

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

1 OCTOBER 2007 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

Introduction

An enthusiastic and hardworking Board of trustees has again made this year a busy one with activity within the fellowship and in the proactive role taken in passing the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the general public and the professional community. The provision of services to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous has continued with the General Service Board providing, among other material, a new public information DVD especially for young people and introducing two new pieces of literature aimed at employers and the medical profession.

The Trustees have again moved towards bringing more communication, understanding and respect between AA and the professional world and the year has seen an increase in activity both within and outside the fellowship. Each Trustee plays a part in providing the help needed by those with a drink problem both individually and collectively as the General Service Board and has continued to supply the support, guidance and co-operation that is needed to enable this work of AA to go on.

The work has continued within the framework of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous which confirm our principles of self-support and non-affiliation. Although the year ahead will bring many hurdles to overcome, the trustees will ensure that that work will continue.

Ralph Arundel

Chairman of the Board
October 2008

GSB PERSONNEL

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

Ian Doig
Hugo Donaldson
David Morgan
Graham Verrall
Charles Watson

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Penny Allier
Sheila Davis
Ashraf Kahn (elect)
Nick Raymond
John Stone

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 2008.

The General Service Board is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The objects of the Charity include to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in its work of assisting alcoholics to achieve sobriety, to publish and distribute books and pamphlets relating to alcoholism and to explain the work of AA to the general public.

The Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous encapsulates the ethos of the fellowship and this ethos is firmly embedded in the work of the General Service Board. The GSB is responsible for ensuring that AA's message of recovery is passed on to the public at large; the trustees are active guardians of the Twelve Traditions and are responsible for the investment and use of AA's resources. The Board provide the administrative and legal support for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain (and English speaking Continental Europe) 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.

This year the GSB consists of twenty two members and each member is charged with the custody of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Traditions, formulated in the mid 1940's and formally adopted by AA as a whole in 1950, give a framework to the work of the General Service Board, and the principles therein play a part in the formulation of the Board's strategic plan. This plan includes terms of reference for each area of work that the trustees undertake and the terms are regularly reviewed. This year has seen the appointment of five new trustees with five trustees leaving the GSB. The period of service for a trustee is generally four years. New trustees receive a formal introduction to the Board before being asked to take on a specific area of work.

Each trustee plays a part in the development of the Board Strategy when they are allocated to a specific area. The service structure of the Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous is reflected in the deployment of the trustees through the committees of the GSB.

The strategic planning for 2008/2009 began in July at the Board's annual workshop and discussion focussed on personal commitment and the boundaries of responsibility within the service structure. All financial planning was done in the harsh light of the worldwide economic downturn; we adhere to our Primary Purpose whilst still putting sensible economic measures into the overall strategic plan. Seminars have been suspended for one year, a review to be done in 2009/2010. Large projects have been carefully considered for the coming year and trustees are to review those projects already planned. Projects to which the GSB are already committed are the relocation of the Southern Service Office and the development of the website.

In support of the Archives network of AA, the sub-committee is to make available an enhanced DVD showing the history of AA in England, Scotland and Wales and this will be distributed to the Fellowship in 2009. There is continuing and pleasing growth of the national network of archivists and several local histories have been written and there will be an all out effort to collect and catalogue Group histories. It is also planned to further develop the archives page on the AA website. The development of the archives room at the registered office has enabled research by professionals to take place.

Informing professionals of the programme of recovery is a part of the remit of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and the GSB has a part to play in this. At the centre of focus in the area of health there have been presentations to professionals at conferences for those working in primary care, nursing staff and alcohol related National Health conferences. There has also been a presentation at the Scottish Parliament. Other areas of activity are training days for medical students where members of the sub-committee have been invited to speak. The internal six monthly Health Newsletter has continued to be produced and the trustee responsible for Health has given presentations at two AA forums.

In the area of Public Information, presenting on behalf of AA at both Westminster and the Scottish Parliament proved to be a highlight and a useful way of getting the message across, not only to parliamentarians, but also to other professionals. It is intended to continue these events, with the addition of a presentation at the Welsh National Assembly, which is being organised for the coming year. A monthly newsletter keeps members of the fellowship up to date with events in the AA calendar and gives an opportunity for the sharing of ideas. The seminar held in March for Public Information was still another platform on which to share and proved to be a useful exercise in internal communications.

