

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Forty-Third General Service Conference

18-20 April 2008
The Riverside & Henley Suite
Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York

Unity Service Recovery



General Service Office of AA
PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

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Forty-Third
General Service Conference

*Unity Service
Recovery*



FORTY-THIRD GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2008

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 18 April 2008

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Nominations - Conference Chair 2009

Committee Meetings Commence

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 1)

Saturday 19 April 2008

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 2)

Open Forum

Sunday 20 April 2008

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chair for the Forty-Fourth General Service
Conference

Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 18 APRIL

The Forty-Third General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at the Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York – a venue situated in the heart of the City of York and only a few minutes walk from the Railway Station. The first plenary session was held in the Riverside Suite and thereafter in the Henley Suite.

After lunch, registration and distribution of folders commenced at 1 pm and 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 and observers attending for the first time. After the opening session which started at 2.45pm, Committee proceedings commenced at 4.00pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 95 delegates from sixteen Regions; one delegate each from 'Share' and 'Roundabout', 23 members of the General Service Board, Tim W-M - Conference Chairman, the General Secretary and 8 members of staff. Also in attendance were 8 Observers from the following countries:

Belgium (Flemish Speaking)	(1)
Denmark	(2)
Latvia	(1)
Poland	(1)
Netherlands	(1)
USA	(2)

Total in attendance 138.

Opening of Conference by Tim W-M (Conference Chair 2008)

The first full session, which commenced at 2.45 pm, was opened by the Conference Chair, Tim W-M (South West Region). He started the proceedings with the Preamble and asked for a moment's silence to remember our Primary Purpose.

Tim welcomed all present and went on to explain how the voting procedure would work over the weekend and who was eligible to vote. He then invited the General Secretary, Ann N, to read the Twelve Traditions, the orientation containing last-minute changes and the National Convention dates, which are as follows:

Scottish Convention	-	9 th – 11 th May 2008
Welsh Convention	-	30 th May – 1 st June 2008
Southern Convention	-	12 th – 14 th September 2008
Northern Convention	-	27 th – 29 th March 2009

Tim continued with the presentation of his **Keynote Address**:

I am an alcoholic, my name is Tim and, just for today, I am sober.

As your elected Chair for Conference 2008, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all, especially our first-year delegates, the 'red-dots.' We all know how daunting it can be to serve here for the first time and I rest content with the certain knowledge that the other delegates will make you feel welcome and help you to contribute to Conference in a meaningful way. I also welcome the members of the Board of Trustees, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, who give of so much of their time to serve the Fellowship as a whole. Lastly, I wish to extend the warm hand of fellowship to our overseas observers; truly this is a worldwide Fellowship bound by Unity, Service and Recovery.

I thank all our second and third year delegates for allowing me the somewhat daunting privilege of serving the Fellowship as Chair of Conference this year. As one duty arising out of that, I have had the honour of chairing four meetings of the Conference Steering Committee since the conclusion of Conference 2007. The Steering Committee have made tireless efforts to make this Conference relevant to the needs of the Fellowship in the UK and Europe so that AA may continue to evolve in a healthy manner. My most profound thanks must go to our General Secretary, Ann N, and the Conference Co-ordinator, Sharon, whose guidance, experience and advice have been invaluable. However I must point out that they do NOT take an active part in the debates of the Steering Committee, but help us stay focused on the task in hand as well as providing the essential link between one Conference and another. I would also like to pay tribute the members of staff from GSO who are here simply to assist us in the smooth running of Conference, their contribution is invaluable.

Sadly, the number of questions and themes for discussion coming from the Fellowship was down on last year's, admittedly high, numbers, but nonetheless they have provided us all with some meaty and highly relevant issues to discuss.

Every delegate here today owes the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous their life and we are here to make decisions that will affect the Fellowship as a whole. Therefore, it will not be surprising if some of our debates over the next few days become heated. However, while debate is healthy, we need to remember to place principles before personalities. To coin a phrase from last year's Chair, Chris F, we need to learn 'How to disagree without being personally disagreeable.' In this Conference there is no 'us and them' at any level; on either side of any debate; or between one region and another, much less between delegates and board members. We are all Recovering Alcoholics doing our human and fallible best to enhance and preserve the Fellowship we all love and strengthen its ability to discharge its Primary Purpose.

I chose the theme of 'Unity, Service and Recovery' for several reasons. Each one of us has learned that Service to the Fellowship of AA enhances and

deepens the whole recovery process. We have all learned the value of tolerance through contact with other dedicated members at Intergroup and Regional level. It was there that we began to appreciate the true Unity that lies at the heart of our Fellowship and is essential for recovery; that no one among us has a monopoly on either truth or experience; it was through serving the Fellowship that we have gained experience, some degree of wisdom and a real insight as to how the Fellowship really works. Yet, despite this, the attitude still persists among far too many members that there is some invisible division that separates Recovery and Service. All too often I have heard the dreadful phrase ‘I only come here for Recovery – I don’t want to get involved with AA ‘politics.’ – whatever that is! The triangle within the circle, the emblem of AA, is a stable structure comprising ‘Unity, Service, and Recovery’. Take any one side away and the whole structure collapses and, therefore, without service there can be neither unity or recovery. We each have a duty to all our fellow-members and that is to stress the benefits we have gained in our personal recovery from service within AA and, thereby, encourage others to serve in their turn.

I was not simply encouraged to serve AA, I was told to. The maxim my sponsor engraved on my heart was simply that ‘Service keeps you sober.’ That is just as true today as it was then. Yesterday, for example, I celebrated 37 years of continuous and contented sobriety. How did this come about? First things first! One day at a time I stayed away from the first drink. I went to plenty of meetings. I worked the Twelve Steps with a good sponsor. I have sponsored, and still sponsor, others. But, above all, I have served the Fellowship that gave me my life, sobriety and such semblance of sanity as I may have. I find it impossible to differentiate between these various factors and say which has been the most important. Sponsorship and working the Steps got me sober – up to some primary school level at least. Love and fellowship provided the secondary education, but it was service that proved to be the real university of sober living, and still remains so.

Let each and everyone of us bring to this Conference the understanding and insight that service to AA has taught us. Let us disagree, where we have to, with tolerance, acceptance and love. Let us treat our fellow recovering alcoholics with the same degree of honesty, dignity and attention that we would like to receive ourselves. Let us listen to one another with deep attention that the love of this Fellowship demands; vote according to your conscience for the good of the Fellowship as a whole; show the same love to your fellow delegates as you would to a newcomer and, when Conference is over we can leave knowing that we have all done our best for the Fellowship that is founded on Love.

Now let the real meat of Conference commence. I shall try to facilitate debate in as non-obstructive manner as possible. Please direct all questions to Board members through the Chair. While voting I will do my utmost to speed the process up, but with the need to establish whether or not we reach a two-thirds majority, that may, from time to time, be a trifle tedious, so please bear with me. Last year, when elected, I promised to do my best and I intend to keep that

promise. However, I am human and I will make mistakes which will, at least, give my successor some room to manoeuvre next year.

Conference Steering Committee Report

Wynford O (Wales & Borders Region), Alternate Chair

Fellow delegates (red dots in particular), Trustees and members of the General Service Board, GSO staff, and Observers, welcome to this 43rd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is my responsibility, as Alternate Chair of Conference, to tell you briefly what we got up to during the year as a Conference Steering Committee.

We met four times during the year (always on a weekend), and we would work from 5pm on the Friday until 8 o'clock, after which, invariably, we'd enjoy a slap-up meal together, before resuming our deliberations on the Saturday morning and working from 9am until 12.00 noon. I always managed to listen to the rugby commentary on the radio on my return train journey to Cardiff, incidentally, you'll be glad to hear. I mention this just in order to be able to remind you that Wales won the RBS Six Nations Grand Slam *and* the Triple Crown. There, that's bolstered my self-esteem no end!

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Fellowship on the Steering Committee, especially in the company of other members who brought such a wealth of experience to bear in such a harmonious, easy-going and beneficial way. Irrespective of how this Conference goes, therefore, I've already benefited immeasurably through my participation and involvement so far. On behalf of the Committee I'd also like to thank Ann N, our General Secretary, and Sharon Smyth, the Conference Co-ordinator, for their innate wisdom, and exquisite guidance and encouragement throughout. Thank you.

Three recommendations from Conference 2007 were uppermost in our minds as we set about our work this year: 1) how to improve working practices (*see question 1 committee 2*); 2) that we review yearly the Conference Steering Committee Terms of Reference and publish them in the AA Service News (*see question 3 committee 2*); and 3) that we, as individual members of the Steering Committee, be responsible for conducting our own research to 'include as much information as is available on the topic - not just the background material suggested by the questioner' - in order to enable Conference to make fully informed decisions (*see question 2 committee 3*).

Last year, delegates will recall, the plenary session of Conference was extended by one hour. Our Committee decided to keep to this, and noted Committee 3's recommendation to Conference 2007 that 'better use of Conference time was the answer to increased productivity'.

The Steering Committee Terms of Reference were discussed, amended and duly published in the June edition of AA Service News. Members will have noted that the heading "Questions for Conference" has been changed to "Questions

and Topics for Discussion at Conference”, with the word “submissions” being used thereafter instead of “questions”. The thinking behind this was to make it easier for members to bring topics to Conference - as it is much harder, the Committee felt, to formulate a question. It also goes some way, we believe, in taking away the adversarial qualities inherent in the word “questions”. (Interestingly, when AA Service News asked for Themes for Conference in 2006 they were inundated with suggested topics). We are not, incidentally, taking away the right of members to ask a question, just trying to be more specific and encouraging of members submitting topics. That is the only reason for the above amendment, which is in line with Committee 3’s recommendation to Conference 2001 to ‘invite topics from the Fellowship for discussion’.

The Fellowship responded with 46 Questions and Topics for possible discussion at this Conference. There was some duplication; some questions addressed issues that were of no consequence to the Fellowship as a whole; and a number would have resulted in having to create rules and regulations (And as Bill W. states in *The Language of the Heart*, page 7: ‘Rules and regulations seem to be little good for us. They seldom work well’). Others posed questions where answers already existed within the AA Guidelines, or had already been addressed at Conference during the last three years; and some, alas, provided little or no background information.

However, in line with this year’s theme, Unity Service Recovery, and in addition to the accepted Questions and Topics for Discussion at Conference, the Steering Committee, using the concerns expressed in some of the rejected questions, has created additional composite Questions and Topics. These will look at some of the Services provided by the Fellowship, and how best to improve their working practices.

Incidentally, regarding the third recommendation from Conference 2007 to conduct our own research ‘to include as much information as is possible on the topic’ – only you, the delegates to Conference this year, can be the judges of whether that has been successful or not. Certainly the exercise has better informed us, as members of the Steering Committee, about the issues that are currently of concern to the Fellowship.

In my delegate’s report to my Region and Intergroups following last year’s successful Conference, I wrote how Conference had, and I quote, ‘exemplified the theme of Unity – there was no disunity or unpleasantness whatsoever, and an atmosphere of love and fellowship prevailed to the very end’.

That I may be able to make similar complementary comments following this year’s Conference is my dearest held wish. Thank you.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIR 2009

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chair of the Forty-Fourth General Service Conference 2009:

Dave A	-	Continental European Region
Gabriella A	-	Eastern Region
John H	-	South West Scotland Region
Peter F	-	South East Region
Wynford O	-	Wales & Borders 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 3.45 pm with Tim asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING

Tim welcomed everyone and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence and handed over to Ralph A, Chairman of the Board, to introduce the General Service Board Report.

General Service Board Report

(Ralph A)

Good evening Conference, firstly I would like to welcome all delegates, especially those attending for the first time and thank those delegates in their final year. I would also like to thank the overseas observers for attending.

The General Service Board/General Service Office continue to be asked to share experience with other countries, particularly in Europe and Africa and we have had several requests for details of our service structure and how it developed.

During the course of Conference, Trustees will be presenting their reports in their usual polished manner and I have no wish to pre-empt these. There are two DVD projects ongoing, one will be presented to Conference and the other DVD (which is still in the can) will be an Archival history of Alcoholics Anonymous in England, Scotland and Wales.

The General Service Board (GSB) have carried out and completed all the recommendations proposed by Conference 2007.

