

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Thirty-Fourth General Service Conference

16 - 18 April 1999
Alcuin College, University of York

H.O.W?
through
Honesty,
Open-mindedness &
Willingness



General Service Office of AA
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THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 16 April 1999

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

General Service Board Report

Nominations - Conference Chairman 1999

Saturday 17 April 1999

Committee Meetings:

Committee No. 1
Committee No. 2
Committee No. 3
Committee No. 4
Committee No. 5
Committee No. 6

Workshop : "0345 - Where Are We?"

Sunday 18 April 1999

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chairman for the Thirty-Fifth General Service Conference

General Service Board Report and Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 16 APRIL

The Thirty-Fourth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at Alcuin College, University of York, with the opening session on Friday evening, the Saturday night workshop and the final session on Sunday morning being held in the Lecture Theatre of the Chemistry Department.

On the Friday afternoon, from the earlier than normal time of 2pm, registration and distribution of folders was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for the delegates and observers to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates attending for the first time. Also between 2pm - 4pm the new Prison Officers and Professionals videos were available for any delegate wishing to view them then, with two further viewings held over the weekend.

The Conference comprised ninety delegates from fifteen Regions; two delegates from the Jersey Intergroup, one delegate from 'Share', twenty-two members of the General Service Board, Rod C - Conference Chairman, General Secretary and eight members of Staff. Also in attendance were Observers from the following countries:

Belgium (Flemish Speaking)	(1)
Denmark	(2)
Ireland	(2)
Norway	(2)

Total in attendance 132.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE BY ROD C (CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 1999)

The first full session, which commenced at 7.30pm, was opened by the Conference Chairman, Rod C (Midlands Region):

"Good evening, and welcome everyone to this the Thirty-Fourth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain, here in York.

Congratulations on getting here! I know that travelling has been difficult for many of us, due to the weather in various parts of the country.

Welcome to all first year delegates. Those red dots on your badges are to let others, who have been through this before, help you find where things are and generally help you play a full part in conference, just as was done for them when they were 1st year delegates. Welcome to our observers from overseas. Welcome back 2nd and 3rd year delegates. I look forward to meeting up with you all again over the next 2 days.

Welcome to the General Service Board, and a special welcome and personal thanks to all the staff of the General Service Office, particularly to Jim K and to Sharon.

I will now read 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, organisation 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”.

Rod then invited the General Secretary, Jim K, to read the Twelve Traditions (Long Form), the orientation together with the very last minute changes and the National Convention dates, which are as follows:

Scottish Convention	-	30th April - 2nd May 1999
Southern Convention	-	29th - 31st October 1999
Northern Convention	-	2000 T.B.A.

Rod went on to present his Keynote address:

“My name is Rod and I am an alcoholic.

To begin, I would like to thank Anne S, last year’s Conference Chairman, for all she did during her term of office. I would also like to thank you for the privilege of being your Conference Chairman this year.

I was really pleased, last year, at being voted Chairman of Conference. Then, however, as time has gone on, the responsibility of the role has, at times, seemed very heavy.

It remains to be seen if this was an inspired election with God working through our Group Conscience or a question of naked ambition. Whichever may be true I am comforted by the fact that I can only mess this up once! On page 104 of ‘AA Comes of Age’ it talks about the experience of a member who decided that he knew better than our traditions and sets about building an empire of clubs, AA meetings, loan offices, rule books etc. After its inevitable collapse he sent a Christmas card to AA N.Y., which said “Rule No. 62 - “Don’t take yourself too seriously”.

I chose the theme of H.O.W? many months ago. My first six months in AA was characterised by the question Why? Why was I an alcoholic? Why did I still crave

alcohol? Not drinking, but still wanting to was becoming impossible. Somehow, the question changed. I started to ask, "How?" Through Honesty, Open-mindedness and Willingness, these words have proved to be crucial for me. My piece of mind is closely linked with them. As I had deluded myself over my drinking, unwilling to admit that I was an alcoholic, so too I was unwilling to change.....

Today, as I write this, it is 2 March and I promised GSO I'd have my Keynote Address in by the end of February. My first two drafts have varied considerably; one over 7 minutes long (scrapped) the other one and a half minutes long (I know because I timed them both!).

I've read all the previous Conference Chairmen's addresses I could get hold of looking for inspiration. I thought about firing everyone with enthusiasm for the coming days: What words of wisdom could I come up with to go with so many that had gone before?

I asked a member, "What should I do?" He said "Go away and think some more" (Great. No easy answers there!). I was asked to do a chair at a meeting where I knew I would know most of the people there. I asked myself, "Why was I there?" I shared and, as the Group shared with me the answer came. "Don't lay your wisdom on Conference, it doesn't need it".

So, what then? How was this to work? Ask God what to say, that's how.

Here goes....

I am critical. Why it took me so long to come up with this, I don't know (I am equally sure that some others realised this long before me!). Why is it I criticise others for doing what I do myself? Why don't I trust God and the Group instead of thinking that I've got to come up with a marvellous, unique (not to mention brilliant) way of presenting the obvious.

*My name is **Rod** and I **am** an alcoholic. These words took me years to come up with, so obvious to so many yet completely alien to me.*

The Group! The Group did it again. Through the sharing at this meeting I was at and asking myself why I was there, a voice came through. "Trust in the Group, Rod".

The last 12 months have been the hardest so far in sobriety for me personally. Cancer is an illness that generates much fear, just as alcoholism does. My family has been affected by cancer in this last year. My wife has had to deal with the reality of operations, chemotherapy and ongoing treatment with more drugs. I believe that God and AA has got us through this year. God gave us, and our daughter, the strength to love and support each other. AA gave us love, strength and support. My wife is not a member of the Fellowship, but cards and calls have come her way through my membership, often from people unknown to her. Once again, I have experienced the collective power of AA.

We are all members of Groups first and foremost. These Groups elected us all to serve

them. What a responsibility that is! How can I do this justice? Not on my own, or by my self-will that's for sure!

When I set about writing this address, I felt alone. It was my will again, worrying about how you would all receive this address. Another realisation. I don't control the outcome! Another release. I feel so much happier about this now. Just as not being perfect came as a great relief to me; so too controlling the outcome isn't my responsibility. I've let go again.

Perspective is coming now.

My part in things, in Conference. To say what seems right, according to my knowledge, and leave the results to God as displayed in this our Group conscience.

Suddenly this role seems possible.

Thank God and thank you AA”.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORT

Rod went on to say “*last week I received a letter from the Chairman of the Board, Rodger P, who sends his apologies to Conference, through me, that he is unavoidably detained on business abroad, and that he is not able to be here tonight. However, a fast jet and a quick car should get him here by late tomorrow evening.*

So - in his absence I hand over to Bill Y, the Vice Chairman of the General Service Board, to present the Board Report”.

Bill read highlights from the following updates to the Annual Report which included Web Site, Videos, Regional Service Offices, personnel and special reference to “Mission to Africa”.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE PERSONNEL

During the last 6 months, the General Secretary has taken on new staff at:

the General Service Office	-	Jeremy S
the Regional Service Office, London	-	John H
the Regional Service Office, Scotland	-	Charlie S

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Through rotation, health and other reasons, the following trustees have left or are about to leave the General Service Board:-

John T	-	Vice Chairman GSB
Sue T	-	South East Region
Dick McC	-	South West Scotland Region
Tim J	-	South West Region
Ted McG	-	Eastern Region
Stewart M	-	Scotia Region
Rodger P	-	Chairman GSB
Margaret W	-	Wales & Borders Region

All were thanked sincerely for all their hard work and wished continued sobriety in the days to come.

A moment's silence followed in respect of Howard W - Treasurer GSB who died in July 1998.

They have been replaced by the following new trustees:-

Willem VH	-	South East Region
Michael C	-	South West Scotland Region
Bob F	-	Eastern Region
Gareth L	-	Wales & Borders Region
Paul F	-	South Midlands Region
Ian H	-	North West Region
Jim K	-	Scotia Region

New Officers of the Board:-

Chairman	-	Mick W (South Midlands Region)
Vice Chairman	-	Bill Y (Midlands Region)
Treasurer	-	Mike D (North West Region)

WEB-SITE

(Mike D)

There have been some significant developments in this project since the article for the Annual Report was written.

The documentary requirements mentioned in that report are now in place. These take the form of Terms of Reference and Code of Practice documents for our web-site which have been endorsed by the General Service Board and copies lodged with GSO New York.

The final operating initiatives have been completed and incorporated into our web-site.

As requested by Conference 1998, the “hosting” of the web-site has been handed over to GSO York. Measures for safeguarding the integrity of the AA message and the security of GSO systems, requested by Conference, have been approved by the General Service Board and are now in place.

