connect with each other. Bill W would have been thrilled.

**Daniel F, Belgium**

\*The General Service Conference of Great Britain recommended the addition of the Young Peoples Liaison Officer (YPLO) to our structure in 2013 (Committee Two, Question 2,d).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Article edited for length. Originally published 2nd January 2021 in *ArenA*, the monthly online newsletter of the Continental European Region (CER). Published here with permission. Link to original article and first164yp format:

<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/the-power-of-online-meetings/>

## 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](mailto:jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk) or in the Document Library ("Forms") of the AAGB website [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

Please get your form from either GSO or the Document Library, as the application forms are regularly updated and it is essential to use the most recent form.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or a currently serving Liaison Officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. The deadline for *ALL* applications is Friday, 9th April 2021\*.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Qualified Sub Committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through a video platform in a time agreed by the applicants.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on a General Service Board Sub Committee, please email the relevant General Service Board Trustee below each notice BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

Thank you!

**\* THIS DEADLINE IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL AS THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND IS THE 55TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE.**

## Archives Sub Committee Vacancies

### **There are two vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board.**

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' continuous 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*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook 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.

**Current application forms are available from GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Saturday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Archives Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Thomas Baldwin, GSB Non-Alcoholic Trustee and Trustee for Archives**  
**([trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.nat3@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Armed Services Sub Committee Vacancies

### **There are vacancies on the Armed Services Sub Committee of the General Service Board.**

Applicants who are serving members of the Armed Forces, or ex-Service men and women would be an advantageous but is not essential. The aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within the Armed Services community, both serving and ex-serving personnel, including their families.

**Main aims are:**

- Offer support and advice to regional Armed Services Liaison Officers.
- Help promote and encourage the appointment of Liaison Officers.
- Support the development and sharing of good practice and review and update literature, media resources and guidelines as necessary.
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies connected with the Tri-Services.

**It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety at time of application
- A sound 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 are desirable. The ability to produce written and verbal reports would be an advantage, as well as relevant IT skills.

Armed Services Sub Committee members will normally serve for a period of four years. There is an expectation that Armed Services Sub Committee members normally attend two meetings a year in York and participate in possible “conference call” meeting(s) as and when required, giving notice to the GSB Trustee if unable to attend/participate.

**The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or a currently serving Liaison Officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter.**

**Current application forms are available from GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Saturday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Archives Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

**Thank you!**

**Mike P, GSB Trustee for Armed Services ([trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk))**

## Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor Vacancy

### Vacancy for Fellowship Calendar and Diary Editor

The Fellowship Calendar and Diary Production Officer is rotating out of post and we need an enthusiastic person to take on this exciting role, continuing production of this important means of carrying the message.

This is a service position for which the candidate must have a minimum of five years sobriety and will be required to attend a minimum of two Sub Committee meetings per year.

They will be responsible for the preparation and compilation of the Fellowship Calendar and Diary by:

- Sourcing programme materials and quotes
- Gathering, selecting and evaluating photographs submitted by AA members, within agreed timescales
- Supplying all material to printer and liaising with GSO, the Board Trustee and the printer
- Having some basic photo editing experience and knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Being familiar with AA's 12 Traditions

This is a shared post with Roundabout magazine. If the Editor comes from England or Wales, he / she will be attached to the SHARE Editorial Team; if from Scotland then he / she will be attached to the ROUNDABOUT Editorial Team. This is a four- / five-year term.

A detailed description of duties can be sent on appointment.

If you are interested in this service position, please ring the General Service Office for further details and an application form as soon as possible. A letter of recommendation will be required from your intergroup or region.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for SHARE ([trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk))**

## **Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **There are Vacancies for the Electronic Communications Sub Committee**

Can you help carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic?

The Electronic Communications Sub-Committee (ECSC) invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of using electronic communications to help those who need help, and to keep existing members informed.

Various roles exist within the sub-committee:

- Webmaster supports the website and coordinates new features and changes with the professional web developer.
- Microsite admin assists Region and Intergroup ECLOs with the set up and maintenance of their local websites within the AAGB site structure.
- Postmaster supports members who use the aamail.org email service, supervising the system, fighting spam, etc.
- Filestore admin monitors the use of this secure storage area, ensuring access requests are properly validated.
- The Workplace platform is being trialled by the Board, sub committees and by a couple of regions. WP Admin supervises the allocation of secure access and assists new users.
- Admins of Online Response Service and ChatNow ensure the smooth operation of these essential front-line services, encourage recruitment of new responders etc.
- Helpdesk deals primarily with a variety of service-related queries, requests for email addresses etc.

