

FINAL REPORT

# ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

## Thirty-Eighth General Service Conference

21-23 March 2003  
Goodricke College, University of York

# Essence of Growth



General Service Office of AA  
PO Box 1, Stonebow House, Stonebow, York YO1 7NJ



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
GREAT BRITAIN

Thirty-Eighth  
General Service Conference

Essence  
of  
Growth



# THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2003

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Digest of Agenda.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>General Report.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Nominations Conference Chairman 2004.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>General Service Board Report.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Finance.....	Page 6
Public Information.....	Page 9
Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.....	Page 11
Probation and Social Service.....	Page 15
Health.....	Page 16
Seventeenth World Service Meeting.....	Page 18
Employment.....	Page 23
Prisons.....	Page 23
Telephones.....	Page 25
Literature.....	Page 27
Electronic Communications.....	Page 30
Fifty Years of AA in Great Britain.....	Page 32
<b>Annual Report 2002 Updates.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Final Session.....</b>	<b>41</b>
Election Chairman Conference 2004.....	Page 41
Ratification of Board Members.....	Page 41
Close of Conference.....	Page 42
Date and Place of next Conference.....	Page 43
<b>Committee Reports.....</b>	<b>44</b>
Committee No. 1 Report.....	Page 44
Committee No. 2 Report.....	Page 46
Committee No. 3 Report.....	Page 48
Committee No. 4 Report.....	Page 50
Committee No. 5 Report.....	Page 52
Committee No. 6 Report.....	Page 57
<b>List of Delegates.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Glossary of Abbreviations.....</b>	<b>64</b>

# DIGEST OF AGENDA

## Friday 21 March 2003

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Nominations - Conference Chairman 2004

Discussion Groups

Committee 1 : As a Fellowship how well do we take our inventory?

Committee 2 : Discouraging debate weakens democracy

Committee 3 : Sponsoring into service, what's the problem?

AA Service... time, effort and spiritual growth

Committee 4 : Should the existing "Chit System" be extended to Employers?

Committee 5 : How well is the Trusted Servant provision understood?

Committee 6 : Discuss our Service Structure: What it is, and how it works

Committee Meetings Commence

## Saturday 22 March 2003

Committee Meetings Continue

General Service Board Report

## Sunday 23 March 2003

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chairman for the Thirty-Ninth General Service Conference

General Service Board Report and Ratification of  
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

# FRIDAY 21 MARCH

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

On the Friday afternoon registration and distribution of folders was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for delegates to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates attending for the first time. Just prior to the opening of Conference, delegates attended their respective committees for a welcome/introduction to their committee.

The Conference comprised 89 delegates from fifteen Regions; two delegates from Jersey Intergroup, one delegate each from 'Share' and 'Roundabout', 23 members of the General Service Board, Chris A - Conference Chairman, the General Secretary and 8 members of staff.

Total in attendance 126.

## **Opening of Conference by Chris A (Conference Chairman 2003)**

The first full session, which commenced at 4.30pm, was opened by the Conference Chairman, Chris A (Eastern Region). He asked for a moment's silence and called upon Maggie S (South Midlands Region) to read the Preamble.

Chris went on to welcome all present and invited the General Secretary, Jim K, to read the Twelve Traditions, the orientation containing last minute changes and the National Convention dates, which are as follows:

Northern Convention - 28th - 30th March 2003  
Scottish Convention - 2nd - 4th May 2003  
Southern Convention - 12th - 14th September 2003

## **Conference Steering Committee Report**

**John TT (London Region), Alternate Chairperson**

John gave an account of the working of this year's Conference Steering Committee including how the many questions received (129) were considered, topics chosen and the agenda set.

Chris continued with the presentation of his Keynote address:

“My name is Chris and I am an alcoholic. I feel humbled and privileged to be standing up here today, a small cog in the annual Conference and part of the collective conscience of A.A.

I thank you all for this opportunity and for the help and friendship of all the members of the Steering Committee over the past year. It has been invaluable to me.

In the long form of Tradition 5 it states that each group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose. We are all gathered here today, a large group of A.A. members all involved in service, to further our primary purpose. Of course we all have different ideas on how this purpose can be carried out and I'm sure there will be some interesting discussions.

The previous three years as a delegate I've enjoyed tremendously. The fellowship, the sharing and the common purpose have all added immeasurably to my life. I researched the questions as thoroughly as I could, studied Traditions and read the Concepts and their history and marched off to Conference convinced that I knew what the answers to the questions would be. Mine of course! Then at sometime, usually sooner than later, I have felt and seen the conscience of A.A. in action, the true spirit of Tradition Two, the hand of a loving Higher Power directing our way as individuals and as a Fellowship. I find this truly amazing, to have been given the gift of involvement in this unique process. For this I now say THANK YOU to my own Higher Power.

Of course, it was not always like this for me. When I first came to the Fellowship I was full of resentment and fear and a feeling of numbness as I realised how close I had come to dying by my own hand. I had a firmly closed mind and the little that was in there was very bitter and very twisted. The rigidity of my then views and outlook on life astounds me, though now I know a little of the power of this terrible illness of alcoholism, how it hates new ideas or attitudes which may loosen its grip on the sufferer.

Today I am very fortunate indeed to have the opportunity to communicate with so many of you. Again, I am truly amazed at being shown the way to sobriety and the love and care I have received along the way. For this I now say thank you to the Fellowship.

I have chosen 'The Essence of Growth' as the Conference theme as I feel it applies to us all, as individual members and to our fellowship as a whole. To me this means the willingness to change when needed and the courage and faith to take on the responsibility to see it through.

Like all of us, when I arrived at my first meeting I just wanted the pain and confusion to stop. So willingness to change was present even before I had heard of the programme. Albeit a willingness to let go of a negative, I didn't know then about the willingness to change to embrace the positive, or that I would have to grow or deteriorate back to where I had come from. To quote Bill W. "For us the status quo is only for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must, we cannot stand still." As time passed and I worked

my programme, went to meetings and read all the literature I could find about this wonderful Fellowship, I started to learn a little about our history. How millions of others like me were in recovery all around the world. At first the Fellowship seemed very daunting. There seemed to be endless new words and meanings to learn; Intergroup, Region, G.S.R., G.S.O., G.S.B., Traditions, Concepts, World Service structures, etc, etc. All of which were totally alien ideas until I started to become involved in service. Still, Chairpersons of Region, Board Members and G.S.O. seemed like some higher form of A.A. life. They must be different to me who still had all these emotional ups and downs and as for my living problems..... However oldtimers took me under their wing and patiently answered my questions or directed me to the relevant literature. It started to dawn on me that as it is for the individual member so it was for the Fellowship. The beginning of my personal recovery was a steep learning curve with many a rocky path to travel and difficult decisions to make. As I read the history of A.A's beginnings, I saw that just as I had trials and tribulations so did the Fellowship as a whole. Just as I had to be willing to change and grow, so did the Fellowship. Just as my inner conflicts had been the stimulus for my growth, so problems have been the foundation of our society today.

Nearly sixty years ago our second legacy 'UNITY' came into being as our Traditions. Born at a time when A.A. was in serious danger of fragmentation as a society, and to answer the question 'How can we best function?' As it says in our Big Book 'No society of men and women ever had a more urgent NEED for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity. We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together else most of us will finally die alone'. Today the Traditions are a vital part of my life as they are of the Fellowship. I personally believe we would not have made it as a society without them. We are all here today to safeguard our Unity and to continue to be effective in carrying our message of recovery.

For many of us the dilemmas of our early years of sobriety have been almost forgotten or at least become more manageable. So too, the Fellowship has grown through problems faced and overcome. I do not see any evidence of A.A. fragmenting today, or danger of it happening, as long as we adhere to the Traditions and Concepts. This doesn't mean there is nothing left to look at either as individuals or as a Fellowship. One example, which springs to mind, is last year's excellent survey of the Fellowship, which I have heard discussed at group, Intergroup and Region level. Indeed one of the conclusions of the survey that we are not attracting the younger person into A.A., will be addressed at this Conference. You as Conference delegates are primarily the world servants of A.A., direct heirs of Bill and Dr Bob, bringing your own unique experiences so that we may flourish and grow as a Fellowship.

Many of you are here for the first time. I know at my first Conference I felt anxious, wanting to do the right thing and daunted by this new environment. In a couple of years time one of you will be standing where I am today. Believe me it brings a whole new level of understanding to the words anxious and daunted. I strengthened my sinews as it were, and indeed have done today, by remembering my first hesitant steps into service outside of my home group. I was told by my group that they needed a new G.S.R. and that I was it.



It was that sort of group. A week or so before my first Intergroup meeting I thought I had better ask the oldest member what I should do when I got there. He looked at me with mock anger “Have you had a drink today?” I stammered “No”. He then asked “Are you working the programme to the best of your ability?” I said, “Yes”. He replied, “Then you have the full confidence of this group behind you. You are our trusted servant.” From that time on I realised there were no second class citizens in my home group and no second class citizens at Conference or anywhere else in A.A. You are the trusted servants so I pass on this confidence that was given to me, to you. May you use your voice and your vote well, trusting that the hand of an ever-loving Higher Power will direct our hearts and minds this weekend, so that we may be a channel for the healing power of recovery. Have a great Conference. It is all yours.”

## **NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 2004**

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chairman of the Thirty-Ninth General Service Conference 2004:

Dave C	-	London Region
John TT	-	London Region
Rowland B	-	North East 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 full session of Conference ended at 5.45pm with Chris asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

## **DISCUSSION GROUPS**

At 7.30pm delegates attended the Discussion Groups where the following topics were covered:

Committee No. 1	-	As a Fellowship how well do we take our inventory?
Committee No. 2	-	Discouraging debate weakens democracy
Committee No. 3	-	Sponsoring into service, what’s the problem? AA Service... time, effort and spiritual growth
Committee No. 4	-	Should the existing “Chit System” be extended to Employers?
Committee No. 5	-	How well is the Trusted Servant provision understood?
Committee No. 6	-	Discuss our Service Structure: What it is, and how it works.

At 9pm, after a brief break, Committee meetings commenced, closing at 10pm and reconvening at 9am on Saturday.

# SATURDAY 22 MARCH

Chris opened the second full session of Conference with a moment's silence and asked Pravin K (General Service Board) to read the Preamble and Phil W (Wales & Borders Region) the Traditions.

## General Service Board Report

Mick W, Chairman of the General Service Board, welcomed all present, with a special welcome to first year delegates hoping they were enjoying themselves. To those who were leaving – his thanks and to those coming back - keep up the good work.

You have all received the Annual Report and Updates. Your Treasurers have already received the Audited Accounts and quarterly financial reports.

Mick went on to highlight the following:

There would be a full recent report on the World Service Meeting.

The first Sub-Sahara Zonal Meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2003 in Botswana. Delegates from seven or eight countries are expected to attend. It has been agreed that together with the United States of America and Canada we will fund the event through the Development Fund. We will be working with the South African General Service Board who will be hosting the event and we have been involved in this for several years now.

The first Eastern European Zonal Meeting took place in April 2002 and was supported by our structure, again through the Development Fund. It proved to be very successful and we will continue our support as needed.

There would be a presentation from Pravin K and Mick pointed out that the term 'Black and Minority Ethnic Communities' as printed in *AA News*, was used after consulting the two largest organisations in the field. That is, apparently, the preferred term.

Chris then introduced the first of the eleven General Service Board presentations:

### **Finance** (Paul F)

Firstly I should like to state my immense gratitude to my immediate predecessor, Mike D, for so ably sponsoring me into the job. I know Mike took over in very difficult circumstances and it was probably that situation which prompted him to say "never again" to the newcomer arriving in this post with little more than enthusiasm to work with. There is nothing wrong with enthusiasm, but having some facts and figures, especially for the treasurer of an amorphous organisation like AA, helps a good deal. After all, few other organisations can boast quite so many experts in every field, but unfortunately, it

seems that few of those experts can or are prepared to read the large amount of information that is available to every one of us. There can't be many more open and accountable organisations and that, of course, means that we have a lot of published information to be found in the Treasurers' reports, from Groups, Intergroups, Regions and the national accounts, details of which are published monthly, quarterly and annually. Then on top of this we have the Regional treasurers' meeting each December where the final accounts are gone over in detail to ensure that each Region, Intergroup and Group can have every possible bit of information they are likely to want, and indeed much that they don't! It was all this information, along with his personal guidance, that Mike D passed on to me so that I was better equipped for the job.