The Electronic Communications Sub-Committee has been disbanded, leaving in place provision to monitor further developments in this field which may be of benefit to our service commitments.

At the World Service Meeting, ‘AA’ UK was thanked for co-ordinating its web-site service with that of ‘AA’ WS in a demonstration of ‘unity’ that was much appreciated. Since that meeting ‘AA’ WS have received our endorsed Terms of Reference and code of Practice documents for the ‘AA’ UK web-site and have not only accepted them but have also recommended them as the model on which GSOs in other countries should base their web-sites. Spain and English speaking Continental Europe are now acting on this recommendation. This is most gratifying with regard to our UK efforts and a very practical demonstration of Tradition One in respect of International Unity.

It was reported to the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee that the drafts of our Terms of Reference and Code of Practice had been accepted by the Conference Committee. They also have international acceptance bearing in mind that any material change in our “official” web-site will require Conference approval and also be in compliance with those accepted documents, it was felt unnecessary to produce any further guideline.

Since our launch in mid-October 1998 our ‘search engine’ has registered that we are now averaging 1,900 “hits” per week. Demographics for the site indicate a wide dispersion of domains ranging from Eastern Europe (particularly Poland) to Austria, Denmark, Germany, USA and UK.

Under the present strictures we can be confident that the many people who have accessed our web-site from all parts of the world are receiving the true AA message.

We are pleased to inform you that the sponsorship of AAWS combined with the efforts of GSO and the GSB have enabled us to produce the 158 page www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk at one-fifth of the cost to the Fellowship of that of any comparable web-site.

WEB-SITE - ETHNIC MINORITY AND LANGUAGES

(Geoffrey Brown)

One of the questions raised by the setting up of the AA Web-site was that of language. If it was to be of maximum benefit in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic should it not be, at least in part, available in the main ethnic minority languages?

In the light of this the GSB asked one of its non-alcoholic Trustees to look into this matter and he reported as follows:

1. It is unlikely that anyone accessing the Web-site will have no knowledge of English, and that there will at least be sufficient to understand that the General Service Office in York might be contacted for further information.
2. There are so many minority languages currently used in the UK that it would be difficult to decide on which to use - especially as some are sub-divided into dialects. Offence might be caused by any omissions.
3. It might also cause offence in certain circles if one or more languages used by Moslems were included since their religion does not sanction the use of alcohol.

In the light of this it would not seem appropriate to use any language other than English on the Web-site.

This report was considered by the Internal Committee at its meeting on 19 February 1999 and it was agreed without dissent that the only language to be used on the Web-site should be English.

0845 697555 TELEPHONES

(Sam W)

A very successful meeting between 0845 Sub Committee members and Regional TLO's was held at York on 23 January 1999, minutes of which can be obtained by request from GSO.

One of the most important matters reported was the dates of implementation of the 0845 697555 Helpline in the following areas:

South Midlands Region	20 Feb 1999
Manchester Office & Intergroups	20 Feb 1999
Wales & Borders	23 Mar 1999
Eastern Region	1 Apr 1999

Other regions are working towards the goal of later in 1999

Some areas are having difficulty with Responders for Telephone Duty and Twelve Steppers lists and a lot of work is being done by TLO's to keep the lists up to date, we can only do our best but I believe that eventually AA Great Britain will have the best Phone Service in the Fellowship.

Major information from Scotland shows that having one bill could save the Fellowship £800 - £1300 per annum.

I believe the 0141 221 9027 for Baltic Chambers has been diverted to the Helpline with huge cost implications, plus not being the purpose the Helpline was set up.

It is imperative that we have a contact between the 0345 Committee for Scotland and BT as John A has resigned from the post.

BT is investigating the possibility of Telephone Responders receiving a different ringing tone on their phones when receiving incoming calls from AA, initial response is positive, with a quarterly cost of £4.00 per quarter on RCD equipment.

This is a summary of progress relating to the AA Telephone Service.

For any other information relating to 0845 697555 please contact Sub Committee Members, their numbers being available from GSO.

PRISONS

(Charlie G)

Fourteen Regions now have the position of Prison Liaison filled, this will ensure continued co-operation and communication with their Board Trustee that AA's message continues to be carried into those prison establishments where the still suffering alcoholic can be assured of getting help from the Fellowship.

By Conference 1999 AA will have participated in the Scottish Prison Officers Association Annual Conference, this enables prison staff to gain more knowledge of what AA is and the role they can play by helping those inmates to attend AA meetings and to pass on AA literature to those who call for it. The service video for Prison Staff now being completed will be of tremendous assistance not only to the Fellowship but the prison personnel, who will now be more aware of the work that our Fellowship carries out within penal establishments throughout the country and the co-operation which is vital to our members.

Come May 1999 our Fellowship will be participating at the Prison Officers Association Annual Conference for England/Wales which hopefully will be arranged and attended by the North West Region, who have been responsible in the past for this event which the Board is grateful for.

A meeting for all Regional Prison Liaison Officers will be held late 1999 with GSB permission, this will give everyone the opportunity of getting to know each other as some officers have rotated and others will shortly be moving on as well. The new Board Trustee responsible for prisons will, of course, be in attendance. The need to communicate and co-operate with each other on a regular basis makes for continued progress in ensuring that by working together AA will continue to strive within the prison service.

I will personally take this opportunity, as always, to thank all those members involved within the Fellowship throughout the country who continue to be responsible in carrying AA's message to those who are less fortunate.

PROBATION

(Mick W)

There has been good progress made in Edinburgh, with the 'Chit' system now firmly in place. Glasgow have asked for and received, information about the system and are investigating its use, the chit system is definitely being picked up by more and more areas within our Fellowship. To date we do not appear to be experiencing any of the problems feared by some, we will of course continue to monitor the situation closely.

During the end of 1998 and early 1999 I have been privileged to attend a National Probation Seminar in Glasgow, a well attended Magistrates day at Chiltern and Thames Intergroup, the three day SASD Conference held at the Hydro Hotel, Peebles, a Probation seminar in Gloucester, and several other small Probation presentations in various areas.

Probation/Social Services liaison still has a long way to go before we are able to take full advantage in this area of service. There are still far too many Probation LO posts unfilled, and despite Guidelines, Newsletters, presentations and Information sheets, there is still a general lack of understanding with regards to Probation Liaison. That said, we have come a long way over the past couple of years and I am delighted at the progress to date.

My sincere thanks to those of you who are so committed to this vital part of AA service.

HEALTH

(Bill Y)

The national Health Liaison Workshop took place at GSO on October 17 - the first since October 1995, with every Region except one represented (last minute illness prevented the 100% turnout!).

As well as Board Trustees setting a good example on inter-service co-operation with Mick W (Probation) and Charlie G (Prisons) giving Health Liaison much valued support and shared experience, we were very fortunate also to have Jackie Chang present. As a General Practitioner, as well as a Non-alcoholic Board Trustee, Jackie is in the unusual position of being able to see the picture from both sides - how we see our 'target' professionals and how they see us - and she shared some of this experience in the Workshop.

A number of practical suggestions came out of the workshop - including the need for improved literature, standard letters, a new guideline and a national workshop to be held annually instead of every 3 years. These will receive special attention during the coming year. They are all concerned with improving communications both externally - with health professionals, and internally - within the Fellowship.

At the time of writing (late March), Health Liaison Officers were in place in 12 of the 14 Regions and in 86 of the 124 Intergroups in England, Scotland and Wales.

We now have a new video available for external liaison officers to use when talking to

professionals. Unlike our existing videos, this is informative about AA and solely aimed at the external professional. Undoubtedly, Health Liaison Officers will find it invaluable when giving talks and for bringing to the attention of training centres, community health teams etc.

REGIONAL SERVICE OFFICES

Following the recommendation of Conference 1998, a Regional Service Office for London was found, equipped, staffed and began operating on 29 January. The closure of the London Region Telephone Service was effected and its assets transferred to GSO to help offset the outlay on the new RSO, which is building on the integrity of our telephone service and reaching out to other areas of service.

Regional Service Office Scotland - we anticipate that the assignation of the lease for the office at Baltic Chambers will be completed by the end of April. Currently the office is manned by volunteers between the hours of 10am and 3pm. We expect the office will be fully operational by 3rd May.

ROUNDABOUT

A Board Trustee, Debbie R, has now been assigned and an ad hoc editorial team has been formed, and will be making every effort to promote the magazine and circulation, which is currently (April) at 2,528. We are awaiting nominations from Regions for an Editor for Roundabout. John McL, current Editor, will be rotating in May and the Board wish to acknowledge and thank him for all his personal effort and hard work over the last 3 years.

SHARE

The efforts of the SHARE team have borne fruit in the past six months. Average circulation has risen by around 500 to more than 4,700. Despite increased production costs, SHARE publications have managed a surplus of £9 for the first half of the current financial year and its hard-working members are poised to produce a diary as well as a calendar in plenty of time for the Millennium.