An interest in electronic communications and a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area is more important than anything else in these roles. Our various IT suppliers provide technical support, so although good basic computer literacy is required, more important to us is an understanding of how people communicate and the desire to help us improve what we do.

As with all Sub -committee vacancies, five years' continuous sobriety and the endorsement of your region or intergroup are required. You should be flexible in time commitments, and be prepared to join us occasionally online as well as attending several meetings per year in York, where accommodation is provided and expenses paid.

For details of where to obtain and return the application form please see the website at <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Vacancies> [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) **OR** request by email: [jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk)

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Electronic Communications Sub Committee (ECSC), please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Norman B, GSB Trustee for Electronic Communications**  
**[trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

## **Employment Sub Committee Vacancy**

### **Vacancies for Employment Sub Committee**

The Employment Sub Committee is a Sub Committee of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**We have a vacancy for one new Sub Committee member.**

**Our Primary Functions are to:**

1. Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies.
2. Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level.
3. Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level.
4. Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme.
5. Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers.
6. Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events.
7. Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
8. 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. 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., the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or a current Liaison 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.

**Current application forms are available from GSO and can also be found in the Document Library on the AAGB website.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Employment Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Mike P, GSB Trustee for Employment ([trustee.lrn@gsofb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.lrn@gsofb.org.uk))**

## **Health Sub Committee Vacancy**

### **Several vacancies exist for experienced members to join the General Service Board Health Subcommittee.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented even greater challenges for members in service roles within the Health discipline including the Health Sub Committee. Working as a team the Health Sub Committee has been able to respond to these challenges.

Rotation has created several opportunities for new members to join this dedicated team and if you fulfil the essential qualifying criteria and are enthusiastic and experienced in the Health discipline or a complimentary discipline, we would love to hear from you, so please apply.

#### **ESSENTIAL QUALIFYING CRITERIA:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the date of application
- A working knowledge of the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts, the AAGB service structure and guidelines, and Conference approved material.
- Proven experience at intergroup and / or region as a Health Liaison Officer or a complimentary discipline
- The availability to serve on the Sub Committee for four years

- The availability to attend four meetings each year including attendance at York and on virtual meetings

#### **ESSENTIAL ROLE REQUIREMENTS:**

- To implement health initiatives as directed by the General Service Board on the recommendation of Conference and to understand the relationship between the General Service Board and the Health Subcommittee
- To provide support to Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers by providing information, advice and resources.
- To create and encourage open communication channels with Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers, including virtual and live meetings and seminars if appropriate.
- To establish and maintain relationships at National level with health professionals and professional bodies.
- To carry the message and increase awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Step programme to all health-related environments as appropriate

The full list of Roles and Responsibilities can be found on the AAGB Website on the Health discipline page. However, if you have any questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Health Sub Committee of the General Service Board, please email the Health Trustee, details below, who will be only too pleased to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

Nomination forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026 [Jenny.pryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.pryke@gsogb.org.uk) ; or in the Document Library (“Forms”) of the AAGB website [www.alcoholicsanonymousgb.org.uk](http://www.alcoholicsanonymousgb.org.uk)

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or a currently serving Liaison Officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April, 2021.**

**Terri S, GSB Trustee for Health** ([trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## **Literature Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **There are three vacancies for the Literature Sub Committee**

To enable the Literature Sub-Committee of the General Service Board of AA GB to fulfil its role of:

- Considering needs for new literature

- Undertaking selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of the literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain
- Assessing literature for its suitability for revision or discontinuance.

**Its members meet the following criteria:**

- Have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety.
- Have a sound understanding of the Twelve Steps.
- Have a working knowledge of the AA structure, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, obtained through service at various levels.
- Show a commitment to service through personal experience at their home group, intergroup and/or region.
- Have a sound understanding of the Conference process. (Conference experience is highly desirable, but an understanding of the process does not need to come solely from having attended Conference.)
- Are endorsed by the AA structure, i.e., a serving officer of their Intergroup or Region. (The serving officer's endorsement letter is to be attached to the completed nomination form.)