So, now you have a different Treasurer who does not have Mike's joke-book or his wonderful sense of humour. Let's hope that some of the things I have to say to you can raise a smile: after all, talking about money does not have to be "stupid, boring and glum." You will find me very approachable, though I shall not hesitate to point you in the right direction if I feel another should be dealing with your query. I can say with absolute assurance that we have an excellent team of Regional Treasurers and there are many Intergroup Treasurers who not only know and use our Guidelines, but display an unerring grasp of the realities of cash-flow and budgeting. I believe our Fellowship has never before been blessed with so capable a team of able folk who have its financial wellbeing so much at heart. We hear much of corporate poverty and how we don't need money, but money is the life-blood of this Fellowship, just as it is of any other. We may not want or need much cash, but if we don't have it we are in deep trouble and there is no way we can fulfil our primary purpose without it.

The last financial year was remarkable, indeed mould-breaking, in several aspects which you have in detail in your copy of the Annual Report. However, I feel it is my duty to stress that two extraordinary items turned a pretty dismal year into one of surplus. Firstly, the introduction of the fourth edition of the Big Book and the cut-price sale of the remaining copies of the third edition boosted our literature sales. Secondly, we were the beneficiaries of the generosity of those oldtimers who have gone to their last meeting. We received legacies from members who recognised the help that AA had given them; who in their sober lives left behind the fear of economic insecurity; these members generously left substantial sums to our Fellowship. It is these two factors that took us into a fairly large surplus and bolstered the lack of contributions made within our Seventh Tradition. They are clearly not sustainable and at the same time, contributions from our Groups, the foundation of our Fellowship, fell by 1.7%. It must be said that this does not necessarily mean that less money is going into the "pot" – it could mean that the Group expenditure is higher, or that the Intergroup is committing itself to further expenditure in carrying the message. Whichever it is – greater expenditure or lower donations – the Service Offices will have to cut their cloth accordingly, and that in a time of ever greater demands on our central services.

The first five months of this year have been mixed. October, November and December 2002 saw greatly improved contributions, raising hopes that we were seeing the start of a new trend. However, just to show how fickle we can be, January brought a slump in contributions of nearly 20%. Then, as surely as only the unpredictable can be – up we go again! February's contributions seem to indicate that the earlier hopes of an upward trend are justified and that January was merely a blip in the figures. Anyway, let's hope this is the tendency, as it has given us contributions of nearly one fifth more for the five

months to date when compared to the same period last year. Before anyone gets too complacent over this, let me add that my predictions at the end of the year proved to be justified. Legacies and surpluses from conventions fell by a thumping two-thirds leaving us with an overall increase in income of 9% for the first five months of the year. This is not only welcome as a tool for helping to carry the message, but more particularly because it is an increase in our own contributions and not as a result of legacies and surpluses from conventions – welcome though these are.

Those demands made on the Fellowship that the General Service Board is required to handle are closely regulated and it was with some relief on my part that all the sub-committees eventually submitted timely and acceptable budgets required under SORP<sup>1</sup>.

The two restricted funds shown in the accounts – the Development Fund and the European Service Meeting Fund – show little movement. The ESM account is used largely for the biennial European meeting. The Development Fund still has only modest calls made on it, though this year it made a substantial contribution to the highly successful First Eastern European Service Meeting and it is likely that there will be further expenditure this year on carrying the message in Sub-Saharan Africa.

As has become customary in early December the Regional Treasurers' meeting was held in York and almost all Regions were represented.

A slide-show of the long-awaited disk presentation "Finance and the AA Group" was welcomed and it was agreed to get copies of the disk distributed as soon as possible.

Roger B [North West Region] chaired the remainder of the meeting during which several points were discussed.

I should like to express my gratitude to Trustee Stan F who is chair of the Telephone sub-committee. He kindly attended the meeting on the Saturday morning and explained the workings of and progress concerning the central billing and the potentially large savings that could be made. After some precise arrangements made regarding the handling of the account, the meeting agreed a finance package for the single billing of the national telephone number effective immediately.

There was much discussion over the question of Group insurance. It was felt that it is too easy for Intergroups to take out blanket coverage, when what is primarily needed is awareness of duty of care by the Groups and their landlords. Clearly if every Intergroup is to take out insurance then this will become a major expense in the running of a Group; and that has potentially drastic results.

The confusion over the submission of Gratitude Week donations again came to the fore and a letter clarifying the situation was drafted. This was sent out with the Spring edition of *AA News*.

With the trends shown in the survey indicating an ageing membership profile, we need to attract both younger members and those from ethnic minorities. If we had the funds we could undertake major Public Information initiatives to help get this new blood into our Fellowship; but at the moment our own contributions don't even pay for our basic services. I feel that it is not unreasonable to assume that older members with longer

sobriety are probably wealthier, but that is not reflected in contributions. Today we do not even live up to our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and must finance our day to day running with the surplus from literature sales.

As I said earlier, I feel that we have a very capable team of Regional and Intergroup Treasurers. Their awareness of the financial situation of the Fellowship is essential if we are to avoid dipping into our reserves that at the moment are still suffering from the depressed state of the international markets. We have been lucky in the past year and contributions so far this year are good. But unless we, the members of the Fellowship, keep up a constant flow of funds to carry the message, then we shall be under serious threat of being incapable of fulfilling our Primary Purpose.

<sup>1</sup> Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities

## **Public Information**

(Tim S)

I will do my best to give a clear overview of what is happening in the area of service by touching on a number of areas:

- Work of PIs at Group, Intergroup and Regional level
- National activity over the last year
- Media and AA
- National plans for the next twelve months
- Issues and challenges facing the PI field at the moment.

## **Regions and Intergroups**

Since taking over this area of responsibility last year one of the most positive things for me has been to see the Intergroup and Regional reports, coming through every week from the General Service Office, and they have made me so aware of the amazing amount of hard work that has been done at local level, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people, some I'm sure are here at Conference, who are doing school talks and all that other amazing work.

There are also some wonderfully innovative initiatives going on all over England, Scotland and Wales at the moment, for example a 'text' version of AA for Young People that is currently sitting with the Literature Committee, a mini disc business card size AA presentation that has been produced by Eastern Region and original things like stickers in public toilets all over Devon, with the approval of Local Authorities, stickers all over bottle banks in Birmingham.

Some of the successes have genuinely reached really, really big audiences and the highlight over the last year has been the Yorkshire TV's PSAs that ran before Christmas, twice a day for just over a week.

## **National Activity over the last year**

National activity is predominantly carried out by the PI Sub-Committee of the General Service Board along with the national and regional service offices. It is four years now

since the Committee was set up and the last twelve months has, to a certain extent, been a period of consolidation. We have continued to attend workshops around the country and the Regional PI Workshop in York last month covered a variety of very good things including a report back on the results of last year's Bristol 'test' campaign. South London Intergroup may be the next area to pick up and run with that.

Two issues of the PI Newsletter were published and these are now available on our website as well as old issues.

The PI Committee have started working with the Electronic Communications Committee and have produced the external section of the website.

The Committee have also started working with Pravin K (GSB) focusing on carrying the message to the black and minority ethnic communities.

We have continued to work with the media in terms of basic AA coverage and placement of PSAs. Media coverage is a difficult area and we carried out between December 2001 and May 2002 a six month survey to try to help us better understand how the media covered AA. There was a lot of coverage – over that period we had 278,000 words and 48 million opportunities to see AA. A lot of that coverage was generated locally, and locally the best coverage tended to come from interviews and case histories. There was also a fair amount of national coverage – some of it favourable but the vast majority of our national coverage actually came from celebrities breaking their anonymity. In fact, during that period 75% of all the coverage we got came from celebrities breaking or having broken their anonymity.

What can we do about it? In reality very little, but we are now at least doing something about it. Last year, for the first time, we sent out an anonymity explanation to all national media and tried our best to explain wherever possible why we needed to work within our Traditions. At the same time we emphasised that we want to work with media, we want to help them, we want to give them opportunities to write about us and we have a responsibility to make AA appear attractive, but within our Traditions.

At local level, we printed that anonymity explanation in the PI Newsletter which went out and we have been encouraging that to be duplicated locally.

### **National priorities over the next year**

There is a range of areas which we are focusing on:

- **Maintaining media activity**  
The next press release that goes out will be a press release on our ethnic minority initiative. We hope to repeat the considerable success we had with radio PSAs with national television.
- **Evolve on-line activity**  
Supporting the new website with specific focus on search engines.
- **Focus on national organisations**  
Increase our work with national organisations where we have not been particularly pro-active over recent years. Continuing to develop the theme which is seen in PSAs of alcohol costing you more than money.

- **Ethnic minorities**  
Maintain support for the General Service Board initiative on ethnic minorities, for example we will shortly be producing various AA posters in six different languages.
- **Co-operate with extension of Scottish Executive alcohol initiative to England & Wales.** This is a breakthrough of huge significance assuming it happens as we all expect. Both PI and Health will have to work very closely together to help and respond to the requests for information.
- **Video for professionals**  
We are discussing a new video with our non-alcoholic Trustee, Dr. Jackie Chang, targeted at the medical profession which hopefully will be produced over the next year.
- **Support Regions and Intergroups that wish to duplicate Bristol**  
As well as South London, other areas will hopefully wish to repeat the Bristol campaign.
- **Communication via PI Newsletter**  
The Newsletter will hopefully grow as a forum for information exchange, on line and off line, helping us to identify new PI materials and issues as they come up within Intergroups and Regions.
- **National initiatives, local action**  
Encouraging local initiative on a national basis, for example a ‘Talk to your local doctor’ week.

## **Challenges and Issues**

There are massive changes going on, the way in which the Government views AA, our relationship with the voluntary sector, the way in which we interact and can interact with the media - all of these are things are crucial issues at the moment. Which raises the question, ‘How can PI help the Fellowship grow again? How do we start to approach the US levels of penetration – at least 8x our membership, pro rata? How do we work more effectively with the media?’ These are just some of the things I hope over the years ahead Conference will help give us the answers.

## **Carrying AA’s Message to the suffering alcoholic in Black and Minority Ethnic Communities**

(Pravin K)

### **Problem**

For several years AA’s Conferences have been considering questions as to why our Fellowship does not attract alcoholics from different backgrounds and why the membership of the Fellowship does not reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the communities in which it exists.

For several years AA’s Conferences have also been asking how Alcoholics Anonymous can be made to be more attractive to suffering alcoholics among black and minority ethnic communities.

In accordance with the wishes of General Service Conferences, in July 2002 your Board

approved a strategy and a plan of action for carrying AA's message to the suffering alcoholic in the minority ethnic communities.

## **Solution**

- The responsibility for breaking down any ignorance, preconceived ideas and wrong perceptions, about alcoholism and about Alcoholics Anonymous, that may exist among the general population or among minority ethnic communities, and
- The responsibility for bringing the true and authentic message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the suffering alcoholic in black and minority ethnic communities.

These responsibilities are not marginal matters; they are and must continue to be an integral part of the Twelfth Step service of ALL of us, as individual recovering alcoholics, as members of AA groups, and in all our service work.

In particular, carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholic in minority ethnic communities is an integral part of the Twelfth Step work of all service representatives in the Fellowship

- at Group, Intergroup, Region, and Board levels,
- whether they are in Public Information, Health, Probation, Prison, Employment, Telephones, and others.

This is consistent with AA's principle of "*having but one primary purpose* — that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers".

It is also consistent with two of the questions suggested in our pamphlet "*The AA Group*" for how a group could take an inventory of itself, viz., Is the group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we getting a good cross section of our community?

## **Steps Taken**

In the few months since July 2002, your Board has already taken a number of steps and considerable progress has already been made

- to gain further knowledge about the problem
- to develop new and more appropriate ways for all of us to bring AA's message to the suffering alcoholic in minority ethnic communities, and
- to initiate more effective ways of doing this part of our 12<sup>th</sup> Step work.

For example, we have spoken with the national Census Offices, and established contacts with the following: -

I. Ethnic Minority Foundation in London,



- II. National Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations,
- III. The Commission for Racial Equality,
- IV. Strategy Unit of the Cabinet Office in Whitehall,
- V. Turning Point,
- VI. CRI ( Crime Reduction Initiative, the rapidly growing national organisation ),
- VII. other national and local agencies working in the field of alcohol abuse & alcoholism.

**Research Survey :** To know more about the attitudes towards AA in society generally, and particularly among black and minority ethnic communities, your Board will soon also commission a small, focused research study /survey, concentrated on two or three carefully selected areas in Britain.

**World Service Office and GSOs :** An initial contact has been made with AA's World Service Office in New York to share our experience in this regard with them and their experience with us. Soon similar contacts will be made with general service offices in other countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, and India.