HANDBOOK

Amendments as a result of Conference 1998

- a. The map for the Scotland Regions was updated to reflect necessary changes.
- b. Inclusion of the new guidelines:
Copyright / Logo Guideline - pg. 50,
Guideline 14 'Probation/Social Services' was renumbered to be # 13 and now appears on pg. 107,
Guideline 14 'The Relationship between A.A. and Al-Anon' was moved to page

111.

The 'Community Health Liaison-Addendum' was added from page 88 - 90.

- c. The following paragraph was added to Guideline # 7- PICPC - pg. 79 3 para:

"The question of personal identification when representing AA. As per Comm 1, Question 3 of Conference 1998 the following was decided:

In today's society there is an ever-increasing requirement for security and personal identification. It is important that members of Alcoholics Anonymous remember that they are guests and co-operate fully.

Members of the Fellowship visiting outside agencies should conform to their procedures remembering that each agency, whether prison, hospital, school or other, is autonomous.

Notification of the arrangements made for visits or talks including, where appropriate, the names of members attending should be provided by the sponsoring PICPC Committee.

The host may require personal identification such as a letter from Intergroup or Region, passport, ID card, driving licence, or letter of invitation from the host.

It is important that Alcoholics Anonymous does not become invisible -some loss of anonymity is inherent in PICPC work."

- d. Comm 5, Question 2 - All references to Industrial Liaison were changed to "Employment" Liaison.
- e. Comm 5, Question 3 - The election procedures will be changed as per July 98 Board meeting.
- f. The necessary changes were made to the Index.
- g. The bit about the resolutions was added to page 31, para 6 c).

ARCHIVES

1. New working Papers relating to 'Past Particles' and the Archives Column in 'AA News' now included in GB Archives Working Papers.
2. Restoration taking place, through digital re-mastering, of Archival reel to reel tapes.
3. New display bookcase to house bound copies of Grapevine, Newsletter/Share and Roundabout.

4. General sorting of all material at GSO is complete. Next and very lengthy stage - detailed - inventory of each archival box.
5. The Fellowship's original copy of 'Financial Times' from June '47 has undergone a professional preservation process.
6. Certain other AA books to undergo same process this year.
7. Box 514/AA News; GSB Annual Reports to Conference; Conference Reports all complete and in process of being scanned into computer and written to compact disc.
8. Several new British photos restored, framed and now hanging in GSO.
9. Diary of events in development of AA in GB updated to include events of '98.

ADDLESTONE RECORDING GROUP

(Organising Secretary)

ANNUAL ACCOUNT

Income at £1848 is £484 higher than last year and contributions to GSO have risen by £430 to £650. Expenditure at £1135 (excluding contributions to GSO) is £45 less than last year, due in the main to the purchase of fewer blank tapes. However stock will have to be replaced next month at a cost of about £160, thereby swallowing up most of the present balance. Due to increased sales and 'Share' work, the cost of electricity and heating is up by £8, but the cost of telephones has been reduced thanks to B.T. Obviously the amount spent on stationery items (padded transit envelopes in the main) and on postage has risen (by £82) due to increased sales. The increase in travelling costs reflects the petrol allowance to those who come here each month to help with the recording of 'Share'.

All in all it has been a successful year and the original 'raison d'être' has been maintained.

ARG is no longer a 'teenager' for it was born during the winter of 1978/79 and the first series of tapes were brought together during March 1979 and by August that year the total sales came to £15! Since then and as I write this, sales have just topped the £25000 mark and, as I have said before we have never had a bad debt and about £7400 has been returned to the Fellowship's General Funds. But however helpful that money has been, surely the greatest unmeasurable benefit has been the carrying of the AA message to those who are blind, partially sighted or for some other reason are unable to read. Letters of thanks have been received, not only from members in the UK, but from other parts of the world. So like some well known lager we have been able to reach those parts that others have not been able to do! And on the monetary track still, it is surely a small miracle that it has not been necessary to increase the prices of tapes for the last 14 years. Of course the day will come when this is unavoidable but just for today they can still stay as they were yesterday and we will tackle tomorrow when it comes.

The monthly recording of 'Share' has continued and four more members have joined. "Oh Tony" I hear you say, "you've made a mistake, as your account mentions only 3 new members". Yes the fourth membership is in fact 2 blind members in a hostel in Tanzania. We have not asked for the customary £3 joining fee, as the difficulty of communication and currency problem led me to think that we should probably spend more on 'administration' than we would recoup in a fee. I am deeply indebted to Ann and Mike who find time each month to drive over from Torquay and spend at least three hours reading the script and then coming to the microphone. They kindly took the tapes with them to the Southern Convention thereby saving a great deal of postage. The recording sessions are great fun and well laced with coffee and chocolate biscuits from our larder!. Our thanks also to Malcolm who battles each month to get the script to us and to Sharon at GSO for her interest, help and understanding.

So what of the future ... the years of my life are mounting and I will hope to carry on while my brain and frame allow me. I shall await with eager interest the outcome of the discussions in Committee No. 1 at the 1999 Conference, on the question "would Conference consider having more AA literature available on audio tape for members with reading difficulties". Let me speak personally and with the experience of hindsight - the nub or the crux of this question must surely lie in that one word literature. To stay away from that incisive word and try now, or later, to bracket it with personal stories, Conventions and similar activities, is surely inviting a journey into a minefield. When we started ARG we debated deeply and at length, the possible and the 'impossible'. That is how we came to the decision to keep to the primary literature material - The Big Book, The Twelve Steps and Traditions and Living Sober. We realised that we could only do a limited amount but could and would do it well. It seemed to us that it was of paramount importance that we had to find and satisfy a need, so that we were not faced with a pile of tapes lying unsold and thus wasting AA monies. Here are a few of the points we had to consider:

1. Who reads and records? Only AA members.
2. Do we record personal stories? No for we considered it impossible to decide whether it should be 'A' or 'B'.
3. What about dialects? No problem - clarity of diction is the absolute must.
4. What about equipment? Luckily two of us had our own recording equipment and much later the AA Board purchased a high-speed copier for which we paid from later sales. The equipment must be adequate and robust and kept properly maintained.
5. A quiet room in which to make the recordings.
6. Simple and reasonably priced labels.
7. Clear and concise order forms.
8. A very high degree of commitment from those involved.
9. What about costs? As we are aiming at the blind and those who are unable to read, we are dealing with people probably in the lower income group and so costs must be reasonable.

ARG does have available on tape, though not advertised on the Order Form, those items of

literature that members are advised to study before embarking on ‘speaking at non-AA meetings’. The present master tapes of the Big Book, the Twelve Steps and Traditions and Living Sober would, of course always be made available to any new venture. Only the name of the Addlestone Recording Group is not transferable.

I sincerely hope that the Fellowship will embrace this medium of literature provision for the future. It is not easy but as we say in the Fellowship, it is simple - as long as you keep out of the minefields. But good standards are essential in all aspects of the work involved. That there is a need is without doubt, our own experience over 20 years has shown that.

And now, I will get on with the work for the last year of this Century. We have had so much help, understanding and gratitude during these past years and for that we say ‘Thank you’.

LITERATURE

Literature Committee continues to update literature and this year brings the following Draft Guideline on Conventions, for discussion and it will be brought back to Conference 2000 when it will be considered by one of the Committees. Also following, with the same request for discussions, are the updated leaflets ‘How did I get here?’ and ‘Where do I go from here?’

Draft

CONVENTIONS/GATHERINGS

No.:
March 1999

INTRODUCTION

A Convention offers the opportunity for a number of members to gather and share their experience, strength and hope.

“Each Group has but one primary purpose - to carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic” (Tradition 5)

Separate social events may add to the enjoyment of a convention.

The following guideline suggests the basis for all conventions and a convention planning checklist can be found at Annex A:

ORGANISATION

1. The decision to hold a convention ought to be made by the group conscience of the appropriate Intergroup or Region (the Sponsoring Body).
2. A committee should be elected for the purpose of planning, organising and running the event. The convention committee should have overall responsibility and be accountable to the Sponsoring Body for financial and all other matters. They should bear in mind the need for conventions to be self supporting.

3. Intergroups and Regions are advised to appoint a chairperson or convenor. At National level the convention committee elects its own chairperson and convenor from experienced members. A local General Service Board member serves in an ex officio capacity on the committee of each national convention, i.e. Northern, Scottish, Southern and Welsh (GSB suggests that the Trustee attend a maximum of two meetings as agreed with the committee).
4. For all convention trusted servants the normal principle of rotation should apply.
5. Children and babies. Conference recommends that accompanied children should not be excluded from conventions, organisers must therefore be mindful of relevant health and safety issues.

