

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.

© Copyright the AA Grapevine Inc. 1947

CONTENTS

The Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous

Introduction – Chairperson of the Board

Personnel – Retirements; resignations; appointments

Report of the Trustees

Financial Statements

Members of the General Service Board

Auditors; Bankers; Solicitors; Investment Managers

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Annual Report of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited - 1 OCTOBER 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

Introduction

Chairperson's Introduction to Annual Report

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the annual report on behalf of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain.

The main purpose of the General Service Board is to support the Fellowship in carrying out its primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to all who seek its help, to those who are associated in some way with people with alcohol problems, and to the public at large. The charity is also concerned with the proper governance of its affairs and the most effective use of its finances. In this we adhere to the requirements of the Charity Commission, the Twelve Traditions, and Concepts for World Service. This annual report sets out to show how the charity has worked towards realising its aims during the last year.

Trustees, in addition to their commitment to their specific Regions, are also responsible for the various Board disciplines. Because of vacancies, the workload of individual Trustees has increased during this year. However, despite this, commitment and enthusiasm remains high. We also currently have three Non-Alcoholic Trustees, who provide valuable balance to the Board and are able to communicate in public situations without having to adhere to the constraints of personal anonymity.

Our Trustees have responded to invitations as observers to the General Service Conferences of some other European countries, and also have participated as delegates at the World Service Meeting in New York.

This year we conducted our five-yearly membership survey, which shows that the size of the Fellowship in Great Britain is between 33,000 and 40,000 members. The survey also revealed that the percentages of male and female members remain constant at 60% and 40%, respectively. The increasing use of the internet as a way of newcomers finding out about AA was also evident, and indeed our website is continuously undergoing improvements to enable better access, including the recent introduction of a 'Chat Now' facility, to complement our existing national telephone helpline and Online Responder Service.

We have had AA display stands, attended by AA members, at some 19 exhibitions and conferences up and down the country, as well as video clips being aired on both local and national television. Our links with Public Health England and the Ministry of Justice continue, and there have been many local public information initiatives in the Intergroups through the year.

Our financial situation is healthy, and in addition to ensuring good governance and financial probity, we are committed to using our resources for the ongoing dissemination of the AA message of recovery, both directly from the Board and in supporting the liaison officers in the Regions and Intergroups.

Geoff Hopkinson
Chairperson

GSB PERSONNEL

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

Thomas Burke
William MacDonald
Tom Sturley
Martin Weegmann

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Peter Fryer
James Fraser
Thomas Hood
Nicholas Holroyd
Denise Hartley

Report of the Trustees

The primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is to pass the message of recovery from alcoholism to those who seek help, making that information available to professionals, the media and the public. The General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain works to support the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and to raise awareness of AA's message of recovery.

Our Tradition of Self Support, underpinned by the Alcoholics Anonymous (Dispositions) Act of 1986, ensures that AA is supported solely through the voluntary contributions of members. The charity continues to achieve a stable financial position and has been able to undertake initiatives that the Fellowship of AA has requested.

Each trustee takes responsibility for a particular area of work within the Board activities, all of which are geared towards raising awareness of all that AA can offer those who seek help. The trustees stay abreast of developments and co-operate with the authorities in these professional areas by communicating on a regular basis, attending conferences and exhibitions and by developing projects for each professional body.

The Archives sub-committee are currently engaged with the ongoing research for the production of the 'Service History of AA in Great Britain'. We are at present without a Fellowship Archivist; however a staff member at General Service Office (GSO) has a caretaking responsibility for the archives which is of real benefit. The General Service Board are looking into the possibility of developing a catalogue for the Archives and a programme of digitisation which will improve the accessibility of our archives and raise awareness of AA's history in Great Britain. This year's Archives Network Meeting was held in York at the end of September with 22 members in attendance.

The Armed Services sub-committee held their third full meeting in Sept 2016, and have managed to fill three more of the vacant Regional Armed Services Liaison Officer (RASLO) and eight more of the Intergroup Armed Services Liaison Officer (ASLO) posts which have greatly increased their coverage of the country. The updating of the Armed Services section on the web site continues, together with the upgrading of the Armed Services 12 step list. We continue to make inroads into service establishments with help of the Director General's Office. Presentations have taken place coupled with the starting of AA meetings within service establishments. We continue to work with service providers dealing with serving personnel and veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and abusing alcohol and are in contact with the HIVE organisation giving presentations to their members so AA's message can be passed into the wider service community. Adverts have been placed in various services publications that directly impact personnel leaving the forces. At present the sub-committee are developing a generic template to assist RASLO's & ASLO's when organising the Armed Services Day.

