

THE PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Annual Report of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited

1 OCTOBER 2006 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Introduction

The Board has once again fulfilled its role, one of supporting the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous towards AA's primary purpose – to be available to those who may have a problem with alcohol. It has over the past year shown the ongoing commitment to enhancing the services available, both internally and to the general public, with a move to new premises of the General Service Office based in York.

The number of Trustees is almost up to strength this year with the addition of three new Trustees and each has brought an enthusiastic approach to their role. The dedication of each Trustee is such that the year has seen an increase in activity both within and outside the fellowship. AA works in co-operation, without affiliation, with the professional and other sectors of the community by playing its part in the circle of help needed by those with a drink problem and the Trustees have again moved towards bringing more communication, understanding and respect between AA and the professional world. The GSB helps to extend this co-operation on a national level and trustees do this by taking individual responsibility to co-operate with the different professional sectors.

We are an organisation that has no opinion on outside issues and that is self-supporting through our own contributions. We are not affiliated to any other institutions or services and it is this autonomy that allows the Trustees of the Board to co-operate with other professional bodies. This role they have again fulfilled with commitment and dedication.

Ralph Arundel

Chairman of the Board
October 2007

GSB PERSONNEL

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

Archie Galbraith
John Lappin
David Munchin

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Martin Black
Dave Davies
Anne McDade

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain), who are also Directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2007.

The Charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The objects of the Charity are to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous; to publish and distribute books and pamphlets relating to alcoholism and to explain the work of AA to the general public.

The General Service Board has 21 members each of whom has responsibility for a particular area of the work of the Board. Each Trustee plays a part in the development and implementation of the Board's strategic plan, always with the knowledge that they are custodians of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

As the administrative and legal support for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain (and English speaking Continental Europe), the General Service Board is committed to providing services and guidance to the fellowship and to raising awareness with the public and in the professional community. Within this framework the Groups and Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous retain their autonomy. This administration is channelled through the General Service Office in York which is the registered office and the two satellite offices, the Northern Service Office in Glasgow and the Southern Service Office in London.

The principle of rotation of trustees that the General Service Board upholds with the well established Introduction to the Board for new trustees continues. Alongside this programme a strategy and management document has been developed which includes terms of reference for each trustee discipline as well as policy documents relating to Charity and Company law. This programme will always be a work in progress as the Board remains fluid with changing personnel and developing ideas and to this end the policy document is considered and approved at each AGM.

Each trustee takes responsibility for an area of work - sometimes two or three if required. Within the discipline of Armed Services for instance work has been going on for some time to gain inroads to as many service units as possible with information about AA. This year has seen the initiative of information presentations being taken to yet more service units, into Continental Europe and the Ministry of Defence.

A major project for the year was the relocation in York, of the registered office. Plans had been laid down in 2005 and in January 2007 they were executed. The hard working staff moved with the minimum of disruption to premises that were light, airy, spacious and safe. The relocation means that staff are now afforded adequate space. Business meetings can now be held in the registered office and this has resulted in increased activity between the General Service Board and the service structure of the fellowship. Visitors to the registered office have increased since the relocation with the new dedicated Archives Room being especially attractive to visiting members. The operation of the Literature Department has been streamlined because of easier access.

Trustees have taken a pragmatic approach in many areas of their work, attending events at both Westminster and the Scottish Parliament to present information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Because of the nature of alcoholism, healthcare professionals can sometimes be AA's closest allies and over the past year activity has been high. National conferences have seen an AA presence with support from our trustees, who have on occasion made presentations to professional audiences. Many other professional conferences have also seen the presence of our trustees with exhibition spaces covered by local volunteers, giving a professional face to AA by means of the illustrated stand and plenty of literature to hand out. The AA presence was so well received at one such event that one of the volunteers was asked to present a short talk on Alcoholics Anonymous to the gathering.

New life has been injected into the relationship between AA and employers. Attendance at several national events, including the Trades Union Congress and the Chartered Institute of Personnel Directors has meant that information on AA has been disseminated to a larger audience. Local volunteers have been on hand to distribute literature, answer any questions and to take note of any follow up necessary.

Trustees have co-operated closely with health professionals, with the armed services and with employers, bringing new awareness of AA to those areas of public life, and in doing so have ensured that one of the more important objectives of the General Service Board has been fulfilled once again. In several areas of work the trustees have either produced information packs for distribution or are planning to do so.

An innovation this year has been the hosting of internal seminars by the General Service Board in several areas of service – finance, telephone helpline, health. AA members involved in their local areas with professionals and the public were invited and the increase in interest in service throughout AA has suggested to the Board that these events improve communication within AA, fire the enthusiasm of those already enthused about letting the public know what AA can do, and give an opportunity for AA members to do what fundamentally is the basis for sharing the message of AA – to meet face to face and share with each other.