FINANCE

1. In all financial matters Tradition 7 should be taken into account:

**“EVERY AA GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF SUPPORTING DECLINING
OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS”**

2. Where it is felt necessary to charge a registration fee, the organising committee should have the final decision. At the planning stage it is sensible to cover all projected costs through the registration fee.
3. The “Pot” is traditionally AA money.
4. Funding of the convention. The Sponsoring Body should provide the committee with sufficient funds to start the convention organisation. Registration fee income should be used thereafter. If an excess of income is finally generated, the Sponsoring Body may wish to consider retaining a prudent reserve to fund the next convention.

CHAIRPERSON AND SPEAKERS

1. Usually conventions invite the chairperson and speakers to participate well in advance. When planning the programme, Committees may wish to consider the various types of AA meetings outlined in Guideline No. 1 (Group Meetings). In addition to closed meetings, committees may also consider shared platforms thus inviting speakers from our sister organisations Al-Anon and Alateen.
2. The Chairperson should bring Tradition 11 to the attention of the audience at all meetings by reading the AA ANONYMITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There may be some here who are not familiar with our tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

**“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”**

Thus, we respectfully ask that no AA speaker - or indeed, any AA member - be identified by full name or photograph in published or broadcast reports or our meetings.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our effort to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that AA principles come before personalities.

LITERATURE

1. It is advised the practises and procedures relating to sale or return from GSO be adhered to. Ideally orders should be received at GSO at least one calendar month before the event. Final settlement be effected within the same period after the event, after which the return element in the arrangement will be considered null and void. Stock returned damaged or any surplus not returned will be charged for.
2. The Sponsoring Body be responsible for the ordering and final payment of any sale or return literature for conventions.
3. Literature stalls should be attractive and well stocked with AA approved literature.
4. Where the Group Conscience or the Sponsoring Body allows the sale of non AA approved literature, separate facilities should be provided. AA money should not be used to purchase this material.

AUDIO TAPES AT CONVENTIONS

1. The decision to tape the convention should be made by the Sponsoring Body and the organising committee.
2. It can be a difficult, expensive and time-consuming task. A high level of expertise is required.
3. Legal and financial issues need to be considered.
4. Advance publicity should indicate the convention will be taped.
5. Chairpersons, speakers and reserves must be advised individually of the taping well in advance of the convention.
6. A thorough briefing of each speaker is vital to ensure that no inadvertent breach of anyone's anonymity occurs.
7. The Sponsoring Body and the organising committee will have the right to edit tapes.
8. No video taping should take place.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. It is strongly recommended that all applicable Health and Safety regulations be adhered to.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Sometimes convention organisers elect an individual and form a sub committee to deal with catering.
2. Some conventions invite participants to 'bring their own lunch'.
3. Where food or drinks are supplied, costings should be supplied and prices displayed.
4. Where outside caterers are used, it would be prudent to establish provisional costs.

ANNEX A - CHECK LIST FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The following list is not comprehensive but it is intended to be an aid to cover all conventions from mini one day to National:

1. Validate all decisions against the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of AA.
2. Gain support of Sponsoring Body and establish a regular system for reporting back.
3. Define broad principles, venue, cost and theme.
4. Investigate the facilities available at the venue.
5. Set target dates for task completion and try to stick to them.
6. Set budget business plan and theme.
7. Take into account all health and safety implications, fire precautions, the security of monies and books overnight.
8. Transport details.
9. Publicity.
10. Decide upon the role of Al-Anon and Alateen.
11. Agree a detailed plan on:
 - ◆ AA meetings and workshops
 - ◆ Entertainment
 - ◆ Al-Anon and Alateen participation
 - ◆ Printing and publicity fliers, possible to include a location map
 - ◆ Convention details to SHARE and/or Roundabout
 - ◆ Raffle tickets in accordance with the gaming laws
 - ◆ Convention design - banners, top table arrangements
 - ◆ Registration area
 - ◆ Accommodation and refreshments
 - ◆ POT how and when it is to be passed. Security of POT
 - ◆ Literature stands
 - ◆ Archives and security
 - ◆ Raffle ticket sales and display of prices with security
 - ◆ Information stand
 - ◆ Technical systems-communication, light and sound systems
 - ◆ Access and facilities for the disabled

Updated Leaflet

“How did I get here?”

Please don't misunderstand us - but did you drink your way here?

Are you in this situation because you were drunk or drinking? You could ask yourself:

Did I need a drink to do what I did?
Did I do it because I was drinking?

If you are here because of your drinking you are in the same boat as a lot of other people who ended up here without quite understanding why.

WHY? These people discovered they suffered from an illness - the illness is called alcoholism.

Try answering the following questions just answer yes or no:

YES NO

- Do you need a drink the morning after?
Do you lose time from work due to drinking?
Does your drinking harm your family?
Are you here because you needed a drink?
Do you have less self-control when drinking?

If you have answered YES to any of these questions you may well be in trouble with alcohol and it is likely to get worse.

BUT there is an alternative! If you want to find out how to live without drinking come to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

For further information call:

or

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Published by AA General Service Office
PO Box 1, Stonebow House, Stonebow, York YO1 7NJ
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 226745

2/99

Updated Leaflet

“Where do I go from here?”

Soon you’ll be back out there in the real world again. You’ll find nothing has changed..

No matter where you live, you’ll still have your full share of problems. Plus the one problem that can make all the others seem a lot bigger than they really are.

You’re not the only one who has come face to face with a drinking problem. There are more than 2,000,000 of us who are not alone any more.

Many years ago, the two men who started AA, saw that alcohol had ruined their lives. They knew it would kill them if they didn’t stop drinking. They wanted to stop, but they couldn’t do it alone.

Their families and friends and doctors couldn’t do it for them. There was no personal loss or disaster big enough, no threat, treatment, or cure strong enough to make either of them stop drinking. Willpower didn’t work, either. The many promises they had made to themselves were broken over and over again - after that first drink.

Each of the two men had been told that he was a hopeless alcoholic. Worse yet, they saw themselves as hopeless. Until they saw each other.

When they met they began to share their common experience with alcohol. They found they understood each other’s problems better than their families and friends and doctors did. This mutual understanding gave them the strength each desperately needed to pass up the first drink that had always paved the way to disaster.

Very gradually, their new strength restored their hope for life and a future. They survived to share their experience with other so-called hopeless alcoholics.

Today, Alcoholics Anonymous is made up of men and women, who once felt just as hopeless. We meet regularly to share our experience, strength and hope with each other. Our everyday lives are far better now than they used to be. And each of us once had to ask ourselves that question: “Where do I go from here?”

We live and meet in many places at different hours of the day. In Great Britain and Continental Europe there are more than 3,500 meetings a week. And we hope you’ll want to talk to one of us when you get out. We’ll be waiting, because somebody waited for each of us and that made all the difference.

Look for “A.A.” or “Alcoholics Anonymous”
in the local telephone
directory

or contact us at www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

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2/99

15TH WORLD SERVICE MEETING - Auckland, New Zealand 4-8 October 1998

(Gudrun MacK)

It is difficult to bring to paper the thoughts and feeling experienced during the week of WSM. But please let me re-assure you that the entire range from fear to joy to sadness and exhaustion was represented.

During the rather long trip there was ample opportunity to question if you had made the right decision in sending me to this particular meeting.

A large chunk of the fear was eliminated within the first hour of the meet and greet session. Many of the second term delegates shared the same feelings and then demonstrated that there was nothing to be afraid of.

On the first evening we had a lovely dinner hosted by the General Service Board New Zealand, this offered an opportunity to meet the many volunteers, who had so kindly prepared the event and then assisted delegates upon their arrival. Many of them had to go well out of their way to be helpful and yet they all shared their gratitude at being involved in such a wonderful event.

General sessions, committee work and workshops commenced the following morning with a great deal of enthusiasm. One of the most rewarding aspects for me was the fact that delegates addressed the problems within their respective countries along with the successes they had experienced during the past two years. This provided a platform for many discussions, which continued beyond the meetings. France, for instance, reported that a member had been carrying the message into the most remote areas of Central Africa, Cameroon and Chad and that a considerable amount of assistance is required there. Great Britain offered to be available for a combined 12th Step work, not only with the monies from our development fund, but also with the language expertise of the members in Continental European Region.

Further reports of the various meetings will be published in AA News in the coming year.

A particular thank you goes out to the GSO staff New York, who went out of their way to make this meeting as comfortable and efficient as possible. Their unobtrusive presence ensured that all needs were taken care of and that everyone was assisted whenever required. This is also especially true of the translators who were always present and ensured that communications were possible between the members of so many different nations.