Electronic Communications: AA's website, www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk, continues to attract a large number of users. Existing members of AA use the site to discover information about meeting-places and times; to be told about what is happening in our various branches of service; and to buy AA-related material, particularly literature, through our on-line shop. Many newcomers first get in touch with AA through this site.

Many of them who have further questions will use the email Helpline help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk, where our Online Response Team will answer their queries. In addition, we will be initiating a messaging service called 'Chat Now', through which newcomers can be in direct contact with a member of the Fellowship.

The Employment discipline's highlight for 2016 was a Seminar in June. Grateful thanks must go to the speakers for their presentations and the sub-committee for their contribution in the organisation of the event. Liaison officers continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous within the Regions and Intergroups. Sub-committee meetings throughout the year have been a great success with very the enthusiastic members working hard - overall another successful year.

The European Service Centre which Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain co-ordinates acts as an information exchange for members of AA in Europe. AA GB also hosts the European Service Meeting to which delegates from AA in European countries will be invited and will take place in York in 2017.

The Health discipline continues to work with the various health services and recovery community at local, regional, national and international levels. Attendance at seminars, conferences and conventions has enabled us to ensure that this community is aware of the help that AA can provide to the still suffering alcoholic, and both what AA can and cannot do as an organisation. The Health Liaison Officers Seminar in February was well attended and the information shared helped liaison officers learn what is being done in other areas and encouraged them in their endeavours. Last year's introduction of demonstration meetings has created a greater interest in AA with professionals, not only in Great Britain, but also across Europe.

The Literature sub-committee produced five new pieces of work in response to Conference 2016 recommendations which are now available: Welcoming a Newcomer to the Group, Violence and Personal Conduct, Prison and Alcohol, the "God" Word, LGBT Voices and The Twelve Concepts Checklist.

Our Magazines; Share and Roundabout continue to be published monthly. Roundabout is AA's magazine in Scotland. It is published by a team of AA members who work mostly from home, but who meet three or four times a year in Glasgow. It contains articles from members concerning their experiences, strengths and hopes. It also contains a pull-out section containing topical information about changes to Group Meetings in Scotland, together with announcements about certain Service Meetings. This section is for internal use only - it is removed when magazines are passed on to members of the public. Share hosted a very successful workshop in October, attended by Region Liaison Officers. From the discussion it seems clear that, although members are willing to serve, there is still a severe problem in sponsoring into service. There also appears to be a lack of interest from the Fellowship in supporting our "Meeting between Meetings" into the future. Share urgently requires a steady and continuous stream of articles. Ultimately, the Fellowship will decide the future of Share Magazine.

Our National Conventions: Northern, Scottish, Southern and Welsh continue to be well attended enjoyable events. An Anniversary Convention to mark 75 years of AA in Great Britain is being organized by the GSB and will take place in 2022.

The Prisons sub-committee has put in place a security clearance and appeals procedure with expected timescales. New literature will shortly be available. Following successful Prison Sponsors' meetings in Scotland the first one has been held in England in Bristol, the next meeting will be in Cambridge then two more will be held in the north. Preparations are in hand to hold three meetings a week in the new super prison in Wrexham which is opening next year.

Probation and Criminal Justice Services: the Fellowship has maintained contact with the National Offender Management Service and had direct contact with the Junior Minister of Justice. We have been represented at several government conferences sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Home Office, as well as fellowship judicial events in Scotland and workshops at the Southern National Convention and North East Region.

Throughout the year a closer relationship between the sub-committees of Probation/Criminal Justice Services and Prison Liaison has been apparent and the Regional Liaison Officers of both disciplines had a joint meeting last June. Where contact with the old Probation Trusts was strong, the transfer to the new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) has been reasonably coped with by the Fellowship and our CHIT (confirmation of attendance system) is established in central Scotland and several conurbations in England. Where difficulties in lack of contact by probation did exist, then, other avenues such as Police, Courts etc. are becoming apparent along with University course leaders in training future members of the Criminal Justice Profession.

The Public Information discipline's main area of focus was liaising with the Media. We had a major article in the National Press in the spring. Later this year National Television will show documentaries that increase awareness of the Fellowship. Through our own internal Public Information newsletter we encouraged AA Intergroups to initiate their own successful public information campaigns as well during November, Alcohol Awareness Month. Nottingham Local Television for example will show four separate documentaries relevant to AA during November. We continue to support the Parliamentary AA Public Information events, at Westminster and Holyrood.

