

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GREAT BRITAIN

Fifty-Second General Service Conference

21-23 April 2017
The Henley Suite
Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York

A New Freedom & A New Happiness



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

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GREAT BRITAIN

Fifty-Second
General Service Conference

*A New Freedom &
A New Happiness*



FIFTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2017

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 21 April 2017

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Committee Meetings Commence

Nominations - Conference Chair 2018

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 1)

Saturday 22 April 2017

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports
(Session 2)

Open Forum

Sunday 23 April 2017

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chair for the Fifty-Third General Service
Conference

Confirmation of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 21 APRIL

The Fifty-Second 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 and the General Service Office. All full sessions were held in the Henley Suite.

After lunch, registration and distribution of folders commenced at around 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 94 delegates from sixteen Regions; 20 members of the General Service Board, Amanda S - Conference Chair (London Region South), the General Secretary and 6 members of staff from the General Service Office. Also in attendance were 7 Observers from the following countries:

Bulgaria	1
Czech Republic	1
Ireland	2
Poland	2
Portugal	1

Total in attendance 129.

Opening of Conference by Amanda S (Conference Chair 2017)

Good afternoon Conference, my name is Amanda and I am an alcoholic.

It is my privilege on behalf of the Fellowship to welcome you all to the 52nd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain.

I would firstly like to extend a warm welcome to the new delegates, known affectionately as 'red dotters,' your name badge contains a small red dot that indicates to the rest of us that this is your first time at Conference and that we should show you love, support and guidance. Please feel free to reach out if you need to ask any questions.

I know how daunting it is to attend your first Conference but I do hope you find it a fantastic experience and leave with a greater understanding of how this wonderful Fellowship works.

To those of you who are returning delegates, Board members and staff, may I welcome you back.

To our guests and many observers from abroad a very special welcome, thank you for attending.

I would also like to thank the members of this year's Conference Steering Committee: Jo, Holly, Sid, Pauline, Andy and Sophie - our six Committee chairs and Nigel, Tom and Helen –

our Board members, for their commitment and input at the Conference Steering Committee meetings.

I'd also like to thank Roger, our General Secretary and Sharon our Conference Co-ordinator, for their unwavering support and guidance to myself and the Steering Committee over the past year, it is much appreciated.

Conference can we please have a moments silence to remember why we are here and to remember the still suffering alcoholic.

I will now open with the Preamble:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Now I would like everyone to join me in saying the Declaration of Unity:

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, And the lives of those to come.

Amanda then invited the General Secretary, Roger B to read the Twelve Traditions and then commenced her **Keynote Address:**

A NEW FREEDOM AND A NEW HAPPINESS

Hello Conference, my name is Amanda and I am an alcoholic. I am truly blessed to have the chance to chair this year's Conference and to be able to share some of my journey in Alcoholics Anonymous with you.

Little did I realise when I walked into my first meeting on a Monday night in Bromley nearly 13 years ago the incredible journey I would begin.

At the time I thought my life was over as I knew I couldn't drink, yet I didn't know how I could live a happy and fulfilled life without it. But it wasn't the end it was the start of a wonderful new life.

So when I was tasked with choosing the theme for this Conference I wanted to choose something that was personal to my recovery.

As I sat with my Region, London South, for lunch last year after being elected Chair the answer came almost immediately – A New Freedom and A New Happiness from the Step 9 Promises.

I remember in my first few years of recovery sitting in a Saturday lunchtime meeting and hearing The Promises - I always remembered the phrase: 'We are going to know a new freedom & a new happiness' but never thought at that time it would ever apply to me, how I longed for even just a few of those 'Promises' to come true.

The words 'we will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it' was a phrase that I never thought I would be able to accept because when I came into AA I was broken, physically, mentally and spiritually. I had 16 years of alcoholic drinking under my belt, I was just 34 but I knew it was game over for me and alcohol.

I had tried every which way to give up drinking on my own but nothing ever worked. What I didn't understand was that once I took that first drink I couldn't stop. I thought myself a resourceful, intelligent woman yet alcoholism had beaten me.

It was a conversation with my mother who told me that unless I stopped drinking I would die, she could see the severity of my condition and she used tough love to help me see that I was killing myself. She had tried to get me to stop drinking before but it hadn't worked, this time as she spelt out the harsh reality if I didn't stop – something profound happened – it was like a light had been switched on inside and I knew she was right.

'Why don't you call Alcoholics Anonymous Amanda' she said. She handed me the number and after she left my house - with tears streaming down my face - I made that call.

I was very lucky to be put in touch with a lady who had long term sobriety and took me to my first meeting. It was May 10, 2004 and as I walked into the room I was struck by the happy smiling faces and the fellowship that seemed to exist among them.

I found hope in that first meeting and identification, for the first time ever I knew I was not alone anymore, and I wanted to come back.

What I learnt very quickly was that alcohol came in bottles and alcoholism came in people. I learnt that I was suffering from a progressive disease of the mind and body that only total abstinence from alcohol, working with a sponsor through the 12 steps, the rooms of AA and service could arrest. I was told that I had to be prepared to go to any lengths for my recovery and that it was a programme of action that brought about change and a new way of living.

I was sponsored into service very quickly and I understood the importance of being of service to my personal recovery. I am very grateful to my fellow Dawn, who set me on the road to AA service.

I had the goal of reaching my first birthday and then being eligible for Telephone Service at the London Telephone Office, at that time in Kings Cross. This was a service I loved and when Dawn rotated out of Intergroup Telephone rep she had me waiting in the wings to replace her – then a few years later as she rotated out of the TLO at Region she again asked me to take that on. This was my first introduction to service outside of my own Intergroup and it also set me on the path to experiencing Conference.

In fact, if my Higher Power hadn't intervened I may not have been standing here today as I was due to rotate out of my Region position when the post of Alternative Conference

Delegate came up, our region chair at the time encouraged me to go for it, not quite knowing what I was letting myself in for I agreed and got it.

A year later I was made a full Conference delegate and in April 2014 arrived in York as a red dotter at my first Conference, full of fear. But that fear quickly left me as I was made to feel so welcome and valued despite being a newcomer at Conference.

By the end of the weekend I settled into it and was voted in as Secretary of Committee 3 and I left with a new understanding of the Fellowship and the importance of Conference to AA.

In fact, it was at that Conference that I bumped into our Non-Alcoholic Trustee Ash Kahn, we spoke about my day job, working with the media, and he suggested I might like to apply when a vacancy arose on the Public Information Sub-Committee, which a few months later I did and was accepted and thus began another path in my service journey.

Alcohol robbed me of many things - I missed out on marriage and motherhood as I spent my formative years in the grip of active alcoholism. But when I finally started to go through the 12 Steps I had the most amazing spiritual awakening and I realised that I could have the life I thought I never could, it's just a matter of being willing to go to any lengths and for me, trusting in a Higher Power.

My life today is unrecognisable from the old life. In recovery I've been lucky enough to meet my soul mate and find love – this was something that until I found I never knew how precious it was. Not only have I found love but I have become a step-mother to two beautiful girls, Olivia and Bella. I never dreamt I would experience motherhood in any shape or form but today I have a 5 and 7-year-old who love me unconditionally. They have got used to me coming regularly to York and a few weeks ago made me 'Dick Whittington style holdall' made from a Santa sack and a stick so I can pack my things for York!