### **Additional Steps Taken**

Following are among the other steps that have been taken: -

- 1) **Television & Radio:** We have spoken to two national Asian television & radio stations to arrange meetings with them to explore ways in which AA and they together can make their viewers/listeners aware of the help Alcoholics Anonymous can successfully provide to people in all sections of society. These radio and television networks broadcast both in the UK and continental Europe.
- 2) **Community TV Videos :** We are in the process of contacting London Weekend TV, Granada TV and other regional TV companies with a view to regional TV companies making short films about AA to be broadcast in different languages and in different regions of the country. In this connection I am also liaising with the North East Region's Public Information Officer following the very successful public service video broadcast by Yorkshire and Tyne Tees TV to help raise awareness of AA and also to publicise the national telephone number, etc.
- 3) **The AA Website:** There will be a section for black & minority ethnic communities in the Public Information section of the AA website.
- 4) **Raising Awareness :** It is proposed that the recent successful AA event organised by the General Service Public Information Committee (GSPIC) and the Bristol Intergroups be repeated by GSPIC with two or three other intergroups, e.g. in South London. The purpose of this would be to increase the awareness of AA among black and minority ethnic communities through concentrated press, radio, TV, posters and other activity.
- 5) **Contact AA posters, postcards, & wallet-cards:** The Board has decided to also make these available in a few minority ethnic languages as well as in English.

These would then become the more appropriate cards and posters for use in some parts of the country in doctors' surgeries; social, health & welfare agencies; community centres; educational establishments; hospitals & clinics; etc. GSPIC has undertaken this project and will take it forward.

- 6) **AA Video, CD & Audio Tapes:** It has been decided to produce a CD, an audio tape, and a video in other languages as well as English, for use specifically in prisons, on local radio and TV stations, for hospital radios & educational establishments, etc. GSPIC will take this project forward.
- 7) **Survey of available literature and tapes:** The World Service Office in New York and the GSO in York have inventories of literature available in languages other than English, including literature available from the GSOs in India and other countries. In due course, based on gathering of further information, knowledge & experience, recommendations will be made for translating AA pamphlets, leaflets & other literature in additional languages.
- 8) **Newspapers which reach minority ethnic communities:** All Regions, Intergroups and Groups may wish to give consideration to selectively placing small "Contact AA" notices and advertisements in local free distribution and other appropriate newspapers & periodicals in their areas. The General Service Office will continue to regularly place "Contact AA" advertisements in national black and minority ethnic newspapers such as VOICE, ASIANTIMES, etc. These advertisements and notices should be designed to let the suffering alcoholic as well as key members of the community know of the availability of A.A. and our ability and willingness to help any alcoholic who is willing to accept help. The PI committee has some basic templates that could be adapted and supplied to Regions/Intergroups/Groups.
- 9) **Register:** As an aid to doing the 12<sup>th</sup> Step service in this particular regard, your suggestions would be most welcome as to the best way of creating, and keeping up-to-date, a register of AA members who speak various languages. e.g., a list of members willing to use multilingual skills in 12<sup>th</sup> Step work is kept at the Southern Service Office, and it may be possible to build on this towards a national database.

### **Appeal to Individual AA Members, Groups, Intergroups and Regions**

- Your Board is grateful for the great deal of help and suggestions I have already received from so many AAs throughout the country, and I have begun to establish a network of contacts with AA members and others in various regions of the country who wish to help with this initiative. But we are at an early stage in this enormous task, and we need lots more help from all of you.
- If any member of our Fellowship has any suggestion he or she would like to make in regard to this particular service work, I would be most happy to hear from them.
- I would like to request individual members, Groups, Intergroups and Regions (a) to share with me any information, experience and knowledge they may have in respect of carrying AA's message to the still-suffering alcoholic in the black &

minority ethnic communities, and (b) to identify any black & minority ethnic members in their area who would like to assist in this particular service work.

- Any help any of you can give will be gratefully received and treated with the utmost respect, and the principle of anonymity will prevail.
- I would also like to appeal to AA members from black and minority ethnic communities to contact me via the General Service Office or the Regional Service Offices, letting me know your thoughts and experiences regarding the attraction, or the lack of attraction, of AA to suffering alcoholics from ethnic minorities.

## Conclusions

- 1) My own observations and experience suggest, as does anecdotal evidence, that problems related to alcohol abuse and alcoholism are increasing rapidly in black & minority ethnic communities, in a similar way that they are reportedly increasing fast in society as a whole. In these circumstances, sustained, well co-ordinated and effective service work in this area by all of us will bear good results, and will benefit and enrich all of us recovering alcoholics and this great Fellowship of ours.
- 2) The more experience and knowledge we share, and the more we know, the more effective we can all be in putting AA's Pledge into practice and in practising the Primary Purpose principle in all our service work.

***“AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die”.***

Service Manual, p.5; As Bill Sees It, P. 13.

## Probation and Social Service

(Gareth L)

I am the Board trustee with the responsibility for Probation in England and Wales and Social Services in Scotland. This is my last Conference and I rotate out of office at the end of Conference tomorrow.

Probation and Social Services is not an easy discipline and is a hard nut to crack, but once the nut is cracked and contact has been made then it is a very worthwhile one.

During my time in office we have held three National Workshops for Regional Liaison Officers. These Workshops have been very useful and it shows what progress has been made, together with the exchange of ideas. Without the workshops it would seem that there is very little progress. But looking over the whole picture a lot of progress has been made especially in the South of England. The South Eastern, South West, London and South Midlands Regions have made great inroads with the Probation Service. Scotland has also maintained a good relationship with the Social Services.

Where there is a Liaison Officer in place some progress is being made or maintained, but there are areas especially in the North of England and my own Region, Wales and Borders, have not a Liaison Officer in place and news is not coming through. That is not to say that nothing is being done. There are Intergroup Liaison Officers in place and I'm sure they are doing sterling work, but it is not coming through to GSO. I would encourage any Intergroup Liaison Officer without a Regional PLO in place to send reports direct to GSO.

Where contact has not been made or proving difficult I would suggest that we should try and introduce the 'Chit' system. The Probation and Social Services are very disposed to it and it allows us in AA to give them some form of check as to who has attended what meeting without breaking any of our Traditions.

We must remember when we are dealing with the Probation and Social Services, we are dealing with professionals and we must present ourselves in a professional manner, we also must not forget our Traditions. We let ourselves down mainly by our lack of continuity. It is no good making good connections and then rotating out of office with no one to take over, this leaves us in bad light with the professionals and makes it harder for our successors to make a fresh contact. As soon as one is elected into post we should be looking for our successors and they should be working with us for at least six months before we rotate out. This is good advice for any discipline, but is so much more important when dealing with professional bodies.

All in all it is not a bleak picture. Progress is being made with the Services both in Scotland, England and Wales, albeit slow in some cases. Under the new organisation of the Probation Service, they are now obliged to give every client with a drink problem a list of agencies which can help, and we need to ensure that we are included on that list. It means knocking on doors and keep knocking, but when the door opens it is well worthwhile.

## **Health** (John A)

I am with you today as the Board Trustee with the responsibility of collating and reporting on our Health service.

I personally, have had a busy and very rewarding year since last year's Conference and much of this has to do with our government's National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which in Scotland is already well underway.

I along with the Northern Service Office Manager Charles S. and the Regional P.I. from Glasgow Region was invited to attend the launch of the Scottish Executive's plan of action on alcohol problems in March last year where we were able to attend many of the workshops held that day. I would like to thank the Northern Office staff for all the work they did prior to the launch.

Through their input in the consultation document, at the request of the Scottish Executive, I found that the Health care professionals in SACAM, the Scottish Advisory Committee on Alcohol Misuse and the Health Technology Board of Scotland had a good understanding of what our Fellowship could offer in the way of support to health care professionals, in dealing with those who suffer from alcoholism and that they had an understanding of our Traditions.

Now for the good news - the Health Technology Board of Scotland on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2002 published their findings on their Health Technology Assessment they carried out on the prevention of relapse in alcohol dependence. I have the pleasure of reporting to Conference that I feel, we in AA in Great Britain, received the recognition we were hoping for and more.

This, to my knowledge, is the first time a Government (any government) has undertaken a health assessment on alcohol dependence relapses and they recommend us in AA as the resource to use:

**Quote Draft Recommendation 3/**

“Alcoholics Anonymous provide group therapies using the 12 step approach in hundreds of groups across Scotland. This service is free to NHS and the twelve step approach has been shown to be effective, consequently NHS service providers should be aware of local AA groups and offer this as an alternative treatment, however pressure to attend AA groups is not recommended.”

**Quote Organisational Issues 5/**

“Specialist services must make themselves aware of mutual help, Alcoholics Anonymous and non-statutory agencies operating in their area and co-ordinate their approach, making this information available to individuals within their care; informing patients about Alcoholics Anonymous and non-statutory agencies should be part of the overall relapse prevention strategy.”

I'm sure I don't have to tell Conference how important this step is, and in light of the recent survey carried out by the Fellowship and the numbers reported in our Fellowship, I feel we have a tremendous opportunity to reverse the current trend.

The ball, as they say, is firmly in our court and we in service to AA must make ready.

In Scotland we have already members who are on the alcohol misuse committees, the set up in England and Wales will be different in that the final government strategy is expected in July 2003 and there will be districts that are required to use “referral pathways and protocols” and all professionals in the field will be required to use these protocols so that the clients, in our case suffering Alcoholics, are referred to the agencies that are best suited to their needs, (AA we hope).

We have, at present, eight Health Liaison Officers in regional service and the worrying aspect for the Fellowship is that London, Glasgow and Scotia Regions - three of our largest populated Regions - have no Health Liaison Officers in place at the time of writing.

Since then we have had the Regional Health Liaison Meeting at York on 15<sup>th</sup> March and

Glasgow do have an officer in place. London were also represented by one of their Intergroup officers.

A variety of issues came up at that meeting, which I will be working on throughout the year, but one point is very relevant to my report, which is the Health Liaison Officers felt it was of the utmost importance that we respond to the document that will come out regarding England and Wales in July this year. To that end, myself and Tim (Public Information) will be requesting another Health Liaison Officers meeting at that time.

I would like to read a quote from a letter, received this week, addressed to the General Secretary from the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health:

*“I am writing to invite your organisation to register an interest in playing a key role in the new system for patient and public involvement in health. The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January this year and is responsible for setting up some 571 Patient and Public Involvement Forums”.*

We have been given a tremendous opportunity to go to the forefront and reverse the trend of our Fellowship stagnating/flat-lining.

Our hope for the future is looking for the same input in England and Wales as we have in Scotland through their draft recommendations which have already been produced. What we have to try and achieve is that goal and it is very achievable.

I am in the fortunate position that, through GSO who send me regular Intergroup and Regional minutes, I know the work is getting done at Intergroup level even where the Regional officers are not in place. I would recommend to any Region if you don't have one please elect one. It is to our benefit.

As reported to Conference last year we continue to make progress with those with disabilities within our Fellowship and continue to try to reach those that are still suffering. To this end, we have had discussions with the Deaf Society of Great Britain to assist those with hearing difficulties. We also have received two videos of the Big Book from New Zealand in sign language, and these have been sent out to UK members for their approval as it was shown that there were differences between our own country's and the USA's sign language. We have been informed that the New Zealand and British sign language are very similar and from one report back this appears to be the case.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Regional and Intergroup officers who have worked tirelessly on our Fellowship's behalf over the year and with a special mention to Angela who has passed on your reports to me, via York.

### **Seventeenth World Service Meeting 6-10 October 2002 - Oviedo, Spain (John A)**

It was a great privilege for this alcoholic to be one of the two delegates representing AA in Great Britain at this the 17th World Service Meeting, held in Spain. I hope through this report not only to convey the meeting's findings but also to give the reader a feeling of the worldwide hope and spirituality that I felt at this international Meeting - in which 41 delegates representing Alcoholics Anonymous from around the world gathered at the Hotel La Reconquista in Oviedo, Spain.

The primary purpose of the World Service Meeting is to ensure that the AA message of recovery is carried to alcoholics who still suffer wherever in the world they may be and whatever language they speak. This year's meeting served as a forum for sharing experience and ideas on ways and means to further that purpose. Initiated by Bill W in 1969 and hosted this year by the AA General Service Board of Spain, the event alternates biennially between New York and other locations around the world. The theme of the meeting was "**THE AA MESSAGE — A MESSAGE WITHOUT BORDERS**": Gabriel Rodriguez-Sierra, the non-alcoholic chairman of Spain's General Service Board, opened the meeting and shared with delegates that the theme for the 17th World Service Meeting could not be more appropriate in terms of dealing with the kinds of problems which arise in this fast changing world. That is the essence of the message of AA - that one alcoholic sharing experience, strength and hope with another must never change.