At last year's Conference I reported that the General Service Office (GSO) had moved from Stonebow House to Toft Green, I think the term "settled in" is quite apt.

Besides the office in York there are two other offices, the Northern Service Office (NSO) is sited in Glasgow and the Southern Service Office in London (SSO).

At the November 2007 GSB meeting the General Secretary informed the Trustees that the lease for the SSO would come to an end the autumn of 2009 and the building will be demolished. It was agreed by the GSB that a meeting be arranged for January 2008 involving all interesting parties to discuss and make preparations for the eventual relocation of the SSO Cynthia Street.

This meeting took place at the SSO Cynthia Street on January 19th 2008 with representatives from all the interested parties present. After discussing a number of options, it was agreed that a new office would be sought, to be easily accessible to the London transport system, and the status quo will remain for the other service presently using the SSO office.

The theme for Conference 2007 was Unity Our Future. I believe I witnessed this at that meeting...

Telephones

(Ian D\Anne McD)

My name is Ian and I'm an alcoholic and I have Anne here who will be presenting the Telephone Report with me. For the last four years I have had the great privilege to serve the North East Region and the General Service Board and the time has come for me to rotate out.

These four years have been fantastic to see how the telephone service has progressed. It is diverse up and down the Country as we meet the different local needs. As we speak at the moment the telephone is being answered by responders across the country, and to them, I say, thank you.

In the last three to four years we have seen the merging of link lines, we have seen the change from land line use to mobile use, we have moved from eight distribution centres to seventy-four and we have had two Telephone Seminars. We have produced a special edition of the Telephone AA Service News. Our number is now in the BT Helpline section and in the Business section.

In 2003/4 the cost to Inbound services was approximately £22,000 and in 2006/7 it was just over £10,000. I often wondered when I took over the telephone service what was the total cost of the whole telephone service – at the moment we have had to take some averages so the figure is only an approximate one but hopefully by next year we will have a more accurate figure. With the help of BT the non-0845 numbers have come to approximately £27,000, inbound service cost for the year is approximately £9,000 which means the telephone service has cost us approximately £36,000.

I will now pass you over to Anne who will give our up to date report.

My name is Anne and I'm an Alcoholic, I would like to thank Ian for the introduction and I hope I can keep up the high standards he has given this service over the last 4 years. The National Telephone Sub-Committee work really hard throughout the year to make it easy for me to make this presentation tonight.

I would like to start by thanking everyone who answers the telephone to the still suffering alcoholic, whether it is as office volunteers or home based responders, 24 hours or not.

I would also like to thank the GSO staff for all the help they have been to me, Sophie in particular.

The Terms of Reference of the Telephone Sub-Committee, are as follows:

To maintain the existing telephone system, to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.

To keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.

To be responsible for all changes to the system and to liaise with the system providers following consultation with Regions.

To investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service.

To keep a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

The Committee is a sub committee of the Board and will be chaired by the Trustee with responsibility for the telephone service. Membership will normally consist of three members drawn from participating Regions, who will have a suitable experience to participate in committee functions. Where possible this will recognise geographical spread.

Membership of the Committee will be for a period of four years, allowing one year for sponsorship, thus the Committee will be increased during sponsorship periods.

Conference 2007 Recommendations

Committee 1, question 1: Review the objective of the National Telephone Helpline and share experience. The recommendations were:

1. This Committee suggests that the National Telephone Sub-Committee consults the Regions and Intergroups as to the feasibility of providing a national 24-hour service and report back to Conference 2008.
2. We also recommend that Guideline 6 (AA Telephone Services) be reviewed and that a further seminar would be beneficial.

We have addressed these recommendations and can confirm the following:

1. The feasibility of providing a national 24-hour service has been carried out and will continue to be reviewed and assessed with the co-operation of Regions and Intergroups. The general consensus is that, at present, it is not feasible for all Regions and Intergroups to provide a 24-hour service and thus not possible for us to provide a national 24-hour service..
2. We held another seminar on 8th March 2008, which again was a great success. A lot of good suggestions, comments and feedback have come through from those who attended. The revised Guideline No. 6 will be with the Literature Committee very soon and should be in Conference 2009.

Now for all the facts and figures...

Inbound Services.

The cost of the 0845 national numbers in 2007 was £8,137.46, ex VAT, and includes costs of £44.56 for calls attributed to Public Information (actual 2007

bill £9,722.94, inc VAT). This is a saving of £734.51 against 2006 billing, which in part is due to reduced call volumes.

An additional cost that has been incurred is for the national 0845 entry into all of the BT Business Directory listings, this costs £110.00 per month and ensures that the national 0845 number appears in ALL BT directories in both the front 'helpline' section and business directory listings. The sub committee continue to ensure that the national 0845 number appears in all physical directories which utilise the National Helpline Directory, such as BT and Yellow Pages. It is important to note that when directory entries are changed this may take up to 12 months to actualise, due to the printing methods used for such directories.

Last year, Ian D informed Conference 2007 that we had asked Regional TLOs and Treasurers to provide the sub-committee with information so that we could report at Conference 2008 as to the cost of the whole telephone service, as he stated:

“To provide a more accurate picture of the cost of our Whole Telephone Services we have asked RTLO & Regional Treasurers to gather information to assist us”

The collection of the required information was not complete, however we estimate, with the assistance of BT, that the cost of non-0845 billing was approximately £23,000, ex VAT, (£27,000 inc VAT) for 2007. In line with our Terms of Reference, we continue the review of costs and service providers that best serves the Fellowship's Telephone Service. As a result we have re-signed contracts with BT and hope to see a significant saving of approximately 25% on the costs of 2007 for the non-0845 billing. Additionally new services provided by BT should enable the sub-committee to confirm exactly what the cost of the whole telephone service is for Conference 2009.

An important element is that none of the current local telephone service billing methods will be affected; however savings should be applied and seen from early 2008. Additionally the BT business plan ensures that calls to mobile phones are capped, generating further savings.

Call Volume.

124,333 national 0845 number calls were answered in 2007. This accounts for 79.8% of calls made to our national 0845 numbers.

Average call times remain constant at 4.6 minutes per call. We had 578,457 call minutes in 2007, which is over 9,640 hours, or 26.5 hours of calls per day (24 hour period).

The call volume is down by 7.5% against the call volume for 2006. The biggest impact being landline calls, where we see a drop of 11.4% while we continue to see an increase in mobile calls, which increased by 4.2% on 2006.

We continue to see this constant increase in calls from mobile phones, which now accounts for 27.8% of all calls to our 0845 numbers. This has steadily risen year-on-year over the last five years, from 15.4% in 2002. A trend that hasn't

dropped, even though our call volume has dropped since its peak of 140,340 calls in 2004.

Against the 2002 call volume, which is very similar to 2007 (a difference of just 30 calls), our ratio of mobile phone calls to the 0845 numbers has increased by 81% in just five years!

And finally...

This year we have increased the sub-committee by 1 and hope to have another member to join us soon, the position has been advertised in the AA Service News. This is to compensate for the work load we have.

Once again, many thanks to everyone that is involved with providing telephone services within AA (GB).

Meeting the Needs of Members with Disabilities

(Roger B)

Response to:

Forty Second General Service Conference 2007

Committee 6 – Question 2

Q: Discuss, Share experience and make recommendations on how the Fellowship can better meet the needs of members with disabilities

A: a) The Committee recommends that the GSB select a trustee to ensure that members with disabilities are enabled to participate in Fellowship activities and service. The trustee is to be tasked with identifying the most effective way to achieve this. Adequate resources shall be made available to achieve this. GSB to report back to Conference 2008.

b) That Groups be mindful of and seek to identify those with various disabilities.

In attempting to carry out Conferences wishes the following considerations have been borne in mind.

- The AA Pledge: When anyone anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible
- Each Group is Autonomous except in matters affecting other Groups or AA as a whole
- There is no legal requirement for any group to make special provision for people with disabilities

No Trustee or the General Service Board can ensure that members with disabilities are enabled to participate in Fellowship activities & Service – that is the responsibility of the Groups, Intergroups and Regions within the Fellowship. However, I believe that the following information/guidance may be useful.

- Materials order forms available from GSO include:

- For Reading Difficulties – What happened to Joe, It happened to Alice, Twelve Steps Illustrated, Too Young, It sure beats sitting in a cell.
 - Large Print – Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions,
 - Taped Literature – Addlestone Recordings - Alcoholics Anonymous (1 set = 3 Cassettes), Twelve Steps (1 set = 4 Cassettes), Twelve Traditions (1 Cassette), Living Sober (1 set = 3 Cassettes),
 - Braille - Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions,
 - All Videos / DVDs are available subtitled
- There are also materials produced in USA which can be obtained through GSO – in addition to the above:
 - Braille – Daily Reflections, This is AA, Is AA for You, 44 Questions
 - Taped Literature – AA comes of Age, AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate, A Brief Guide to AA.
 - Large Print – Living Sober, Came to Believe, As Bill Sees It, This is AA, 44 Questions, AA for the Older Alcoholic - never too late, How it Works, Daily Reflections
 - There are Online meetings (although they are not part of an official AA structure) details of which are kept in GSO York & New York may prove of help
 - Also Loners International and International Correspondence Meetings may be of assistance - details from GSO

Suggestions:

Groups should consider their choice of meeting place taking into account accessibility for people with physical disabilities, wheelchair users.

Intergroups could consider supporting a group where there are solutions to assist people with disabilities which cost more than a group can afford.

Intergroups/Telephone Services might like to consider keeping a record of members who can communicate in British Sign Language and are willing to support deaf people attending meetings.

Literature

(Dave C)

This has been another busy year for the Literature Committee. We met on 4 occasions since Conference 2007.

In keeping with our strategy of continuous review we are presenting through the Committee process 3 Guidelines for consideration (Prisons, Health and Employment).

We are also presenting to Conference, 3 pieces requested by Conference 2006 and 2007, The AA Structure Chart, text for the 12 Concepts Illustrated and the Guideline Index. I can advise that preliminary work has taken place on the illustrations. It will be completed once the text is agreed.

We have also adapted the highly successful 'Message for Professionals' specifically to help carry the message both to the Medical Profession and to Employers.

The Committee are in the process of reviewing our 'New Comer' Literature. 'Who Me' has been revamped and is presented to you for consideration. We were particularly anxious to ensure that this crucial piece of literature would be reader friendly whilst the integrity of the core message is retained. We anticipate that this will be (as it always has been) the first piece of literature that the newcomer will have.

Prison Induction Pack:

We present to Conference the concept of a Prison Induction Pack. This pack will consist of a simple prison 'front sheet', Who Me and a new pamphlet 'Inside Stories'. These are shares written by men who have found recovery while they were in prison.

This pack will form the template for introductory literature for other service disciplines. The non changing core will be 'Who Me'. It is possible to produce shares relevant to a particular discipline if that is considered appropriate.

Plans are a foot to produce a female 'Inside Story' with the experiences of women who found recovery through prison and we are currently seeking shares from women who were introduced to sobriety through prison. We also intend to produce the long outstanding pamphlet for the Armed Services in similar fashion.

Any similarity with the Big Book is purely intentional. The ‘message’, unchanged, at the beginning, and the ‘stories’ provided identification at the back.

It may be that ‘Who Me’ can be translated into other languages for use in the UK if we feel that would enable us to further carry the message.

The Literature Committee is currently undertaking a root and branch review of the Group Service Handbook of Great Britain. It is our intention to present this for consideration to Conference 2009.

I must, at this stage, thank the members of the Committee in particular for their enormous efforts over the last 12 months. Their unstinting service has resulted in the large body of work which is laid before you this weekend.

Proposals:

The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain Guideline Index

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

The Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain)

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

The Twelve Concepts Illustrated (text)

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote with the following amendments:

*Concept 2 Penultimate para, line1 – change ‘General’ to ‘Group’
line2 – change ‘delegates’ to ‘representatives’*

*Last paragraph line1 – remove first word ‘The’ and then join
final two paragraphs to make one.*

Concept 3 First paragraph line 3 – insert ‘service’ after ‘several’

Concept 4 Third paragraph line 1 – insert ‘non’ after ‘appoints’

Concept 5 First paragraph line1 – insert ‘traditional’ after ‘a’

*Concept 9 Second paragraph line 8 – change ‘General’ to ‘Group’
line 11– change ‘delegates’ to ‘regional
representatives’ to region.*

AA as a resource for Employers

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote with the following amendments:

Front illustration to be changed and General Service Office Number on front cover to replace the 0845 number.