The public were encouraged to become more aware of AA by a series of announcements on public transport – the underground in London and buses throughout Scotland and the televising of a short film in several television areas. Response to each of these announcements was measured and the conclusions will inform the trustees of the way forward.

The trustee board has remained proactive in continuing to co-operate with the judiciary where good relationships have been forged and built upon in the area of prisons and the probation service. The trustee with responsibility for prisons has continued regular meetings within the prison structure and has made presentations at the Ministry of Justice. Co-operation has continued with the National Offender Management Service with trustees attending meetings at the Home Office and also the launch by Baroness Scotland of the initiative involving co-operation with voluntary groups. Close co-operation with Probation (Social Services in Scotland) forms a pattern of regular meetings and AA has co-operated in an area training programme for probation officers which has been judged such a success that the model has been recommended to probation officers in other areas.

Trustees lead sub committees and ensure that the internal structure of the fellowship is supported in the areas of our telephone helpline, the production of literature, the gathering and safekeeping of archives, the development and maintenance of the official AA (Great Britain) website and the production of DVDs and videos for use in schools, doctors' surgeries, exhibitions, anywhere where the information will reach those who need it.

Steady sales continue for the two internal subscription magazines *Share* and *Roundabout*, and for the *Share* diaries and calendars. *Share* celebrated 60 years of AA in England by producing a special Diamond issue *Share and Share Alike*. Both the magazines will see a change of Editor in the coming year, following the principle of rotation.

New literature has been produced by one of the hard working sub committees of the Board, *Message for Professionals* for external distribution and *Archives* and *The Pot* which are to support the fellowship's internal activity. This sub committee has developed a future plan of renewing/reviewing literature and internal information on a rolling programme.

Regular information updates have been sent to every AA group in the form of *AA Service News* (4 per year) which has undergone a style upgrade in the past year. There has also been a special edition covering the telephone helpline. Information from the local groups was gathered by the trustee at our information seminar and presented in this special edition published this year. Further special editions on Prisons and on Probation/Social Services are planned.

Development of the official AA website continued both in the services for members of AA in the provision of a point of contact for those with a drink problem. The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was made available to read on our website. The website has proved to be a valuable information tool and continues to be developed.

The trustees continue the commitment to supporting service throughout the fellowship in the form of planned service seminars and Regional forums. Several new pieces of internal literature on the Traditions and Concepts of AA are in the pipeline and a review of all literature, which has already begun, will continue with consideration being given to both content and appearance. A major initiative is underway to create further DVDs for public information and also planned is a DVD illustrating the history of AA in England and Wales to accompany the DVD already produced which covers the history of AA in Scotland.

At the annual General Service Conference of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous held in April 2007 the General Service Board was asked to consider ways of ensuring that members with disabilities are enabled to participate in fellowship activities and service and findings will be reported to the General Service Conference in April 2008. The General Service Conference also requested a feasibility study on the provision of a 24 hour telephone service and information on Gift Aid, both of which will also be reported in 2008.

The General Service Board is committed to serve not only Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain (and Continental English Speaking Europe) but also in sub-Saharan Africa. In a joint venture with the General Service Board of USA/Canada, support is given to a service meeting where experience is shared. This year the meeting was held in Namibia and attracted delegates from nine African countries. The next meeting will take place in 2009 in South Africa.

A visit to Poland to meet members of the AA service structure there resulted in the trustees of the Board unanimously agreeing to support the development of emerging service structures in Eastern Europe. The General Service Boards of Poland and Great Britain will work together on this project over the next three years. Trustees also attended a service Conference in Croatia.

Great Britain sends delegates to the World Service Meeting which brings together members from the world wide fellowship and which is to be held in 2008 in New York.

The European Service Centre is also part of the remit of the General Service Board and is administered from the registered office. The biennial meeting will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, in October 2007.

The past year has been one of continuing development and innovation and one in which the trustees of the Board have, as guardians of the traditions of AA, worked with enthusiasm, energy and careful consideration of their primary role, to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Financial Statement

The business of the fellowship has been carried out this financial year in accordance with our primary purpose. Budgetary controls and reviews have ensured prudent use of our financial resources. The audited accounts were prepared under the provisions of 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' (revised 2005).