AA currently estimates a presence in more than 150 countries; the 41 world service delegates who gathered at Oviedo represented 34 countries or zones where AA has national offices. Translations into English and Spanish were provided for all general sessions. Paul McC. from Ireland offered these thoughts in his address at the opening session: *"Where I come from, we are well used to the word borders. Ireland has a border, dividing north from south. We have two governments, two legal systems, two educational boards, two different currencies; we even have two national football teams. My hometown of Belfast has borders dividing people of different religions and politics, but one thing we do have in Ireland, is one single AA, a message without borders."*

Following this address, the first of the presentations and discussions took place, the theme being "Sponsoring the newcomer into AA service." In this opening session our own Chairman, Mick W, gave a presentation on sponsoring the Non Alcoholic Trustee (NAT) into service. In his opening remarks he said that the presentation was based on nineteen years of personal observations and experience at all levels of the Fellowship. Since this was the first time this subject was being presented at the World Service Meeting, there was little in the way of literature for guidance.

Mick went on to share how we are very fortunate in Great Britain in the calibre of NATS that we have at present and the procedure we go through to elect those chosen. He stated that at Board level we have given much workshop time to this very important post and how we familiarize them with our structure: most are already familiar with our purpose. He also stressed that we strongly encourage them to be familiar with our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Mick reported how our present non-alcoholic friends had helped in this by preparing papers and presentations for future NATS and that they offer great expertise in various areas such as prisons, probation, health, spirituality, the law, finance and in cooperation with many other bodies working in the field of alcohol abuse.

After the presentation there was a discussion and sharing of experience on the topic that had been presented by Mick. It was evident by the many countries asking positive questions during and after this presentation that this subject of using non-alcoholic trustees will be on the agenda again in the near future at a World Service Meeting.

We then broke up into our respective committee meetings; these were in the four different categories:

- Agenda
- Literature/publishing
- Policy/Admissions/Finance, and
- Working with others.

I was on the Agenda Committee while Mick was the Chairman of the Literature Committee.

**The Agenda Committee** recommended that the theme for the (next) 18th World Service Meeting will be “**ONE MESSAGE - MANY LANGUAGES - ONE FELLOWSHIP**”. (I was delighted with this as it was one I had put forward).

**Topics for presentation will be:**

- Service rotation - key to our future.
- Singleness of purpose -
  - a) problems other than alcoholism
  - b) co-operation not affiliation.
- Reaching ethnic communities.
- Concept Five
  - a) the right of the minority
  - b) the duty of the minority.
- Our spiritual solution - communicating our message to professionals.

**Workshops for the 18th World Service Meeting will be:**

- The Media and the Traditions
- Self support
- Communication - between countries
- Unstructured workshop.

**The Literature/ Publishing Committee** was asked to review the report on the International Literature Fund. The committee accepted as written the World Service Meeting Literature Fund report regarding the fund and how it was used. They were also asked to discuss needs for literature and translation in emerging nations and other parts of the world. Several members shared their efforts and the challenges faced in providing some South American countries with literature; it was noted that CDs, audio cassettes and video tapes are effective in carrying the AA message to those alcoholics with limited reading skills, and several countries are at present producing literature in a variety of formats. They discussed ways of sharing country-to-country sponsorship, with this being the responsibility of all AA countries. It was recommended that AAWS consider the development of materials that might be useful in assisting AA growth worldwide and that a pamphlet or guideline should contain shared experience on efforts which do and do not work well. These pamphlets are to be made available to help carry AA’s message to new and developing countries.

The committee discussed a request from Peru to review any outstanding debt to AAWS. The General Manager of GSO US/Canada responded that a review of financial reports showed that Peru did not have any outstanding debt for literature, and that the supply of complementary literature would continue as needed in order to assist carrying the message in Peru.



**The Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee** unanimously approved Denmark, Cuba and Peru's requests for participation at the 17th World Service Meeting. The committee considered the application from the Native American Indians General Service Office, and unanimously reaffirmed that they did not meet the qualifications for delegate participation at the World Service Meeting based on the principle of AA unity. The committee reviewed qualifications for World Service Meeting delegates and agreed to change "In their country" to "In their countries" in sections 3 and 5. The committee also reviewed the expenses of the 14th, 15th and 16th World Service Meetings and noted a lack of growth in the numbers of delegates attending; they approved an estimated budget for the 17th World Service Meeting.

The committee recommended that the minimum delegate fee be \$1,100 for the 2004 World Service Meeting based on an increase of 25% of the 2002 estimated cost, although participating countries would be informed of the full cost of the World Service Meeting. Those who can, will be encouraged to pay a larger portion of the cost. The committee expressed gratitude to the US/Canadian General Service Board for their generous offer of increased financial support to the World Service Meeting, so enabling a reduction in the minimum fee. I am sure we will see more countries able to participate or send a second delegate. The committee also recommended that the 18th World Service Meeting be held in New York on the 24-28 October 2004.

I had been in Oviedo two days and had the feeling that I was home; this is how I always wanted to see my Fellowship working, everyone present with one primary purpose, and with a feeling of fellowship that I still feel as I write this report.

**The Working with Others Committee** looked at four main areas:

- ***Cooperation with the professional community*** - most countries felt that in general their membership was informed and supportive about the importance of reaching out to the professional bodies.
- ***Discuss cooperation with public and private organizations and agencies*** - most countries felt there was excellent cooperation between AA and private organizations, one delegate shared that recently several of the non-alcoholic trustees on his country's GSB had had an opportunity to participate in a world forum on dependencies and society, and that a NAT gave presentations on AA as a resource to professionals. In several countries the primary C.P.C effort was focused on carrying AA's message into all levels and types of schools.
- ***Correctional facilities*** - most countries reported that meetings were held in correctional facilities in their countries, and most reported that the facilities were cooperative in allowing AA participation, but it seemed a universal circumstance that wardens at each facility set the rules and these rules make some accessibility difficult. Regarding young offenders and detention centres, many committee members did not have much experience in carrying the message into youth detention for a variety of reasons: one member mentioned that minors are held for a short while, and another reported that there were extremely strict regulations governing access to young offenders. One member reported that most of his country's new members were between 20 and 35 years old.

- **Public information** - how important is the media in carrying the AA message? All countries agree that media was an extremely important tool in carrying the AA message; a few countries had developed public announcements for television which have proven effective. Two countries noted that their Fellowships were concerned that such announcements were promotional; the importance of the press as a means of letting the public know about AA was discussed. How we use press releases was also discussed and some methods used are as follows:
  - letting media know about A.A Tradition of anonymity,
  - announcing special events such as 50th anniversary of AA in a country.
  - publicly announcing a Non-Alcoholic Trustee's appointment onto the General Service Board.

**There were four Workshops at the World Service Meeting dealing with:**

- Long timers in service; utilized or discarded
- Problems other than alcohol
- Communication between countries
- An unstructured workshop

The last one was the final workshop and I found it very interesting. One of the topics discussed was our recent Membership Survey in Great Britain. Mick expressed our Fellowship's concern over the findings and I was surprised to learn that we are not alone in that concern. Delegates from Holland, France, Norway and Australia (among others) see their fellowships slowing down or stagnating. I found that in the USA they have 'flat lined' over a ten-year period mainly due to changes in medical insurance policy; support is being withdrawn from treatment centres for drug dependence and we are now engaging in much more 'hands on' Twelve - Step work. Countries whose membership is expanding seem to be the poorer and emerging nations whose need, I feel, is more immediate than ours at present (but that's a personal view). I have the other three workshop minutes and was very pleased at the input Mick and I had in these.

I had taken two full sets of our guidelines with me and these were very well received with particular interest shown in our new Conduct Guideline; I had to get many copies of this for interested delegates. I listened with great interest to all the country reports and by the time they were finished I was forever grateful that I found the Fellowship in Great Britain. I was made very humble listening to a Brazilian grandmother who travels eight days in a canoe up the Amazon to attend her Regional Forum, and to listen to the Colombian delegate sharing that when arriving in Oviedo all the other delegates walked through Customs control without a glance but, when seeing where he was from, Customs kept him for two hours searching him and all of his luggage: but he laughed and shared that he knew why he was there and nothing was going to detract from the feeling of fellowship we all felt and the sharing of our hopes, our strength and our experience representing an expression of the group conscience worldwide.

I will close now with a very big thanks to those who have given me the opportunity to represent Great Britain at the World Service Meeting. I felt proud to be a part of our Fellowship, held in such high regard by the many countries that we in AA Great Britain have sponsored, and much of this gratitude must be directed to our office and staff in York.

## **Employment**

(Dianne C-T)

The position countrywide in Employment Liaison work is fairly difficult to monitor, due to the lack of reports I receive. I am indebted to Angela at the General Service Office for her help, as she forwards to me copies of any minutes received by G.S.O., whether Regional or Intergroup, which contain references to Employment Liaison work.

It is clear that there is a lot of service work going on around the country to carry out our primary purpose – however, much of it goes on under the umbrella of PICPC Committees. In those circumstances, the bulk of the reports will go to the PI Trustee.

At present, five Regions have an Employment Liaison Officer in place, from whom I have received reports. The recent newsletter, which I sent out to help encourage these officers, was compiled from a combination of both their reports and those sent to me from G.S.O.

Seven Regions now have PICPC Committees; any reports from them will go to Tim S., the Trustee at General Service Board for P.I.

I have received no reports from the remaining Regions.

The Regional Liaison Officers had a successful workshop in York last March, where they decided that Guideline No. 8 needed amending and updating, so that there would be more information in the Group Service Handbook relating to Employment Liaison work. To this end, they chose to meet again in London in August where they put forward ideas for these updates. These were passed to the Literature Committee and as a result, a draft Guideline has been presented to Committee Five at this Conference. The Employment Liaison Officers also asked for a newsletter and the first copy was approved by the Board in November and sent out in December. I hope to continue this newsletter, if enough information is forthcoming.

## **Prisons**

(Peter L)

After this Conference I will be assuming the role of Trustee for AA in prisons. Over the past year I have been assisting Michael C in this task. He has been a fine example, especially in the need for maintaining good communications with the Regional Prison Liaison Officers and the Prison Authorities.

This brings me on to comment on our co-operation with CLINKS. What or who are they? Prisons Community Links - with the Voluntary Sector.

We have been represented at three of their events this year, two in London and one in York. It has been beneficial to have an AA presence at these events and to hear that many others in the Voluntary Sector experience our age-old problems with the Prison Service; i.e. security clearances and poor, slow or even no responses to communications. Cancellation of meetings at short notice, or no notice at all, are also a subject of concern.

With the collective voice of CLINKS we now have been given the names, where they are in place, of more than 50 Voluntary Sector Co-ordinators in prisons. These contacts will be given to our Prison Liaison Officers, if required, but some of our Officers may already be aware of them.

The question of our prison sponsors being asked to sign Service Level Agreements was pursued (this arose out of a concern raised at the Regional Prison Liaison Officers' meeting held in York at the end of August). There was little knowledge of this from the attendant Prison Officers and they referred to the autonomy of each prison. We hope to gain more information about the signing of these Service Level Agreements in the near future.

At the Prison Liaison Officers' meeting the following statement was agreed by all:

***'We will comply with the law of the land, but we do not sign up to, or take part in, anything that would leave us open to the danger of breaches in our Traditions.'***

Regarding security clearance for our prison sponsors: a problem arose when a request was referred back to the proposed sponsors, enclosing Disclosure Application forms. The prison indicated that they would meet the cost for these, approximately £13.

A new Disclosure Bureau has been established with the Scottish Criminal Record Office (SCRO). Their aim is to enhance public safety and to help voluntary organisations in Scotland to make safer recruitment decisions.

We will be meeting with the Scottish Prison Service Addictions Strategy Manager to discuss these forms and some other issues. (Our General Secretary, Jim K, has been invited to attend this meeting). Hopefully, we can return to the standard information required for security clearances and quash the need for the filling in of these lengthy disclosure forms before it becomes a nationwide requirement.

Despite our prison sponsors having to deal with some of the little problems that arise, they are a credit to our Fellowship. We are doing all right in our prison work. Occasionally we hear of prisons where our sponsors have failed to turn up for the AA meeting, but this is not a major problem.

Where there are alcoholics requesting our help, our credibility is increasingly enhanced by the forbearance of our members in their dedication of ensuring that our message of recovery is carried into prisons.