AA as a resource for the Medical Profession

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote with the following amendments:

Front illustration to be changed and General Service Office Number on front cover to replace the 0845 number.

*An additional paragraph to insert under 'Our Aim':
'A first step can be a call to the National Helpline No. 0845 769 7555 and this can enable a patient to attend a nearby AA meeting on the same day or shortly thereafter'.*

Who Me (text)

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Inside Stories (text)

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Prison Induction Pack (Who Me, Inside Stories, Prison card)

Conference approved the above proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Finance

(Ann S – Treasurer GSB)

Good evening Conference, Good Evening Mr Chairman, I am an alcoholic my name is Ann and Honorary Treasurer of the General Service Board. The facts and figures I present to you tonight represent a memorable 60th year of achievements. We received £1,350,641. We spent £1,539,216. We moved our General Service Office to 10 Toft Green in January 2007. We opened our new dedicated Archive Room which can now proudly display our rich and treasured history. We held a Finance Seminar in March 2007, a Health Seminar in September 2007. We executed all Conference 2007 recommendations. Monthly issues of Roundabout and Share have been published, also Share Calendars and Diaries. In addition we spent your contributions on the activities my fellow Trustees will present to you over this Conference weekend. The Development Fund has sent £5k to the International Literature Fund, and paid 50% of the

cost, along with the United States of America, of the 3rd Sub Sahara Meeting held in Namibia in June 2007. Your General Service Board, with due diligence have executed and achieved all the services you expect from your Trusted Servants. We have worked not just for today, but for the near and far future. Your contributions have allowed your Trusted Servants to achieve that goal. Thank you.

The AA Groups are the stakeholders of the Fellowship, they provide us with the core capital necessary for the General Service Board to operate as a business, and we in turn provide back to the Fellowship audited accounts of their contributions under SORP 2005, the Statement of Recommended Practice, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

We work within a framework of principles, guidelines that encourage us to send surplus funds up through the structure as soon as they are available. It is built on the strengths of our Intergroup Treasurers relationship with their Group Treasurers, from Intergroup to Region, and the General Service Board. We are passionate about dedicating ourselves to achieving a vision beyond today, providing the best possible services at all levels both internally and externally.

At our home group we will feel the heart of AA beating. We will wish to be a part, not stand apart, we will give the newcomers and those we sponsor freely of our time, and financially contribute to the best of our ability to ensure that throughout the service structure, vital services are maintained. Meeting the goal of Tradition 7, to be self supporting by our own contributions, is so much easier when there is a passion in the hearts of our members to achieve it.

Whilst I am here tonight to report on last year's audited accounts, I also can advise you of the additional dedicated work that has been achieved over and above the normal services provided to the Fellowship from October 1st 2007 to March 31st 2008. An extra issue of AA Service News for Prison and Probation, 3 Seminars for Telephones, Public Information and Probation, Trustee attendance at the European Service Meeting in October 2007 and the Polish Conference in November 2007, more enhancements and additions to our Archive Room, we aim always to continue dedicating ourselves to service.

On page 280 of Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Bernard Smith states: 'This Third Legacy of Service has a string to it. And the string is that we are granted the use of this legacy for our lifetime, upon the condition that we will not only look after it but increase its spiritual content for the generations that will follow us.

Each succeeding generation, as it receives this legacy, must similarly protect it if they wish to employ it and gain life by it, and pass it on to the next generation with an enriched spiritual content'.

I believe in what he said, I believe in every member, in every group, in every coin placed in The Pot, we can continue to carry the message of recovery, money and spirituality make a formidable partnership.

Armed Services

(David M)

Good evening Conference. My name is David and I am an Alcoholic and for the last time it is my privilege to report to Conference on the work of the Armed Services Sub-Committee.

The last year has been rather quiet for the Committee as far as us being asked to attend Health awareness days in Service Establishments or to give Presentations to Units. This is probably due to the fact that the British Armed Forces are extremely busy at the moment, as we all know. We did, however, manage to have a presence at such days in the Ministry of Defence and R.A.F. Wyton in Cambridgeshire where members of the Committee manned a stall, answered questions and gave out AA Literature.

We continued our work with the R.N. Alcohol Treatment Unit in Portsmouth, whereas the Unit in Plymouth was handed over to the PI Committee of Plymouth Intergroup for continuation. The talks to the R.A.F. at Gloucester University in July were cancelled because of the floods that took place in that area, but they will be re-planned in the future, probably at another venue on the South Coast. No further Veterans Agency Conferences have been held but we are looking forward to taking part when they are reinstated.

Because we had few invitations, it was decided that we would use the time wisely and co-ordinate our Presentation, in order that less experienced members of the Committee could take a PowerPoint Presentation with them, when we were asked. This was done at an extra meeting in York in December and resulted in an excellent Presentation being put together which is adaptable depending on the time that we are given for the Presentation.

At the Committee Meeting in July the Terms of Reference were reviewed and subsequently printed in AA Service News.

The Annual Workshop was held in January and once again we were disappointed that only three Regions sent Representatives, with one Region sending apologies. We decided to try and raise our profile within the Fellowship and requested attendance at the four National Conventions with display stands manned by members of the Committee. There will also be an Armed Services Workshop at the Southern National Convention at Brean Sands, which will be carried out by three members of the Committee.

Several service journals, magazines and service information pamphlets now have contact information for Alcoholic Anonymous and hopefully we are well known by the Service Community. One of these is Navy News and I heard one story from Somerset that makes it all worthwhile. A sailor at sea picked up a copy of Navy News, saw our `advert`, cut it out and put it in his wallet. When he returned to port he rang the national number and has been attending meetings for several months now. It is always nice to receive positive feedback.

The Committee members are all totally committed to our Fellowship and to carrying 'The Message to The Armed Services' as instructed by Conference in 1992. We now have a full Committee who are ready to go anywhere at any time to carry out this commitment.

It has been an honour and humbling experience for me to be part of this discipline and I thank everyone concerned for making my task much easier than it might have been.

Probation\Social Services

(Charles W)

Trustees have attended a number of professionally arranged Conferences on the implementation of the Probation Service alcohol strategy and continue to meet regularly with National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Thames Valley Probation Area has completed the training of staff in the use of the Thames Valley model and established liaison contacts between Probation Offices and Intergroups (Chiltern and Thames, South Midlands and Thames Valley).

South East Region has been chosen for the next stage of systematically extending the model to other Probation areas. Trustees and the South East Regional Liaison Officer have met with the Regional Offender Manager to consider viability.

The special issue of AA Service News devoted to prison, probation and social service liaison was well received by the Fellowship and attracted the interest of professionals.

The Liaison Officers Information Pack developed in North East Region has been revised in the light of experience of subsequent use in South East Region. This revision will be made available to all Regional Liaison Officers.

The Annual Regional Liaison Officers' Meeting was held in July 2007. The additional joint session with Prison RLOs proved helpful in identifying common ground and issues. A further joint session is planned for the Annual Meeting in July 2008.

A seminar for Intergroup and Regional Probation and Social Services Liaison Officers is scheduled for 13th March 2008 at York.

Last year's report to Conference, in reviewing the response to recommendations of Conference 2006, concluded "Much has been achieved. There is much yet to do." That has remained the picture reported by Intergroups this year. Though a significant number of liaison posts remain vacant, appointments have been made to posts unoccupied for considerable periods. Fresh initiatives in contacting Probation Offices continue and, while mostly it remains difficult to

get the attention of busy Probation Officers, good openings for carrying the message do occur and are being developed. There is evidence of some increase in the number, still few, of requests received from Probation Officers. A number of these specifically asked for information on the Thames Valley model.

The past four years as Trustee for Probation/Social Services have proved challenging, not least in that I have had to face my prejudices about offenders and the nature of their offences.

I have been so impressed by the commitment, patience and persistence of Liaison Officers in such a challenging service area and uplifted by the many stories of offenders finding AA and recovery.

Martin B has shadowed me this past year, so he is aware both of the challenges ahead and of the warmth of welcome he will receive from members in the service discipline.

As ever I am enriched by the privilege of being your Trusted Servant. God bless you all.

DVD Project

(Jim T)

Along with this report on the progress of the DVD Project the GSB has the pleasure of informing Conference that it is now in completion and fits the criteria discussed below.

At Conference last year I reported that due to concerns from the Fellowship, a Committee had been formed from the GSB to produce a DVD best suited for younger people.

May I remind you of the aims and objectives of this development which are:

- To produce a professional and educational DVD, which would help to inform the younger public and others of our approach to alcoholism.
- The impact on our lives and the lives of those among us with equal emphasis on our daily solution.
- The DVD should sit comfortably with the membership who deliver Public Information talks to the younger generation, through schools and sixth form colleges etc., and our various Liaison positions within our service structure.
- Suitable personal experiences, shared from our membership, would be most valuable in school talks.

The project committee, at the General Service Office, met with the company producing the DVD to introduce them to the above concepts and, in time, the members who had agreed to share their experience with them in order that they may begin to appreciate that this project was not designed to highlight the

dangers of young people who take alcohol, but to describe as best we can how the disease of alcoholism, through persistently taking the first drink, can and does destroy the lives of alcoholics.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our four participating members for their efforts, and experience strength and hope in the development of this DVD.

In addition, thank you to those Groups and members who opened their meetings and minds to welcome the company's representatives so that they had the beginning of an understanding of the suffering of an alcoholic, damage to family and friends, and of course the message of love and service that exists within our message of recovery.

We believe that the most difficult part of this venture was to reveal the experience of the still suffering alcoholic as powerfully as possible while remembering the limits put upon us by the age of the viewer, and equally important, the people whose care they are in.

After viewing the DVD, Conference gave its approval by a substantial majority vote.

Tim closed the Friday evening session at 10.15pm in the customary way by asking everyone to join him in the saying of the serenity prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports.

Public Information

(Andy C)

Key National Goals

- **Attract new members**
- **Raise public awareness of AA**
- **Update Public Information (PI) material and support local activity**
- **Improve co-operation with professionals**
- **Improve working relationships with media**

From Conference 2006 - Point 5 - Media training took place last summer for Non-alcoholic Trustees and GSO staff.

Internal Awareness

How PI work is seen by members of the Fellowship, The role of Groups, Intergroups and Regions and the individual member in carrying the message: Creating awareness of the PI role, assisting anyone who needs information or help.

Primary methods of communication:

A PI Briefing list is available to all members via the website and can be used by all in service so that PI does not work in isolation

PI Newsletter – this used to be a bi-monthly publication but now available monthly (distributed electronically, however hard copies are available on request).

Professional Awareness

Being Friendly with our Friends, creating and developing relationships within the professional communities. Dispersing accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous, what we do and do not do.

GSO hold a database of professionals which has been cleaned up this year and is up to date. All services can add in professional contacts and contacts via business cards collected at professional conferences can also be added. They will receive a newsletter electronically twice a year and also the opportunity to unsubscribe from the list if they so wish.

Public Awareness

Increase the general public awareness of AA. Telling people in clear simple language what we do, who we do it for and where we can be found or contacted.

Key activity – a PI Seminar was held on March 1st in York - all Intergroup and Region PI's were invited and shared practical ideas as to how to carry the message. Packs were distributed to all who attended to help with this. Suggested a Gratitude in Action week as a focal point for activities in local areas.

Since then the Sub-Committee have met to discuss those ideas and have formulated a plan and we have distributed minutes and a letter to all who attended, outlining a plan and outlining the future. The working title of the suggested week will be 'Anonymous but not Invisible'. We hope to have that week in 2009, and it was the unanimous conscience of all who attended that meeting that this be done, we are working on it and hope to come back next year with a proposal for Conference approval.

Key National Events

- **Westminster**
- **The Scottish Parliament**
- **The Welsh Assembly**

Westminster was held in May 2007 and March 2008.

Scottish Parliament was held in November 2007

Welsh Assembly will be October 2008 for the first time!