Telephone sub-committee: The 0800 free phone number which was launched in July 2015 is proving to be successful. Calls are still being received through the 0845 number; this number will not be discontinued until these calls reduce significantly in volume. It is interesting to note that calls to the National number(s) during the hours of 10pm in the evening and 10am in the morning make up 25.5% of the call volume – over a quarter of calls. The Seminar held in 2016 was very well attended and much enthusiasm was expressed for both the News Letter and the possibility of providing a 24hr Telephone Service Nationwide. Those attending the Seminar felt that such events should be held every four years.

Young People: following on from a GSB project which led to the production of Alcohol and Me - A Message for Young People animation, which is currently available on our website, a decision was made by Conference 2015 to formally incorporate the role of Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) in the Service Structure of AA Great Britain. In 2016 Conference gave its approval of the role description to go into the AA Service Handbook as Chapter 12. Since Conference 2016 a sub-committee of the GSB has been formed as with all other disciplines and the first Regional YPLO meeting is planned for March 2017.

The ongoing purpose behind all of AA's activities, to carry the AA message of recovery from alcoholism, continues. Our principle of personal anonymity is of vital importance to us and especially to a newcomer to the Fellowship as it offers the assurance that personal confidences remain just that. Trustees have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that the message of recovery is available and to thereby keep Alcoholics Anonymous 'anonymous but not invisible'.

Financial Statement

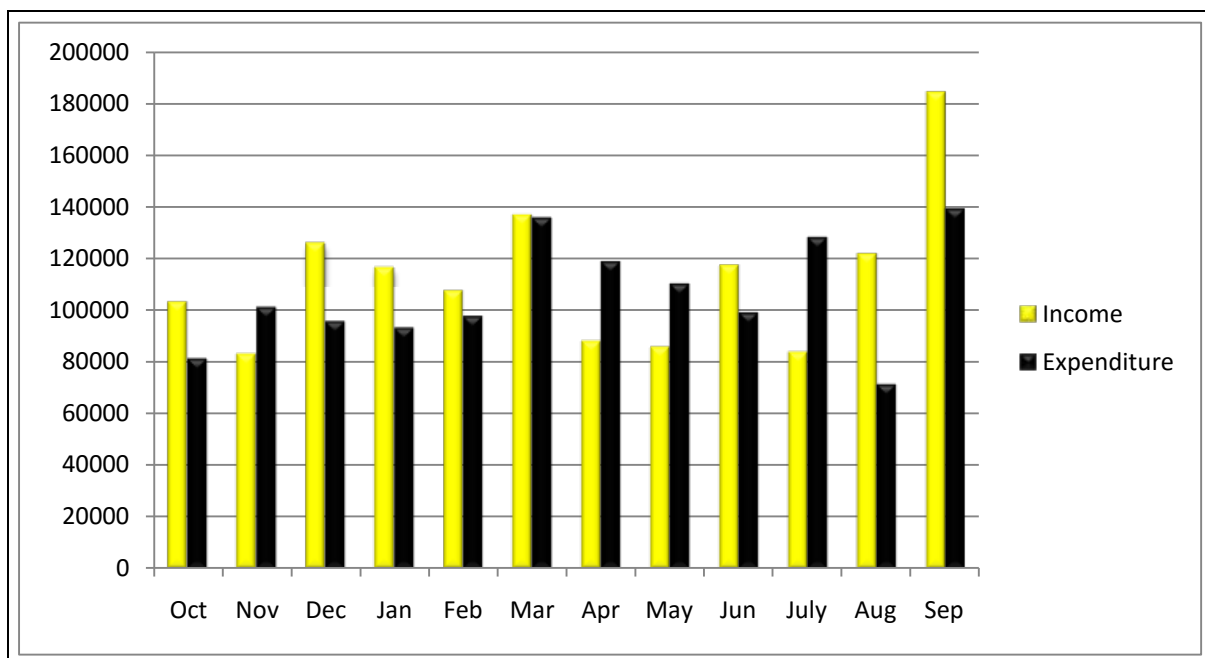
Procedures to ensure robust budgetary setting, its controls and ongoing reviews of expenditure have been developed further during the year to ensure good practice and the best use of funds to support the business of the General Service Board (GSB) in achieving the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The General Service Office and the two satellite offices in Glasgow and London continue to operate efficiently and provide services to members, professionals and those seeking help.

Contributions have as usual fluctuated month to month but overall have increased compared with last year. Literature sales are virtually the same amount as last year, but their sales do show an upward financial trend over the past 10 years. This enabled a second tranche of stocked literature to be reduced in price through bulk purchase and acquisition of further licenses to print Alcoholics Anonymous World Service material in Great Britain. The new Structure and Service Handbooks are free of charge and available on application.