At our last Regional Prison Liaison Officers' meeting we were informed of a Region that has 200 sponsors on their list! I find this to be inspiring and it strengthens my resolve to continue to keep up good communications with all our Prison Liaison Officers.

I count the locked gates behind me each time that I go into a prison AA meeting. It is usually about seven, but I'm sure that our prison sponsors get the same feeling as I do on emerging. Yes! It's great to be sober.

## Telephones

(Stan F)

I was asked at Conference last year how much the telephone Service was costing the Fellowship and I had to say I didn't know – but I know now as far as the 0845 service is concerned and I can even give you a forecast for the current year – but I will come to that later.

I can also tell you how much the service is used – and it will surprise you , I think.

Working with the GSB Telephone Sub-Committee, which you approved last year, has made a great difference and it is through this work that we have achieved a new understanding and a better relationship with BT, our service provider. The Committee started its new function “...to look after the needs of the national telephone service” in June 2002.

Since then it has had many meetings, some with BT and some with other service providers who are after our custom. We have met a number of times in committee, sometimes in York, sometimes elsewhere and there have been many e-mails and letters flowing back and forward.

The information which I spoke of has arisen from these meetings and we now have access to virtually all we need from BT.

Now for a few figures - I don't want to bore you with a load of statistics - just to give you a few details which you may find interesting.

First of all, the service last year, 2002, cost us around £56,000 for 0845 – local services are still mainly the responsibility of Intergroups . We have negotiated a new contract with BT for 0845 and this took effect from 30 January 2003 and this will bring down the price of calls from around 8p per minute at peak times and around 4p per minute at cheap rate to 2.1p per minute over a 24 hour period. The effect of this will be to bring down our costs by a staggering 50% in the current year. Early indications are that we are on target for this.

The other figure I have to tell you about is our usage. In 2002, we were charged for 586,000 minutes for 0845 over the country. I am sure that Ian could give us all sorts of statistics from this but, keeping it simple, that translates to 406.9 days of telephone usage spread over the twelve regional points which we operate. That is the equivalent of a single line being used every minute of the year with a bit to spare and that, to me, is total vindication of our predecessors at Conference who recommended setting up a single number in the last decade. Now that it is costing us less - and the price can still go down further - I reckon that we can bury any doubts about this and look to the future with enormous confidence.

Moving back to our new contract, I probably made it sound so simple - negotiate a new contract – get £25,000 – just like that ! However, reality was a bit different. First of all, we had to consult the TLOs at their Annual Meeting in York in September - they approved. Then we had to go to all the Regions - they approved. Then we had to consult the Region Treasurers at their Meeting in December - and, of course, they also approved.

The committee was fairly sure that they would approve but we had to go through the motions and this took time.

Your committee started working in June and by the end of July we had a good idea what we could get from BT, but it took until the end of December, going through the motions, before we could say “go ahead.” In effect, that delay cost us around £10,500 - to go through the motions simply because, at the moment, your committee, working for our Fellowship, does not have the authority to say “go ahead” when we are at the negotiation stage.

The new contract is for one year and in June/July time we will start looking at the contract for the following year. We will also look at alternatives because other telephone carriers are interested in our business. We are already looking at one offer of 1.5p per minute for exactly the same service with all the necessary safeguards we need for continuity. The current BT contract is based on 2.1p per minute so we are looking at further reduction of almost 30% - **but** - we are still tied down to going through the motions of consultation and we stand to lose more money while we are doing this.

This process of consultation for telephones is a bit historic, you know. It goes back to the mid-nineties when the National Number was being introduced, Regions and Conference had to be consulted at each step along the way – and rightly so - because we were venturing into something we had to get right.

However, we are now in an entirely different situation and we’ve **now got it right**. The national number is well established; the framework is firmly in place. What is happening now is “fine tuning” – if you can call £25,000 “fine tuning” – and the step-by-step consultation is now not only cumbersome, it is also costing us money.

To remedy this, and to gain discounts for the Fellowship at the earliest possible stage in negotiations, I have a proposal to put to Conference. This reads as follows:

*“Conference welcomes the terms of the new telephone contract for the 0845 service and agrees that future contracts should be finalised by the GSB Telephone Sub-Committee as seems appropriate in the light of their experience. The outcome of future contracts should be reported to Conference on an annual basis.”*

**(Conference passed the proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote).**

These are exciting times in the telephone service. The de-regulation of BT has meant that they are better able to match offers made by other companies and this means that we may never have to leave the service provided by them – time will tell.

In the meantime, Intergroups and combined Intergroups which provide our local services have, so far, only received minor discounts. This is something your Committee hopes to look at in the future. There is a range of options which could result in considerable reduction in costs at Intergroup level but these have to be explored and will need careful consideration before action can be recommended.

Obviously, nothing in this direction will be done without consulting Intergroups through Region TLOs. This does mean, however, that we need to have officers in place who will be prepared to meet regularly, on a regional basis, to take up the challenges which lie ahead. If we want to move on to an even better, more cost – effective service, we have to be prepared to put the work in.

Which brings me to the members of the Sub-Committee. Without the amazing work they have done in the last nine months, I would have had nothing to report to you tonight. They have worked unstintingly almost every day and sometimes even at night on behalf of our telephone service - they deserve your thanks.

## **Literature** (Clifford S)

### **Historical Background**

The General Service Conference in 1999 tasked the Literature Committee with the following:

- continuing selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain.
- assessing its suitability for revision or discontinuance.
- considering the needs for new literature.
- reporting progress regularly to GSB and at Conference.

Account was taken of the fact that there was never sufficient time available adequately to produce Guidelines in Conference Committees. Some of those delivered by previous Conference Committees had been wordy, unclear and ungrammatical and, in certain instances, not Guidelines at all but more rambling essays.

Before this, the Handbook Committee had been working to revise and update the Service Handbook for GB, this major task being completed in 1998: the Literature Committee arose (literally) from its ashes! Suitable members to join or replace those who left the Committee at that time were sought by advertising throughout the Fellowship.

In 2001, under its first Chairperson, the Committee was able to present to Conference several revisions of Guidelines and pamphlets and these were approved at the plenary session.

In 2002, the Committee had a new Chairperson due to rotation. It was found that the original project conceived as a result of Conference 1999 was so all-embracing as to put demands on the members of the Committee that could not be met in full: especially taking into account natural wastage arising from rotation and resignation for personal reasons. Some of the work requested involved, more properly, technical and professional input, as new methods of printing and recording had emerged in recent years.

Nevertheless, despite early misgivings that it would be unable to offer much completed work to Conference 2002 - due to the loss of three Committee members from natural causes and the need to induct new members - there was a creditable outcome to the

year's work. It was decided to confine the preparatory work to revising, updating, and redrafting current Guidelines, introducing new Guidelines if requested by Conference, and revising and amending the Group Handbook. Where work was already ongoing with new literature, this was brought to its proper conclusion. An example was the pamphlet 'The Pot' which has since replaced (in this country) the US version on money and spirituality. This was not, of course, a revision of the US version: clearly, we cannot revise copyright publications of AAWS literature.

Delegates were supplied with all relevant revisions and any new material in advance of Conference 2002. Approval and necessary revisions were sought at the plenary session of that Conference. There were eight items for presentation. One of these was the Guideline on Violence, which had been sent out in an incorrect version in error after Conference 2001. When the error was discovered, an apology together with the correct version was printed in *AA News*. This document was sent, together with the (then unrelated) draft guideline of Personal Conduct Matters, to the whole Fellowship for consideration and possible amendment or rejection in recognition of the possibility that an amalgamation of the two Guidelines might be one option that groups would consider. In the event, there were no replies to suggest that this should be the case.

The Chair of GSB presented the Guideline on 'Personal Conduct Matters' to Conference 2001 separately, as it was not part of this Committee's deliberations.

Conference 2002 charged the Committee, at the plenary session devoted to Board reports, with the revision and updating of Guidelines 8, 9, and 10, together with certain Handbook revisions. After the Sunday plenary session, we were left with a dilemma arising from the recommendation of Committee Three, Question 1, ***that all Guidelines and Handbook reviews, changes and additions should in future be presented to Committee at Conference.***

### **The Present Challenges**

Due to the usual diarised meetings of the Literature Committee, it was thought at first that the proper way to respond to that recommendation would be to present as usual a fully ***completed*** work bundle for consideration by the Conference Committees – but that this could not be achieved in the time scale remaining until Conference 2004. Because we felt this might present difficulties, the matter was put to the Steering Committee for an opinion as to how best to proceed. The CSC felt that every effort should be made to get ***some*** completed work out to the Conference Committees this year, even though it would mean sending this out in a mailing separate to the Questions selected for Conference at that time by the CSC.

Extensive working via e-mail and the telephone enabled the bringing forward of some the projected work [vis: Guideline 8 and Guideline 10, together with the Terms of Reference of the newly-structured CSC], thus enabling the CSC to allot these revisions to Question Committees 4, 5, and 6. Inevitably, the rest of the work, which includes the Guideline 9 revision, had to be held over, and will be presented with certain other work designated for Conference 2004 in the ordinary run of events.



## **Conference Steering Committee's Conclusions**

At their final meeting in February, to which I had been invited, the CSC decided that the Conference 2002 recommendation was inherently unworkable within a yearly time-frame, due to the need for care and expertise in drafting any Literature requested by Conference. It was agreed that Conference should be informed of this in the Alternate Chair's report on their year's work. In the event, as you know, it was not and so it now falls to my lot to do so.

It is believed that the Literature Committee *would* be able to work in the way Conference asked last year, provided it is recognised that not all proposed work can be returned to Conference inside one year.

**I propose that Conference 2003 accepts this proviso, in which case there will be no need to revisit and change the Recommendations of Committee Three, Question One 2002. If no-one counters this, it will be assumed that Conference 2003 has indeed accepted it.**

## **The Future**

The dates of the Committee's scheduled meetings have been redrafted provisionally, with a view to having the bulk of the year's work ready for the September/October meetings of the CSC. The method of background research and consultation with GSB Committees and Service Officers of the Fellowship, when Guidelines are being revised and rewritten, has been tightened up. It is hoped that the CSC and the Literature Committee will be in regular and early contact to ensure that there is a good understanding of the logistics involved in getting work out to the Conference Delegates.

## **Closing Remarks**

The Literature Committee has had two new members since the Autumn meetings of the CSC. A recruitment advertisement circulated to the Fellowship via the Regional Assemblies led to two very suitable nominations: the Nominations Committee and the GSB at the November Board meeting approved these. One member of the Committee has also rotated out this January, after nearly four years' devoted service. Furthermore, there will be a change of Literature Chairman after GSC 2003, due to the rotation of the current GSB Trustees. Arrangements are under way for sponsorship of the new incumbent.

A considerable amount of work had been done on a possible GB pamphlet for use in Prisons, but this had to be put on hold, as the Prison LO Sub-Committee members felt that the current AAWS pamphlets were doing a good job! This was not the impression we had had from a great many serving as Prison Sponsors in the field. The original request for a new pamphlet had indeed come from that quarter.

We plan to revisit our own TOR after this Conference, as clearly they will need to be revised. The introduction to the Service Manual [Section 1-1] will also be updated for next year.

## **A Personal Note**

I have enjoyed my time on the Committee, and I would like to thank the Fellowship for the privilege of undertaking such interesting and challenging work on its behalf.

It is my fervent hope that Conference will feel that it is more properly involved and consulted through the new way of working. I trust, however, that this will not lend itself to wasted effort through unnecessary further revision and editing of literary work which has been carefully crafted in the Literature Committee by trusted servants of the Fellowship, who have - in many instances - professional literary abilities.

In my view, Conference's function in this situation will be to ensure that principles are adhered to and that the Traditions are fully observed, rather than to re-do the tasks which it delegated to its trusted servants on the Literature Committee in the first place.

I look forward to hearing the various Conference Committees' views on our work at the plenary session.

## **Electronic Communications**

(Dora M)

As the Trustee responsible for Electronic Communications, I am reporting to you specifically on the status of our website and other projects undertaken by our Committee. Last year, I stood in front of this body and reported the vision our Committee had for the Fellowship. First, I would like to review where the Fellowship has been with Electronic Communication, what work has been done, where we are now, and what we envision for the future.

### **Where We Were**

The Fellowship has always been aware that electronic media is a powerful tool for reaching out to the still-sick and suffering alcoholic. PI has for years been using radio and television, as well as printed media. Just five years ago in 1998, Conference made the decision to join the World Wide Web by creating and publishing a website for the Fellowship. In just a few short months and well ahead of schedule, in December 1998, [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk) was live on the Internet. Since that time, thousands of 'hits' or visits to our website have been recorded.