These were attended by members of parliament/professionals from all services and supported by GSB and GSO.

Presentations have been made this year by Health, Prisons and Probation & Social Services

Support for Activity

- **Service Offices**

All offices are involved with media and professional contact. A log of all media enquiries is kept and they support all national events.

- **PI Sub-Committee**

Responsible for communicating and supporting PI activity – last year Alex M. rotated and he has been replaced by Jim M. In addition Angela at GSO is a member of the Sub-Committee and supports PI Activity

- **Groups, Intergroups and Regions**

The Fellowship relies on the message of Alcoholics Anonymous being carried locally and as well as the PI Seminar for Intergroup and Region

Officers, the Regional Liaison Officers Meeting was held in October 2007 and will be again in October 2008. Many thanks to all who have carried the message over the last year.

Further Information

Information on local activity can be obtained through your local Intergroup and Region.

PI support is available via the website – www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Electronic Communications

(Mari F)

Good evening Conference. My name is Mari, I am an alcoholic and your Trustee with responsibility for Electronic Communications.

... and just for a minute, I want to take you back to the beginning.....

The Past

Conference 1998. Committee 6, in reply to Question 1, recommended “The Fellowship should swiftly embrace computer communications with serenity and courage”, and quoted Bill W saying “The future success of Alcoholics Anonymous may rest on how well we are able to employ the colossus of modern communications”. The same Committee went on to recommend that an official AA GB website be set up by the end of that year...and behold, it came to pass...and this was the birth announcement of the Fellowship’s ‘baby’ service. Today it is ten years old and starting to grow up.

The Present

Today there are 8 ‘doors’ on the front portal page of the website – and that is 2 more than last year. The Big Book is now, with the agreement of AAWS, hosted on our own site. The Regions now have their own access doorway and the Newcomers area door has been relabelled “Problems with drinking?” The word newcomer was removed because it finally dawned on us that it was misleading – the Newcomer did not know they were newcomers until they actually got to a meeting and we TOLD them so! So the doorway to first contact with AA was relabelled more appropriately. Also at the moment we are doing a bit of re-decorating – our front portal page could soon look something much more snazzy and a lot less like a row of tombstones!

The forum for members discussion on the Prison service, one of the recommendations of last year’s Conference, was provided within days. This is the speed of electronic communications. A letter takes a couple of days for delivery – emails fly back and forth practically instantaneously. We live in an instant age, and we expect instant access. As well as providing more secure areas for member’s services, our website is our shop window for the general

public. Like the telephone service, it is a ‘first contact’, the way in for those seeking the solution for their drinking problem.

The Service which used to be called E12 has been renamed – it is now called the Online Response Service. This much more accurately reflects its aims and function – the chief of which is to get the Newcomer into the AA system set up to handle them, the Telephone Service, so that they can be 12-stepped and taken to a meeting in the normal way.

There is a training manual that every online Responder is taken through as stage 1 of their training. After that comes the practical training of how to respond to emails received, and a period of assessment and monitoring by the Trainer before they are assigned as a solo ‘live’ Responder.

The emails received are broken down by category into statistics to help us to assess the nature of the enquiries.

Traffic is getting heavier all the time and the enquiries received via the website increasing as more and more people turn to the internet as their main information-gathering resource. With the advent of internet access via mobile phone – and the phenomenal use of mobile phones by our upcoming generation - this can only increase in the future.

So what does the future hold for the Fellowship Service of Electronic Communications?

The Future

Phase 1, the history of our website, is one of a few dedicated members with considerable technical skills putting in long hours and lots of effort to construct, update and maintain our online presence. It was a completely new adventure for AA in Great Britain. Now we are 10 years old, we have behind us 10 years of experience of getting it right – and wrong – and, I believe, it is time for us to move into the next phase.

Our website has grown and developed, it needs more technical input and more resources. It is time for us to evaluate the Service in order to ensure that the excellent standard it has achieved to date will be maintained, and even get better, into the future – and, if necessary, allocate resources accordingly. This project your General Service Board has in hand, but it is also time to see how it can be brought within the Fellowship service structure, and this, I believe, is a job in which we should all share.

Conference 2005 established the position of Regional Electronic Communications Liaison Officer. That was the first step in integrating the fledgling Service of Electronic Communications into our Service structure, but we need to do more if we are to move forward from the days of the past, and put the responsibility for the Service of Electronic Communications where it belongs – the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Here is my vision for the future –

- (a) I would like to see the position of Electronic Communications Liaison Officer officially established at Intergroup level, with duly elected officers forming part of Regional teams co-ordinated by the Regional Electronic Communications Liaison Officers – in the same way that all our other Services are organised.
- (b) I would like to see closer co-operation with the Telephone Service – we are the two ‘first contact’ services, and our spheres overlap in many places, so it just makes sense to work closely together. The recent Telephone Seminar gave a good start to this – and I would like to see the co-operation and inter-action extended. If your Intergroup has a Telephone Committee, maybe the Intergroup Electronic Communications Liaison Officer could be part of it, for input and mutual support, in the same way that PI is often asked to attend. Each Intergroup does things differently – so its is up to each to find its own method of integrating the services to improve efficiency.
- (c) I would like to see the website personnel, the Webteam, as a recognised service position. If this is done, it is then possible that recruitment for webteam positions (i.e. Moderator, Online Responder, Website Technician) can be achieved utilising the normal service structure at local level.

The fact is that the website is maintained and administered at national level – and unlike the other Services in the Fellowship, it has not had a local level service structure to support it. This has to change, we need to integrate, if Electronic Communications is to grow up and provide you with the service you deserve, and to take its place alongside the long-term established Services. We need to begin to build a Fellowship-wide supporting structure for the website and the service of Electronic Communications.

What I am, in fact, asking you to do, is to go back to your Regions, your Intergroups and your Home Groups. To discuss the possibilities – and to come back to me with feedback and suggestions. Write or email me at GSO (email address now on the website) or email me direct at EcomsTrustee@aa-email.org.uk.

I shall take your suggestions and see if, together, we can devise a working structure that could be put into place and maybe incorporated into a revised Guideline 19 for next Conference’s consideration – whatever is appropriate – it would be a starter for 10 anyway, that we could use as a basis on which to build the structure of the Service. We have come about as far as we can go in the old set-up formula – we need to find a new one now, so basically, what I am doing is asking you to help me, to take the Service of Electronic Communications

forward, so that in the next 10 years we can grow up responsibly and serve the Fellowship in the best way possible.

It promises to be an exciting year of change and growth for Electronic Communications, and I just can't wait to see what is coming next!

Thank you for listening – and I look forward to hearing from you.

Employment

(Jerry C)

Over the year the Employment Liaison Officers (ELOs), with the Fellowship, have been working hard to carry the message to Employers and Employees.

This has been done by a small group; we as a Fellowship have a hard time getting members to be ELOs. As of Friday there are five Regions with Employment Liaison Officers registered with the General Service Office.

At the Regional Employment Liaison Officers (RELOs) meeting in August, the RELOs approved a packet to be sent out to all Regions to assist RELO in their roles. This was a packet with information on how to carry out the duties as a Regional Employment Liaison Officer.

They also started a newsletter called 'Hello! ELOs!' The first issue came out in October 07. Last week the second issue came out and was sent to Regional Employment Liaison Officers and the Chairmen.

The Fellowship has also participated at the following Conferences & Exhibitions:

Public Service Management Conference	Jan.07	Glasgow
Health & Wellbeing @ Work	Feb.07	Birmingham
TUC	Sep.07	Brighton
CIPD	Sept.07	Harrogate
Occupational Nurses	Sept.07	London

At the Health & Wellbeing at Work Conference the Alcoholics Anonymous stand was voted to be the best stand at the event by those attending. The speaker from Alcohol Concern was unable to attend so an AA member was asked to stand in to give a talk on Alcoholics Anonymous. Using "*The Road to Sobriety*" video, the member gave a presentation on AA, which was so well received that the organisers would like to include a presentation from Alcoholics Anonymous at the 2008 Conference.

Conferences/Exhibitions booked so far for 2008:

Health & Wellbeing at Work	5 & 6 Mar.08	Birmingham
Unison	15-20 June.08	Bournemouth
TUC	8-11 Sept.08	Brighton
CIPD	16-18 Sept.08	Harrogate

I look forward to the New Year, I would like to thank the members of the Fellowship for all their work, we have accomplished much, we are moving forward but there is much more to do.

Together we can make it.

European Service Meeting

(Vince O)

Please note: The following is a brief report for Conference Delegates; a full European Service Meeting (ESM) report is available online www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members or by request from GSO York.

Twenty five countries gathered together on the 19th October 2007 in Frankfurt Germany for this wonderful event, Turkey, Belarus and Croatia attended for the first time, thus proving how the ESM works.

Inge, the ESM Chairman, delivered her Opening Address outlining the theme “Service Our Future & Responsibility”. Explanations were given as to the purpose of the ESM such as: sponsoring countries, fundraising, working with other countries to name a few, as well as all the administration and hard work that’s required in order for the event to happen.

Bodil, the delegate from Sweden, gave her report from the last World Service Meeting explaining what is currently happening on an international basis working with other countries. Julio from International Desk, GSO New York, delivered his Keynote Address, emphasising how AA must never stand still and become complacent, we must continue to be apart of an ever changing world and continue to find new ways of extending the hand of AA to those who still suffer.

Ann S our Honorary Treasurer presented a comprehensive financial report outlining how the ESM remains self-supporting, and also retains a prudent reserve of funds. A detailed presentation was shown with an explanation of how we use the funds to facilitate the ESM’s primary purpose. The new policy document for ESM was presented by Roger B our Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Committee for Agenda, Policy, Admissions & Finance. The document clearly defined the qualifications and guidance for countries attending the ESM, this was particularly helpful to those countries attending for the first time.

Twenty five countries gave highlighted reports on the current situation in their countries regarding group and membership statistics, how their service

structures are operating and expanding. Some countries shared their frustrations with cultural problems regarding AA. I felt particularly grateful for being a member of AA in GB as I heard about the growing pains that seemed insurmountable at times for some of the countries.

On Saturday the Committees and Workshops began. I was placed on the Literature/Publishing & Media Communications Committee, the two other committees dealt with Agenda/Policy/Admissions and Finance, and Working with other Countries.

My Committee had seven questions (topics) to discuss, such as translating AA literature, becoming more accessible to those still suffering, and attracting young people to AA, to name a few. We also talked about how we help the media and professionals to understand our Traditions when we are co-operating with them, utilising the resources available to us such as our literature, videos, DVD's etc., helping them to understand what AA does and does not do. Through the sharing of our experience, strength and hope with each other we established suggested ways of dealing with the challenges that were apparent for some of the countries.

The Workshops commenced in the afternoon to discuss three different topics, two of them concentrated on the Concepts Five and Eleven, and the Committee I sat on discussed ways to develop unity through the service structure. Some countries shared their concerns about AA groups that operate outside of the service structure, unwilling at this time to embrace our Three Legacies and contribute to their national service office. A particular question was asked generally on how we deal with AA groups that attempt to restrict their membership. The Committee shared its experience strength and hope on ways to develop unity, hopefully offering solutions to these fundamental problems.

The Workshops that discussed the Concepts helped to raise awareness and understanding about the importance and application of these valuable tools, born out of AA's experience.

Saturday evening the Committees and Workshops delivered their reports to the full assembly. Then followed a general sharing session, I was moved as the delegates from certain countries expressed their gratitude for AA and the ESM, for its ongoing support and love that was expressed through action.

The elections took place on Sunday morning for ESM 2009, and then followed a closing address from Greg Muth, the General Manager of GSO New York; he shared some personal experience, along with some AA history, that was heartfelt by us all. Then ESM Chairman, Inge De Ruiter, brought the proceedings to a close with a wonderful poem called Search for Serenity and how to achieve it.

Well, I thank you AA for the privilege of allowing me to attend and contribute to the 14th ESM in Frankfurt last year, I feel that my sobriety and life in general has been enriched by this experience.

Prisons

(Jim S)

Last year's Conference recommendation that our website be expanded to include a forum for Prison/Probation and Social Services was actioned within 24 hours of the closing of the 2007 Conference – this is possibly one of the quickest implementations of a Conference recommendation ever. Our gratitude is extended to the Electronic Communication team who made this possible.