13TH FLEMISH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE - 12 ~ 14 March 1999

(Gudrun MacK)

It is with great pleasure that I would like to report to you about the subject conference, which I had the opportunity to observe at the Sparrenduin Congress Centre in De Haan, Belgium.

The members of the Conference Committee made me feel very welcome and had the promised package waiting for me upon my arrival. This package contained supporting material from several other European Conferences and meetings, including the translated copies of the 1997 and 1998 Great Britain Conference Reports.

Following dinner on Friday night, all delegates met for the welcome, to discuss administrative procedures and to hear the Board report. The committees then retired to their respective meeting rooms and began the discussion of the questions. I was invited to attend Committee 6, which had questions in reference to the future of AA in Belgium.

The Committee meetings continued until Saturday afternoon, at which time each Committee was given the questions and answers of all the other Committees which were then read and discussed. If there were any objections or comments they were formulated at this time.

After dinner, the entire Conference gathered to discuss and accept the Conference questions and make recommendations. This was done in a very democratic manner; the Chairman or Secretary of each committee read a question and the answer. The Conference Chairman then asked the spokesman of every other committee if there were any comments or objections. At any time, a committee could request a 5-minute break to discuss any pertinent matters. Once an answer was agreed upon, everyone was invited to cast their vote (each delegate had received in their conference package a green [yes] and a red [no] sheet and these were shown and counted). On Saturday evening the questions and answers of three committees were accepted.

This continued the following morning and after all questions and answers were accepted, each committee returned to their meeting rooms to discuss the outcome and to elect the Committee Chairperson for the next Conference. This offered everyone, especially the first year delegates, an opportunity to voice any concerns they had and allowed the Chair to thank the Committee for their participation. I found this to be a valuable hour, as it allowed for closure.

Last, but certainly not least, the whole conference called 'plenum' met once again to elect the Chairman and the theme for Conference 2001. The Third Legacy procedure was applied.

In closing I would like to mention that it was a pleasure to attend this Conference and I am grateful that I am familiar with the language as it allowed me to participate. A note of thank you for the ADCOM Secretary is included with this report and I would like to thank you for your trust in sending me to this Conference.

An additional bonus was the fact that I met Maria Theresia, the German Trustee who is also the Chairperson of the Region in which my Intergroup is located. I believe this to be a great liaison opportunity, particularly since Maria Theresia expressed a similar idea and already asked if it might be possible for her to attend some of our service meetings.

MISSION TO AFRICA

At WSM meeting last year, delegates heard of the remarkable opportunity that AA France had taken of carrying out 12th Step work in Cameroon, West Africa. They asked WSM, and particularly AA GB for help in carrying the message to Africa. Following a meeting last month in Paris, it has been agreed that AA France and AA GB will participate in a joint venture to carry the message into Senegal and Gambia which will commence next month. The intention is to establish strong footholds in a number of African countries - based squarely on our Traditions and Concepts for World Service, so that eventually Africans will carry the message to Africans throughout the continent. Funding for our participation will come from the Development Fund and not from Group donations. A sub-committee has been set up by the Board to manage and be responsible for this project and will be reporting back through Conference and AA News over the coming years.

Bill then asked Conference to accept the Annual Report of the General Service Board for 1998 which was done unanimously.

FINANCE

(Mike D, GSB Treasurer)

Contained in the Annual Report is an extract of the Audited Accounts for the year ending 30 September 1998 which have been in your hands for 3 months. There will be no need to vote for acceptance, they are the result of an Audit, accepted by the GSB in November, filed with Companies House and accepted at the Regional Treasurers meeting in December 1998.

The Regional Treasurers meeting is not a National Liaison Meeting but is an operational part of the financial structure upon which all our services depend. Do not get them confused with Service Liaisons.

Since the Audited Accounts report, all financial information has been placed in the hands of the Fellowship Treasurers and I have had no adverse response from them.

1998 was fairly unremarkable and with the exception of the 1997 Convention in Blackpool, 1998 expenditure almost mirrored the previous year.

The change in the money route for contributions from Intergroup to GSO to the new method of Intergroup via Region to GSO, for the 0845 pilot areas, has had no adverse effect on contributions received by GSO. Contributions from both areas well exceeding those of the previous year.

Money in rather large amounts is yet to come in being transfers from the London Region Telephone Service and Scottish Service Committee.

An interesting thing I learned from the December Treasurers meeting was that for years Intergroup and Region Treasurers had been asking for more information and all we had

been sending them was more figures, which are really only information if you are a “number cruncher”. Now we are going to find ways of giving information which is of use to Groups and Intergroups, where all the learning is supposed to take place.

You, as a Fellowship, ask for spiritual measures to be taken to promote our Fifth Tradition and our primary purpose. This costs money, implementation and management. We accept that and do it. Now it is my turn – I sit in front of the Auditors and am asked against what criteria I can justify prudent usage of resource in my expenditures on measures ‘x’, ‘y’ and ‘z’. Do I have business plans, project definition, project analysis/assessment, cost evaluation and budgetary control. The short answer is no – not really. But next year I will, we have proposed various changes to the way we do business. We have a system under development in the Finance Committee, which will place us in a better position to answer this sort of question.

We are attempting to use the 15 Regional Treasurers more in assessing if the recommendations of Conference, as a course of action to be implemented by the GSB, at a cost, has (after the report at the December Region Treasurers meeting and a review of the audited accounts) been such a good idea. If not, they may wish to recommend to their Regions that Conference that year tell us to pull the plug. Its called communication!!

My stated financial strategy is in the Annual Report that of openness, realism, simplicity and greater cost effectiveness, it is known to all treasurers. I am assisted by the Traditions, Concepts, Warranties, the Good Trustees Guide, GSO Accountant Jean Webb and half the Civil Service.

One thing I hope to be doing much more of next year, because of the excellent spirit of co-operation I felt at the Treasurers meeting, is saying “we” not “I”.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 2000

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chairman of the Thirty-Fifth General Service Conference 2000:

Maurice B	-	Glasgow Region
Colin H	-	Scotia Region
Dave M	-	South West Region
Phil M	-	Midlands Region
Don R	-	Continental European Region

The nominees signified their willingness to serve and each gave a brief summary of their AA service background. The formal election, by way of a modified Third Legacy procedure as recommended by Conference 1998, to take place at the final session of Conference.

The first session of Conference ended with Rod asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

SATURDAY 17 APRIL

Workshop - “0345 - Where Are We?”

The General Service Conference 1998 determined that the topic of the workshop at Conference 1999 be the single-number telephone service.

Presentation Number 1 from Bill C

The first speaker on the subject was Bill C from the South East Region. Bill introduced himself, explaining that his personal background did not involve work with telephone systems. His considerations of whether to get involved in the telephone service concluded with the decision to “do it the AA way - with love.”

How did we get where we are today?

In West Kent the method of telephone service had been to have calls answered on a phone in a member’s home. This changed with the introduction of the RCF (Remote Call Forwarding) system. The Intergroups in the South East Region voted to implement this system and Bill was elected as new telephone liaison officer (TLO).

After some time, he was asked to investigate the feasibility of a single-number telephone system for AA use. The Henley Centre, a professional telecommunications company, was consulted and projected a 173% increase in calls through the implementation of the single-number system instead of RCF.

The South East Region worked closely with Scotland on this new concept, in particular with Bill D and Stewart S, who had been quite involved with telephone service in Scotland and had plenty of experience to share.

After much debate at the Intergroup level regarding the funding of a new, centralised system, Bill presented the information he gathered to the South East Region. Further debates followed, involving to date almost 80 different meetings (including 22 visits to Intergroups, 31 to Regions 8 Convention workshops, 7 General Service Conferences, and so on).

Despite concerns about the expense, the system was eventually implemented by 5 Intergroups in the South East Region, launched initially with a £4000 prudent reserve (since reduced). After 12 months the pilot scheme was adopted by Scotland and additional SE Region Intergroups as well.

Once the system was functional, a BT analysis determined that the actual increase in calls was to be 333%!

This not only proved the success of the single-number system, but also led to a positive development in other areas, such as a boost in meeting attendance by new members and 12th Steppers, more involvement of individual members in service, more active 12th Steppers. It was also noted that members, Intergroups and Regions were interacting more with each other. These changes undoubtedly have strengthened AA in unity, service and recovery.

After two years, the pilot scheme was taken back to Conference with the view of going national, which was accepted by Conference.

(At this point, a map was shown to show areas now involved in the scheme, as well as those planning to come on board next.)

Have problems been encountered with the new system?

Not many.

Initially, there were problems with calls “bouncing” out of one Region to the next. For instance, Scotland got calls from Maidstone. SE Region fielded calls from all over the world. Undaunted, the scheme continued, identifying “missing” areas as being partly responsible for the bouncing, and as more of these went live, the problem subsided.