Expenditure for the year includes new and ongoing initiatives. The GSB is now responsible for the funding of the AA National Telephone Helpline; professional conferences and awareness raising events have been held at national and local levels with increased attendances. New initiatives to carry the AA message into places of work have been undertaken and a Young Peoples' project has developed. A Young Persons Liaison Officer position is now available throughout the service structure with a trustee chairing a GSB Young Persons sub-committee.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/2016



A successful European Service Agenda Meeting was held in York and through the Development Fund AA GB has supported the World Literature Fund; the World Service Meeting, as well as Fellowship's in other countries through funding initiatives and visits to share experience.

The overall picture is positive and stable. The Board keeps members informed about the financial position of the Fellowship through various media and the implications for our primary purpose. Throughout the year the Board has maintained all Conference requested internal services to the Fellowship. Developing new pamphlets and continuing the work of passing our message of recovery from alcoholism to professionals, the public and those who need help.

The final accounts for the Financial Year 2015/16 show a surplus before movement on our investments of £66,338 with our reserves standing at £2,445,747

In line with the AA tradition that the charity should be self-supporting, and following sound financial practices, the GSB holds a reserve of over 1.25 year's expenditure (£1,650,000) which is in line with the principle of AA's Concept 12 – Warranty 2: "Sufficient operating funds plus an ample reserve should be its prudent financial principle".

When planning future projects, the Board of Trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain is always mindful the value of its investments and the potential fluctuations of funds coming from Fellowship members.

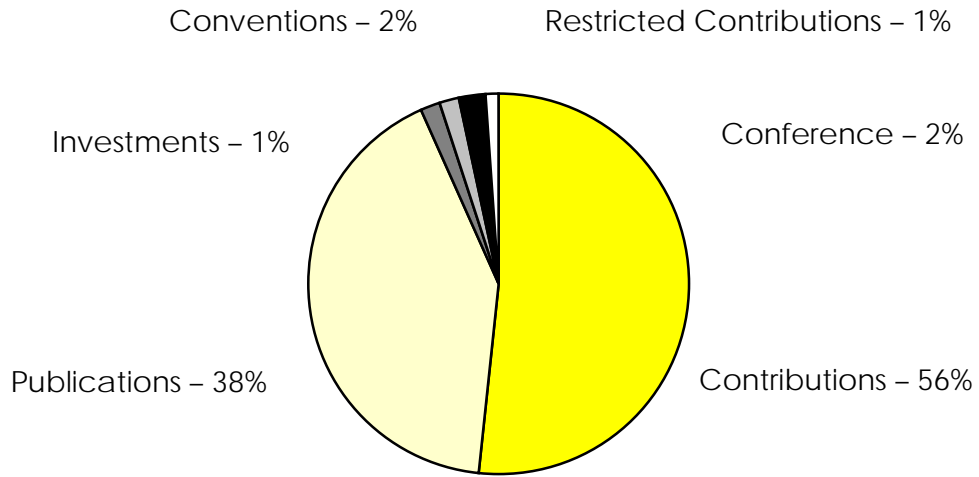
The month of November will once again be AA awareness month and Groups, Intergroups, Regions and Board Trustees will be initiating a range of activities. Work at professional events, seminars and conferences will be further developed, and the charity hopes to see increased attendance at these events as they continue into next year.

The Non-Alcoholic Trustees continue to work together to help transmit AA's message of recovery in a way that AA members cannot - as AA Traditions state that members need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. Emphasis on the training and development of all trustees continues through internal systems and external programmes.

The website continues to be developed and now gives access to the use of a 'Chat Now' line to carry the AA message of recovery.

The coming year will see the development of new initiatives and the expansion of current projects. The Board will continue to exercise both optimism and caution when considering the future deployment of resources.