This website has afforded the public a chance to find contact numbers of hotline and helpline numbers in the UK and in English Speaking Europe. It has also given the public information, through our literature, about the disease of alcoholism with a view of helpful literature online. However, as technology has advanced so has the Fellowship advanced in its view of what we need in a website.

### **What Happened**

Upon joining the General Service Board, the area of responsibility I was given was a new one — Electronic Communications. I was also given all the information on the work that had gone before me on creating the original website. Knowing that a great deal of work

was being done at Group, Intergroup and Region level to use E-communications in service work, I undertook a survey to determine what was already in place in the Fellowship. This was done at the Region level and I received a great many of the surveys back with very helpful information.

Soon after, in February 2003, the Electronic Communications Sub-committee was reconvened. Several Board Trustees, as well as members of the Fellowship knowledgeable in Electronic Communication were asked to serve on the committee. A member of the original committee who designed the website was a most valuable member who could carry over the knowledge of previous work and give us a vision of what could come next. The committee has met several times over the last year with amazing results. We set out to give the Fellowship what it had been asking for in queries to the GSO and also on the surveys.

First, we published an article in the *AA News* as “Hints and Suggestions” for the use of e-mail within the service structure of the Fellowship. The Fellowship seemed to be asking for guidance within the Traditions of AA.

Second, we undertook plans for the revision of the existing website. Our vision was to bring to the website a more dynamic, powerful tool for the Fellowship.

Third, a presentation outlining this vision was given to Conference 2002.

### **Where We are Now**

All the pieces are now in place for the re-designed website and as from this week is live on the internet. The redesigned website has three sections:

First, is the service website which was published and live on internet in the winter of 2002. We advertised this in the winter *AA News*. We have over 600 members already signed up on this secure site. It features a document library which hosts copies of Conference reports, *AA News*, Workshop reports, census flyer, Handbook and Guidelines, Finance reports, to name a few. Also featured is a Service Forum Site, which requires members to register again for added security to the Fellowship. Many of you probably visited this website to read what our membership had written on the Conference questions. A feedback area to the Electronic Sub-committee is available for member comments or questions. A most valuable set of FAQs was developed by our webmaster and posted on the website. It merits reading by everyone visiting this website.

The Public Information Team has developed a site which will be a part of the overall website which targets all members of the public seeking information on the Fellowship — media, health and legal services, students, armed forces, etc.

Probably the most important part of the website is our outreach to newcomers. For those who are still sick and suffering, who may use the Internet just as we have always used the phone book or other media, they will find a site directed just to them. It hosts a questionnaire to fill out, and other valuable information to see if they could “belong” to this loving Fellowship. This is the place where they will be able to find hotlines and helplines for immediate contact with other alcoholics and information from local Groups, Intergroups and Regions with the “Where to Find” information on meetings. So far, we

have 36 groups with pages on this part of the website. You will find it at [www.aa-gb.com](http://www.aa-gb.com). To register your group's webpage, you just need to find a willing and able person to visit the service site, read the hints and suggestions for webmasters and have a go at it. All pages will be accepted if they follow the Traditions.

The Electronic Communications Sub-Committee have, this week, made available a new E-Mail Service Directory intending to increase and enhance communication between service workers at all levels. The Directory may be downloaded from the Document Library on our Service Site.

### **Where are we going?**

The key to the future lies in:

1. Keeping our Primary Purpose foremost in our planning.
2. Working within our Traditions, especially in keeping our anonymity and non-alliance with outside enterprises.
3. Having a broad vision — keeping up with technology and the needs of the Fellowship. We plan to make [www.aa-gb.com](http://www.aa-gb.com) the most accessible and foremost site on the Internet with search engines when queries come for Alcoholics Anonymous or alcoholism in Great Britain.
4. Careful Consideration — always making risk analysis a part of the process when considering changes. What will this do to the Fellowship? Are there financial considerations? Making sure that all members of the Fellowship are kept up to date and apprised of their possibilities in using E-communications.
5. Use of the most appropriate media
6. Good communications — it is imperative that the communication is always two-way. It should flow to the Electronic Communication Committee just as the question to Conference this year will be taken and then right back to the Fellowship in as many forms as is possible.

Thank you for your time and interest in this most powerful tool that is just “Coming of Age” for us.

## **Fifty Years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain**

(Ian H)

### **Introduction**

AA has been in existence in Great Britain for just over fifty years. AA surveys have been held at roughly five-year intervals over the past 30 years – in 1972, 1976, 1978, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1997 and, most recently, in June 2002.

The intent of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship of AA in Great Britain so that the AA message may be carried more effectively to more suffering alcoholics.

## Some Results of Survey 2002

**Average size of a meeting** - meeting sizes varied from as low as 5 to as high as 90. The average size of a meeting is 19.2 members.

**Average number of meetings** attended per member per week is 2.94 meetings.

**Total size of AA in Great Britain** - the membership of AA in Great Britain is probably around 22,500.

**Number of Home Group members** - 88% of members - i.e. some 19,800 - said they considered a particular Group to be their 'Home Group'.

## Comparison with Results of Survey 1997

**Gender of AA members** - the proportion of women members has increased to 40% in 2002 from 36 % in 1997

**Age distribution of members** - the percentage of members under 40 years in 2002 are down by one-third over 1997 while those over 50 are up by a third

**Length of sobriety** - the percentage of members with over ten-years' sobriety in 2002 has also increased by one-third over those in 1997

**Frequency of weekly attendance** - down to 2.9 meetings per week in 2002 from 3.3 in 1997

**Home-group membership** - the percentage is down to 88% in 2002 from 92% in 1997

**Addiction to drugs other than alcohol** - members saying 'yes' to this question in 2002 are up by 5% over 1997, bringing the 'yes' figure for 2002 up to 23%

## Developments over the past 25 years

Until the 2002 survey, none of the seven past surveys were structured so as to enable the *size* of the fellowship – in terms of constituent *members* – to be determined. However, they were carried out in a *uniform* way after 1978: this enables meaningful comparisons to be made between various parameters characterising trends in the development of AA over these years. These comparisons are shown in the Tables at the end and discussed in the paragraphs to follow.

**Gender of AA members** - the percentage of women members over the past 25 years has increased from a third to a present level of 40%. Bearing in mind that over this period the number of groups has increased threefold (from a little over 1000 to 3200 today), the proportion of women has remained surprisingly constant. It is now moving upwards.

**Age Distribution of AA members** - the relatively small percentage of younger members in 1978 has further declined over the years, while the over-60 bracket has increased by over 50% during the same period. The middle bracket of 40-year-olds hasn't changed much. The trend suggests that younger members, if coming in, are not staying, while existing ones, of course, are growing older.

**Meeting attendance frequency** - the pattern of attendance frequency has changed over the years. In the early years, 1-2 meetings per week seemed to be sufficient: in the mid-80s the norm had shifted to 3-4 but has moved down to become more a 2-3 pattern at present. The trend to fewer meetings since 1997 is evident (the actual number was 3.3 in 1997 and is 2.9 now).

**Number of years in AA and of sobriety** – the profiles again show in each case the decreasing proportion of younger - and the increasing proportion of older – members as the years progress. Whereas in the early 80s the modal age group was ‘one to two years’ it is now ‘over ten years’.

**Influences on reaching AA** - it is clear that most members reach AA either via another member - or are almost equally likely to come ‘On their own accord’. Quite a large number come in through a Treatment Centre. The Telephone Service accounts now for 10% of total. The Website does not yet seem to be a source of attraction.

**Addiction to drugs other than alcohol** - this percentage has been fluctuating somewhat over the past 25 years but has always been around 20%. The percentage has increased by 5% since 1977 to a level now of 23%. This means that every fourth AA member has at some time been addicted to drugs other than alcohol.

### **Growth & Trends over the past 50 Years**

There has been a decreasing rate of growth in the number of meetings since 1986. The percentage growth rate per annum since the inception of AA in the early 50s show, in the first ten years, huge - and unsustainable - growth rates of some 30 to 20%, falling to 10% by the mid 70s and to 5% by the mid 80s. The average growth level now is around or perhaps less than 1%.

There can be little doubt that the number of AA meetings per week in relative terms has virtually ceased to grow: GSO statistics each quarter clearly show the net figure in Great Britain to be leveling off around 3500. Those who consider that the size of meetings is increasing – and the Fellowship thus to be growing in numbers – are perhaps multi counting some of the members (due to their attendance at several meetings in a week) rather than witnessing real growth in people coming into AA.

In business terms, the growth curve is characteristic of a product or process which has lost its novelty - or is suffering from the effects of emerging competition – and is in need of some form of promotion or revitalization.

Perhaps this could be achieved by the Fellowship thinking more in terms of substance than of form - i.e. by looking outwards at influences, rather than inwards at procedures. Indeed, this is very much the message from the Chairman in his Introduction to the Annual Report – our Primary Purpose will stand to suffer to the extent we allow ourselves to be influenced by less worthy procedures, whereby ‘the end is used to justify the means’. As he so rightly says, “Our common welfare and carrying the AA message must come first”.

**Gender of AA members as a % of total**

Gender	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
male	66	65	65	64	64	60
female	34	35	35	36	36	40

**Addiction to other drugs (%)**

	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
Yes	21	24	26	23	22	24
No	79	76	74	77	76	76

**Age Distribution of AA members (%) since 1978**

Age	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
Up to 29	7	9	9	8	7	5
30 to 39	29	31	30	27	24	19
40 to 49	32	32	36	35	33	29
50 to 59	22	20	16	20	25	30
Over 60	10	8	9	10	11	16

**Frequency of AA Meeting attendance (%)**

	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
5+ /wk	9	13	17	18	22	17.3
3-4 /wk	36	37	46	43	46	41.6
1-2 /wk	53	47	36	38	31	38.9
0-1/mth	2	3	1	1	1	2.2

**Influences on reaching AA (%)**

Source of Entry	1997	2002
Al Anon	2.3	1.0
AA Literature	2.3	0.6
Media	4.1	1.6
Counselling agency	3.9	3.7
Other	4.7	4.5
Doctor	8.5	5.3
Treatment facility	10.3	16.6
Non member*	21.1	2.8
On own accord	18.5	29.6
Member	24.3	24.5
0845 Tel No		9.3
Website		0.4

**Length of Sobriety of AA members (%)**

Sobriety	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
0- 6 mth	26	29	22	20	19	17
7-12 mth	14	10	10	9	10	7
1-2 yrs	13	28	15	13	10	11
2-10 yrs	40	26	45	42	39	36
Over 10 yr	7	7	8	16	22	29

**Number of years membership(%) in AA**

Age group	1978	1981	1986	1991	1997	2002
Under 1 yr	23	24	17	16	13	16
1-2 yrs	13	27	10	11	9	11
2-6 yrs	37	21	32	30	25	24
6-10 yrs	13	16	22	17	18	16
Over 10 yr	14	12	19	26	34	33

Half an hour was then devoted to questions from Delegates. They ranged from seeking assurances that website newcomers would be offered a traditional 12th Step to clarification on legacies to AA, the price of the Big Book and the name-changing of AA Service Offices. All were answered to the satisfaction of Conference.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2002 UPDATES

## **AA News**

The Winter *AA News* was published a little earlier to enable Groups, Intergroups and Regions to have the Questions selected for discussion at Conference in time for their workshops on these. The other articles featured were the World Service Meeting held last October in Spain; an evocative article by a reader on Intergroups which has stimulated considerable discussion; pieces on the Northern and the Scottish National Conventions: the Terms of Reference for Convention Committees - recommended reading for all in view of the very large number of conventions being scheduled by Intergroups these days; and an account of the first Archivists Workshop, at Hereford.

The Spring edition of **AA News** - which came out at the end of February - had as its main theme an account of how it is presently planned to carry the message into black and minority ethnic communities. The edition also reported the final results of the AA Survey carried out last summer. Both these subjects were to be featured in Board presentations at Conference 2003. The edition also carried an article on a delegate's look back at Conference 2002 - which should prove most useful for new delegates.

Conference 2003 will carry a question on how the purpose and objectives of *AA News* can better be achieved. The present Editor looks forward to the Fellowships answer to this and, on that note, stands down from four years in this service position.

## **SHARE**

Figures for the year so far for SHARE magazine show a surplus of £2350.

Five hundred and forty-two Year 2003 calendars were sold, showing a small deficit of £609 (taking into account the print bill which has not yet appeared in the accounts).