I took up horse riding again, which I gave up when my drinking took hold and in recovery I've had the gift of owning my own horse and that sense of peace and freedom when you are out riding – just the two of you – talk about serenity.

However, life doesn't stop happening just because we are sober but today I am equipped with the tools to deal with life on life's terms. Quite often my Higher Power doesn't give me what I think I want but always what I need and I've learnt to trust and let go and let God.

I am privileged to be a member of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and to know the power of being in an AA meeting – there's nothing quite like it and as you go into your committees to discuss the questions remember to be patient, tolerant and loving of others.

Carrying the conscience of your Regions you will get to play a great part in this 52nd Conference and I hope you will leave knowing that you have made a valuable contribution to this wonderful Fellowship.

Before we go to the Committees let me just remind you of those Step 9 Promises that mean so much:

'If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will

not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realise that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us – sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialise if we work for them.'

Thank you each and every one of you for being here today as it is the programme and the power of the Fellowship that has given me a new freedom and a new happiness in my life and for that I am forever grateful.

Amanda then introduced each one of the six Committee Chairs and then asked Andy K, alternate Conference Chair to give the Steering Committee report.

Conference Steering Committee Report

Andy K (Scotia Region), Alternate Chair

Good evening, my name is Andy, and I am an Alcoholic. My homegroup is Prestonpans Friday meeting and my sobriety date is 5th August 2009, a date which saw me with a totally unmanageable lifestyle and having to be taken into hospital because I was suicidal. The past seven years have totally revitalised me and changed me, I could not have stood here on that day in August 2009 and addressed you all.

AA has given me my life back and although there are the normal ups and downs of life, I am able to cope with them due to the examples and lessons I have learned in the rooms of AA. One of my fears about stopping drinking, and possibly one that kept me out of AA for a long time, was the fear that I would lose the confidence that alcohol gave me; that boost to one's outlook on life which I thought enabled me to face the world on a daily basis. How wrong I was! Sobriety has given me the ability to deal with life and the confidence to take on that task; otherwise I would not be standing here tonight.

Shortly after joining the Fellowship, I was at home preparing to go to a Meeting. My son saw me and said "Are you going to your classes?" I pointed out that these were not 'classes' they were just meetings of friends in AA who gather to help each other. On reflection during that meeting however, I found that my son was more perceptive than I was! These meetings were indeed "classes" which I had to attend to learn how to live life again. I am still learning!

Right at the start of my journey into sobriety I was taken under the wing of a very wise and kind man. Many here will know him, Watson, who gently introduced me to the Fellowship, encouraging, cajoling, always reminding me that I needed to change to remain sober. He never demanded anything but his suggestions seemed to stick! He would constantly say, "Look at the Winners – how did they get there, copy them" Service was one of the main

areas and I was encouraged into service, first within my group, then Intergroup, finally Region, which led me to attendance at Conference; initially as an Alternate, here I am again as an Alternate, this time as Alternate Chair! Attendance at meetings and Service have been the foundations of my sobriety and the guidelines for my continuing journey in the Fellowship.

Now I turn to the working of the Conference Steering Group. The Group is made up of the Conference Chair, as elected by Conference 2016, and the Chairs of each Committee, as elected by that Committee. These seven people are fully supported and advised by Board Members, Tom H and Nigel P and guided on process and precedent by GSO staff in the form of our General Secretary, Roger B and the GSO Conference Coordinator Sharon Smyth. After Tom H stood down as a Trustee we were joined and advised by Helen S; we appreciate and welcomed her input albeit at the latter stages of our deliberations. The Committee are extremely grateful for the support, wisdom and guidance we received.

The Committee met four times under the Chairmanship of Amanda S. The first meeting was to set the remit of the Committee and how we would operate as a team. Amanda informed the meeting that she would like to use as a theme "*A New Freedom & A New Happiness*" a theme lifted from The Promises, which over the years have increasingly been a major part of my life; this theme was welcomed by the Committee. The next two meetings were to look at and decide which questions to take to Conference and the final meeting was to tie up admin arrangements for the Conference.

One of the first points was whether the Board Members would be able to vote during our proceedings. The Committee took the view that, even though they were not Committee members, they were recovering alcoholics so the decision to vote would be left to them to use as they felt appropriate.

Questions had to be with GSO by 31st August 2016 and eventually 74 questions from all areas of the Fellowship in UK and Continental Europe arrived for consideration. Each member of the Committee had to read these questions, decide from information supplied, if the question was valid under the three year rule whereby questions raised at Conference could not be readdressed within three years and if the question is indeed a valid one for Conference, using the Terms of Reference for our Committee as given in the Handbook. Several questions were very similar and could be looked at together – we had to be very careful that we were looking at like for like and that any valid point was not overlooked just because the questions looked similar. Although each member had received the questions prior to the meeting and was able to read and make an initial opinion, the Questions were discussed by the Committee and decisions were taken collectively. From this the Committee had to select a series of questions to be put to the membership of the Conference in 2017. In the end we chose to take forward 12 questions. At all times the Committee had to bear in mind the Traditions and Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Terms of Reference for this Committee. I did not realise how difficult it would be to look at a question, decide how/if it fitted into the Terms of Reference, without trying to answer the question! The final task regarding the questions was to allocate them to the six Committees. We are then left with two piles – questions going to Conference and ones that have been rejected this year. These latter questions are not just 'filed away' but each questioner is contacted and a short explanation given as to why the Committee did not take their question forward; in some instances and where the Committee felt it appropriate, the question was forwarded to another sub-committee to consider and formulate a response to the questioner.

One issue that the Steering Committee had to deal with was regarding Members who submitted questions but did not accept that the question had not gone forward to Conference. The Conference Steering Committee make their decisions jointly and give reasons for rejection. The Committee are neither in a position to enter into lengthy correspondence regarding rejected questions nor are they minded to change their opinion on questions going forward purely because the questioner does not like that. There is a timetable that has to be met to enable the Questions selected for Conference to go out to the Fellowship to allow them time to discuss and formulate a position prior to Conference. Please take this back to your Regions and explain that we are not discouraging questions but there are limits to the Committee's resources. If your question is rejected please look at the reasons why and, if you feel it is still a valid question, re-submit for the following year's Conference – but there is no guarantee that it will succeed.

Finally, I would like to say how grateful and humble I am for being given the opportunity of carrying out this very interesting, very thought provoking and very worthwhile piece of Service. I hope that the work done by the Steering Committee helps you in your work over this weekend and that you are able to discuss the issues fully, robustly and with comradeship in the same manner that the Committee have done in preparing the ground for you.

I can't finish without thanking again the Committee under Amanda, our Board Members, Nigel, Tom and Helen plus of course from GSO, Roger and Sharon. The support from all the GSO staff, who are fully behind and supporting the work of the Committee and this Conference, has been enormous and most welcome. We may not see them but believe me without them this Conference just would not happen.

I wish you all well in your deliberations this weekend, especially the Red Dotters; have a good conference and enjoy the experience of taking the Fellowship forward and remember – Keep it Simple!

Roger B, General Secretary, was asked to read the orientation containing last-minute changes, safety information and the National Convention dates which are:

- Welsh Convention – 2nd – 4th June 2017
- Southern Convention – 1st – 3rd September 2017
- Northern Convention – 23rd – 25th March 2018

Amanda went on to explain the voting procedure and how these votes would be counted to which Conference agreed and eight tellers were selected from 2nd term delegates to undertake this task for the whole weekend.