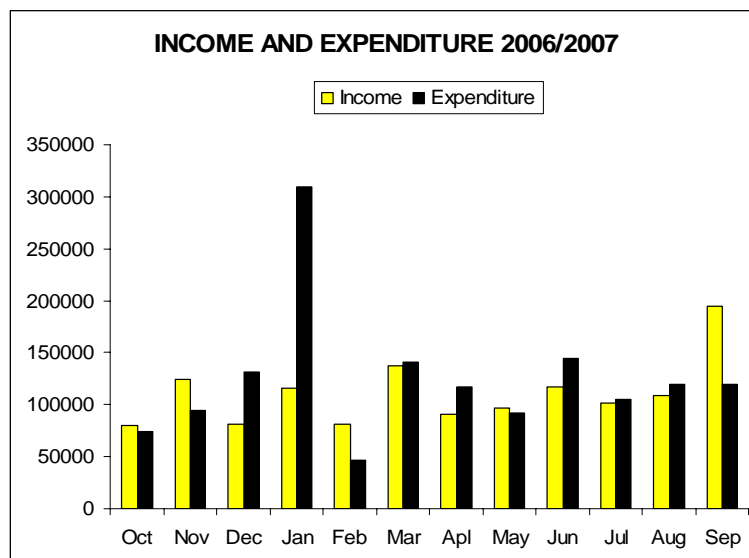
There has been an upward trend in contributions from the fellowship, reaffirming its commitment to AA's Tradition 7, that we maintain self support. Overall voluntary contributions, including Gift Aid, have risen as has income from publications.

Both magazines have shown a slight drop in sales on last year but there have been steady sales of the additional *Share and Share Alike*. Investment Income has fallen, due to the fall in dividends and to the release of funds for the office relocation.

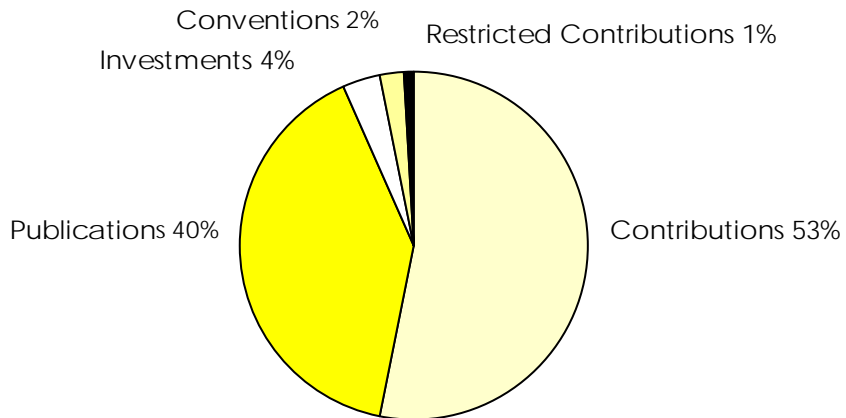
Expenditure has increased, mainly due to the office relocation, but most expenses have remained in line with last year. The cost of postage has had an effect on the cost of *AA Service News* along with the need for more copies to cover the increase in the number of AA Groups.

The Archives room in the new premises has seen expenditure on improving the facilities, including electronic equipment. Significant amounts have been spent on media projects, including a television announcement this year and part of the cost of a new DVD has been covered. This project is ongoing with a view to creating updated DVDs along with an archival presentation for AA in England and Wales which will fit well with the archival DVD held for Scotland.

Several new pieces of internal literature are planned and as well as continuing the commitment in this way, the Trustees will be hosting service seminars and attending Regional forums.



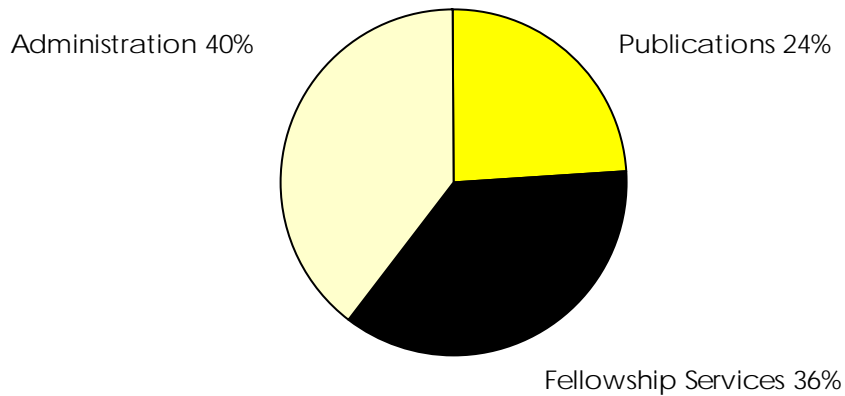
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (ALL FUNDS) 2006/07



| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Contributions | Publications | Investments | Conventions | Restricted Funds |
| £717,676 | £542,558 | £50,533 | £29,040 | £10,834 |

