

Sponsorship into Service

Having just commenced service in AA and being still inexperienced ourselves, we are fortunate that many members in our Fellowship have already gained a wealth of service experience.

As we learn from them what works and what does not, older, sober members are only too happy to share their wisdom with us.

Just like the many members who choose to work the 12 Steps with the help of a sponsor, those active in service have also benefited from seeking guidance.

The experience of active members plays a valuable part in one alcoholic passing it on to another. In time, our own example may inspire newer members to be of service and carry AA's message.

Service is a bright spot in our lives

“To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends — this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.”

Big Book, page 89



Now it is up to us...

None of us would be here today if it were not for the service of those who came before.

What can we do today to be of service to the alcoholic yet to come?

Further reading

- Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book)
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- The Twelve Concepts
- AA Comes of Age
- The Structure Handbook of AA GB and The Service Handbook of AA GB
- The AA Group
- Now that I'm a GSR
- Sponsorship: Your questions answered

Approved by The AA General Service Conference in Great Britain
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Growing into Service



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How did you find out about AA?

- 1 Did someone you know tell you about their own experience with AA?
- 2 Did you receive a warm welcome, a few encouraging words, and a hot cup of tea at your very first meeting?
- 3 Did you receive an AA pamphlet or a local meeting list from your doctor?
- 4 Did you call or email the AA helpline?
- 5 Did you read about AA online or through an advertisement in a local newspaper?

All of these encounters have one thing in common: they could only have happened as a result of AA members being of service.

As a result of service

Thanks to our wonderful society of alcoholics in action, the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous were open for us when we were looking for help with our drinking problem.

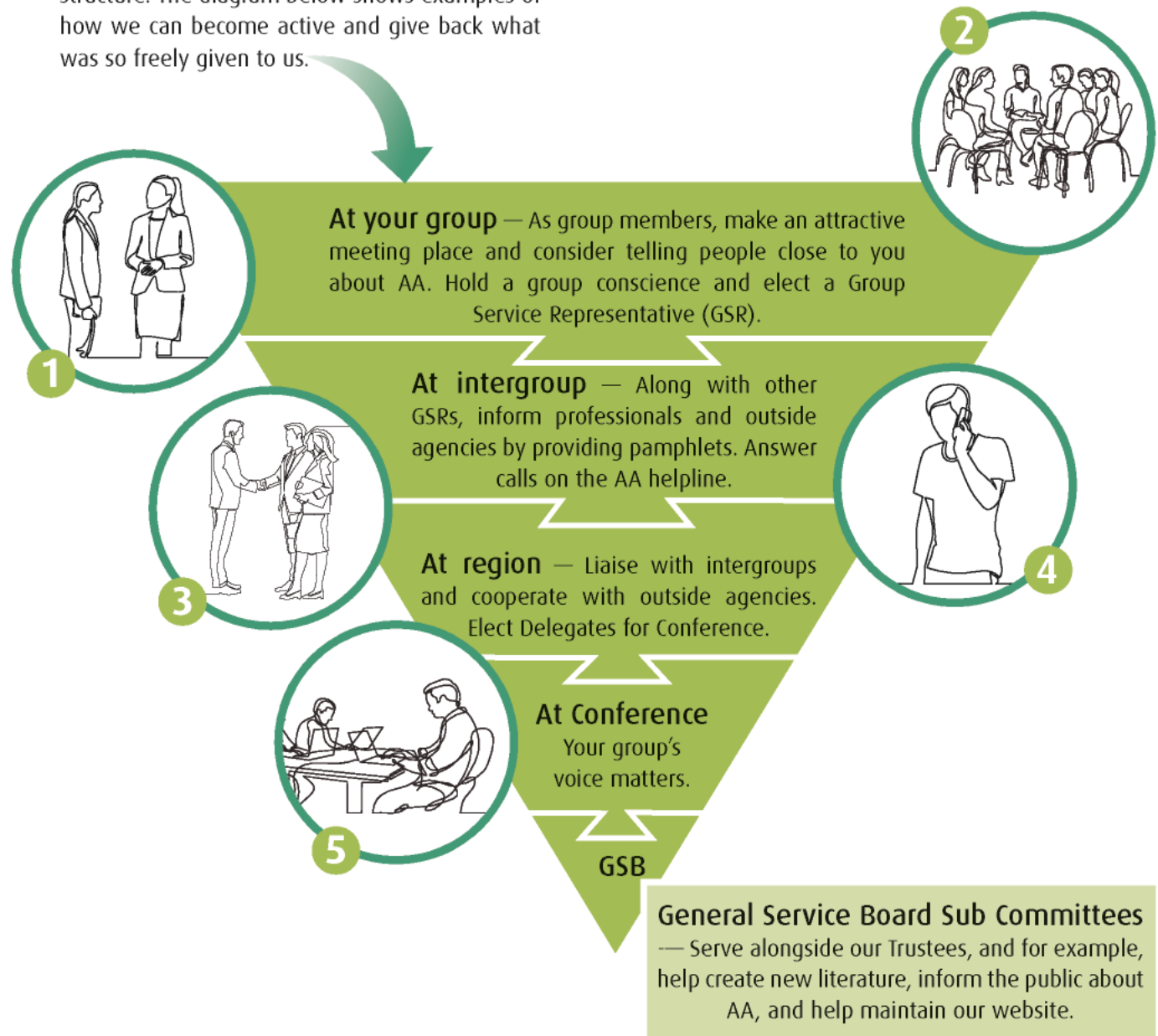
AA's founding members realised that to stay sober themselves they needed to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. From this simple idea our Fellowship began to grow.

Being of service in our Fellowship allows us to stay sober and ensures that AA will continue to be there for the next alcoholic looking for help.

Today, each one of us plays an important part in this!

Where can we start?

As we work through the 12 Steps, often with the help of a sponsor, we soon find that there are many ways of participating in our service structure. The diagram below shows examples of how we can become active and give back what was so freely given to us.



AA's Service Structure

Guided by our Twelve Traditions and Concepts, our simple service structure allows us to work together and carry the message in unity.