**Essential requirements:**

- Be able to travel to York, UK, four times a year (Fridays and Saturdays).
- Have time between committee meetings to work on assigned projects, liaise with other committee members, provide feedback on projects other members are working on, and prepare for committee meetings by reading all relevant materials.
- Be able to serve a four-year term.
- Be familiar with the wide range of AA literature.
- Have a sound command of English written grammar and style.
- Be familiar with word processing and email programmes, as well as file-sharing.
- The ability to work collaboratively as a contributing member of the sub-committee. Most projects require members to work together in close collaboration, including in pairs or small groups, in the production of multiple drafts, with detailed editing, towards a final version.
- The ability to work towards set deadlines.

**Desirable requirements:**

- Have some experience in copy-editing, design, document drafting or similar work
- Be familiar with social media and other communications platforms.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or a currently serving Liaison Officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup **must** endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Literature Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Erik A, GSB Trustee for Literature ([trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk))

## Prisons Sub Committee Vacancy

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 five 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.

**Current application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AAGB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Prisons Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Pat Mc G, GSB Trustee for Prisons ([trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## Probation Sub Committee Vacancy

### There is one vacancy on the Probation Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

We have one vacancy on the Probation Sub Committee.

The post requires five years' continuous sobriety and experience at intergroup and region as a minimum. The post is four years in duration and the applicant should be enthusiastic about probation / criminal justice service.

#### Basic Role Requirements:

- A working knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts and the AA GB service structure are essential;
- Willing to work within our Terms of Reference as presented on the AA GB website
- Prepared to attend up to four meetings per year held at GSO York
- Good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- The willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board of AA.

**Current application forms are available from GSO or on the AAGB website in the Document Library.**

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Probation Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Maxine W, GSB Trustee for Probation  
([trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## Public Information Sub Committee Vacancies

### There are two vacancies on the Public Information (PI) Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The PI Sub Committee (PISC) is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to the public, professionals, and the still suffering alcoholic at a national, regional and group level.

#### Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies.
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies, members of the media, and journalists at national level.
- Offer support and advice to Regional PI committees and liaison officers.
- Provide leadership to the PI network through national projects  
Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.
- Update the PI web site and other PI resources.
- Publish the *PI Newsletter* and *Newsletter for Professionals*.

#### Role requirements are:

- The position is rotational after four years and requires a minimum of five years' sobriety at the time of applying.
- A sound knowledge of the service structure and Traditions of the Fellowship
- To provide guidance on media projects
- To work within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference
- To attend up to four PI Sub Committee meetings and "teleconference" meetings.

Current application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AAGB website in the Document Library.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Public Information Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Charles R, GSB Trustee for Public Information  
([trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## **Roundabout Sub Committee Vacancy / NEW POSITION**

### **ROUNABOUT SUB COMMITTEE – VACANCY ROUNABOUT MAGAZINE NEW AND CHALLENGING SERVICE POSITION**

The Sub Committee of the *Roundabout* magazine invites applicants from all regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team in this new and challenging role of Link Liaison Officer for a service period of four years. If you consider you have experience and interesting observations, the Editorial Team will work closely with and support and guide the successful applicant.

If you meet the Role requirements, have the time to commit to this service position and a willingness to learn then please complete a Nomination Form [link below].

#### **ROLE REQUIREMENTS**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety
- A high standard of English literacy
- A working knowledge of computer technology
- A desire and ability to work as part of a team
- Service as a *Roundabout* Liaison Officer at group, intergroup or regional level would be advantageous
- Flexibility to adapt and assist with other roles within the Editorial Team, as appropriate, and delegated by the Editor

#### **ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Link Liaison Officer will support the Editorial Team by establishing and maintaining regular contact with the Group, Intergroup and Regional *Roundabout* Liaison Officers.
- The Link Liaison Officer will regularly review the *Roundabout* Magazine web pages and liaise with the Editor and Chairperson to effect changes.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Secretary to maintain and update the contact database of Intergroup and Regional *Roundabout* Liaisons.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Editorial Team to ensure that they are appraised of the feedback from the Fellowship.
- The Link Liaison Officer will liaise with the Chairperson to maintain and implement the AA Safeguarding policy within the *Roundabout* Sub Committee.
- The Link Liaison Officer will present a brief report to each *Roundabout* Sub Committee meeting.

- The Link Liaison Officer will have a working knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, and AAGB's Structure and Service Guidelines along with Conference Approved Literature.