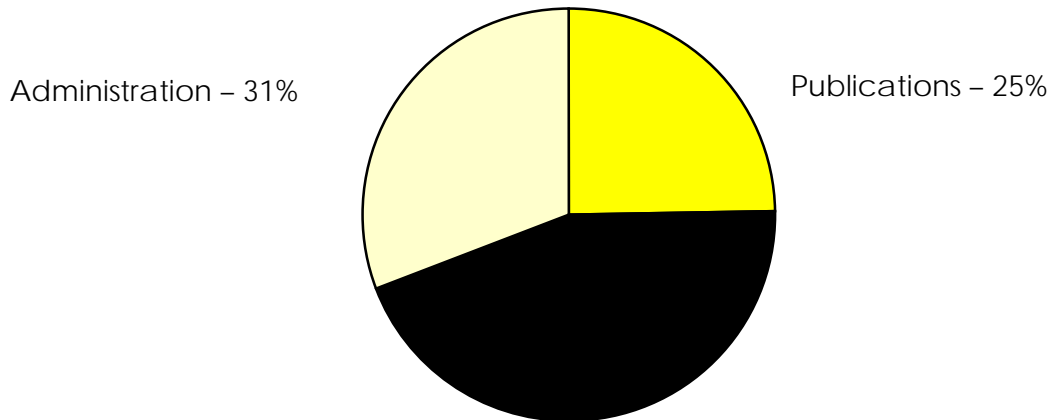
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (ALL FUNDS) 2015/16



Contributions	Publications	Investments	Conventions	Conference	Restricted Funds
£774,613	£528,406	£5,523	£23,035	£21,120	£25,284

Total Income all Funds - £1,377,981

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (ALL FUNDS) 2015/16



Publications	Fellowship Services	Administration
£324,703	£580,971	£405,969

Total Expenditure all Funds - £1,311,643

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016
BALANCE SHEET**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	2,550	-	2,550	3,246
Investments	1,092,573	-	1,092,573	936,731
	1,095,123	-	1,095,123	939,977
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	165,834	-	165,834	139,638
Debtors	83,947	2,435	86,382	75,667
Cash at bank	1,089,043	87,599	1,176,642	1,144,213
	1,338,824	90,034	1,428,858	1,359,518
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due with one year	(78,234)	-	(78,234)	(75,928)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,260,590	90,034	1,350,624	1,283,590
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,355,713	90,034	2,445,747	2,223,567
NET ASSETS	2,355,713	90,034	2,445,747	2,223,567
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			2,355,713	2,130,523
Restricted funds			90,034	93,044
			2,445,747	2,223,567

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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
INCOME RESOURCES				
Income and Endowments from				
Donations and legacies	818,768	12,168	830,936	823,173
Other trading activities	528,406	13,088	541,494	540,219
Investment income	5,523	28	5,551	9,878
Total incoming resources	1,352,697	25,284	1,377,981	1,373,270
EXPENDITURE ON				
Other trading activities	155,925	-	155,925	182,927
Charitable activities				
Operation of the charity	1,114,808	40,910	1,155,718	1,111,004
Total	1,270,733	40,910	1,311,643	1,293,931
Net gains/(losses)on investments	155,842	-	155,842	(18,146)
Net Income (Expenditure)	237,806	(15,626)	222,180	61,193
Transfer between funds	(12,616)	(12,616)	-	-
Net movement in funds	225,190	(3,010)	222,180	61,193
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	2,130,523	93,044	2,223,567	2,162,374
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	2,355,713	90,034	2,445,747	2,223,567

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	2016 £	2015 £
Fellowship contributions	773,414	760,857
Gift Aid	13,367	16,706
Convention contributions	23,035	24,490
Conference contributions	21,120	21,120
	830,936	823,173

OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	2016 £	2015 £
Sales of literature	541,494	540,219

Literature is sold at a surplus to assist in support of the primary purpose

INVESTMENT INCOME	2016 £	2015 £
Fixed asset investment income	-	2,866
Deposit account interest	5,551	7,012
	5,551	9,878

COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME	2016£	2015 £
Purchases of literature	155,925	177,240

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS	2016 £	2015 £
Investment management fees	-	5,687

CHARITABLE RESOURCES EXPENDED	2016 £	2015 £
Staff costs	224,832	212,288
Premises costs	97,921	95,648
Office expenses	112,465	116,323
Public information and publication costs	77,985	93,413
Conference costs	38,432	37,611
Website	2,168	5,900
Young peoples project	-	3,000
Irrecoverable VAT	46,368	47,769
Financial expenses	2,730	3,207
Investment expenses	-	-
General expenses	43,902	33,480
	646,803	648,658

Included in charitable resources expended is £344,270 (2015: £359,007) relating to charitable activities and £302,533 (2015: £289,651) relating to support costs.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES	2016 £	2015 £
Staff costs	243,568	229,978
Premises costs	74,754	75,788
Office expenses	28,970	28,805
General expenses	71,177	40,803
	418,469	375,374

GOVERNANCE COSTS	2016 £	2015 £
Trustees expenses	78,133	71,370
Professional fees	12,313	15,602
	90,446	86,972

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.