Any remaining problems will not be evident until every Region is on board, but no great hindrances are expected, and, indeed, the committee hopes soon to become “surplus to requirement.”

Money once sent directly to GSO is now sent via Regions to pay the telephone costs. The cost to the Fellowship for telephone service has already come down; numerous methods of further cost-cutting are now being examined. 5000 std codes in England, Scotland and Wales being replaced by one number, as well as the use of new digital technology, also cuts the cost of changing responders, which was costing the Fellowship £3500 per annum under the old system. Consolidation enables the Fellowship to take advantage of “Business Options” not previously available to us.

As someone at a Henley Centre seminar pointed out on hearing that the single-number scheme had increased calls by 333%, we must have been missing a lot of calls under the old system. Indeed, with every improvement in the telephone system, more calls have come.

Presentation Number 2 by John W, from Wales and Borders Region

What it Was Like

Back in 1996, Wales said no to the single 0345 number. It was, in my case, a matter of “personalities before principles.” It was thought it would give control into the hands of a

few at GSO, who would do God knows what. It would lead to an increase of the already high telephone service costs. Since the number of responders necessary to man the phones would fall, less people would be in service. Who would do the 12th Step work? In short, I found all the negatives I sought.

The biggest negative, however, was that BT had not yet provided electronic exchanges (necessary for implementation of single-number service) to Wales. I had just become regional TLO and this fact was my saving grace. Great. BT and the lack of agreement at Intergroup and Region levels confirmed that the Wales and Borders Region was not ready for the single-number scheme.

What Happened

I asked GSO how much telephone bills were in the UK and the response was, “Don’t know, it’s an Intergroup thing.” Wales conceded that “we don’t inform them of our bills,” so who else would. But the Intergroups and Region insisted on this (unavailable) information before making a decision. I smelled victory in this resistance.

Then I read the Big Book: “Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials...”

Then I ‘coincidentally’ read: “There is a principle which is a bar against all information... that principle is contempt prior to investigation.”

I mentioned this to my sponsor and he said I should ‘coincidentally’ read something else!

So I did: “Search, search and search again, always with the open mind.”

Better review the whole situation!

I decided to approach the situation as Region wanted: from the cost point of view. What was the cost of telephones in Wales and Borders? I sent out sheets asking the Intergroups to produce bills and specify what type of equipment was used. Then I asked again. Region came and went twice. No reply. This was truly “AA in action.” Next time, I lied and sent Intergroup sheets stating fictitious bills of £8000. Now I found people actually queried my figures!

Suddenly, I got the information I needed from the Intergroups: the approximate annual costs were £3,700. Different phone systems were in place. 12th Step lists were the preserve of a few. Actual cover was patchy.

We then looked to see if in actual fact the single-number was the right system for AA in the Wales and Borders Region.

We noted the developments in the SE Region and Scotland, particularly those in Scotland,

which is similar to Wales both in size and distribution of population. We found that Scotland had reduced phones from 24 to 2 or 3. Tremendous savings, with the cost of the national number being covered by that of the discontinued lines. Wales could be split into three areas to cover the whole population. Against my will I began to become intrigued by the single-number scheme...

By this time, I am starting to get really interested and wondered how Wales could get into the 0345 Scheme. Turning to my sponsor for guidance, I realised I had to overcome my ego, that the scheme wouldn't work without the Intergroups, but that the Intergroups also could not be forced to participate. *And*, we must help the suffering alcoholic.

But Wales and Borders did not want to lose the local telephones and 12th Step lists. Again God intervened: there began to be problems with the local phone set-ups, the 12th Step list dwindled. Wales and Borders began to view the single-number scheme differently.

I discovered that the then current nine telephones could be reduced to three, effectively containing costs. With Intergroups working together, we could provide 24-hour service to the Region. 12th Step lists for the Region could be combined. This unity of purpose would give a boost to PI for the Region.

During 1998 the possibilities were investigated and the budget costing worked out. It was noted that implementation of (Business Option) per-second invoicing would save costs on calls otherwise rounded up to the next minute.

In October 1998, a Region workshop was held, with Telephone Service in the morning and PI in the afternoon. In excess of 50 people turned up! Discussion determined that a *working* TLO for every Intergroup would need to be in place in order to get the single-number system off the ground. Other necessities highlighted where operators handbook, meeting lists and responder and 12th Stepper lists updated monthly.

The Region meeting in December 1998 voted to embrace the single-number scheme Region-wide! And on March 19 1999, after training programs and responders packs were developed, Wales and Borders went 0845 ("0345" having been replaced by the new number)!

What it is Like Now

All Intergroup meeting in Wales and Borders were visited and the Region was split into three areas - north, west and south. Although there were transitional problems in the south, we now have three systems in Wales working 24 hours with two people per slot. Calls increased immediately, before the number was even advertised. In one particular month a great increase in calls led to more newcomers being taken to meetings. So, the real winner is AA. There are now 300 names on the 12 Step list. This single list is comprised of the names submitted by the sub-committees of the three areas to the Regional TLO. All PI-posters have 24 hour telephone helpline number, as does all literature. Wales is buzzing!

On another note, the 0345 Committee needs to be reviewed: when will it cease operations? Why is it non-rotational? Why are the Regional TLOs not trusted to do this job?

It's a pleasure to be involved. The single-number scheme has brought unity to Wales and Borders. Intergroups that never used to attend Region now are doing so. I recommend the single-number scheme to the Fellowship.

Questions were invited from the floor

Three eggs

1. Why in Thompson's directory is 0345 given in the front of the book, but under "AA" inside the book the York number and address are given.
A1. British Telecom recognises only the national numbers for helplines. Advertisers pick up the usual std number. The new single-number will be in the new telephone book.
2. What do you do with an abusive call. Where's the backup?
A2. No backup needed. Put the phone down.
3. Why do calls bounce out of area, in some cases Scotland receiving calls from the south of England?
A3. Calls can be transferred to the next area (if the first phone reached is engaged, for instance) but should not go further than that. The diverse areas are assigned certain area codes, so this could be an equipment fault; get your telephone company to check the equipment.

John H, Regional Service Office London

With regard to London, there are two issues currently; the single-number scheme and our eventual participation, and the success of the new Regional Service Office, which is now up and running and which houses the London Telephone Service.

In an aside, I would like to mention that in February and March 1999, the 12th Step calls fielded by the London Telephone Service came more from women than from men, for the first time ever.

Two weeks from now, you'll find an article in the May issue of *Share* on Tradition Five, which includes some rather astonishing figures on a turnaround in our Primary Purpose. Whereas the last few years of the old London Telephone Service had seen 40% of first-time callers to AA accepting a 12th Step call, the first three months of this year have seen the figure leap to 70%! These are *real* people, newcomers... and this has been achieved by a return to our basic Primary Purpose.

We do not mention an AA meeting to the suffering alcoholic until they've had the option of accepting or rejecting a 12th Step call. It's as simple as that. No; "Just go to a meeting and good luck"! But: "This is what AA does - we put a sober member in touch with you to take you to a meeting." If they refuse, okay, nothing lost, then we let them know how to find a meeting themselves.

London had been 12th Stepping 70 alcoholics per week; that number has risen to 100. So, we do not want to change our AA set-up. We take more than 1000 calls weekly, have 100 members a week answering 5 telephone lines, we have 150 members processing calls from their homes and hundreds of 12th Steppers on the lists.

The good news is that we will not, in my view, have a problem applying the single-number to London. We finally have unity in London that the single-number scheme eventually will be implemented in London. The phone will ring, however, not in the member's home, but in the new office. That's what the conscience of hundreds of groups wants and that's what we can deliver, and I'm absolutely delighted to be working towards it.

SUNDAY 18 APRIL

Rod opened the final session of Conference with a few moments silence followed by the Preamble. As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded. Also, that the Committee Secretaries would act as tellers if required.

Rod then invited the Chairmen of the six Committees to present their respective reports which were fully discussed and adopted.

These Committee Reports are included in this report on the pages indicated below:

Committee No. 1	Pages	34 - 35
Committee No. 2	Pages	36 - 37
Committee No. 3	Pages	38 - 39
Committee No. 4	Pages	40 - 41
Committee No. 5	Pages	42 - 43
Committee No. 6	Pages	44 - 45

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2000

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Don R (Continental European Region) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Rodger P, Chairman of the Board, asked Conference to ratify the nominated Board Members who had been introduced on Friday evening, listed on page 6 of this report, and there was unanimous approval.

The Conference Chairman invited Ted McG, as a retiring Board Member, to express the appreciation of both Conference and the Board for the long and committed service which Rodger P had given to the Fellowship.