The first full session of Conference ended at 3.45 pm with Amanda asking everyone to join her in saying the Serenity Prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING

Amanda welcomed everyone back and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence and the Preamble, asked for nominations for Conference Chair 2018 before handing over to Geoff H, Chair of the Board, to introduce the General Service Board Report.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIR 2018

The under mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chair of the Fifty-Third General Service Conference 2018:

Holly A	-	South West Region
Pauline B	-	North East Region
Sid D	-	Eastern Region
Jo F	-	Eastern Region
Sophie F	-	North West Region
Carmel G	-	South East Region
Andy K	-	Scotia 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.

General Service Board Report

(Geoff H – Chair GSB)

Good evening Conference, my name is Geoff and I'm an alcoholic. I would first of all like to welcome you all to Conference 2017, especially those of you who are here for the first time. I hope that you get as much out of it as I have from the Conferences that I have attended so far. I should also like to thank Amanda as Conference Chair, the Conference Steering Committee, Sharon as Conference Coordinator, and all of our excellent support staff for putting this Conference together.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Board reports. During this evening we shall have presentations by Joe H our Honorary Treasurer, James K for Electronic Communications, Carol H and Denise H for Literature and Nick Holroyd who is one of our Non-Alcoholic Trustees. Tomorrow evening we shall hear from Wullie I for the 75th Anniversary Convention and the new Young People's discipline, Peter F for Public Information and Charlie R for Prisons. In addition to these there are reports in your Conference packs for all of the service disciplines, which have been produced by the Trustees responsible for them. Please do feel free to approach any of our Trustees over the weekend should you have specific queries. Their disciplines are indicated on their name badges and they have all been allocated to the Committees.

The Board is not currently up to its full complement, in that some Regions are without a Trustee. This places additional demands upon Trustees, all of whom are responsible for more than one discipline. The Honorary Treasurer and Vice-Chair also currently have responsibilities additional to their substantive roles.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable work carried out by our Non-Alcoholic Trustees: Ash Kahn, Mani Mehdikhani and Nick Holroyd, who help to carry the AA message in ways that AA members are not able to because of the requirement of personal anonymity at the public level. Sadly, Ash will be rotating off the Board after this weekend leaving us with only two Non-Alcoholic Trustees, whereas we can have up to seven at any one time. If you are aware of a professional person who is sympathetic to the values of our Programme and Fellowship, then perhaps you might approach them to ask if they might consider applying to be a Non-Alcoholic Trustee.

The Board takes its direction from the General Service Conference and has a responsibility to implement Conference recommendations that are incumbent upon them. Good progress has been made during the last year and I want to highlight three of them this evening: the 75th Anniversary Convention to be held in 2022, which Wullie will be telling us about tomorrow evening (I remember well the 50th Anniversary one in 1997 – a very special occasion); the Chat Now facility, which is developing apace and will be covered by James this evening; and Archives, which Conference asked to be made more accessible to the Fellowship. The Borthwick Institute have agreed to help us with this project, and we are waiting for them to come back to us with a proposal. Progress during the coming year will be reported at Conference 2018.

We are also engaged in producing a new informational DVD to complement the existing 'Road to Sobriety' and 'An Inside View of AA' ones, which are now somewhat outdated in certain respects. Nigel P is coordinating this project.

One of the functions of the Board is to investigate complaints and concerns from both outside and inside the Fellowship, and these are always dealt with promptly and thoughtfully. However, on occasion, the confidential service directory has been misused, resulting in inappropriate and unnecessary communication to a much wider audience. It cannot be stressed enough that the confidential directory is intended for networking between members on service issues only.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a world-wide fellowship and AA (GB) is very much part of that. Our Trustees have attended several General Service Conferences of other European countries during the last year as observers, just as we have observers from other countries with us here this weekend, and a special welcome to them too. Joe H and Willie MacD attended the World Service Meeting in New York State in October as first-term and second-term delegates respectively. We have made financial contributions to the International Literature Fund, and also made a donation to enable delegates from Belarus, Czech Republic and Romania to attend the World Service Meeting. In this way we are helping countries who are still in the formative stages of developing their structures and who would otherwise find it very difficult to attend events outside of their own countries.

There have been public information events at the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments during the last year. We have also supported some 20 exhibitions at various venues throughout the country, as well as holding seminars and supporting regional forums.

I shall end my report by thanking all Trustees, Roger our General Secretary, all our staff at GSO and the Northern and Southern Service Offices, for all their support and hard work during the last year. Thank you for listening and I wish you all a fruitful weekend. Let the Trustee presentations begin! Thank you.

Finance

(Joe H – Honorary Treasurer GSB)

Good evening Conference, my name is Joe, I am an alcoholic and tonight's presentation on Finance is split into three parts. First of all I would like to provide an overview of the 2015/16 account which has gone out to every group and compare it against the previous year. Secondly, I would like to examine various financial trends in certain aspects of the Fellowship's finances and, thirdly I would like to set out a way forward bearing all this in mind.

	Financial Year to 30/Sept /2016 £'s	Financial Year to 30/Sept/2015 £'s
INCOME	1,352,697	1,373,270
	Down by 20,573	
EXPENDITURE	1,270,733	1,293,931
	Down by 23,198	
SUR / DEF	81,966 Before Move in investments	72,797 Before move in investments
	Increase of 9,169	

Looking at the previous year's accounts, looking at income first of all, that was down by over £20,000 to over £1.3m and the expenditure was also down by £23,000 to over £1.2m, which left an increase of over £9,000 to nearly £82,000 surplus on the previous year.

Taking a closer look at income to the Fellowship. The Fellowship has no control over its income and these are the areas that mainly the Fellowship has income from:

- Group and Intergroup Contributions
- Publications
- Reserves

Group and Intergroup Contributions I will cover in the second part. Moving to Publications, as shown in the accounts, income from publications comes from Share, Roundabout, Calendars, Diaries and all the literature shown on the literature order form. Cost of publications represents all external printing, items of literature on the stock list, Share, Roundabout, Calendars, Diaries etc.

Doing the sums, in the accounts the income from publications was over £528,000 and the cost of publications was over £155,000 and the surplus there taking one from the other, is over £372,000. Our literature stock is only of value to AA and to explain, should the Charity go into administration, the administrator would only give us a very minimal price for our literature stock because they could not sell it on on-block and they would not want to sell it in dribs and drabs as we do to individual people and other organisations so they would not

give us anything for it – the literature is only of value to us. This is quite an important factor.

Going back to the surplus of over £372,000, this amount covers all these areas:

Storage of literature; subsidy for damaged literature; shipping in of books from America; internal printing(ink); photocopying; postage; packaging; staff and associated premises overheads; Public Information leaflets; 'Free of Charge' literature; Confidential Directory; stationery; Group Treasurers Cashbook; Illustrated Literature Catalogue; Conference Reports (Prelim & Final).

How much of that £372,000 are we spending on these things? The answer to that is that there is no answer because we are not a retail organisation and our Accountants have told us not to structure our accounts as a retail organisation, which means that every one of those areas above would have a cost centre of its own, so we would know against each one how much it cost out of that £372,000 and we cannot do that because we are not a retail organisation. Our Accountants have told us that it does not suit us and so you will have to take our word for it that that comes out of the £372,000.