During Saturday evening presentations a delegate voiced concern that Prison Liaison had suffered from recent low profile and this had manifested itself in the number of vacant Prison Liaison service positions and a lack of sponsors, rendering it difficult to adhere to the AA principle of rotation in service. To help stimulate interest in this discipline and to recognise and encourage closer working relationship between Prison/Probation/Social Services permission was sought and given for a special edition of AA Service News (AASN) to be produced. Articles were provided by Prison Liaison Officers (PLO), Prison Governors and prisoners, along with archive material researched by the editor, Hugo D, for inclusion in this special issue. The joint publication was generally well received and it is hoped it will encourage members to become involved in this area of service. Sufficient copies were printed for use as future resource material.

The links created between the Ministry of Justice and NOMS (National Offender Management Service) and ourselves by the presence on the GSB of our NAT, Graham Verrall, have proved to be mutually beneficial. Regular meetings now take place between both these organisations and myself, as AA Prison Trustee where any problems we encounter can be discussed and hopefully resolved. In January 2008 the Policy Manager and a colleague from the Ministry of Justice accepted an invitation with us to visit GSO in York where they were given a guided tour of our premises and archive department. It is my hope that this cordial relationship will continue. Meetings between myself and the head of Addiction Co-ordinators of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) take place at their headquarters in Edinburgh on a quarterly basis. Presently we are working towards resolution of the long standing issue of time taken for clearance to be granted to our members which allows their entry to prisons and the funding of the disclosures required for same. A new policy document is presently being written by SPS which will hopefully clarify matters for all concerned.

At present 68% of prisons in Great Britain facilitate AA meetings. The ever increasing growth in the prison population (82,000 in England, 7,600 in Scotland) can be problematic for AA. The rise in prison population and the commensurate increase in staff duties can result in a shortage of personnel

available to escort prisoners to AA meetings in some prisons. Experience has shown that this happens less frequently in prisons where Service Level Agreements are in place.

My attendance at the following conferences in my role as Trustee for Prisons provided some excellent opportunities to meet and carry the AA message to professionals in the various fields associated with the penal system:

- SASO (Scottish Assoc. for the Study of Offending)
- NOMS Initiative (Working with the Voluntary Sector)
- Future of Scottish Prisons – Holyrood Event
- AA PI Alcohol Awareness Event at Scottish Parliament

The Literature Committee have prepared a Prisoner Induction Pack and this will be presented to Conference 2008 for approval. This will comprise:

- A card with prison meeting details
- Who Me? – new version
- Shares from ex-prisoners

The pack will be given to prisoners as part of their induction. This has been identified as the ideal opportunity to introduce new prisoners to AA.

Once again we extend our gratitude to PLO's, sponsors, speakers and postal correspondents who continue to give their unstinting support to this important service in penal establishments throughout the country.

Sub Sahara Africa Service Meeting

(Dave C)

A personal view

There are many privileges to being sober in our Fellowship. Service in its own right affords many of those privileges. And so it was, when asked to represent the Board at the above Conference.

The Conference is jointly supported by Alcoholics Anonymous World Service and United Kingdom. As you are aware our contribution is funded directly from the International Development Fund, our direct financial legacy from Bill W.

There are many impressions.

The Conference was hosted by AA Namibia. It came as some surprise and, dare I say, culture shock to discover that there is just one permanent group in Namibia. It meets twice a week and there are approx 10 to 15 members. Their commitment to hosting this Conference was inspiring. Every delegate was met at the Airport (20 miles from the city) and transported to the venue. It seemed that each member had made at least 2 airport runs in the run up to Conference.

Ten countries were represented and each brought to the Conference their pride in being sober and their frustrations at the difficulty in carrying the message with limited resources.

Greg Muth and Greg Richardson represented AA World Services. They continue to provide ongoing support in the donation of literature and the continuing programme of translating both the Big Book and other literature into the dialects used in the various countries. I learned much on process.

South Africa is the only country that had a recognisable structure. The other 9 countries were in early days. Groups are few and concentrated around the cities. In some ways the sparsity of groups has not required the formation of structure as we would know it. But as the message of recovery continues to be carried, it is the example, strength and experience that will enable them to organise in a structured way.

The major issues faced were:

- Lack of literature in local dialect
- Importation of literature problems
- HIV and the impact of alcoholism
- No Structure
- No Resources
- No recognition through the state programmes
- Government suspicion

Participating Countries

Botswana
Kenya
Malawi
Uganda
Zimbabwe

Ghana
Lesotho
Tanzania
South Africa
Zambia

As well as the opportunity for reporting on the experiences of carrying the message in each country in plenary session there were a number of workshops which were lively. The subjects discussed were:

- The importance of rotation in AA
- Home Groups - the key to AA's future
- Tradition 7
- Are there still problems in relation to issues discussed in the last 2 Zonal meetings and how these issues were addressed by each country
- The establishment of an AA central phone number/address etc...has this resulted in growth of groups?

- Carrying the message (to the alcoholic and to the professional community)
- Lack of literature

The major advantage of the Conference was that it provides a 'local' network where strength, hope and experience are freely shared. The support received from both World Service and AA GB underpins the concept of fellowship, and is hugely appreciated. Our sponsorship provides an opportunity for members to draw on the collective strength of both USA and UK.

In much the same way as US supported early AA in Great Britain, we have the opportunity of continuing that tradition that each of us owes our lives to.

It was a powerful and humbling experience

Health Update

(Vince O)

Currently approximately 50% of Intergroups and 75% of Regions have Health Liaison Officers in post, in some areas the Health Liaison work is being covered by PI. I'm happy to say that there is an increase in enthusiasm towards Health Liaison work throughout the Fellowship; this is reflected in the Intergroup and Regional reports.

The Health Liaison Resource pack that was developed over the past two years by the Health Sub Committee has proved to be successful. The pack itself has provided valuable experience and information in supporting all those involved in Health Liaison work, by enhancing the communication, knowledge and understanding of our role when liaising with the Health Service and each other.

In September this year the Health Sub Committee organised the first Health Awareness Workshop in York, this was well attended by 35-40 people from all over Great Britain. The general feedback received from the Fellowship was positive and appreciative of all those involved confirming that the event was a worthwhile initiative for enhancing our Primary Purpose. A six monthly health newsletter is now being produced by the Health Sub Committee to help keep the Fellowship informed and up to date with progress.

Nursing in Practice Events were held in London, Glasgow, Birmingham and Cardiff this year, AA was represented with manned stands providing DVDs, literature and information for all interested parties. Other events such as the Social Enterprise Conference in London and the Health and Well Being at Work Conference in Birmingham were also attended.

A health presentation was given at the Scottish Parliament Event this year, this event proved there was great interest and respect for AA from the professionals and the MPs present who shared their experience in co-operating with the

Fellowship. My thanks go to the PI Sub Committee for the invitation to such a well organised event.

The health literature pamphlet “AA as a Resource for the Medical Profession” is being currently updated by the Literature Committee to the same standard as the very successful publication “A Message for Professionals” the draft is impressive and much needed when liaising with professionals.

My thanks go to all who are involved in Health Liaison work, from the Groups to Intergroups and Regions, also the staff at the service offices and GSB for their support and commitment to our primary purpose.

Archives Update

(Polly M-P)

The Archives Sub Committee are working on the final “polishing” of the script of the “English and Welsh Chapter” of our early history. The company who will be working with us to produce the DVD have undertaken to re-master the original “Scottish Chapter” and marry it to the new chapters.

Filming will begin once the quality of spring/early summer daylight is deemed to be at the optimum level for outdoor work.

This is an exciting and timely addition to our Archives and the Archives Network would like to thank the Fellowship and members of the GSB who have been so supportive in the practical encouragement for this project.

AA Service News Update

(Hugo D)

Since Conference 2007 we have produced five issues of *AA Service News* – the regular seasonal editions plus a special edition on Prisons and Probation/Social Services. All of these were prepared in the new A5 format which appears to have been well received.

The **Summer** edition in June contained the outcomes of the 42nd General Service Conference and service articles on prisons, conventions, public information, employment, electronic communications and finance.

In September we published the **Autumn** issue with articles on health, telephones, the Traditions, meetings in the UK for non-English speakers, the GB website, World Service Meeting and a short piece on Sister Ignatia, one of AA’s early friends.

The Questions and Topics for Conference 2008 and a Conference Steering Committee report were printed in the **Winter** issue together with items on public information, the Sub-Sahara Group, Armed Services, the Traditions and an obituary for Dr James Valentine.

Recently in March we produced the **Spring 2008** edition containing information on the General Service Conference in Poland, sections on health liaison and armed services, the Nominations Sub-committee, service in a group, *SHARE* magazine and Probation/Social Services.

In all the above editions we also published articles on Archives as well as details of financial contributions from Groups, Intergroups and Regions. Donations in Memory Of and diaries of AA events in the UK and overseas were included in every issue.

Our major work for the year was carried out by the AA Service News team and contributors from around the country in a special edition on **Prisons and Probation/Social Services**. This was a combined effort by liaison officers from these services and the GSB Trustees, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The content of the edition was more personal than usual but the impact of the subjects published would have been lessened had the material not been presented in this fashion. In addition it contained articles by professionals from outwith the Fellowship and archive material from past AA publications.

The General Service Board approved the printing of an additional 1500 copies of this special edition for distribution to incoming Prisons and Probation/Social Services Liaison Officers and also to prison groups in the UK. There has been tremendous interest from our Fellowship on this publication and we hope that it will encourage members to come forward into these services in the Intergroups and Regions.

The professional community from these services has also shown a great deal of interest in the edition and, if we have been unable to provide those who inquire with a printed copy, we have a digital version which can be distributed very easily either from our own archive library or via the Document Library on the GB website.

I wish to thank everyone concerned in the preparation and publication of our various editions this year. I thank the contributors for their thoughtfulness in giving us the articles in the first place. Our proof readers deserve a special mention for their diligence and experience in helping me in my selection of the articles and making them presentable for publication. We read and proofed over 50,000 words for the editions we produced this year. Lastly I thank the General Service Office staff and their North East Region group members for the administrative tasks in preparing and mailing the envelopes to the 4000 plus groups and officers in the area covered by GSO.

Recommendations of successive General Service Conferences have always been that we continue to produce *AA Service News* and I am privileged to have had the editorial rotation given to me.

Roundabout Update

(Andy C)

Statistics 2007

Over 24 000 magazines sold

159 Articles printed

In line with previous years:

126 Articles from Scotland

25 from elsewhere (outside Scotland, known origin)

8 articles no indication of where

Price remained unchanged

Self supporting

Web hits more than doubled

Web hits rose from 4982 to 11581

Points of Interest

Editorial team – changes 2007/8

Gordon (reader) left, Mary (secretary) rotated and Anita sadly passed away January 2008. In addition Jim C our compositor is rotating and James K. our Editor finishes his 4 year term at Conference. A new Editor Bill has been appointed and I would like to thank James and all the team for their efforts.

Distribution Issues – Delays June- October

Our printer moved offices in the summer and this did lead to slight delays in distribution and just when we thought that this was resolved we had the postal strike – we are now back on schedule.

Audio files for Roundabout web page

We hope to add Audio files to the web page.

SHARE Update

(Martin B)

My name is Martin and I am an alcoholic. I am the trusted servant of the General Service Board with responsibility for SHARE. This is my report to Conference 2008.

Firstly, I wish to recognise the amazing work undertaken by GSO staff, particularly Chris in supporting the development and production of the SHARE magazine. The friendly, professional 'can do' attitude of staff is so helpful and should never be understated.

It is then appropriate to begin with the positive news. In the year from last Conference SHARE sales have remained at approx 4000 magazines per month. In today's climate, with a falling of sales in most paper based papers and journals it is indeed encouraging to retain such readership.

However, in an estimated membership of 30000+ AA members in the UK there is obviously room for expansion. Indeed one of the priorities for the SHARE team is to increase readership by 10%. So please encourage your groups, sponsees, sponsors and friends to help us achieve this goal.