Current nomination forms can be accessed and downloaded from the Roundabout vacancy page or Document Library of the AAGB Website or by contacting [admin.northernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:admin.northernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk) or phone 0141 226 2214. Applications should be forwarded by email to [Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk) or posted to Jenny Pryke at: The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, (Great Britain) Limited, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April, 2021.**

If you are interested in becoming a Link Liaison Officer and joining the Editorial team and would like to discuss this new service position further, in the first instance, please contact the Roundabout Trustee at: [trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Or on (+44) (0) 7823 484 597

**Terri, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout***

## ***Roundabout* Sub Committee Vacancy / PROOF READERS**

### **ROUNABOUT SUBCOMMITTEE – VACANCIES**

The *Roundabout* Subcommittee of the Scottish *Roundabout* magazine invites applicants from all Regions of Scotland to join the Editorial Team as Proof Readers for a service period of four years. There are currently two vacancies.

### **ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

As a Proof Reader your primary duties will be to read the articles sent to *Roundabout* magazine by the Fellowship, to ensure that they meet the criteria for publication including:

- An ability to read with scrutiny each article submitted, to ascertain that it is appropriate and relevant errors
- Edit the articles to a manageable length for publication
- Have an understanding of the AA Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Guidelines along with an awareness of Conference approved literature

### **ROLE REQUIREMENTS:**

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety
- A high standard of English literacy



- A proficiency in computer technology
- A desire and ability to work as part of a team
- Service as a *Roundabout* Liaison Officer at Group, Intergroup or Regional level would be advantageous
- Have an ability to amend any grammatical or spelling errors
- Flexibility to adapt and assist with other roles within the Editorial Team, as appropriate, and delegated by the Editor

Applications should be endorsed by intergroup or region and accompanied by a letter of support. Current application forms can be accessed and downloaded from the *Roundabout* vacancy page or Document Library of the AA Website, or by contacting [admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:admin.nothernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk) or phone: (+44) (0)41 226 2214

Applications should be forwarded by email to [Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:Jenny.Pryke@gsogb.org.uk) or posted to Jenny Pryke at: The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, (Great Britain) Limited, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**The closing date for applications is 9th April 2021.**

If you are interested in becoming a proof reader and joining the Editorial Team and would like to discuss it further, in the first instance, please contact the *Roundabout* Trustee at: [trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

**Terri S, GSB Trustee for *Roundabout***

## 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee Vacancy

### **There is one vacancy on the 75th Anniversary Sub Committee of the General Service Board.**

At Conference 2016 the General Service Board (GSB) was tasked by Conference to oversee the organisation of a single celebratory convention in 2022 to mark the 75th year of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain.

June 2022 is getting closer and the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee is seeking two additional members in the run-up to the event.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety. Members will serve until the sub committee's work is completed (not more than four years), and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*.

To ensure a convention programme and sober experience that reflect as great a diversity within our Fellowship as possible, the Sub Committee would be interested particularly in younger candidates and / or members who sobered up before the age of thirty.

The Sub Committee will meet up to four times a year in York.

Experience of serving on the Committee of one of our National Conventions (Northern, Southern, Welsh, Scottish) would be very helpful.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.**

Thank you!

Stevie S, GSB Trustee, 75th Anniversary of AA in Great Britain Convention  
([trustee.vicechair@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.vicechair@gsogb.org.uk))

## **SHARE Sub Committee Vacancy: ASSISTANT EDITOR**

### **VACANCY FOR A SHARE MAGAZINE ASSISTANT EDITOR**

**The SHARE Magazine Sub-Committee seeks to appoint an Assistant Editor of SHARE, AA's monthly magazine in England and Wales.**

The Assistant Editor receives articles weekly by email. These are edited to correct spelling, punctuation and ensure the SHARE "House Style" is complied with, while most importantly maintaining the authors 'voice.' Each article is scored on suitability for publication and then sent on to the Editor together with any comments helping the Editor decide on publication. It is vital that good communication is maintained between the Assistant Editor and the Editor. A record of articles received needs to be kept.

Each month the printer sends a proof copy of the next magazine and the Assistant Editor needs to proof read the whole magazine within 48 hours, emailing the Editor with any amendments. An understanding of deadlines is vital for this position to guarantee SHARE is delivered to AA groups by the first week of the month.

The monthly production of SHARE magazine is a team effort; it is essential for the Assistant Editor to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at Region. Computer

and email competence is indispensable. It would be desirable to have previous editing experience but training will be given.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed.