New literature approved at our annual conference and added to the current literature order form reveals a substantial body of work in the form of *AA as a Resource for Employers*, *AA as a Resource for the Medical Profession*, a prison induction pack, a guideline index for the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, an illustration of the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) and the text for proposed pamphlets, *The Twelve Concepts Illustrated*, *Who Me?*, and *Inside Stories*. Work continues in the Literature committee which will continue to utilise the experiences of members as highlighted in recent contacts with members who have service experience within the Prison Service and the Armed Services.

Prisons and Armed Services have proved two areas where the shared experience has been used to provide new literature.

A decision was taken to replace our existing DVD for young people with one that would have a fresher and more up to date approach. The completed DVD received conference approval and has been deemed to sit comfortably with those members who deliver presentations to schools and sixth form colleges.

Our national telephone helpline continues to be the first point of contact for the majority of newcomers to AA due in large part to the efforts of the sub-committee in ensuring that the helpline number is prominent in the published telephone directories. A constant review of the cost of this service has seen reductions which will be put in place in 2008/9. This review continues, as will investigations into new telecommunications technology which could be of benefit. A successful seminar was held for members of AA involved with a consequent wealth of experience being exchanged.

Developing and updating the AA website is a principle aim of the GSB in the near future and the preliminary stages of this process were completed by a working party of the Board, and this project is continuing. New posts in Electronic Communication have been created within the service structure of AA and this, coupled with the positive response to the seminars held in September, generated much interest, with many new ideas being forthcoming.

The sub-committee of the Armed Services aimed to raise the profile of its work and to this end, articles appeared in AA Service News, our internal newsletter, exhibition stands were in evidence at AA conventions and presentations given at service workshops organised by local members. Presentations to Armed Services establishments included RAF units, Army garrisons, training colleges and Ministry of Defence premises. Announcements continue to be published in several Armed Service magazines and these, along with the presentations have generated several invitations from Armed Service Establishments.

In the area of Employment Liaison there has been a marked increase in interest in participating in this work by members of AA. A regular internal newsletter has played a part in engendering this interest as well as local involvement in professional conferences and exhibitions throughout the year. Unison, TUC and CIPD conferences all had an AA presence at their exhibitions and interest from the professionals, as at all of these events, was high. Employment was also one of the themes presented at the Scottish Parliament. Attendance at future conferences and exhibitions is planned as is a raising of awareness of this discipline within the fellowship of AA.

Information packs for use by local members involved in prison work have been developed this year, using available literature and presenting this in a convenient form. Regular contact is maintained with the National Offender Management Service and the judiciary and, through attendance at professional events, with Members of Parliament and the Ministry of Justice. Well established contacts continue to be kept informed of the work of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our Probation (Social Services in Scotland) commitment has also seen the strengthening of co-operation with NOMS and the judiciary and the sub-committee is planning an internal guidance manual for liaison officers of the fellowship. A presentation on the work of AA in probation was given at the Scottish parliament.

Magazines for members are published by the GSB and working sub committees. Members contribute articles to both *Share* and *Roundabout* with the circulation of both remaining steady. Plans are being made to provide *Roundabout* Diaries for 2009, and some redesign has taken place on both magazines. *Roundabout* already supports a page on our website and *Share* is developing this facility.

Communication within the fellowship of AA is supplemented by the production by the GSB of AA Service News which is published four times a year, with news and articles on service, Conference and general information. Also included is a diary of events. Distribution is made to all Groups in the UK and English speaking Continental Europe and members may contribute articles on service for inclusion.

The commitment of trustees has again been evident throughout what was a busy year. The year ahead will bring its challenges but there is no doubt that the General Service Board will bring renewed enthusiasm to the work ahead and will do so with probity and prudence.

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).

As anticipated the Fellowship finances have been affected by the current economic climate. Whilst as a fellowship we are fully aware of our responsibilities to be self supporting through our own contributions, our income for this year is down on both contributions and literature sales.

Travel and trustee expenses have increased due mainly to a full compliment of Board Trustees, both alcoholic and non alcoholic. Attendance by trustees at the 4 seminars held this year and professional conferences are also included in these costs.