Bill W says that this is not a surplus and Bill writing in Warranty 2:

"This net income to the groups and to AA's General Services is actually the sum of a great many contributions which the book buyers make to the general welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous. The certain and continued solvency of our world services rests squarely upon these contributions."

Moving on to our Reserves. Our Reserves Policy changed some time ago, about six years ago, was set fairly and squarely within Warranty 2 with stating as it does in Warranty 2:

'Sufficient operating funds plus an ample reserve should be its prudent financial principle'
Ample Reserve held by the charity should exceed 1 year's expenditure
Sufficient Operating funds are considered to be one quarter's expenditure
This gives a total Free (Prudent) Reserve of over 1.25 year's expenditure.

Over the past two years there have been letters out from the Chairman of the Charity Commission together with Research papers all endorsing Charities to make sure they have got reserves, primarily, in the stock market because when the Kids Company collapsed nearly two years ago they only had one week's reserves and since then there has been a big push making sure Charities have got their reserves in order.

In our Unrestricted Account, which is the main account which your contributions go into, the net assets are over £2.3m. These Net Assets includes fixed assets, computers, furniture and also investments are termed fixed assets as they are there for the long term and are only of growth value.

The Current Assets – literature stocks, people who owe us money, pre-payments we have made, various VAT liabilities all of these are current assets. Fixed and Current Assets go together and come to £2.3m on the Unrestricted Account. Taking away the Warranty 2 level which comes to £1.6m that leaves over £755,000. When we are talking about Reserves we are talking about the Prudent Reserve, we all know what the Prudent Reserve

is, your region probably has a Prudent Reserve and does not want to dip into it if it can help it. Your intergroup might have a Prudent Reserve and does not want to dip into it. The Board has a Prudent Reserve of £1.6m and does not want to dip into it because it is there for a specific purpose if, God forbid, the Charity was to go into administration as the funds have dried up. That is to buy us out of contracts and leases, provide redundancy money, pensions etc.

The £755,000 is carried over into this current year and all the contributions that are now coming in this year combine with that to run the operation. We are not sitting on piles of money it is the charity's working capital.

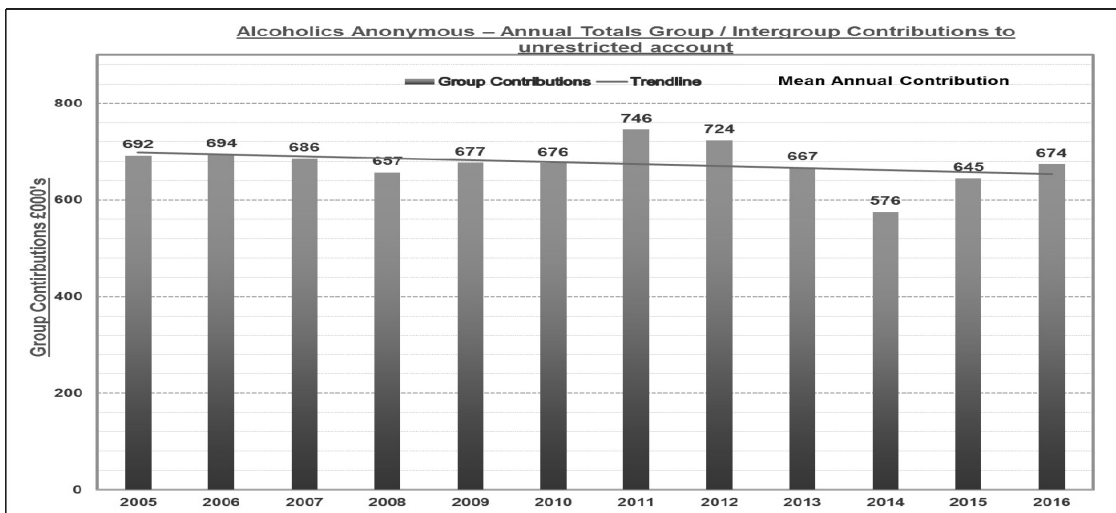
The main aspect of our Prudent Reserve is held in investments and these are with a company called CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities). We spent a lot of time looking around for this organisation which is a charity itself, setup in the 1950s, so it won't be taken over which is where we have suffered in the past, we went from one investment manager to another because one was taken over. We have invested the Fellowship's money in the CCLA Ethical Fund and this Fund will not invest in a company that has more than 10% of its income from the direct sale of alcohol and that suits our Investment Policy down to the ground.

Our Accountants state:

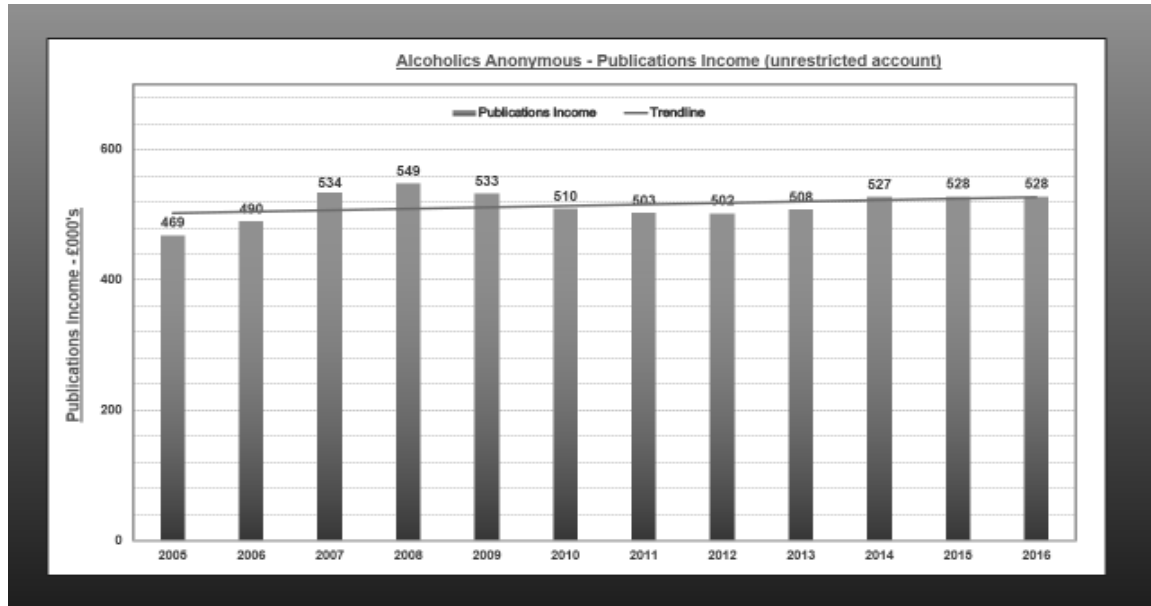
- (1) The GSB meets all the HMRC & Charity Commission legal and recommended stipulations relating to investments.
- (2) In line with all other UK charities AA's investments are exempt from UK tax laws
- (3) No fellowship investments were held/managed in districts that fell under the 'tax avoidance' or 'politically unstable' umbrellas.