Share and Share Alike the 60th Anniversary Special edition booklet was very well received by the Fellowship with sales now having passed the 4000 mark. There are still some available for sale but they are going fast. I am sure *Share and Share Alike* will become a collector's item as this lovely tribute to 60 years of AA is presented in such marvellous way.

Further excellent news was the increase in sales of the 2008 calendar and with the 2008 diary nearly selling out. Indeed the great work done by Rachael Ab-I and David W in producing these masterpieces for the Fellowship is very much appreciated.

The SHARE News compiled and produced on a two monthly cycle by Janet L keeps the Fellowship up to date with what is happening at SHARE. I am sure you will agree this newsletter is both informative and positive. I personally think it a great way of getting the message about SHARE across. Perhaps other disciplines would benefit from something similar?

The SHARE National Liaison Officers meeting in November was very well attended with most Regions being represented. It was good to hear of the progress being made in attracting more subscriptions. It was equally encouraging to debate plans to further gain support for the magazine.

Three aims were agreed at the meeting, to raise sales by 10%, to attract more articles from the Fellowship for the magazine and finally to revamp the SHARE presence on the website. These entire tasks are now in motion and hopefully at November 2008's National Liaison Officers meeting reports will indicate they have been achieved.

Again your SHARE team need your help in making this happen. Don't depend on someone else to write an article (what happens if they don't?) encourage Groups and individuals to take subscriptions. The hard work undertaken by the SHARE team deserves such support.

New initiatives from last year include the provision of a second SHARE stand, remember these stands can be booked for your event through GSO. Share Mail an idea presented by Robert De W, one of the SHARE National Liaison Officers, proved to be a very effective way of attracting articles. I am sure the continued use of Share Mail will help keep the flow of 'fellowship experience' coming in.

The principal of rotation has also been evident in the SHARE team with Laurie rotating from the post of Editor. Laurie has produced a first class magazine during his tenure and sincere thanks to him for undertaking such a task. Ro N has been selected to take over as editor and I am sure you will join me in welcoming Ro to this position. There are also vacancies for a Deputy Editor/Proof Reader and an Editorial Reader. These posts should be filled hopefully at the June Nominations Committee.

This will bring the team back to full strength. I am sure whoever fills these posts will compliment the work presently undertaken by Ro, Janet, Sacha, Lois, Billy, David, Rachael, Gerard and Patti. I am sure also they will enjoy the experience.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work undertaken by Polly M-P, the previous GSB Trustee who rotated out in September 2007. Her work in establishing such a strong team is the reason the Fellowship has such a good magazine.

As this is my first and last report for SHARE, as John S takes over the Trustee role after Conference 2008, thank you very much to the SHARE team and I do hope the Fellowship continues to support SHARE. Believe me this team deserves that.

Conventions Update

Northern National

(Jim T)

The possibility of more members attending the Northern National Convention (NNC) this year is quite possible because of comments on the ban on smoking and an eighteen piece band that some members have heard before elsewhere. It also seems that five Groups from London Region North are attending and coming up in minibuses.

Despite efforts to distribute flyers throughout the Fellowship some members in the North West had difficulty getting them. The reason for this disappointment has been established and there is good reason to assume that it will not occur in the future. 15,000 flyers were printed and distributed.

The treasurer gave account details with the following balances of:

Treasurers Account: £799.99

Business Managers Account: £547.71

Cash Account: £79.00

Eighty members had registered so far with four people thinking that the £6.00 registration fee included hotel accommodation?

The secretary has contacted local clinics with details of the convention with particular detail given to the registration fee. (This is to try to prevent the confusion and upset that has been unfortunate in the past).

The Secretary read out a request from Dave D (GSB) to have an Armed Service (AAAS) stand at the NNC. This, I am glad to report, was met with great enthusiasm with the result being that although it was too late to organise a workshop for this year the Committee will make space for the Armed Services stand next to our literature at the forth coming convention. Two members of the AAAS sub-committee shall man it. Dave will also be asked to supply a speaker for the Unity, Service and Recovery meeting on the Saturday morning.

Southern National

(Dave D)

The Southern National Convention was held at Brean Sands and the feedback that has been received indicated that it was a very successful Convention.

The Convention was well attended with figures estimated to be around the 1500 mark. We were helped by a power greater than ourselves, with the weather being good. Lots of smiling faces were regular sights and the meetings all had a good crowd.

There was a deaf friendly meeting held at this Convention and we believe that this was the first time that this had been tried at a convention in the UK! There were two signers at this meeting and we hope that other conventions will follow our lead.

A meeting was held celebrating 60 years of AA in the UK. There was standing room only and Archives were on display, not only the paper kind but some Old Timers shared at the Top Table and from those who were in audience. There was a PowerPoint presentation of the Archives room in our new General Service Office in York. There was also a DVD shown of the early days in AA.

Large amounts of AA literature were sold over the weekend and 80 copies of share were sold immediately after the Spiritual Meeting.

The Convention Committee worked hard throughout the year to put this convention on. It was a privilege for me as Board Trustee to watch this Committee work within their Terms of Reference. The six sponsoring Regions can be proud of their elected Committee.

Some highlights for me were:

- Being in the room when the deaf friendly meeting took place
- Seeing new members joining the Convention Committee and being given jobs straight away
- Meeting members from Poland, Canada and Botswana
- The Tradition 7 milk churn being found on the Friday of the Convention after 'wanted' posters had been circulated throughout the Fellowship
- Seeing so many happy smiling faces throughout the weekend.

We look forward to seeing you all next year. Dates for the 2008 Convention are 12th - 14th September.

Scottish National

(Martin B)

My name is Martin and I am an alcoholic. I have the good fortune to be in the trusted servant position of GSB Trustee on the Scottish National Convention Committee. This is my report on the workings of this Committee 2007/8.

It would be appropriate to firstly state that this has been period of transition, development, growth and success for the group.

Perhaps a rollercoaster year would best sum up what has happened.

Starting out with the highly successful 51st Annual Scottish Convention, which had returned to the 'spiritual home' of Dunblane Hydro in May 2007. The euphoria felt by the incumbent Committee on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the Fellowship on this event, made all the efforts of moving the Convention venue from Perth to be worthwhile. Registrations were over 600 and all rooms were fully booked. The evening entertainment also reached capacity.

Unfortunately this joy was to be short-lived. The Convention Committee and the hotel couldn't come to an accommodation for the 2008 Convention. So the decision was made to look for another venue. After quite a bit of searching, only a few venues could take the event at such notice and on the nearest date to the normal holiday weekend. Dundee Hilton was chosen as fitting the bill to be near main transport locations with the train and bus station in close proximity.

The Committee, which through rotation, was quite new and set about organising the event. Speakers, publicity and entertainment have all been planned. There will be a service speaker on every table. Armed Services and Roundabout will have display tables. The meetings will be recorded.

Room booking has been pretty consistent and hopefully this will sell out again.

All in all it has been a marvellous effort by the Committee to get this up and running and we hope to see you all at the Convention 9th-11th May at the Hilton Dundee.

Welsh National

(Polly M-P)

The Convention will take place on May 30th, 31st & June 1st.

All arrangements are in the hands of an excellent team and bookings are checked very regularly with the Hotel. Llandrindod Wells Tourist Information Centre is listed on the flier for those who wish to book Guest houses or camping and caravanning weekends.

The speaker Secretary “has a little list”, the Service Workshop will be given by the new Editor of Share and the Dance Band is booked for the Saturday evening entertainment .

Rotation is scrupulously observed and new Committee members are sponsored in . Lessons have been taken to heart about aspects of technology and means of communication .

Accommodation for the whole weekend is £143 with £10 as a registration fee.

Southern Service Office Update

The Southern Service Office in London continued to deal with about one in five of calls to AA in the UK. As our national website becomes more popular, so telephone traffic eases. London passed nearly 3,500 Twelfth Step calls to the Fellowship.

It is not in the gift of SSO to say with any certainty what happens to those potential members, but experience suggests that around half of the calls for help result in attendance at a meeting and, of those, less than half return.

The London TLOs, Responders, 12 Steppers and telephone volunteers have continued to do marvellous service. Where else in the world would hundreds of people allow themselves to be loosely organized into unpaid 4-hour duties involving them in travel, expense, discipline and no little stress? And that’s just the teams who staff the office 12 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are several hundred more AAs covering phones every evening and weekend to field the calls for help and pass them to 12th Steppers across the capital. All in all, about 1,000 members work quietly together to carry the message of recovery.

The surrounding 17 Intergroups are the glue in the jigsaw. Their phone reps, armed with information (and problems) from their own teams and from supportive staff, meet bi-monthly to consider solutions and maintain the service.

There was a significant improvement this year in the Fellowship organisation of teams and their performance, in terms of clarity, consistency and economy without loss of standards. Training programmes were intensified and there is now a double-figure sober generation in London who are passing on their direct experience of SSO service to the comparative “newcomers.” The Intergroups have taken the workshops for responders and 12th Steppers out of the office and the Regions are doing the same with the ever-growing need for updated lists of multilingual 12th Steppers.

Contacts with professionals in health, education, crime and social work continued to be built and relayed to the surrounding Intergroups and Regions. Data-exchange too with councils, national bodies and fellow-agencies toiling in the trenches against the ravages of alcoholism means that SSO has a living library of appropriate information.

Media calls have again been productive, perhaps none more so than intensive work behind the scenes with a major TV soap in effort to provide an authentic outcome for a main character who relapsed after white-knuckling it without his meetings. That sparked plenty of identification on the phone-lines. In the real world, the East End of AA again liaised with the West End to carry the message via Crisis At Christmas and that resulted in an increase in calls from homeless alcoholics. In the pipeline...a presentation to The Samaritans of what we do – and don't do.

References to “non-restrictive” meetings were removed from our Where to Find, on the grounds that all AA meetings are open to all AAs. Smoking had to go too!

Computerisation of information without excluding any volunteers (or threatening anyone's anonymity) is being carefully considered. So too are future premises, with the General Service Board negotiating with our new landlords over the eventual expiry of lease.

Wherever we go, we intend to take the message of recovery with us!

Northern Service Office Update

For the year 2007 the Northern Service Office has dealt with almost 8,000 items which includes calls, visits, fax and mail. There are also many calls from friends and family which have been passed to Al Anon. Professional calls are in the range of 400 from various professional and voluntary bodies. We have been in constant contact with Intergroups and Regions to deal with these calls and our statistics show that we had 400 calls to and from Intergroups and over 200 calls for Region. We have updated just over 400 group records.

Due to considerable media coverage regarding problem drinking we have had many requests to interview members of our Fellowship, particularly young

people on their struggles with drink and their recovery. These were all covered and we have built a regular contact with two popular radio stations.

AA was invited to the Scottish Parliament to hold an AA awareness meeting and the Northern Service Office covered all invitations and administration work for it. The focus of the meeting was on Health and Prisons and the Board Members for these two services gave inspiring presentations, as did the Public Information Trustee who chaired the meeting. There was some feedback during the Q & A session and after the presentation. Since then Glasgow Region Social Services Liaison has had extensive contact with the representative who attended for Criminal Justice. The MSP in attendance for Highlands and Islands contacted his local Criminal Justice team who contacted the Northern Service Office for a local AA Social Services contact, information on referring people to AA and the Chit system. The Administrator was also invited to Barlinnie Prison.

The Office is appreciative in receiving minutes from Intergroups and Regions. In 2007 we have seen a more regular flow and almost all secretaries now send their minutes; extracts are taken and forwarded to the General Service Board concerning their particular discipline.

The Prison Postal Service is still up and running and we are still receiving a regular flow of mail. We are also monitoring this service with the help of Prison Liaison Officers to ensure all inmates receive their letters and keep updated on any transfers to other halls or liberation etc.

Our other usual items include student requests, visits to the office, convention and foreign meeting information. We are still assisting Roundabout and in more contact with the editor through email where we can be notified of any updates or conventions etc. The Administrator attended the Annual General Roundabout Meeting and did a short presentation on how the Northern Service Office assists the magazine. It was a very productive day and good attendance.

The Northern Service Office keeps regular contact with the General Service Office, the General Secretary and Trustees and provides a general update of activities preceding General Service Board Meetings in addition to our usual Conference Report.

Finally, as always, we will continue to support the Fellowship services at all times, encourage our members into service, and provide assistance to our members and serving officers whilst helping to make 12 Step work possible.