Applicants must have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the time of application. They should be familiar with Conference-approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts* and the *AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain*. The Team can hold up to four annual meetings, either in York or by conference-call, including an annual, national *SHARE* Liaisons Officers' meeting. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

**Closing date for applications is Friday 9th April 2021.**

Application forms are available from the AA GB website. Go to Members, Vacancies; or write/call: GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ Tel: (+44) (0) 1904 644026

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for *SHARE* ([trustee.northeastregion@gso.gb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.northeastregion@gso.gb.org.uk))**

## **National Telephones Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **There are two vacancies on the National Telephones Sub Committee of the General Service Board**

Two vacancies exist for new team members. Experience of the telephone service at regional or intergroup level and a willingness to use and be informed about current communication systems would be an advantage. The role may require frequent contact with members involved in the telephone service at all levels of the Fellowship.

The Telephones Sub Committee's role is to:

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

The team meets four times a year in York and also stays in touch by using various technologies, i.e., email and internet forums. The appointment is for four years and requires a minimum of five years' sobriety with a sound knowledge of AA Traditions and Concepts.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2021.**

**If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Telephones Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!**

**Jonathan P, GSB Trustee for Telephones ([trustee.w.bregion@gso gb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.w.bregion@gso gb.org.uk))**

## **Young People's Sub Committee Vacancies**

### **There are vacancies on the Young People's Sub Committee of the General Service Board**

Experience of working as a Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) at either intergroup or region level would be an advantage, but is not essential.

The YP Sub Committee is looking for new members who are enthusiastic about helping and encouraging young people into service within AA. The sub committee meets up to four times a year in York (where accommodation is provided and expenses paid) and also stays in touch by using various forms of technology. The position is for four years.

#### **Main aims are:**

1. To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLOs at intergroup and region levels
2. To support the development and sharing of good practice and review/update literature, media resources and Guidelines (subject to approval)
3. To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies.

#### **It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:**

1. A minimum of five years' continuous sobriety, having come to AA aged 30 or under
2. A strong grasp of AA service structure, Guidelines and Traditions
3. Good organisational and communication skills

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or a currently serving Liaison Officer of your region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of covering letter.

If you have any questions contact Sandi A (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application – email address: [trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is Friday, 9th April 2020.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AAGB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions, please contact Sandi A (the General Service Board Trustee for the Young People's Sub Committee) **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Email address below. Thank you!

Sandi A, GSB Trustee for Young People  
([trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk))

## Notice on the Calendar of Events

Due to ongoing public gathering restrictions in Great Britain and Continental Europe, this edition of *AA Service News* contains no Calendar of Events, as there was no reliable way to determine which events would still be planned and no efficient means of verifying all of the necessary information. It is hoped the Calendar can once again be included in the Spring 2021 Edition.

## Literature Sales

Dear Fellowship,

As the result of recent pandemic meeting closures and the diminishing funding received by GSO, I would encourage all our members including those from Continental European Region (CER) to purchase AA approved literature from our General Service Office in York, UK.

All income from our literature above our costs goes directly towards carrying the message both here and in those areas covered by our friends in (CER).

When we buy literature from Amazon, etc., the profit goes to outside agencies. If we buy from other countries' AA General Service Offices, that income used in those countries' service structures not in ours.

I send my best wishes to you all in these difficult times and hope we will all be able to meet again soon.

Love in Fellowship and Service,

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee North East Region**

## AA Conference Approved Books New Items and Revised Prices

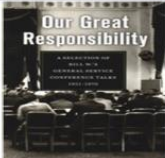
### AA Comes of Age Soft Back

	<p><b>AA Comes Of Age: a brief history of A.A.</b> Written when nearly half a century had gone by since AA's historic 1955 Convention in St. Louis, when the founding members passed on to the entire Fellowship the responsibility for the Three Legacies</p> <p><b>Item code 2121      Price £6.00</b></p>
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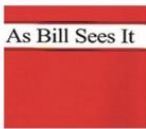
### Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Back

	<p><b>Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers Soft Cover</b> A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest</p> <p><b>Item Code 2181      Price £6.00</b></p>
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### Our Great Responsibility Soft Back

	<p><b>Our Great Responsibility</b> A selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951 - 1970. 270 pages, softcover with over 60 black &amp; white and colour images. Derived from original audio recordings.</p> <p><b>Item Code 6070      Price £6.00</b></p>
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### As Bill Sees It

	<p><b>As Bill Sees It</b> The A.A. Way of Life (selected writings of A.A.'s co-founder).</p> <p><b>Item Code 2100      Price £5.00</b></p>
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## Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Pocket Size

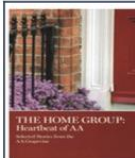


### Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

How members of Alcoholics Anonymous recover and how the society functions.