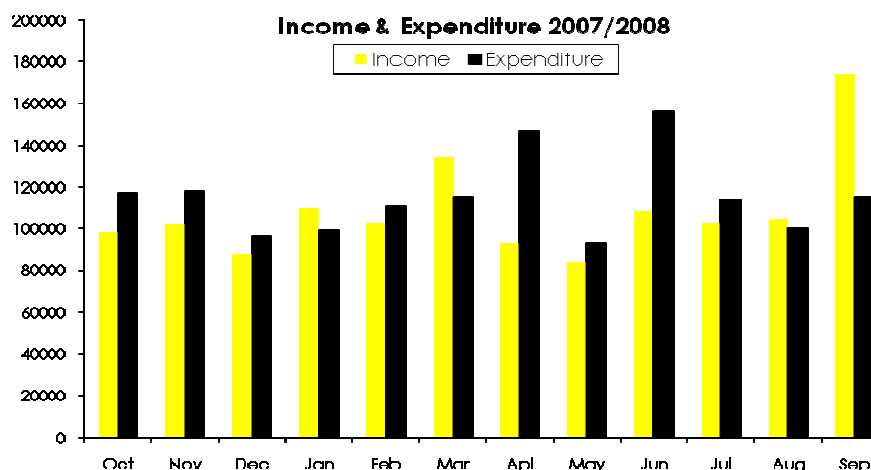
Investments have decreased substantially, as the market value of shares has dropped, during the year we changed the portfolio from Lloyds TSB to Morgan Stanley who are providing us with a professional service.

Throughout this financial year we have fulfilled our commitment to the monthly publications of Share and Roundabout, and quarterly AA service news have been distributed to all registered groups.

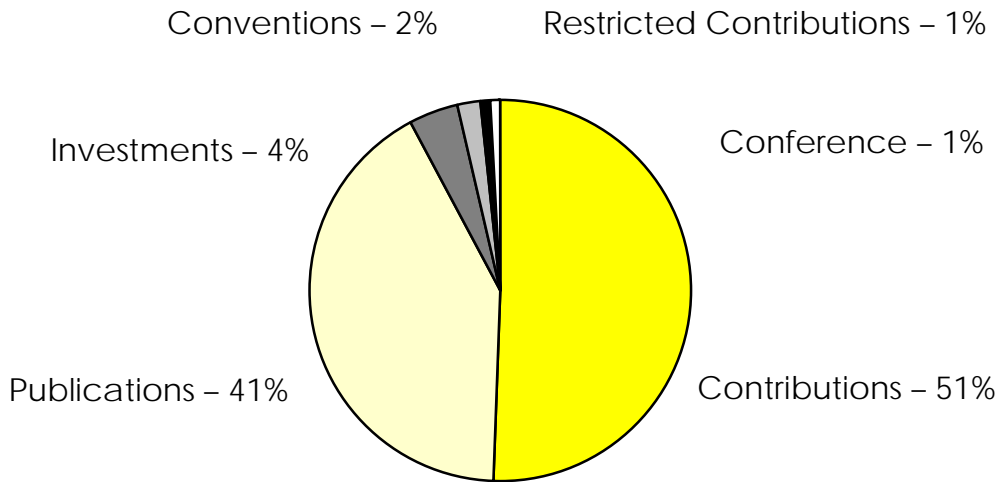
The cost of producing literature has increased, this has been reflected in a price increase, some of our printing is now been done in the UK rather than being shipped from the USA.

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous at its September 2008 board meeting implemented tighter budgetary controls to ensure that the charities primary purpose will be fulfilled during the next financial year.

In light of the present financial downturn future projects will be reviewed carefully, there are two projects which the board has committed to complete. They are the development of the website and the relocation of the Southern Service Office.



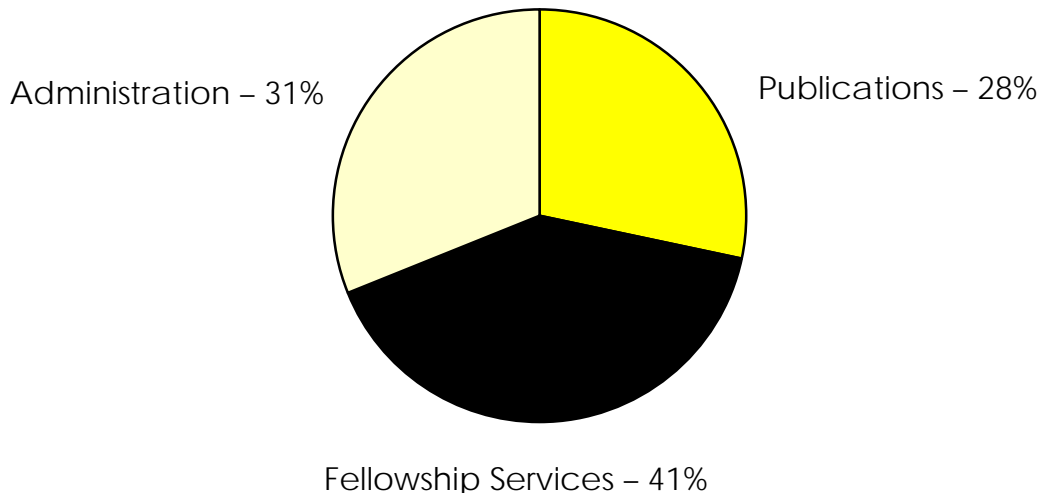
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (ALL FUNDS) 2007/08