Rodger responded, "my heartfelt thanks to all of you and it has been beyond my wildest dreams to have spent twelve years in this room, it seems to have been a very long time - yet it seems a moment ago. I have attended eight years as a Board Member, and when I came to the Board I have to say that the relationship between our Fellowship, and the different structures in our Fellowship, was not a healthy one and we went through quite a difficult period of time. I nearly got away with it! It got to the March Board Meeting and I was about to rotate and thinking "I've made it, I'm going, I can get away after four years" and I got as far as the door and you called me back, the Board asked me to be Chairman of the Board.

If you remember, my first Conference as your Board Chairman, had something to do with a

minor incident called 'Concepts' and it was a bit hairy but it was good fun. We had our moments between us but the thing that I would like to say today is that I believe we can, as a complete Fellowship - no badges, no divisions, no arguments about top or bottom but as people in a Fellowship, walk into the Twenty-First Century with our heads very high, our hands linked, our hearts joined and speak as one voice as the only practical solution to people who have a problem such as ours. For that I am grateful for you allowing me to be your Chairman.

I have been blessed by an opportunity, I don't think that any of you will mind me sharing this. Those of you who are coming to the end of your three years and are now leaving, I'm sure many of you are feeling as I feel, an element of sorrow, and about three months ago I was in my pit, and I was wallowing I have to say in my pit, what was I going to do? Eight years, twelve years, four years what was I going to end up doing? I was very, very afraid of what tomorrow might bring because I have been in service now for seventeen of the eighteen years of my sobriety and tomorrow was a frightening prospect. Then, quite out of the blue, an opportunity came through from AA France, as you have probably heard, of a joint opportunity of carrying the message into Africa and I cannot think of a greater gift, than to walk away from here as Chairman of the Board and become your representative to Twelfth Step into Africa. I thank you for that privilege. God bless".

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

(ROD C)

"Thank you all Conference for the unsurpassable honour of being your Chair. Tomorrow night when I attend my home group, they won't give a damn that I have been here in York with you for three days, more likely they will ask me why I missed Friday's meeting!

I would now like to hand over to Don, Chairman of Conference 2000, to lead you in the Serenity Prayer. Thank you".

Conference 1999 ended with everyone joining hands and saying the Serenity Prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Thirty-Fifth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at Alcuin College, University of York on 31 March - 2 April 2000.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIRMAN DON R CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

SECRETARY PAUL P SOUTH WEST REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

- 1. In this age of high quality professionally produced publicity, first impressions are of a singular importance and as one is rarely given a second chance, would Conference investigate methods to enhance all printed material that meets the public eye (in and out of the Fellowship), investigate what revisions to pamphlet design could help to reduce production costs - where appropriate - and make recommendations.**

The present system of different pamphlets, leaflets, posters, and other printed materials being reviewed by different conference committees when a relevant question is submitted would be enhanced by asking the literature committee to:

- Review all printed material.
- Investigate revision to printed material design.
- Consider current technological advances to aid in the production of printed material.
- Consider a unified image for the Fellowship, ie: standard colours, size for printed materials and design.
- Reduce production costs where possible.
- Enlist a member of the finance committee to consider the financial implications to the Fellowship.

This committee recommends that the above proposals be implemented and that the literature committee should report to Conference annually and present a time scale plan to review the literature list at Conference 2000.

The decision of this committee was passed unanimously.

- 2. Would Conference consider having more AA literature available on audio tape for members with reading difficulties?**

This committee feels that there is a need to increase the availability of Alcoholics Anonymous literature on audio tape for members with reading difficulties.

This committee recommends that the General Service Board (GSB) investigate fully the current availability of audio tapes with the Addlestone Recording Group and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, as well as considering other sources of approved audio literature.

This committee further recommends the GSB report back to Conference 2000 on the results of this investigation.

The decision of this committee was unanimous.

- 3. Regions.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence “the programme” in particular.**

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on Regions.

This committee has a positive attitude concerning the future of the Fellowship. However, we feel there is a need to communicate the joys of service. We should share this joy of service through sponsorship and such positive examples of service can be emphasized by communication between all service levels using existing tools and guidelines.

Like any business we need to take regular inventory to maintain growth.

With reference to the aims in Guideline No. 5, this committee recommends that:

- a) Each Region hold a regular inventory.
- b) The Regional inventory generate a list of ideas and actions to be used as a yardstick.
- c) The Region consider using the inventory list as a regular item on their agendas.
- d) The inventory questions and answers of that Region be shared with other regions and the General Service Office/General Service Board for wider distribution to the Fellowship, eg: through AA News and Regional Chairpersons' meetings.

The decision of this committee was unanimous.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Paul P (South West Region) as Chairman of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2000.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Andy C (Glasgow Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 1 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIRMAN COLIN H SCOTIA REGION

SECRETARY ALAN D SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. Would Conference consider the re-introduction of a "Where to Find" for Scotland. Make recommendations.

This Committee recommends by a substantial majority that the Fellowship do not produce a Scottish 'Where to Find'.

The Committee notes and re-affirms the recommendations of Conference 1993 Committee No 3 - Question 3.

2. Would Conference consider merging the service roles of Literature Secretary and SHARE/ Roundabout Liaison at group and intergroup levels?

The Committee suggests that groups and intergroups re-evaluate the position of *Share/ Roundabout* and Literature Secretary and have options of merging the two roles if appropriate.

3. Through group inaction the content of the present 'Where to Find' is seen to be unsatisfactory. What additional action can be taken to encourage Groups, Intergroups and Regions to provide up to date information.

a) The Committee recommends that intergroups be asked, through the regions, to review and report back to GSO on entries in the 1999 'Where to Find' and in addition ask groups to examine and consistently update individual entries.

b) Keeping the 'Where to Find' up to date is not simply an administrative exercise. Keeping up to date is an integral part of carrying the message within the Fellowship. There has to be a deep understanding that making it 'easy to find' is an essential tool of recovery. The Committee emphasises that this is a fundamental group responsibility.

c) For each group the date of the last update to the 'Where to Find' should be added.

4. GSB.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific

improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence “the programme” in particular.

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on GSB.

The Committee recommendation was rejected by Conference and it was resolved, following lengthy discussion, that this question be referred to the General Service Conference 2000 for consideration and this was unanimous.

5. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected John McC of South West Scotland as Chairman of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2000.

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Mallory R of Continental European Region as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 2 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIRMAN KATIE C GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY DAWN M SOUTH WEST REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. **Would Conference share its experience concerning problems of anonymity that have been encountered when members are required by official authorities, e.g. the police, immigration, etc. to help with their enquiries:**
 - a. **with regard to the law**
 - b. **with regard to our traditions.**

The Committee shared its limited experience of incidents when such enquiries were made.

A unanimous view was expressed that, notwithstanding our tradition of anonymity, AA should always act within the law.

It was felt that each case should always be acted upon according to the conscience of the members concerned.

2. **Would Conference approve the addition of Regional Archivist to the Confidential Directory?**

Recognising the importance of the Archives to the Fellowship, this Committee recommends the addition of Regional Archivist to the Confidential Directory.

3. **Service Liaison.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence "the programme" in particular.**

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on service liaison.

The Committee expressed gratitude for this question and felt that by stimulating discussion the question had begun to fulfil its purpose.

This Committee feels that healthy service liaison begins with a healthy home group where service workers are nurtured and suggests that regular Group Conscience meetings take place in all areas of the Fellowship.

The Committee also suggests that service liaisons undertake self-examination of its role as co-ordinator, adhering to the guidelines already established.

Remembering that it's not only what we do but the way we do it, the Committee would like to encourage the Fellowship as a whole to continue this inventory as an ongoing process.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Elaine G of Midlands Region as Chairman of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2000.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Roger B of Jersey Intergroup as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 3 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIRMAN JOE D GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY JEAN M EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

- 1. At present there is no provision should, for whatever reason, the Conference Chairman be unable to fulfil their role, as this is a Conference appointment, would Conference review this situation and make recommendations.**

We recommend that Conference Committee selects from among its number an alternate Conference Chairperson at its first meeting. This was a substantial majority decision, and the minority was heard.

- 2. General Service Conference.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence "the programme" in particular.**

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on General Service Conference.

We recommend that the Conference Committee, every year, puts forward at least one aspect of Conference for discussion and review by a committee as part of an ongoing group conscience.

Examples might be:

a) Input into Conference

Selection of delegates.

eg Are the guidelines adequate and are they adhered to?

Conference Questions.

eg Are they about matters of major importance to the Fellowship as a whole?

Members' views.
eg How well are they passed on to Conference?

- b) Delegates.
Are delegates the best available?

Preparation.
eg Are delegates personally sponsored into service?
Are delegates adequately briefed?

- c) Structure of Conference.
Is the number of committees appropriate?
Is the use of committees appropriate?
Is the composition of committees appropriate?

- d) Cost of Conference.
Are we getting value for money?
Are we evaluating the results?