Total Income all Funds - £1,350,641

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (ALL FUNDS) 2006/07



| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Publications | Fellowship Services | Administration |
| £ 374,065 | £552,059 | £613,092 |

Total Expenditure all Funds - £1,539,216

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2007

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | | |
| Income | | |
| Contributions | 704,744 | 708,693 |
| Covenants/Gift Aid | 12,931 | 9,804 |
| Conventions | 29,040 | 27,744 |
| Publications | 532,132 | 490,594 |
| Investment Income | 48,579 | 62,719 |
| | 1,327,426 | 1,299,554 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Publications | (374,065) | (335,993) |
| Fellowship Services | | |
| Administration Expenses | (957,548) | (880,331) |
| Surrender of Lease | (177,080) | |
| Investment Management Fees | (6,775) | (7,016) |
| Surplus/Deficit for the Financial Year | (188,042) | 76,214 |
| Realisation of Investments | 12,435 | (3,221) |
| Realised Surplus for the Financial Year | (175,607) | 72,993 |
| DEVELOPMENT FUND (RESTRICTED) | | |
| Income | | |
| Literature Sales | 10,427 | 10,254 |
| Interest Receivable | 157 | 384 |
| | 10,584 | 10,638 |
| Expenditure | (21,959) | (10,063) |
| Surplus/Deficit | (11,375) | 575 |
| EUROPEAN SERVICE MEETING FUND (RESTRICTED) | | |
| Income | | |
| European Contributions | 10,834 | 15,379 |
| Interest Receivable | 1,797 | 315 |
| | 12,631 | 15,694 |
| Expenditure | (1,789) | (9,095) |
| Surplus /Deficit | 10,842 | 6599 |
| *** Total Expenditure all funds | 1,539,216 | 1,242,498 |

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Publications | | |
| Staff Costs | 41,186 | 38,502 |
| Office Premises | 31,027 | 29,513 |
| Communications | 68,800 | 70,038 |
| General Expenses | 35,087 | 17,271 |
| Cost of Publication Sales | 197,966 | 180,669 |
| | 374,066 | 335,993 |
| | | |
| Fellowship Services & Administration Expenses | | |
| Staff Costs | 370,677 | 346,514 |
| Office Premises | 105,839 | 98,933 |
| Communications | 102,951 | 113,886 |
| General Expenses | 397,093 | 183,122 |
| Financial Expenses | 88,224 | 33,713 |
| Exceptional Expenditure | 52,312 | 75,762 |
| Legal & Professional | 48,054 | 54,575 |
| | 1,165,150 | 906,505 |
| | | |
| Total Expenditure all funds | 1,539,216 | 1,242,498 |

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Tangible Assets | 98,150 | 6,401 |
| Investments | 673,754 | 646,318 |
| Current Assets | 813,450 | 1,038,068 |
| | 1,585,354 | 1,690,787 |
| Less Liabilities | (125,106) | (67,223) |
| | 1,460,248 | 1,623,564 |

Reserves

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Unrestricted Funds: | 1,373,097 | 1,535,880 |
| | | |
| Restricted Funds: | | |
| Development Fund | 14,119 | 25,494 |
| European Service Meeting | 73,032 | 62,190 |
| | 1,460,248 | 1,623,564 |

This information has the approval of the auditors and comprises extracts from the full accounts which have been audited by Clive Owen & Co and delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors opinion was unqualified. A copy of the complete audited accounts may be obtained on request from The General Service Office, PO Box 1 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

Members of the General Service Board

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ralph Arundel | Chairman |
| Martin Black | |
| Roger Booth | Vice Chairman |
| David Carroll | |
| Jerry Chilvers | |
| Andy Cudden | |
| Dave Davies | |
| Ian Doig | |
| Hugo Donaldson | |
| Louise Foxcroft | |
| Mari Francis | |
| Anne McDade | |
| Polly Maund-Powell | |
| David Morgan | |
| Vince Overton | |
| Ann Slocombe | Honorary Treasurer |
| Carol Titley | |
| Jim Tominey | |
| Jim Smith | |
| Graham Verrall | |
| Charles Watson | |
| | |
| Ann Napier | General Secretary |

Auditors

Clive Owen & Co
Oak Tree House
Harwood Road
Northfield Business Park
Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QU

Bankers

HSBC Plc
13 Parliament Street
York
YO1 8XS

Solicitors

Harrowell & Shaftoe
Moorgate House
Clifton Moorgate
York
YO30 4WY

Investment Managers

Lloyds TSB Private Bankers Ltd
Acclaim House
Central Park
New Lane
Leeds LS11 5UE

Registered Charity Nos: 226745 (England and Wales)
SCO38023 (Scotland)

The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.