Contributions	Publications	Investments	Conventions	Conference	Restricted Funds
£684,404	£560,077	£58,951	£25,264	£11,459	£10,428

Total Income all Funds - £1,350,583

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (ALL FUNDS) 2007/08



Publications	Fellowship Services	Administration
£ 401,918	£577,809	£441,022

Total Expenditure all Funds - £1,420,749

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

	2008	2007
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Income		
Contributions	671,759	704,744
Covenants/Gift Aid	12,645	12,931
Conventions	25,264	29,040
Conference	11,459	21,187
Publications	549,136	532,132
Investment Income	<u>56,856</u>	<u>48,579</u>
	1,327,119	1,348,613
Expenditure		
Publications	(401,919)	(374,065)
Fellowship Services		
Administration Expenses	(959,295)	(978,735)
Surrender of Lease	(33,814)	(177,080)
Investment Management Fees	(3,194)	(6,775)
	<u>(71,103)</u>	<u>(188,042)</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the Financial Year		
	11,830	12,435
	<u>(59,273)</u>	<u>(175,607)</u>
Realised Surplus for the Financial Year		
DEVELOPMENT FUND (RESTRICTED)		
Income		
Literature Sales	10,941	10,427
Interest Receivable	<u>269</u>	<u>157</u>
	11,210	10,584
Expenditure	(36)	(21,959)
Surplus/Deficit	11,174	(11,375)
EUROPEAN SERVICE MEETING FUND (RESTRICTED)		
Income		
European Contributions	10,428	10,834
Interest Receivable	<u>1,826</u>	<u>1,797</u>
	12,254	12,631
Expenditure	(22,491)	(1,789)
Surplus /Deficit	(10,237)	10,842
*** Total Expenditure all funds	<u>1,420,749</u>	<u>1,560,403</u>

	2008	2007
Publications		
Staff Costs	42,569	41,186
Office Premises	33,079	31,027
Communications	67,987	68,800
General Expenses	33,582	35,087
Cost of Publication Sales	<u>224,701</u>	<u>197,966</u>
	401,918	374,066
Fellowship Services & Administration Expenses		
Staff Costs	383,125	370,677
Office Premises	115,201	105,839
Communications	129,809	124,138
General Expenses	277,133	397,093
Financial Expenses	49,684	88,224
Exceptional Expenditure	29,433	52,312
Legal & Professional	<u>34,446</u>	<u>48,054</u>
	1,018,831	1,186,337
Total Expenditure all funds	<u>1,420,749</u>	<u>1,560,403</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Tangible Assets	68,315	98,150
Investments	516,353	673,754
Current Assets	<u>879,479</u>	<u>813,450</u>
	1,464,147	1,585,354
Less Liabilities	<u>(149,568)</u>	<u>(125,106)</u>
	<u>1,314,579</u>	<u>1,460,248</u>

Reserves

Unrestricted Funds:	1,226,491	1,373,097
Restricted Funds:		
Development Fund	25,293	14,119
European Service Meeting	<u>62,795</u>	<u>73,032</u>
	<u>1,314,579</u>	<u>1,460,248</u>

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

Penny Allier	
Ralph Arundel	Chairman
Martin Black	
Roger Booth	Vice Chairman
David Carroll	
Jerry Chilvers	
Andy Cudden	
Dave Davies	
Sheila Davis	
Louise Foxcroft	
Mari Francis	
Ashraf Kahn	
Anne McDade	
Polly Maund-Powell	
Vince Overton	
Nick Raymond	
Ann Slocombe	Honorary Treasurer
John Stone	
Carol Titley	
Jim Tominey	
Jim Smith	
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

Morgan Stanley & Co. International Ltd
20 Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4AD

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.