Open Forum

The final session of Saturday evening was given over to an 'Open Forum' with contributions from the floor ranging over a wide spectrum of AA's service structure.

The evening ended at 10pm with Tim asking all to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

SUNDAY 20 APRIL

Tim welcomed everyone to the final session of Conference, asked for a few moments silence and read the Preamble.

As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded. Also, that the Committee Secretaries would act as tellers if required.

Tim 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 48-49
Committee No. 2	Pages 50-51
Committee No. 3	Pages 52-54
Committee No. 4	Pages 55-56
Committee No. 5	Pages 57-58
Committee No. 6	Pages 59-61

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2009

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Wynford O (Wales & Borders Region) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Ralph A, Chair GSB)

Ralph asked Conference to ratify the following new Trustees:

Penny A (London Region North), John S (Midlands Region), Sheila D (North East Region) and, in his absence, Nick R (South West Region) who were all ratified as General Service Board Trustees by Conference.

Charles W (Midlands Region), Ian D (North East Region) and David M (South West Region) rotated out of the General Service Board having completed their term of service. Ralph went on to thank each one of them for all their hard and dedicated work on the General Service Board.

Also, this was the final Conference for John H, Administrator of the Southern Service Office, who is retiring and was given a vote of thanks for his service.

Close of Conference

(Tim W-M)

“I’m an alcoholic, my name is Tim and just for today, thanks to people like you, I’m sober. When I say I’m an alcoholic that means I am a retired tramp, that’s the reality of it – a retired tramp with a criminal record and yet you wonderful people elected me as Chair of this Conference. I promised I would do my best and I have done that, whether it is good enough or not, only you people can judge. I can tell you something, it would not have been possible without the intense support and encouragement of the staff of GSO – they are magnificent without exception.

I have had the privilege of two years serving on the Conference Steering Committee. Last year’s Committee was very good and this year’s was superb and I, for one, am delighted that the ‘Welsh Wizard’ is going to be running affairs next year. I hope I have made enough mistakes for you to learn a few things, Wynford - I’m human and I’m fallible and I have had a wonderful year.

I’m 78 years of age and the night before Conference I celebrated my 37th anniversary as a newcomer. How good can it get? I have had four superb meetings with the Steering Committee and I have been greeted with warmth, affection and respect by everybody I’ve met in this Fellowship and I’ve had a wonderful year outside the Fellowship – it still keeps getting better.

I celebrated my ‘belly-button’ birthday in January, in March I flew to New York going as a guest of another organization and, of course, my expenses were paid so I was travelling steerage which, of course, I always do anyway. I had just got into my seat, put my coat and hat into the rack above and there was a uniformed figure standing beside me saying with the Captain’s compliments would you care to move to first class. I have friends in high places all over the world - they are AA members – the second pilot was one of us!

I went to New York and a friend of mine on one of the non-AA correspondence lists happened to spot from something I said a couple of years ago, I’d used some kind of coded phrase he recognised and said are you a friend of Bill W in a letter back to me and I said yes.

He travelled 30 miles to pick me up and take me to an AA meeting which was 30 miles in the other direction and then took me back again to my hotel afterwards. That’s what I call AA Service.

David M, who is retiring, I have known since he came into AA and the other retiring members of the Board I wish I had, because I am in awe of the service that the Board members give. At least the alcoholic members are doing it for the same reason I am here today, for their sobriety – the people who really turn me on and leave me gob-smacked are the non-alcoholic members of the Board of AA. They give up their time out of love or lunacy – I don’t know which but I am just so glad they do it.

I no longer live in England, I'm an ex-patriot, a poor deprived lad who has just survived a harsh winter on the Cote d'Azur! The things I do for my art! So I am no longer a member of South West Region, but I would like the members of South West Region, each and every one of them, to take back my love, my respect and my thanks to the people who helped me get sober in the first place.

I would also ask the Scottish members, particularly those from Edinburgh, to do the same because I worked a lot in Edinburgh and Cockburn Street was my second home.

Most of all I would like to thank you, ordinary AA members, doing your best to serve the Fellowship we love. Now, I cannot judge Conference because up here I have been more concerned with watching the clock, which left me in some very invidious positions. I had the unfortunate task of being trapped by previous Conference decisions and having to try and silence people who were expressing my views, but I trust the process and I trust the Fellowship. Conference in its good time will find a balance that will allow the sort of free and open debate we had this morning to purvey the entire period of Conference. That way will be open and transparent and it will happen, it will happen because of the good sense of the people in this room and others like you.

I leave England AA in very safe hands, it's in your hands and every time you go to a meeting and you share your strength, hope and experience with me you are sharing your life with me. You do it for your own sobriety, but that is what you are doing, sharing your life with me and that's how the Higher Power, as I do not pretend to understand him, gives me my life and I wouldn't have that any other way".

Tim closed Conference by asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Forty-Fourth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Park Inn, North Street, York on 17-19 April 2009.

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA A EASTERN REGION

SECRETARY ROBERT DE W LONDON REGION NORTH

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

1. Can delegates share experience from within the Fellowship of how best to pass the message of AA within the healthcare system?

There is a wealth of experience in the Fellowship. To maximise this knowledge this Committee recommends that:

1. As Health is a separate discipline, each Intergroup and Region has a Health Liaison Officer in place.
2. The Intergroup Health Liaison Officer forms a committee who would be able to offer support and encouragement in order to reach a larger area.
3. Members who work within the healthcare system are encouraged to be involved with the committees to share their knowledge and experience, even if their need to preserve their own anonymity prevents them from actively giving talks and presentations.
4. When representing AA it is important that the Traditions are upheld and use is made of Guideline 9, the Health Resource Pack and the Hands-On Suggestions.
5. Individual members take it upon themselves to pass on literature and contact cards to their own GPs.
6. A facility be provided on the GSO website for members of Health Liaison teams to exchange ideas and offer support, similar to the Public Information briefing.
7. The Fellowship be encouraged to share their experience by submitting articles to be included in our regular Health newsletter and *AA Service News*.
8. Sponsorship be encouraged and regular service workshops be held to increase interest and awareness.
9. A letter be sent by GSO to all Groups, enclosing copies of *Message to the Medical Profession* and Guideline 9, to encourage local action.

10. Members involved in service be encouraged to share their experience whenever possible, not for personal recognition, but to raise awareness among the greater membership.
11. AA develops communication with care workers looking after the housebound alcoholic.

Carried Unanimously

2. Would Conference endorse the writing and publication of a book, detailing the history of the AA Service Structure in Great Britain?

This Committee recommends that Conference does not endorse the writing and publication of a book detailing the history of the AA service structure in Great Britain at this time.

However, this Committee strongly believes that there is a value in detailing the development and growth of the service structure in Great Britain, highlighting how and why it evolved.

In order that our heritage is recorded, we recommend that the General Service Board is tasked with considering how this can best be achieved and report back to this Committee at Conference 2009 for further consideration.

This was carried 16 in favour, with 2 against.

The minority view recommended that Conference endorse the writing and publication of a book detailing the history of the AA service structure in Great Britain.

3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Marc M (Scotia Region) as Chair of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2009.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Mandy E (North East Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2009.

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

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIRMAN MAUREEN W EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

SECRETARY LYNNE W WALES & BORDERS REGION

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

1. Can delegates share experience from within the Fellowship of how best to pass the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to both employers and employees.

Our experience is:

1. The Fellowship needs to encourage the filling of the Employment Liaison Officer (ELO) post at Intergroup and Region level.

It is noted that two thirds of Intergroup and Region ELO posts are currently vacant. (Unanimous)

2. There is a wealth of good practice and support available; we need to implement effective methods of communication and utilisation of our resources, thus encouraging members into this post. (Unanimous)

It is suggested also that the carrying of the message could be assisted by creating a webpage on the GSO website dedicated to employers and employees. (2 Abstentions)

2. How can groups encourage members to share their experience, strength and hope with the wider Fellowship by submitting articles to Share and Roundabout.

This Committee recommends that groups encourage members to share their experience, strength and hope by:

1. Electing a Share/Roundabout representative.
2. Sponsorship at all levels.
3. Informing members that articles are accepted regardless of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
4. Encouraging members from all language communities to submit articles. The message is what's important. (Unanimous)

3. Review revised Guideline No. 8 'AA and Employment'

This Committee recommends that revised Guideline No.8 be returned to the General Service Board for proper review with the proviso that it is re-submitted to the General Service Conference in 2009. (Unanimous)

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Matthew McC (Scotia Region) as Chair of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2009.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Marjie T (South East Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2009.

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

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIRMAN WYNFORD O WALES & BORDERS REGION

SECRETARY JOE F EASTERN REGION

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

- 1. Would Conference please share experience and make recommendations about the observance/maintenance of Tradition 7 in the light of societies' changing practices at Funerals.**

Would Conference consider the preparation of a statement which would delineate the acceptable and non acceptable responses to grief stricken family members' desire to hold collections at Funerals and give the collected monies to AA.

Committee 3 shared experience and recommended unanimously that Tradition 7 should be observed and maintained regardless of society's changing practices at funerals.

After discussion it was decided that it would be inappropriate to prepare a statement for grief-stricken family members because of the sensitive issues that may arise, and because AA does not wish to engage in any controversy.

However, to raise awareness within the Fellowship this Committee unanimously recommends that:

- 1 We ask the General Service Board to explain further to the Fellowship how donations can be made on the death of a member;
- 2 The following information be added to the pamphlet "*The Pot*".

"In keeping with our tradition of self-support, AA discourages collections and donations from people outside the Fellowship, for example, at funerals and memorial services";
- 3 The editors of *Share*, *Roundabout* and *AA Service News* be encouraged to include articles addressing the issue of how donations can be made on the death of a member.

2. Can the Fellowship share its experience of how new groups are supported by Intergroups and Regions.

Experience shows that new groups are best supported by Intergroups and Regions when welcomed into the service structure of the Fellowship, and are encouraged to draw on existing literature, guidelines and experience, which offer specific guidance; for example, *The AA Group*, *The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA*, *AA Service Handbook for Great Britain* in particular Guideline No1 Group Meetings, and the Traditions.

There will always be opportunities to help new groups on a needs basis, for example: Regions who sponsor a British Sign Language interpreter for a local deaf and hard of hearing meeting; and another Intergroup who donated a significant amount of literature to re-establish a prison group.

This was the unanimous conscience of the Committee.

3. How can the Fellowship support members for whom English is not their first language.

Experience shows that the Fellowship can best support members for whom English is not their first language by remembering that our Fellowship is first and foremost one of sharing in the language of the heart, of being inclusive, not exclusive and in extending the hand of AA to all who ask for it.

However, we also acknowledge the depth of identification and acceptance that comes from sharing in one's mother tongue. Facilitating this is an act of service and can be accomplished in many creative and loving ways.

This is already being achieved, through the telephone service database. Translations of non-English AA literature can be sourced through the General Service Office. Nonetheless, the Committee felt that more could be done. For example:

- 1 To raise awareness through the service structure that translated AA literature can be sourced from the General Service Office;
- 2 Details of other AA national websites could be made available on our website (not a link);
- 3 Encourage second language members to be 12th Steppers and online responders;
- 4 Initiating contact with non English speaking groups regardless of the language difference.

There was a minority opinion registered requesting that the Literature Committee of the General Service Board carry out a feasibility study of producing a translation of the Big Book and the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions into British Sign Language.

Vote 4 in favour 9 against.

There was also a minority opinion registered requesting that British Sign Language be added to existing DVDs and videos.

Vote 2 in favour, 1 abstention, 10 against.

Discussion of the above minority opinions resulted in a fresh proposal which was duly seconded and voted upon as follows:

This Conference recommends that the General Service Board investigate the feasibility of:

1. Producing a translation of the Big Book and Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions into British Sign Language.
2. Sign language be added to existing DVDs and Videos.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Linda S (Highlands & Islands Region) as Chair of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2009.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Tom S (South East Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2009.

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

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIRMAN JOHN H SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

SECRETARY TOM P NORTH WEST REGION

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

1. Our primary purpose is to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic, but are we as a Fellowship best using modern communications and methods to carry the AA message? Discuss and make recommendations.