The figures for the SHARE 2003 diary (1571 sold) are slightly more complicated to work out as the sales figures come in a different year from the invoice for the printing, which makes the current surplus look enormous. However, if we take the office expenses bill and the print bill (which was in last year's accounts) off the sales amount we arrive at a surplus of £3551. This and the sale of SHARE magazines of course offsets the small loss on the calendars.

## **Northern National Convention**

The audited accounts of the 2002 Northern National Convention, held over from the November AGM, were endorsed by the Trustee on behalf of the three sponsoring Regional Chairmen at the meeting of the Convention Committee held in February 2003. The AGM had already approved in November the accounts in principle but there were a few details to be resolved in the interim. The AGM had also approved the extension of the contract with the Norbreck Castle Hotel to Conventions 2003/2004. Plans for Convention 2003, to be held the weekend after Conference, are well in hand.

## **Southern National Convention**

Many of you will have heard by now that the Southern National Convention has been forced to change venue. The contract we had with Pontin's Camber Sands ran out after the 2002 convention and between Committee meetings. Far from contacting us to negotiate a new contract, Pontin's informed us immediately that they had taken another booking for that weekend and had no weekend free for AA. They suggested two other sites, Pakefield in Norfolk which would only seat 1200 for the Sunday spiritual meeting and is therefore not big enough, and Brean Sands in Somerset. The chairman, convenor, treasurer and floor manager visited this site and began negotiations with Pontin's there. The site was then booked with the full approval of the rest of the committee.

The whole committee visited the site one freezing weekend in January and stayed overnight in some 8 chalets (at Pontin's expense). We toured the site in bright sparkling sunshine on the Saturday morning and were quite impressed. The main meeting sites for AA, AI-Anon and Alateen are now in different buildings, which are not far apart. There are a few blocks of chalets on two floors but the majority are single storey. At every place where there are steps there are also ramps (including chalet entrances) and the whole place is wheelchair-friendly and very accessible for all disabled members. The chalets we stayed in were clean, bright, warm and of a better standard than the ones at Camber (it's a newer site for one thing). There are all the usual facilities we have become used to including snack bar, fish and chip shop, restaurant and a shop for those who wish to cater for themselves. The details of bookings made in advance at Camber have not yet been entered onto the computer at Brean, but will be done so by late March at the very latest.

We are aware that some members may not wish to travel the extra distance to Brean, however being on the other side of the country may well appeal to members living within easy distance who did not fancy travelling to Camber. Dates remain as 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September.

For all members who enjoyed Camber we thank you for your support over the last 15 years, we feel sad that this phase has come to an end but hopefully Brean for 2003 and 2004 (already negotiated) will prove to be just as popular. As for 2005 – well it's a day at a time and we will be negotiating and looking for sites well in advance.

## **Archives**

At the Archives Committee Meeting on 7/2/03 a report about the first Archivists Road Show staged at Hereford 2002 was given. The report was based upon evaluation questionnaires given to attendees.

The Archives Committee agreed to hold the next Archivists Road Show in Oban on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Church of Scotland Hall. Tasks have been delegated to members of the Committee and preparations are underway.

The aim of these events is to bring together, from a certain group of Regions, people who have experience in archival work, and ask them to share their experience with any archives enthusiasts from around the country at a certain date, time and place.

From the feedback obtained about the first event, Hereford has proved to be highly successful, and should serve as an excellent benchmark for the three events to follow.

The number of people accessing the archives at GSO is increasing. The required permissions proforma is issued within the Archives Policy & Procedures Manual. Among the facilities beginning to develop at GSO is a reference library of tapes, CDs, videos and books. These unfortunately cannot be lent out, but can be accessed having first booked a visit.

Long term projects involving development of a cataloguing and reference system are still underway and going to plan.

Rotation of GSB Trustees will lead to a new Chairman being sponsored into the Committee from April this year. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve in this way for the past four years.

### **Southern Service Office**

Two years ago, the London Telephone & 12th Stepping Service introduced logging cards to help telephone volunteers and to provide as much information as possible for Twelfth Steppers. Personal details are shredded, but the anonymous statistics show remarkably consistent pictures. Women are almost half of all calls for help. London newcomers are also much younger generally than the percentages reflected in our national surveys. These figures would be even more encouraging if we could have confidence that a reasonable number of those receiving help go on to get sober...our experience suggests that less than half of those who make that call actually attend an AA meeting... and that of those who do, less than half stay with us. Every year, many hundreds of suffering alcoholics are finding sobriety in the London area alone and we can never quantify the peace and joy being brought to so many shattered lives. Yet they are outnumbered by those who turn away. We need redouble our efforts to ensure that the message of AA recovery is still available throughout our Fellowship.

	<b>1 Mar 2001 - 28 Feb 2002</b>	<b>1 Mar 2002 - 28 Feb 2003</b>
<b>12th Step calls</b>	4,199	4,253
<b>First Contact</b>	3,028 (72%)	3,129 (74%)
<b>Prior Contact</b>	1,171 (28%)	1,124 (26%)
<b>Male</b>	2,153 (51%)	2,171 (51%)
<b>Female</b>	2,046 (49%)	2,082 (49%)
<b>Age 16-25</b>	290 (8%)	282 (7%)
<b>Age 26-45</b>	2,653 (69%)	2,680 (68%)
<b>Age 46-65</b>	853 (22%)	887 (23%)
<b>Over 65</b>	56 (1%)	76 (2%)

## **Northern Service Office**

### **Interface with the Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Centre, Glasgow**

Our first contact with EMEC (Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Centre) was in February 2002 when a meeting was arranged, in March, with two alcohol counsellors where we discussed alcohol issues within the community.

It was stated that there is recognition that there is an increasing 'hidden' alcohol problem within the minority community, especially among the young, and that there is a need for support. It was agreed that the two counsellors would be taken to an open AA meeting and this is being facilitated through a Glasgow Intergroup.

EMEC have a New Futures Inclusion Project for those with alcohol problems but have indicated that they do feel a little isolated from the rest of the alcohol service community, including AA.

There was also an enquiry as to any AA group geared toward this community. As there is no such group in Scotland, it might be worth considering ways in which we might respond to the lack of provision.

There has been a request for ongoing communication with a view to future co-operation.

## SUNDAY 23 MARCH

Chris opened the final session of Conference with a few moments silence followed by the Twelve Traditions read by John H (SSO) and the Preamble by Hazel H (Eastern Region).

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.

Chris 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	44-45
Committee No. 2	Pages	46-47
Committee No. 3	Pages	48-49
Committee No. 4	Pages	50-51
Committee No. 5	Pages	52-56
Committee No. 6	Pages	57-58

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2004

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Dave C (London Region) was duly elected.

### RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Firstly, Mick W, outgoing Chairman of the Board, asked Conference to ratify the nominated Board Members, listed below, for which there was unanimous approval:

Ann S	-	South East Region
Archie G	-	South West Scotland Region
Sally R	-	South West Region
Ralph A	-	Wales & Borders Region
John L	-	Scotia Region
Roger B	-	North West Region
Siva Kalappadi	-	Non-Alcoholic Trustee
Carol Titley	-	Non-Alcoholic Trustee

### Rotating out:

Clifford S	-	South West Region
Michael C	-	South West Scotland Region
Gareth L	-	Wales & Borders Region
Ian H	-	North West Region

Mick thanked the above four for their tremendous output of work, support and wisdom upon which he had drawn upon on numerous occasions. They have his respect and love.

Mick went on to welcome the new General Secretary, Ann N., together with the two new Executive Members of the Board, being Willem V-H as Vice Chairman and Maurice B as Chairman of the Board.

*In conclusion he added "I have seen changes in the Board over the past six and half years that I have been privileged to be a member. I have seen a unity, a strength, a delivery of service to the Fellowship that would have been beyond my wildest dreams when I joined six and a half years ago.*

*If you look around at the Board what you see now is something you have never seen - you have an almost perfect reflection of society - social, economic background, race, colour, creed, male and female, a real build-up on the female side.*

*I have seen these people work and get through things that I would have thought would have been impossible. We have seen the web, PI, Ethnic Minorities, we have seen great moves forward and this is what your Board has given you.*

*Most of all what I have seen in the past six and a half years is a tremendous unity, a coming together, working together and the word I love most of all, "trust". I trust these people with all my heart and all I would like to say to them is thank you for the trust you placed in me. It has been an immense privilege and something that I will take with me forever - thank you.*

*To the General Service Office (thanks) for their immense support. You have a magnificent General Service Office staff and (to) the staff in the Southern and Northern Service Offices... I thank them.*

*To my greatest buddy of all, Jim K, General Secretary, who has covered my back so many times I have forgotten, he has shown me a love and an understanding and I think if anybody takes one person (in trust) throughout their life and they find somebody who does that, then they are immensely privileged and I have had that.*

*Last of all, to you folk for trusting me and for being who you are, you are lovely and I thank you very much".*

Michael C, on behalf of the General Service Board, thanked Mick for his wonderful leadership and wished him well for the future.

## **CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**

**(Chris A)**

In closing Chris paid tribute to all delegates for the hard work put in over the weekend, seeing the unanimity that resulted from the work of the Committees when it came before plenary session had been "totally amazing".

He thanked all members of the Conference Steering Committee for their dedication,

members of the General Service Office for their support and assistance and the whole of Conference for electing him as Chairman. He went on to say:

*“When I first came into the Fellowship I didn’t trust anybody. I didn’t trust a Higher Power because otherwise why is my life so awful, why don’t things happen as I want them to happen? I didn’t trust any authority figures and that included organisations, therefore that included AA and I didn’t trust any human being because I couldn’t trust myself.*

*Gradually, you – through love and care and me just turning up at meetings – you taught me, or I learned to trust God, to trust AA and to trust each other. When, a few years ago, I realised I had to study even more of AA’s history so that I would hopefully be as competent as possible, I started studying the Concepts and I very soon came across Concept Three, a part of which I will quote now, Bill W, of course, saying: **Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other.** Thank you”.*

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE**

The Thirty-Ninth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the University of York on 2-4 April 2004.

## COMMITTEE No. 1 - INTERNAL

---

CHAIRMAN      RALPH A      WALES & BORDERS REGION

SECRETARY      MARY G      NORTH EAST REGION

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

**1. Is our message of love and service as clear as it could be to all parts of the community?**

No.

**Would Conference explore ways in which we could improve this?**

It could be improved upon by the Fellowship carrying the message of love and service internally to its membership, to encourage people into service by practising the principles laid down in the preamble and sponsoring people through the 12 Step Programme and Traditions.

If the internal is right, we can address the external.

Externally, we can improve the way in which we carry AA's message of recovery to all parts of our multi-cultural community by increased co-operation with voluntary and professional services and the media.

The Committee's vote was unanimous.

**2. Would Conference recommend ways in which our Fellowship can reach out more effectively to young people?**

Reaching out more effectively to young people requires their considered input and participation.

The Committee recommends that the GSB organise and set Terms of Reference for a project team of young people in recovery to fully review the ways in which we can reach out more effectively and to report back to Conference in 2004.

The Committee suggests that areas of focus for this project team should include an overhaul of literature, the internet, co-operation with outside organisations and the media.



The team could also take into account young people twelfth-stepping young people, a social element, the AA experience of other countries, the legislation regarding minors and the ways in which the Fellowship welcomes young people into recovery.

Whilst this work is going on, the Committee suggests that all levels of service are conscious of the need to improve the ways in which we reach young people and that current initiatives should not be halted.

The Committee's vote was unanimous.

**3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Mary G of North East Region as Chairman of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2004.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Miranda M of London Region as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2004.

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

## COMMITTEE No. 2 - INTERNAL

---

CHAIRMAN      JOHN T T      LONDON REGION

SECRETARY      SHONA P      SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

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

**1. Would Conference consider the requirements and responsibilities of the Group Service Representative in AA's structure and emphasise the importance of the GSR in this structure?**

The Committee feels that Guideline 3 adequately defines the requirements and responsibilities of the GSR and best practice. However, we feel that this does not always reflect reality where it is often difficult to attract group members into service.

The Committee would like to emphasise the following:

1. Sponsorship into Service through Group and Intergroup:
  - We recommend that the Literature Committee produce a pamphlet to attract members into this important role.
  - We suggest a literature pack to support GSRs, (which should include Guideline 3, the *12 Traditions Illustrated* and the *12 Concepts Illustrated*) be held at Intergroups for new GSRs.
2. All groups are encouraged to come into the AA Service structure and practise the Home Group principle.