I'd like to move on with the Analysis of Financial Trends 2005 - 2016

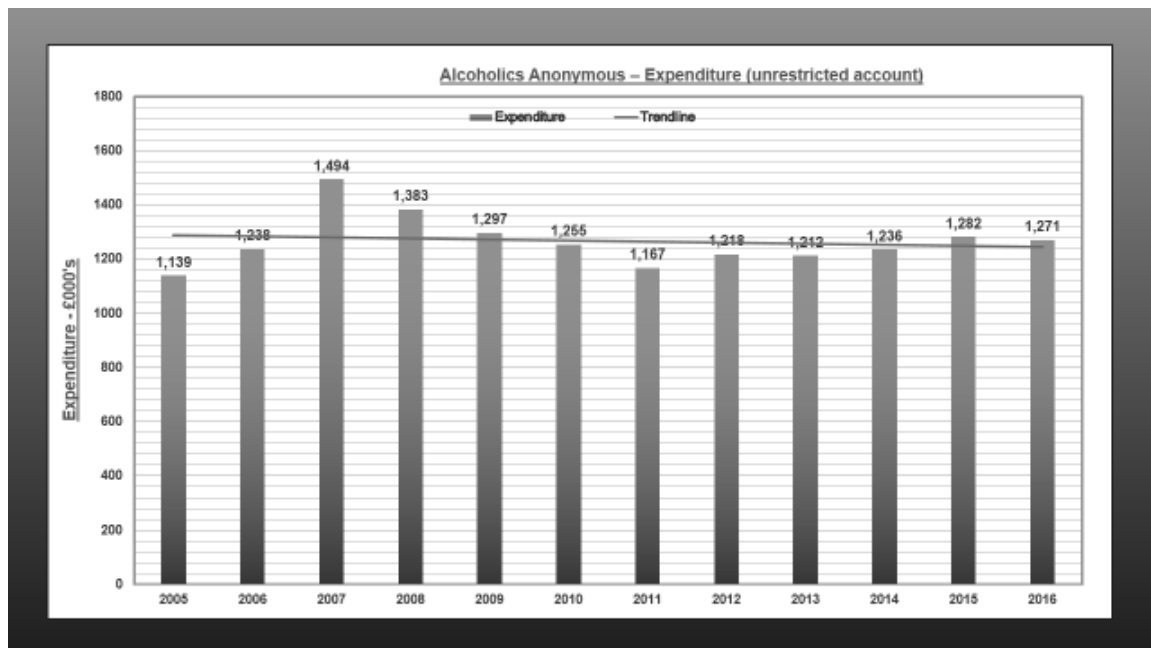
- Group & I/G Contributions
- Publications Income
- Expenditure
- Net Assets/Reserves
- Cash & Investments



In 2010 the Regional Treasurers sent out a letter to the whole Fellowship telling them of the state of the Fellowship's finances and you can see the response above, which is well above the trend line at £746,000 and £724,000. It dropped afterwards but nevertheless it helped that trend line just to be only down slightly. Last year's £674,000 was just short of the mean average of £676,000. As you can see from 2005 onwards contributions are dipping down.

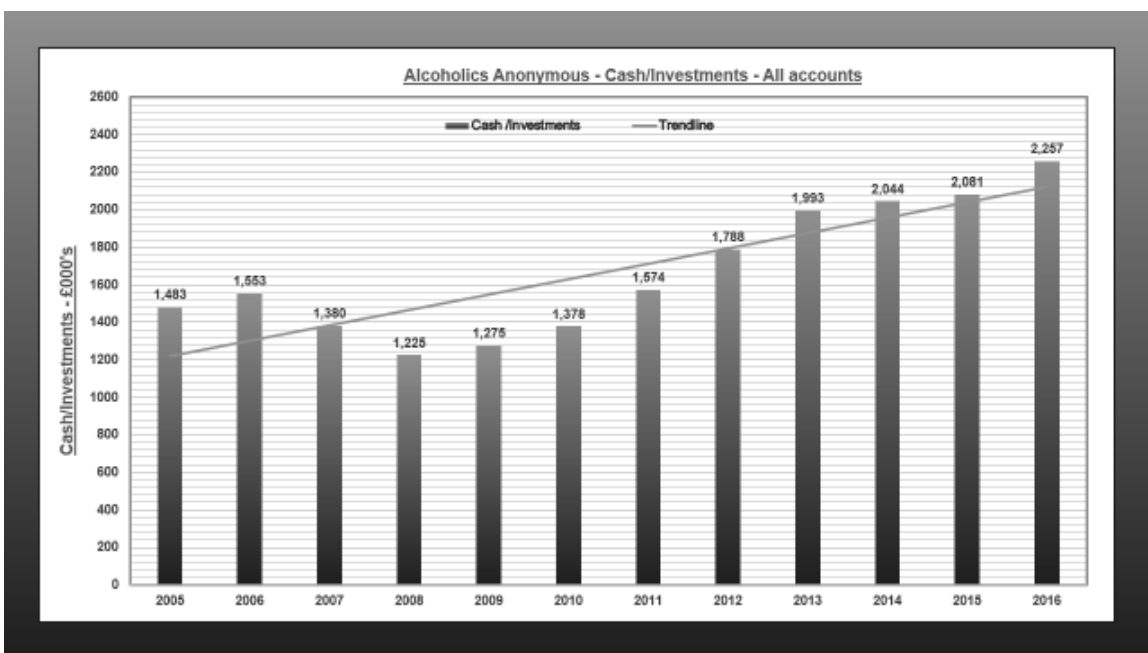
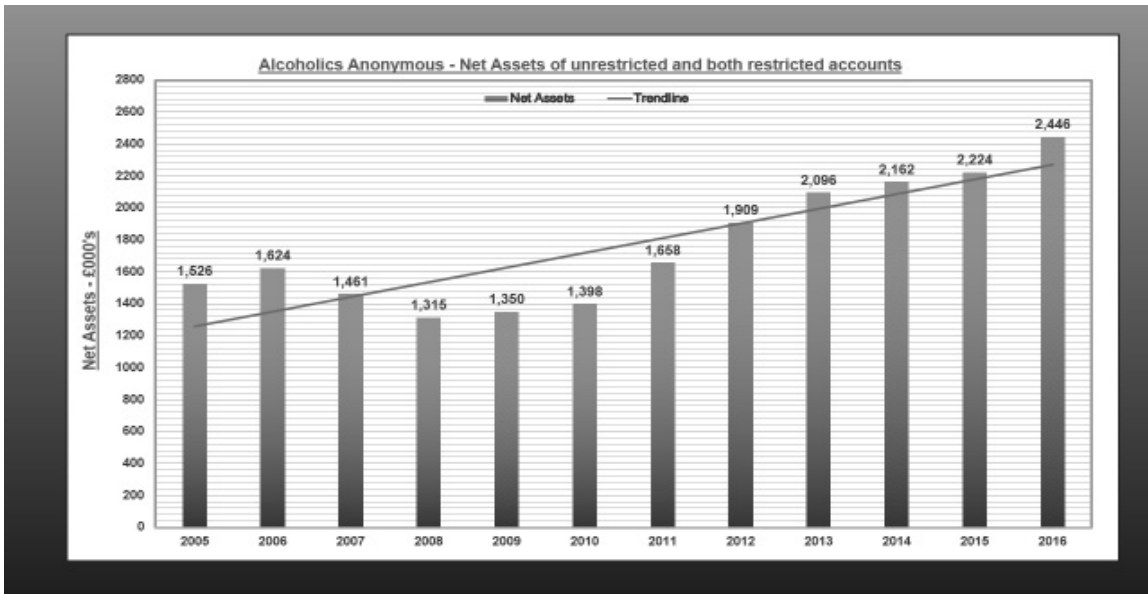


This is rising slightly but the interesting thing is that it is well over the trend line between 2007 – 2009 but is well below the trend line in 2011 – 2013 and then back up just on the line. This is pure speculation by me, that's when people were grumbling about the cost of literature and they started going to America or Amazon to get their literature, but when America put their literature up by 15%, plus Amazon who get their literature from America, put theirs up by 15% and as you can see the people have come back to us. This is just speculation of course.