Committee 4 considered and discussed at length the way the Fellowship currently uses modern communications and methods to carry the AA message to the still-suffering alcoholic. This Committee considers that while, in general, we make good use of the facilities available, there will always be room for improvement, and recommends:

1. Conference establish the post of Electronic Communications Liaison Officer at Intergroup level.
2. All Region and Intergroup Electronic Communications Liaison Officers be included in the Confidential Directory under their respective Intergroup or Region heading.
3. Job descriptions for Electronic Communications Liaison Officers be prepared by the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee.
4. A continuous review of the GSO GB website be undertaken by the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee to ensure ease of access and usage.
5. The Telephone Service Sub-Committee research the concept of contact by text messages.
6. All Service Sub-Committees continuously review their use of modern methods of communication.

In conclusion, Committee 4 considers that our Fellowship continues to strive to ensure that we reach out and carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, using both traditional and modern methods of communication.

Committee 4 considered that the Question was obscure in its wording and that it lacked any background information and requests that the Conference Steering Committee takes note of this for future reference when compiling Questions.

This was the unanimous decision of Committee 4.

2. Would Conference consider the appropriateness or otherwise of links to outside sites from the GSO AA Great Britain website and make recommendations.

Committee 4, in principle and in accordance with Tradition 6, recommends that:

1. There should be no links from the AA GSO GB website.
2. In the spirit of unity, a list of AA National websites (in a non-linkable format) is provided on the GSO website, in order that, for example, members for whom English is not their first language, will find the support needed.
3. Guideline 19 be reviewed and reported back to Conference 2009, if practical.

This was a majority decision (14 for, 3 against).
A minority view on items 1 and 2 was recorded.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Clark S (Glasgow Region) as Chair of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2009.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Barbara K (South East Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2009.

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

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIRMAN DAVE A CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

SECRETARY EAMON D LONDON REGION NORTH

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

1. Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is communicating with the Probation Service (Social Services in Scotland) at the governmental, national and local levels in the most effective manner possible?

This Committee recognises that Alcoholics Anonymous communicates with Probation Services very effectively at governmental/national levels in England and Wales.

We also recognise the improving communications at the governmental/national level with Social Services in Scotland.

At local level there are very good examples of communication with Probation Services/Social Services. However, as a Committee, we feel this needs to be further improved and developed by Regions, Intergroups and Groups communicating at the local level more effectively.

Recommendation:

That the Probation/Social Services Guideline be reviewed and returned to Conference 2009.

This recommendation was approved 18 for, 2 against. The minority opinion felt the Committee should not make recommendations.

2. Discuss and share experience as to whether AA is in communication with the Armed Services at all levels in the most effective manner possible?

This Committee recognises that, through the hard work being undertaken by the Armed Services Sub-Committee of the General Service Board, that Alcoholics Anonymous is developing effective communication with the Armed Services at national level.

The experience shared in Committee Five suggests that there is limited local communication with the Armed Services. However, where the existing service structure engages in this 12th Step work, communications are effective.

In areas where members of the Fellowship with a military background have participated in this service discipline, their experience has proved invaluable.

3. Review revised Guideline No. 11 'AA in Penal Establishments'.

The Committee recommends that Conference approves revised Guideline No. 11 'AA in Penal Establishments' with the following amendments:

a. Insert as the second paragraph under Prison Groups (First page):

“So far as the Fellowship of AA is concerned, female members may be included in the panel of agreed sponsors for male prisons, provided they are accompanied by a male AA member, or male members on the panel for female prisons, provided they are accompanied by a female AA member, subject to the approval of the Governor.”

b. Insert after “can” in the last line of the heading Literature (Second page):
“also”.

c. Insert after “laws” in the first paragraph of the Code of Conduct (Second page)
“and regulations”.

d. Change “LET IS STAY THERE” to read “LET IT STAY THERE” (Third page).

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Eamon D (London Region North) as Chair of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2009.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Rachel E (South Midlands Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2009.

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

FORTY-THIRD GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2008

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIRMAN WILLIAM O NORTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY JEREMY W HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

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

1. Discuss and share experience how groups reach out to the housebound.

Having discussed and shared their experience, the Committee noted the following:

- Group awareness of the housebound alcoholic varied, but could be improved;
- Support for established group members was generally good, but concern was expressed about newcomers;
- Groups often do not adequately communicate with the housebound alcoholic;
- Home visits for established members were commonplace, but great care needed to be taken to protect the housebound member and the Fellowship as a whole;
- Communication with Social Services were excellent in some areas, not so good in others.

Many practical suggestions were forthcoming: eg,

Telephone Duty;

Online meetings and downloadable *Grapevine*, *Roundabout* and *Share* when available;

Transport provision;

Group co-ordinator;

Support of daytime meetings;

Ask the housebound alcoholic.

In the light of the above, the Committee recommends:

1. The housebound member be considered as a topic for discussion at all levels, including the European Service Meeting and the World Service Meeting;
2. That the Literature Committee consider the points listed above during review of printed materials and consider the production of further materials to assist with this issue.

The Committee was unanimous.

2. Traditions 11 and 12 deal with the issue of Anonymity in the Fellowship. Would Conference consider how these Traditions can be preserved in the light of the ever increasing media presence in modern day society?

The Committee considered how these Traditions can be preserved in modern day society and the following suggestions emerged:

1. Awareness of Tradition 11 needs to be maintained and increased at groups, conventions, open meetings and by sponsorship, with particular emphasis on the newcomer. (NB Guideline 1, the Anonymity Tradition and Guideline 15, the Anonymity Announcement and pamphlet “*Understanding Anonymity*”).
2. Any approach from the media to be referred to the appropriate PI Officer or Service Office;
3. E-mail addresses, cameras, mobile phones and social networking sites are potential ways for anonymity to be breached, intentionally or otherwise and great caution needs to be exercised by the Fellowship:

Remember, the Internet is a public medium.

4. Members should be encouraged to embrace the spirit of self-sacrifice and humility when interacting with the media.

The Committee was unanimous.

3. Review revised Guideline No. 9 ‘AA and Healthcare in the Community’.

The Committee recommends Conference approves the revised Guideline 9 with the following amendments:

First page Introduction box. Insert in line 1, after “Guideline” the phrase “in conjunction with the AA Health Resource Pack.”

Next paragraph Line 1: Delete “a”, substitute “an”;
Line 2: In front of “combined”, delete “a” and insert “the local AA”.

Second page Second paragraph:
Line 2: After “Intergroups” insert “and Regions”.

Third page First paragraph, line 2:
After “experience”, insert “and contacts”

Final paragraph: Line 4:
Delete “Hospital”, substitute “Health”.

Final page Final list:

Insert “AA Health Resource Pack” in front of the others.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected Paula B (North East Region) as Chair of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2009.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2009.

The Committee elected John F (Wales & Borders Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2009.

FORTY-THIRD GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2008

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: **Tim W-M** (South West Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Ralph	A		
Penny	A (Elect)	2	
Martin	B	5	
Roger	B	6	
David	C	1	
Jerry	C	2	
Andy	C	6	
Dave	D	5	
Sheila	D (Elect)	3	
Ian	D	3	
Hugo	D	4	
Mari	F	4	
Ann	McD	4	
David	M	5	
Polly	M-P	1	
Vince	O	6	
Ann	S	3	
Jim	S	5	
John	S (Elect)	1	
Jim	T	1	
Charles	W	2	
Louise Foxcroft		2	
Carol Titley		5	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ann N General Secretary

Sharon Smyth

Chris North

Elaine Pickering

Angela Varley

Helen Lambeth

Jenny Pryke

John H (Southern Service Office)

Caroline D (Northern Service Office)

SHARE

Ro	N	2	1
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ROUNDBOUT

James	K	6	3
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**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Gabriella	A	1	3
Pam	R	2	1
Joe	F	3	3
Margaret	J	4	3
Terry	W	5	3
Martin	H	6	1

LONDON REGION NORTH

Robert	De W	1	2
Tom	B	2	2
Marc	N	3	A
Billy	D	4	1
Eamon	D	5	2
Jamal	K	6	A

LONDON REGION SOUTH

Anthony	R	1	1
Michael	G	2	1
		3	
Jim	H	4	2
Simon	N	5	1
Sharon	C	6	2

MIDLANDS REGION

Dave	A	1	2
Rebecca	R	2	1
Prag	S	3	2
Roy	K	4	3
Robin	M	5	2
Philip	H	6	1

NORTH EAST REGION

Mandy	E	1	1
Maxine	W	2	1
Jeremy	H	3	A
John	C	4	3
Rene	D	5	3
Paula	B	6	2

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

NORTH WEST REGION

Marilyn	R	1	3
Marie	T	2	1
Charles	H	3	1
Tom	P	4	2
Charlie	McL	5	1
William	O	6	3

SOUTH EAST REGION

David	O	1	2
Marjorie	T	2	1
Tom	S	3	2
Barbara	K	4	1
Alex	M	5	3
Peter	F	6	3

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Paul	W	1	1
James	A	2	1
Moira	S	3	1
Brian	L	4	1
Rachel	E	5	1
Jenie	B	6	1

SOUTH WEST REGION

Graeme	H	1	1
John	F	2	3
Jennie	K	3	2
Pat	C	4	3
Geoff	C	5	2
Ron	G	6	3

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Judy	F	1	3
Lynne	W	2	2
Wynford	O	3	3
Neil	T	4	1
JoJo	H	5	1
John	F	6	2

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Jim	C	1	A
Maureen	W	2	3
Gus	H	3	2
Jim	R	4	3
Geoff	T	5	3
Gina	D	6	1

GLASGOW REGION

Jeanetter	McG	1	1
Brian	S	2	1
Derek	F	3	1
Clark	S	4	2
Andrina	C	5	3
Susan	C	6	2

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Maureen	F	1	3
Sandy	MacV	2	1
Linda	S	3	2
Paul	B	4	1
Sebastian	Z	5	A
Jeremy	W	6	3

SCOTIA REGION

Marc	M	1	2
Matt	M	2	2
Betty	S	3	3
Anthony	N	4	3
Kay	D	5	2
Margaret	M	6	3

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Sue	R	1	2
Helen	C	2	A
Roberta	B	3	1
John	H	4	3
Cate	T	5	2
Kate	H	6	2

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Greg	H	1	3
Nicola	K	2	A
John	R	3	1
David	N	4	3
David	A	5	3
Andrew	G	6	3

OBSERVERS

Jozef	F	(Belgium – Flemish Speaking)	4	2
Helle	V	(Denmark)	5	1
Mads	B	(Denmark)	4	2
Arvids	A	(Latvia)	1	1
Jacek	C	(Poland)	3	2
Wil	S	(Netherlands)	1	2
John	S	(USA)	2	1
Greg	M	(USA)	6	1

Glossary of Abbreviations used in this report

<i>AA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
<i>AASN</i>	-	<i>AA Service News</i>
<i>AAWS</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
<i>BME</i>	-	<i>Black and Minority Ethnic</i>
<i>CLINKS</i>	-	<i>Community Links with the Voluntary Sector in Prisons</i>
<i>CSC</i>	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
<i>ELO</i>	-	<i>Employment Liaison Officer</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>LRS</i>	-	<i>London Region South</i>
<i>NAT</i>	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
<i>NHS</i>	-	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>NNC</i>	-	<i>Northern National Convention</i>
<i>NOMS</i>	-	<i>National Offender Management Service</i>
<i>NSO</i>	-	<i>Northern Service Office</i>
<i>PI</i>	-	<i>Public Information</i>
<i>PICPC</i>	-	<i>Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community</i>
<i>PLO</i>	-	<i>Probation Liaison Officer</i>
<i>PR</i>	-	<i>Public Relations</i>
<i>PSA</i>	-	<i>Public Service Announcement</i>
<i>RTLO</i>	-	<i>Regional Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>SASO</i>	-	<i>Scottish Association for the Study of Offending</i>
<i>SIGN</i>	-	<i>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network</i>
<i>SPSHQ</i>	-	<i>Scottish Prison Headquarters</i>
<i>SSO</i>	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
<i>SWOT</i>	-	<i>Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats</i>
<i>TLO</i>	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>TOR</i>	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>
<i>YPP</i>	-	<i>Young People Project</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.