When sharing, GSRs should be encouraged to talk about their service work. Service is an expression of love and is the essence of growth in AA.

The Committee's vote was unanimous.

**2. Would Conference discuss and consider replacing the "by hat" process when electing Conference Chairperson?**

This Committee has carefully considered and discussed this question and is of the unanimous opinion that the modified Third Legacy voting procedure as recommended by Committee 5 Question 3 at Conference 1998, should remain unchanged.

In order to provide continuity in our future publications, we recommend that the position

Chairperson of Conference continues to be referred to as Conference Chair as stated in Section 10 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

**3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Peter K of North West Region as Chairman of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2004.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Anne B of Glasgow Region as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2004.

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

## COMMITTEE No. 3 - INTERNAL

---

CHAIRMAN      DAVE O      MIDLANDS REGION

SECRETARY      RUSS C      NORTH EAST REGION

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

- 1. In line with Conference 1992, the six London Intergroups south of the River Thames have agreed to ask their groups to consider forming a second London Region. Would Conference confirm that this Region will be accorded full representation at Conference and General Service Board level before Conference 2004?**

This Committee was evenly split (8 for, 8 against and 1 undecided) over this question and felt that all background material had not been fully circulated.

The Committee feels that in order to have a full and informed group conscience, the Fellowship must be in possession of the conscience of all parties to this question, which would serve as the background to the Conference question.

It is recommended that the question be referred back to Conference 2004 and that all relevant background material be submitted to Conference Steering Committee by the closing date for Conference Questions 2004 (31 August 2003).

The Committee voted 16 for, 1 against.

- 2. Review the current process whereby the Trustees are selected and elected and make recommendations.**

This Committee feels that the current process for selecting and electing alcoholic Trustees is working well.

We recommend that non-alcoholic trustee positions be advertised in "AA News", hopefully extending the scope for selection.

- 3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Russ C from North East Region as Chairman of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2004.

**4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Vince O from South Midlands Region as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2004.

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

# THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2003

## COMMITTEE No. 4 - INTERNAL

---

CHAIRMAN      DAVE C      LONDON REGION

SECRETARY      JIM T      NORTH WEST REGION

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

**1. Would Conference please consider the purpose and objectives of the AA News and discuss how these can be better achieved?**

The consensus was that AA News has a hugely important role to fulfil as the principal vehicle of service communication within the Fellowship. The Committee felt that AA News had done much good work in this respect, but the difficulty arose in getting members to read it.

The Committee recognised the need to support the editorial process and recommends a small team of non-Board members be recruited by the Editor to assist and to promote the publication in their areas and to encourage local contributions on service.

The Committee recommended that the title be changed to AA Service News in order to better reflect its content and purpose.

In order to engage all levels within the service structure we recommend that there be regular additional features reflecting service at group, intergroup and regional levels.

We also recommend that there be increased regional content. Groups, Intergroups and Regions should be encouraged to submit service-related articles on a regular basis.

Suggested article themes for consideration might include International News, Service vacancies, future themes and archives.

**Distribution:**

The committee discussed distribution and recommends that it continues in its present format of 3 copies to every group. Success of distribution depends absolutely on up-to-date records being maintained by regular submission of pink forms to GSO. Groups should make copies of AA Service News available and promote its readership within their group.

**Style:**

We recommend the Editor and team consider re-styling the presentation in order to enhance its visual appeal.

The Committee examined the Terms of Reference and recommends a number of amendments to Conference for consideration to reflect the changes suggested above.

Change all reference of AA News to AA Service News  
ToR and Policy: Line 1 input of 'service matters' after 'communication'  
The role of the Editor: Line 1 remove 'one of'  
Line 2 change 'they' to 'The Editor'  
Add the following to the end of the paragraph  
'In addition a small team be recruited by the Editor to assist in that process, to promote the publication in their areas and encourage local contributions on service.'

**2. Would Conference please consider the appropriateness of Jersey Intergroup's Delegate representation at Conference?**

There was some discussion on the background information provided with this question. It was felt by a number of delegates that there was insufficient information to enable us to make an informed Group conscience recommendation. It also became clear that there were a number of inconsistencies in the background information provided.

The Committee agreed that on the face of it Jersey's representation as set down in the Conference Charter was anomalous and does not fit current structure.

Our recommendations are as follows:

That Jersey Intergroup, Guernsey Intergroup, and South West Region along with other interested parties examine all of the options available to them and resubmit the question for 2004, with researched options, including the status quo and sufficient background material to help Conference formulate an informed group conscience.

In the interim period, we recommend that the status quo be maintained as set out in the Conference Charter, in that 2 delegates represent the conscience of Jersey Intergroup at Conference 2004.

**3. Review Terms of Reference of the Conference Steering Committee.**

The Committee recommends to Conference that the Terms of Reference as issued to delegates be accepted for inclusion in the Group Service Handbook of Great Britain as published, with the following minor amendment:

In the paragraph commencing with the words 'Firstly it is primarily' ....., remove 'a theme for the workshop' on Line two and input 'time for open forum'.

**4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Bob C from South Midlands Region as Chairman of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2004.

**5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Richard H from Eastern Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2004.

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

# THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2003

## COMMITTEE No. 5 - LITERATURE

---

CHAIRMAN      ROWLAND B      NORTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY      PHIL W      WALES & BORDERS REGION

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

- 1. Would Conference consider that all proposed changes made to AA literature are always tabled as questions for Conference?**

The Committee recommends that any proposed changes to AA literature need not be tabled as questions for Conference.

The GSB Literature Committee and the existing structure is adequate to safeguard our Fellowship's traditions.

(The recommendation was carried by 17 votes to nil, with 1 abstention).

- 2. Could older members serve a second term as Conference delegate after a ten-year break? (This picks up on the report of Committee 2 for 2002).**

The unanimous conscience of the Committee is that delegates should not serve at Conference for a second term. In keeping with the traditions of the Fellowship, the spiritual principle of rotation should be maintained as stated in Guideline 3.

- 3. Review Guideline No. 8 'AA and Employment'.**

Guideline No 8 'AA and Employment' was unanimously approved – no changes.

- 4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected John D of South East Region as Chairman of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2004.

- 5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Barbara G of Continental European Region as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2004.

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











# THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2003

## COMMITTEE No. 6 - EXTERNAL

---

CHAIRMAN      IAN D                      NORTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY      MARIAN O'B      LONDON REGION

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

### 1.      **What does the Fellowship want to see an Official AA Website contain?**

The Committee discussed in detail specific material that the Fellowship would like to see on the official AA website. The number of specific items discussed/suggested are too many to be reproduced here in their entirety. The suggestions from the Fellowship were considered in the light of recent developments of the official website and the work in progress of the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee. A number of specific areas were referred back to the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee. We recommend that a guideline for Electronic Communications be prepared for future Conference.

The decision was unanimous.

### 2.      **Would Conference consider changing the Probation Liaison Officer's title to a new title, such as Legal Liaison Officer and bring within the position's remit all non-prison Legal organisations which may come in contact with the suffering alcoholic, e.g. the Police and the Courts, as well as the probation service? Make recommendations.**

This Committee recommends that the title Probation/Social Services Liaison Officer remains unchanged. We recommend that their remit includes all non-prison judicial organisations.

This decision was unanimous.

### 3.      **Review Guideline No. 10 'AA members employed in the Alcoholism Field'.**

The Committee refers this guideline back to the Literature Committee for the following reason:

- This guideline was not received in sufficient time to be discussed by all Regions.

This guideline should be re-presented at Conference 2004.

This decision was unanimous.

**4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Pam S from Eastern Region as Chairman of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2004.

**5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2004.**

The Committee elected Sue W from Wales & Borders as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2004.

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

THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2003

**LIST OF DELEGATES**

**CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN:**      **ChrisA**              (Eastern Region)

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD**

		<b>COMMITTEE NUMBER</b>	<b>TERM OF SERVICE</b>
Mick	W		
Maurice	B	2	
Paul	F		
John	A	5	
Michael	C	3	
Dianne	C-T	5	
Stan	F	3	
Ian	H	4	
Pravin	K	1	
Gareth	L	6	
Peter	L	3	
Betty	MacN	4	
Ronda	M	2	
Dora	M	6	
Clifford	S	5	
Tim	S	1	
Willem	V H	2	
Jackie Chang		4	
Siva Kalappadi		1	
Bronwen Still		4	
Archie	G (Elect)	3	
Sally	R (Elect)	5	
Ann	S (Elect)	2	

**GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF**

Jim K              General Secretary  
Sharon Smyth  
Chris North  
Ann N  
Elaine Pickering  
Angela Varley  
Jean Webb  
Neil W  
John H  
Charlie S

**SHARE**

Malcolm	O	4	1
---------	---	---	---

**ROUNABOUT**

Mick	H	6	1
------	---	---	---

		<b>COMMITTEE NUMBER</b>	<b>TERM OF SERVICE</b>
--	--	-----------------------------	----------------------------

### **EASTERN REGION**

Tony	M	1	1
Ruth	I	2	2
Marilyn	F	3	1
Richard	H	4	1
Hazel	H	5	1
Pam	S	6	2

### **LONDON REGION**

Miranda	McD	1	1
John	TT	2	3
Brian	L	3	2
David	C	4	3
John	A	5	3
Marion	O	6	3

### **MIDLANDS REGION**

Chaz	G	1	1
Yvonne	C	2	1
Dave	O	3	3
Ken	P	4	1
Marilyn	B	5	1
Helen	C	6	2

### **NORTH EAST REGION**

Mary	G	1	2
Sue	B	2	1
Russ	C	3	2
Mary	S	4	1
Rowland	B	5	2
Ian	D	6	3

### **NORTH WEST REGION**

Marge	B	1	1
Peter	K	2	2
John	K	3	2
Jim	T	4	2
Nancy	K	5	2
Bryan	H	6	3



**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER**

**TERM OF  
SERVICE**

**SOUTH EAST REGION**

Molly	D	1	A
Jimmy	B	2	2
		3	
Felicity	P	4	2
John	D	5	1
Peter	G	6	1

**SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION**

Dave	E	1	1
Peter	H	2	1
Vince	O	3	2
Bob	C	4	2
Maggie	S	5	2
Brenda	T	6	2

**SOUTH WEST REGION**

John	K	1	3
Nick	R	2	1
Wayne	P	3	3
John	O	4	1
Jerry	D	5	1
Peter	S	6	1

**WALES & BORDERS REGION**

Ralph	A	1	3
Viv	S	2	2
Harry	S	3	1
Phil	P	4	1
Phil	W	5	2
Sue	W	6	1

**EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION**

Ella	K	1	A
Billy	C	2	1
Hugo	D	3	A
Peter	M	4	3
Roy	M	5	1
Suzi	E	6	2

**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER**

**TERM OF  
SERVICE**

**GLASGOW REGION**

James	G	1	2
Anne	B	2	2
Norman	B	3	1
Allan	M	4	A
John	D	5	1
Mary	B	6	3

**HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION**

Andy	Mac	1	1
David	R	2	2
Willie	G	3	1
Myra	S	4	3
Margaret	M	5	A
Rae	J	6	2

**SCOTIA REGION**

Pat	L	1	A
Michael	C	2	3
Martin	B	3	1
Eddie	H	4	1
Eddie	G	5	1
Michael	B	6	3

**SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION**

Billy	B	1	3
Shona	P	2	3
John	Q	3	2
Mary	M	4	1
Alasdair	MacA	5	1
Eddy	S	6	1

**CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION**

Jan	BB	1	1
Cyrus	K	2	2
Randy	M	3	2
Beth	S	4	1
Barbara	G	5	1
Bill	R	6	1

**COMMITTEE  
NUMBER**

**TERM OF  
SERVICE**

**JERSEY INTERGROUP**

Pat	H	4	2
Susan	M	6	1

## Glossary of Abbreviations used in this report

<i>AA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
<i>AAWS</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
<i>CSC</i>	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
<i>ESM</i>	-	<i>European Service Meeting</i>
<i>GSB</i>	-	<i>General Service Board</i>
<i>GSO</i>	-	<i>General Service Office</i>
<i>GSPIC</i>	-	<i>General Service Public Information Committee</i>
<i>GSR</i>	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
<i>NAT</i>	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
<i>NSO</i>	-	<i>Northern Service Office</i>
<i>PICPC</i>	-	<i>Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community</i>
<i>PLO</i>	-	<i>Probation Liaison Officer</i>
<i>PSA</i>	-	<i>Public Service Announcement</i>
<i>SSO</i>	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
<i>TLO</i>	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>TOR</i>	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>

# 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.