Expenditure is going down, only slightly, but it is going down and above you can see the amounts on top of each column. Things to note are in 2007 and 2008, this was when we moved from Stonebow House to Toft Green. Similarly with 2015 and 2016, it was the relocation of the Southern Service Office in London from Cynthia Street to Lafone Street that increased expenditure in 2015 and 2016.

Two points to make before I move away from this and the first is that GSO cannot make any more efficiency savings. GSO is working at its optimum level and secondly, what I am going to put to you as the way forward then expenditure could well go up next year.



The above two graphs are taken from all our accounts, the Unrestricted and the two Restricted accounts and this is our net assets, (including) fixed assets, current assets, everything including the kitchen sink is thrown in there and the trend line is going up at quite a steep gradient. But contributions are going down, publications income slightly going

up, and expenditure slightly coming down but this fourth graph is driving up really high and hard and the reason for it is our investments. The value of our investments is driving up our reserves and I emphasize the word 'value' because today they are valued at x number of pounds, tomorrow they might be valued at x minus 10 but because of that growth in value it is driving up our investments and consequently our reserves. As you can see above the growth line is quite high and I have been told that that line when smoothed out like that represents the growth of the FTSE Index and it is another aspect of our income that we cannot control. We have to watch very closely because it is up today and reached all-time highs but next week it might be moving a different way and that is why we have to be very vigilant of these things.

Three factors have influenced my way forward. I am presenting you with very big sums of money and some might believe that for an organisation that is committed to corporate poverty they are too big. Secondly the other factor that has informed this way forward is the fact that the Board has talked about this over the past two years and is concerned about the levels of the charity.

Finally in the past twelve months there have been massive developments in the political state of things in our country and it has created a period of uncertainty but the Fellowship has placed us in a very strong financial position to cope with this period of uncertainty and, as I see it, we face four financial challenges:

1. Price rises in literature & services
2. Funding of projects
3. Carrying the AA message overseas
4. Services to the Fellowship

As long as the GSB decides on an annual basis the Fellowships reserves remain at an ample level the charity will commit to the following:

1. Absorb all price rises and not pass them on to the Fellowship
2. Fund all projects without prioritisation
3. Support the development of AA overseas
4. Fulfil all services the Fellowship has requested

Any price rises relating to Groups when this approach is deemed non-viable will be implemented on an annual INCREMENTAL basis.

To expand a bit further:

1. Price rises in literature & services

The fall in value of the £ is already causing some prices to rise, as some suppliers source materials from abroad.

All subsidies will be maintained e.g. Conference Delegate fees; free of charge literature including the Blue Handbooks

2. Funding of projects

The 75th Anniversary Convention and the Archives Digital Database will require significant outlays of money, in the former it will be prior to completion. A new PI DVD is in the planning stage plus 21 Professional Conferences booked for next year.

All projects will be funded in spite of price rises and innovations in approaches to the GSB's primary purpose work will be welcomed from the GSB sub committees. Seminars and sub-committee meetings will not be cut back.

3. Support development of AA overseas

Again bearing in mind the drop in value of the pound, the GSB will maintain its level of contribution to the World Service Literature fund and sponsorship of Polish & Sub Saharan Service Conference, plus responding positively to appeals from AAWS.

4. Services to the Fellowship

All services currently in place plus any subsequent services will be delivered without incurring further costs to Groups. For example postage, this has just gone up and no doubt it will go up again before our next Conference.

There are two sides to this equation, what the Board (the Charity) and what the Fellowship can do.

For Groups, Intergroups and Regions it is suggested that they (in order of priority):

1. Meet their prudent reserve
2. Finance their primary purpose work
3. When the two above are met make voluntary donations of any surplus monies to the Fellowship's account by their chosen method

Trying to sum it up in short, what we are asking, first of all is keep on doing what you have been doing. We are grateful to the Fellowship for what they have done. We have come to a crux now where we are saying we are going to have to do something about the charity's increasing reserves, we can't give money away, we can't send it back to the Fellowship, we can't do anything but spend it on primary purpose work.

All we are asking is to keep the contributions coming in and the Board will, in a planned and controlled way, increase expenditure on the Fellowship and try to help the Fellowship benefit from what is the Fellowship's.

Electronic Communications

(James K)

Good evening friends, my name is James, I am an alcoholic and the Trustee for Electronic Communications.

Last year's Conference asked us to do three things:

1. Complete the roll-out of the new email system

Many of you will be familiar with this as we talked about this last year and decided on the new domain name and during the course of this year we settled on a naming convention, first of all service position and then secondly identification of the service body.

The positions initially are taken from the Confidential Directory, every Region and every Intergroup has exactly the same positions of service listed on each page, there are one or two beyond that which are sometimes individual to Intergroups or Regions but by and large the majority of service positions are listed in the Confidential Directory. This means every person doing the same job no matter in which service body will have the same position title which wasn't true in the old system.

Secondly, the identifier is a unique identifier for every Region and Intergroup, some of them are fairly obvious e.g. fife, synded will be obvious to some people who are in that Intergroup – South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire. The rest of them are unique to every area which means when we allocate them together all the positions in all of the Intergroups and Regions (there are somewhere in the region of 2,400 email addresses) in the Confidential Directory only, there are others beyond that as I said but that is a starting point. About 400-500 of those have already been taken up.

How is this email system going to be administered? First point of contact for you as a user is through the website under Contact where you will see *To report problems with this site or to request file store, email or web site services please click here* which takes you through to a box. There will always be a member of the Electronic Communications Sub-committee who reads the emails daily which come into this box and will deal with them as appropriate by passing them on or by dealing with them directly.

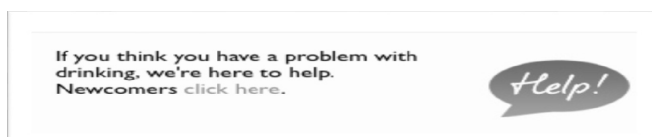
Routine Administration. This is a major change, up until last year all the email services to the Fellowship were handled by the Electronic Communications Sub-committee and on February 17th of this year we formally handed over routine administration to GSO. Routine administration is a change of password, change of forwarders, setup new email addresses, etc. and are passed to the appropriate person in GSO to deal with.

Technical Problems. These will still be dealt with by a member of the Electronic Communications Sub-Committee.