Item code 2250 Price £5.00

## The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

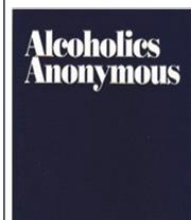


### The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

Selected Stories from the AA Grapevine.

Item Code 2230 Price £5.00

## Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth Edition (2001) Hard Back



### This is the Big Book

Rumour has it that at Bill's suggestion the first edition was printed on very heavy paper to make it look bigger, thicker and therefore seem to be better value for money! Hence the 'Big Book' nickname.

Often described as the basic textbook of our Fellowship the first 164 pages describe our recovery program and have hardly changed since that first edition. The personal stories contained at the back of the book are changed from one edition to the next to reflect changing social situations.

Item Code 2020 Price £8.00

## Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back

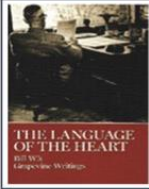


### Soft Back 4th Edition of The Big Book

Item Code 2040 Price £7.00



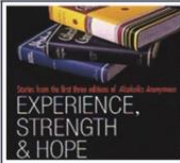
## The Language of the Heart



**The Language of the Heart**  
Bill W's Grapevine writings.

**Item code 2220      Price £7.00**

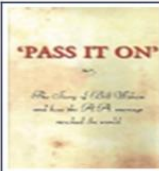
## Experience, Strength & Hope



**Experience, Strength & Hope**  
Stories from the first three editions of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Item Code 2210      Price £7.00**

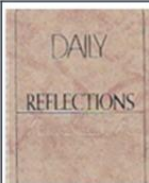
## Pass It On



**Pass It On**  
The Story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world.

**Item Code 2200      Price £8.00**

## Daily Reflections



**Daily Reflections**  
This is a book of reflections by A.A. members for A.A. members.

**Item Code 2260      Price £5.00**

**TO ORDER ANY OF THESE BOOKS PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE WHICH WILL TAKE YOU DIRECT TO THE ONLINE LITERATURE SHOP**

ITEM	CODE	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE
AA Comes of Age	2121		6.00	
Dr Bob & the Good Oldtimers	2181		6.00	
Our Great Responsibility	6070		6.00	
As Bill Sees It	2100		5.00	
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions Pocket Size	2250		5.00	
The Home Group	2230		5.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Hard Back	2020		8.00	
Alcoholics Anonymous Soft Back	2040		7.00	
Language of the Heart	2220		7.00	
Experience, Strength & Hope	2210		7.00	
Pass It On	2200		8.00	
Daily Reflections	2260		5.00	

**TOTAL PAID** £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

***Please send with cheque/PO to General Service Office, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ***



**Shop | Alcoholics Anonymous - Great Britain**

Using the camera on your smart phone, point the lens at this QR code and it will show you a link to the website.

How to Shop with AA. Use the category links to find the various sections from our literature order form. Use the link and buttons to view the item or to add purchases to your shopping cart.

## Seventh Tradition

“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.”

*- Taken from AA GB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”*

“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*

From Regions October – December 2020	Contributions £s
East of Scotland Region	£ 990.00
Eastern Region	£ 4,974.00
Glasgow Region	£ 1,828.00
Highlands and Islands Region	£ 977.00
London Region North	£ 12,533.00
London Region South	£ 695.00
Midlands Region	£ 6,150.00
North East Region	£ 9,722.00
North West Region	£ 1,418.00
Scotia Region	£ 6,267.00
South East Region	£ 47,687.00
South Midlands Region	£ 8,240.00
South West Region	£ 17,253.00
South West Scotland Region	£ 1,927.00
Wales & Borders Region	£ 5,541.00
Continental European Region	£ 1,314.00
Sundry and Unidentifiable Receipts	£ 1,897.00

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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.

## In Memoriam

### October 2020 – December 2020

Ferndown Monday Night Group	£ 100.00	In Memory of Ann B
Nairn Group	£ 40.00	In Memory of Paddy
Blackpool / Ansdell Group	£ 100.00	In Memory of Steven McG
Menai Bridge Group	£ 20.00	In Memory of Nora (Bolton Group)

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

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

Email: [editor.aasn@aamail.org](mailto:editor.aasn@aamail.org)

GSO Website: [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

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### **Those in Receipt of *AA Service News***

Three copies of the print editions of *AA Service News* 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** (Registration Form), and if necessary update it. Thank you.