The Conference Committee can add to these points at its own discretion.

3 Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Oliver G of London Region as Chairman of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2000.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Greta T of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 4 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIRMAN MAURICE B GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY LORRAINE E SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

- 1. As an aid to Employment Liaison would Conference recommend production of a leaflet to target the business community.**

Yes, this committee recommends that the Literature Committee produce a draft Employment Liaison leaflet for presentation to Conference 2000.

- 2. In view of the important role of the Group Service Representative would Conference share its experience specific to the 12th stepping of a GSR into Service. Make recommendations.**

Experience has shown that sponsorship of GSRs into service is falling short of that recommended in the guidelines.

In groups where sponsorship guidelines are followed, the effectiveness of the GSR is vastly improved.

This committee strongly recommends the following:-

- a) To remember, Bill said "The strength of our whole structure starts with the Group and with the GSR that the group elects". (Guideline 3).
- b) That Guideline 3 be revised by the Literature Committee to include "being conversant with the book Alcoholics Anonymous" in the recommended reading.
- c) Regular service discussion meetings/workshops at Intergroup on the role of the GSR stressing the importance of the qualifications and functions of the GSR and their familiarity with recommended literature.

- 3. Groups.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence "the programme" in particular.**

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on Groups.

This committee recommends that a wide ranging review should take place. This could begin by each group holding a group conscience with regard to this question, remembering their primary purpose.

Specific improvements that could be made at group level are:-

- a) Each group to practise the home group principle.
- b) Group members to be familiar with the pamphlet “The AA Group” and the card “ I Am Responsible”.
- c) Hold regular group conscience meetings.
- d) Hold regular group business meetings.
- e) Sponsoring of GSRs and all other group officers.
- f) Full complement of serving officers wherever possible with regular rotation via business meetings.
- g) Groups should register with GSO and with their Intergroup and ensure GSRs regularly attend Intergroup meetings.
- h) The “AA Service Handbook for Great Britain” be always available and prominently displayed.
- i) Benefits of service to be shared whenever possible.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected John G South East Region as Chairman of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2000.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Mike K North West Region as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 5 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIRMAN PHIL M MIDLANDS REGION

SECRETARY RONDA M EASTERN REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

- 1. Would Conference share its experience with multi-meeting groups and consider whether there is a need to produce more meaningful guidelines on the way these can best serve the Fellowship and, more importantly, the new member. In particular could Conference more clearly define what comprises an autonomous AA group.**

Wide experience was shared on multi-meeting groups. Where groups observe good practices such as regular group conscience meetings open to all members, rotation, sponsorship and accountability, these groups thrive in unity.

The Committee recommends that a draft Guideline on multi-meeting groups be produced for consideration by Conference 2000.

The definition of an autonomous AA group is clearly stated in Tradition Three (Long Form).

This was unanimous.

- 2. Would Conference consider the pamphlet "IS AA FOR ME?" ILLUSTRATED (P36) for inclusion in the Literature List**

(a) Also would Conference consider its inclusion in the 12th Step Pack.

(b) Consider that the impact of the visual message be greater to many newcomers.

The Committee has considered the pamphlet "Is AA For Me?" (illustrated) extensively and has been unable to recommend its inclusion in the Literature List in its present format. Therefore:

(a) It should not be included in the 12th Step pack.

(b) The Committee consider that a good visual message could be of great impact on many newcomers. The Committee recommends that the Literature Sub-Committee review, redesign and re-word the pamphlet "Is AA For Me?" (illustrated) and present it to Conference 2000 for approval.

This was unanimous.

3. Intergroups.....Would Conference consider putting forward detailed recommendations for a wide ranging review and group conscience to be conducted throughout the Fellowship (at personal level and taking into account participation at group, intergroup, regional, GSB, GSC, service liaison etc.) into the ways we are falling short of achieving our Primary Objective as a fellowship in helping the still suffering alcoholic. What specific improvements could be made at Group; Intergroup; Region; Service; General Service Conference and GSB levels to put any recommendations into action. Furthermore, could we suggest improvements as to how we can welcome the newcomer in a more structured way into the Fellowship at large and into the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book and hence “the programme” in particular.

Would this committee consider the question as a whole focusing primarily on Intergroups.

This Committee feels that a wide ranging review is not necessary but that Intergroups should take their own group conscience. Where Intergroups feel they are falling short of achieving their Primary Purpose, experience has shown that regular Workshops, which include participation and role play, can be of use.

Topics could include:-

- Guidelines
- Service Structure and Responsibilities
- Job Descriptions
- Traditions and Concepts
- Communications

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Ronda M Eastern Region as Chairperson of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2000.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2000.

The Committee elected Aileen U Scotia Region as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2000.

All recommendations on Committee No. 6 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1999

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: **Rod C** (Midlands Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Rodger	P		
Bill	Y	4	
Mike	D		
Jim	C	5	
Charlie	G	4	
Gudrun	MacK	1	
Ted	McG	5	
Stewart	M	1	
Debbie	R	2	
Mary	S	3	
Mick	W	2	
Sam	W	6	
Paddy Barrett		3	
Geoffrey Brown		1	
Jackie Chang		5	
Fred Edwards		2	
Henry Pomeroy		3	
Michael	C (Elect)	3	
Bob	F (Elect)	1	
Paul	F (Elect)	4	
Gareth	L (Elect)	6	
Willem	Van H (Elect)	6	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Jim K General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Anne Drummond
Ann N
Elaine Pickering
Angela Varley
Jean Webb
Jeremy S
John H

SHARE

Clare	N	4	3
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ROUNDAABOUT

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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EASTERN REGION

Jackie	D	1	3
Pab	K	2	1
John	H	3	2
Paul	T	4	3
Cressida	H	5	3
Ronda	M	6	2

LONDON REGION

Henry	T	1	2
Pravin	K	2	2
Alan	T	3	1
Oliver	G	4	2
Rachel	McF	5	1
Desmond	O	6	2

MIDLANDS REGION

Ian	D	1	3
John	T	2	3
Elaine	G	3	2
Mike	B	4	1
Gordon	K	5	2
Phil	M	6	3

NORTH EAST REGION

Alan	H	1	1
Steve	C	2	2
Dianne	C	3	A
Russell	C	4	A
Eric	R	5	2
Bob	B	6	2

NORTH WEST REGION

Bill	B	1	1
Nelson	B	2	2
Patrick	MaC	3	3
Liz	B	4	A
Mike	K	5	1
Dave	S	6	1

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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SOUTH EAST REGION

Harry	A	1	1
George	R	2	1
Tom	T	3	1
Greta	T	4	1
John	G	5	2
Colin	H	6	3

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Mary	P	1	3
Alan	D	2	3
Tim	S	3	1
Sandie	A	4	1
Lorraine	E	5	3
Michael	S	6	1

SOUTH WEST REGION

Paul	P	1	2
Sally	R	2	A
Dawn	M	3	2
Malcolm	B	4	A
Mike	D	5	A
Dave	M	6	2

WALES & BORDERS REGION

John	W	1	1
Val	S	2	1
Janice	W	3	A
Howard	E	4	3
Margaret	J	5	1
Barry	P	6	1

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Nessie	F	1	2
Jim	S	2	2
Sandra	G	3	2
Jean	M	4	2
Chris	H	5	3
Gordon	C	6	1

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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GLASGOW REGION

Andy	C	1	1
Frank	N	2	1
Katie	C	3	3
Joe	D	4	3
Maurice	B	5	3
Drew	C	6	2

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Kenny	MacS	1	2
Andy	Y	2	1
Duncan	W	3	3
Bob	W	4	2
Iona	T	5	2
Duncan	MacD	6	A

SCOTIA REGION

Jim	D	1	1
Colin	H	2	2
Jim	K	3	3
Billy	Mac	4	3
Dennis	C	5	A
Aileen	U	6	2

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Brian	H	1	3
John	McC	2	2
Archie	A	3	1
John	H	4	1
Joyce	McC	5	2
Philip	B	6	A

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Don	R	1	3
Mallory	R	2	1
Heather	B-W	3	3
Heidi	C	4	1
Jeff	Van Den B	5	1
Tom	A	6	1

			COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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JERSEY INTERGROUP

Roger	B		3	1
Peter	M		6	3

OBSERVERS

Peter	Van Geersom	(Belgium Flemish Speaking)	2	1
Else Marie	B	(Denmark)	2	1
Dorte	M	(Denmark)	3	1
Malachy	D	(Ireland)	1	1
Finian	K	(Ireland)	4	1
Kjell	H	(Norway)	5	1
Finn	H	(Norway)	6	2

The Twelve Traditions

1 Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. 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 A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

4 Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

5 Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

6 An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7 Every A.A. 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 A.A., 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 A.A. name never 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.