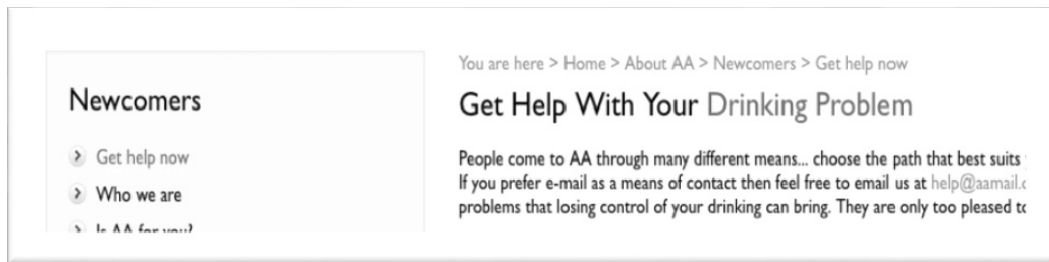
What happens to the old email addresses? Any old address still in use has a forwarder to the new address and the old addresses will be switched off soon. By this time only the new addresses should be in use BUT this leads to a problem and the problem is that the new Confidential Directory is due to be published and contains some old style addresses. We are going to email all the people in the new Confidential Directory when it is published who still have old style addresses asking them to update their entries and when they do so eventually we will turn off the old addresses.

2. Start a new service, *Chat Now*

There is a new button on the front page of our website



It takes you to this page



On that page is the Chat Now button and if there is no operator logged on it shows this box



But if there is an operator ready, willing and able to take your call or message then you are invited to put in your first name and start a chat request and that should be answered by a real live AA member sitting at the computer at the other end.

Chat Now went 'live' on 1st October 2016 and to date there have been over 4,000 visits. There is a weekly rota of responders and is manned approximately 12-14 hours daily. Routinely they are monitoring shifts from:

- 0600 to 11.30
- 1900 to midnight
- Sometimes from 1630 to 1900

Some Statistics January – March						
%						
<u>Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Missed</u>	<u>Missed</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>% Pos</u>	<u>% Neg</u>
Jan-17	591	67	11	133	81	19
Feb-17	577	52	9	150	87	13
Mar-17	753	56	7	181	87	13

As you can see there is about 600 calls a month, a few of them get missed the percentage is about 10% and missing can be as simple as a bad connection or it can be somebody who thinks better of it before it gets to the response stage but as you can see the missing percentage is coming down. We believe that we are improving our service.

At the end of a chat users are invited to leave a comment and about a quarter of them do, the comment is either a smiley face or a sad face and as you can see the vast majority of all those who choose to leave a comment are smiley faces.

3. Establish a procedure for the registration of online groups

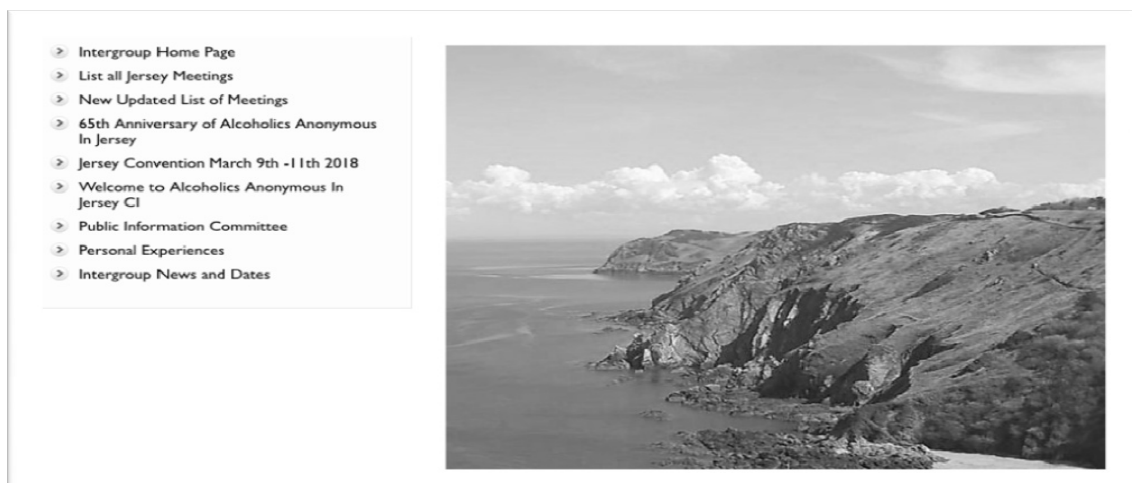
If you go to the meeting finder on the website and type in the single word 'online' then you will be given a list of about 7 meetings. If there are any other known groups, the ones that have registered with us so far are from Continental Europe, they are welcome to follow our online registration procedures which we devised last year. If you go to one of these and type 'give me some more details' then you are given a little bit more information including an email by which you can contact the secretary of that group for further details before you actually go online to speak to the member of that group.

At GSO this morning I collected this year's Where to Find and I can assure you there is a page in there with online groups registered.

What else have we been up to this year? The website is responsive and this means as a single website it will automatically detect what device you are looking at the website on and will adjust its viewing display to the size of your screen. It's the same website merely detecting the size of your screen and adjusting accordingly.

The mobile Where to Find. A lot of you have been used to the fact that up to now and for last two and a half years there has been a separate mobile site in which you could find 'near me any meeting within 15 miles' and a lot of you have been using that. It is not now a separate mobile site, if you have got your smart phone with location finding enabled and you go to this page then automatically you should have 'near me' coming up showing the meetings within 15 miles of your phone. If you save this screen on to your smart phone then you have a mobile where to find which should work for anywhere in Great Britain as long as you have location finding enabled and you have a signal.

I'd now like to look at a couple of areas of the website itself. One area that some of you use and some of you have not been using is our Microsites. A Microsites is a small website contained entirely within ours and every Region has a microsite allocated to it and within every Region, as well as what the Region has to say, every Intergroup within that Region has a microsite allocated to it. For example within South West Region, this is Jersey Intergroup:



The top two lines are not editable by the Intergroup, the top one is simply the homepage and the second lists all Jersey meetings which again is not editable by the ECLC or whoever is doing it instead it will give a list of all the meetings which are listed for that Intergroup and that list is as up to date as your pink forms make it. As soon as a pink form is received by GSO and processed that list is updated. That is the most up to date form of the Where to Find which we have here in York. That can be done on an Intergroup basis and that can be printed out from your microsite.

The rest of the lines are entirely up to the editorial control of the Intergroup. What they put on there, as long as it stays within the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and any guidelines that are laid down by Conference, is entirely up to them. A very useful one which a lot of Intergroups do at Christmas and New Year is to have a special page announcing which meetings are open or closed at those times of year which is an extremely useful function to have. The actual address of the microsite is:

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Regional-&-Local-Websites/South-West-Region/Jersey-Intergroup>

This is quite a handful and there is a facility to shorten that which can be done on application.

Another area I would like to look at is Service Disciplines. If you are interested in what is going on in a discipline, any of the disciplines, then look in the Service section of the website. Each Sub-committee is responsible for what they put on these pages. If you want information about prisons, armed services or whichever discipline then look in here and you will probably find the answers you are looking for.

Similarly there is a Vacancies Section. If you are interested in working with a Sub-committee then please look in there and there is a list of all the vacancies currently available.

The Fellowship magazines. Roundabout and Share each have an online presence and Roundabout has a full 12 months of pages from the most recent 12 months. Each month the editor selects two articles, one, in Roundabout's case, written by a male and one written by a female and these are presented on the website both in text form and audio. Share magazine is very similar, again they have the 12 months and they have more stories per month than Roundabout does but the format is similar – there is an audio version and a text version.

The Pink Form. This can be done online, please do it regularly for your group and if you are about to fill out the form, and this is a new item this year, there are notes there to help with the completion of the form online. Please have a read of them before you actually do it.

Longitude and latitude is an interesting one as you don't have to know it but there is plenty of software that does it, either you can tell us what the longitude and latitude is or you can ask the GSO staff to do it for you.

When you are filling out the form please make sure you fill out the 'All group correspondence to be sent out to:' box. A huge waste of AA money goes to dead letter boxes because the secretary, whose name was in that box, left the group 7 years ago and it has never been updated.

Literature

(Carol H)

Good Evening Conference. My name is Carol, I am an alcoholic and the outgoing Chair of the Literature Sub-committee.

Literature passed by Conference last year and now available from GSO:

Guide 'Welcoming a Newcomer to the Group'
Pamphlet 'Violence and Personal Conduct'
Pamphlet 'Prison and Alcohol'
Pamphlet 'The "God" Word'
Booklet 'LGBT' Voices

Two proposed revisions from Electronic Communications have gone to Committee:

Service Handbook - Chapter Three: AA and Electronic Communications
Structure Handbook - Page 114 - AA(GB) Website

We have three pieces of literature to present to Conference this year. There were four but there was a problem with the Armed Services poster and the Armed Services Sub-committee have decided to withdraw it and re-submit for Conference 2018.

Please have your pens ready; we have a few amendments on two pieces, from feedback received during the consultation period but not on the next one:

From Committee 1:

Support for the hearing impaired - a table top tent card with the internationally recognised ISO deaf symbol on one side and a reminder to be aware on the reverse; size of the card to be determined later. We felt simple was better.

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

Again, from Committee 1:

A double-sided leaflet, again with the ISO symbol, which updates existing literature.

Amendments: First page, bullet point 2:

Original: Deafness affects at least 10% of the population - so every group may have at least one deaf member.

Now: One in six of the population of the UK has some sort of hearing problem, so every group may have at least one deaf member.

First page, bullet point 3:

Original: A hearing impairment may affect a member's ability to receive the AA message for which we, as a Fellowship, are responsible.

Now: We as a Fellowship are responsible for carrying the AA message. A hearing impairment may affect a member's ability to receive it.

Second page, bullet point 5:

Original: Consider the acoustics of the meeting room. Very large meetings could consider buying a public address system; if you have one, is it included in the Where to Find?

Now: Consider the acoustics of the meeting room. Does it have an induction loop system? Very large meetings could consider buying a public address system. If you have either of these aids, are they included in the meeting's online listing and the Where to Find?

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

From Committee 6:

Conduct, frequency and content of Group Conscience Meetings within the Fellowship - review, consolidate and recommend.

Page 1:

Heading 'From the AA Structure etc' - Change the date from 2013 to 2017.

Second para: add (p.75) at the end.

Third para: Replace italics with normal font (Arial)

Page 2:

Second para: second line: add after 'intergroup matters' - answering yearly "Conference Questions".

Page 3:

Second para: first line: remove stray 'the'.

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

The Twelve Concepts checklist requested by Committee 1 from last year's Conference is now available from GSO.

Lastly, as I rotate out as a Trustee I would like to thank the Literature Sub-committee for all their hard work over the last four years and introduce to you to Denise who has been shadowing me for the past year and will take over as Chair after Conference.

Good evening Conference, my name is Denise and I am an alcoholic. I have the good fortune of having the baton passed over to me for Literature and I just want to say thank you to Carol for being a great mentor over the past 12 months while I have been shadowing you. You have been a great example and I want to thank you for all the hard work you and the Committee have done.

Now I have taken over the reins I would like to say that there are some vacancies on the Committee and the advertisement has gone onto the AA website and in AA Service News which is due out in June. The Literature Sub-committee meets four times a year so please consider if this is something that may be of interest to you.

Non-Alcoholic Trustees

(Nick Holroyd)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you this evening. For those of you who have heard me speak before then I do apologise, it's Groundhog day!

I'd like to tell you a bit about my journey to AA and how I ended up here working with you. As you know I am a non-alcoholic Trustee, a NAT, and I have been serving on the GSB of AA since January 2016.

I am a lawyer with over 30 year's experience in private practice. I practiced in the area of Criminal Law and by the time I retired from my law firm, I was one of its senior members. I represented a variety of people from members of the public, sometimes what we grandly call high profile cases, and professional people including in particular police officers. My career was built around the representation of police officers in criminal and disciplinary investigations and proceedings.

From time to time I would represent clients in alcohol related offending but it wasn't a particular area of expertise that I held and in my career I didn't have much exposure to people with addiction.

I came to AA really by chance. One of my ambitions upon retirement was to become involved in charity work on a voluntary basis and to use a well-worn phrase 'I wanted to give something back' following a relatively successful and rewarding career. I had in mind charities dealing mainly with animals something like the RSPCA. Humans with addictions never came into my head. One day a friend of mine who is an alcoholic in recovery now, over 17 years sober, and who I had worked with professionally told me that AA was looking to recruit professional non-alcoholics to its Board of Trustees and I decided to give it a go.

I found that what happens, this is very much what happens to members of the Fellowship who take up service, like them I had no idea what I was letting myself in for. I thought I might be up for the challenge and I was going to give it my best shot and again, like many of you, I must admit to having little or no understanding at all of the workings of AA. I had no knowledge of the Board, how AA was structured or how the organisation operated. I hadn't heard of the term 'fellowship' in the context of AA. My knowledge was sketchy, based on personal experience of observing my close friend in his battle with alcohol addiction and his recovery. I knew of the 12 Steps but I did not know what they were. I knew my friend attended meetings but I had no concept of how meetings operated or how sharing of life stories aided recovery.

I have learnt and discovered a lot in a short space of time such as the structure of AA and how the Board is at the bottom of the pyramid quite different to my past experience where the Board was always at the top.

I learnt of autonomous groups governed by their own group conscience with meetings nationally and I now understand there to be over 4,000 groups nationwide.

I learnt particularly about service as a part of recovery and the many and varied areas of service with positions at local regional and intergroups and sub-committees nationally covering areas of public information, armed services, probation/criminal justice and health not to mention service on the Board itself as a Trustee.

I can say, hand on heart, that I have been impressed by the level of commitment by individual members in accessing health organisations, speaking to medical and other professionals and getting access to prisons and working towards the primary purpose of AA to deliver the message to the still suffering alcoholic wherever they may be.

I knew nothing of the role that service played in recovery before my involvement with AA. How fascinating it has been so see members of the Fellowship entering service at so many different levels and facing up to the fresh challenges often with little or no experience.

In my role as a member of the Nominations Sub-committee it has been a privilege for me to now be involved with interviewing prospective candidates for roles on national sub-committees and also for positions on the Board.

What else have I learned? I have learnt that membership of AA is free to all whatever background or means. AA is not a religious organisation and I can't think how many times since I have been working with AA people have raised this and it's certainly not a cult. You can have a faith but it is not a requirement, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, simple as that. I noted the many references to God and I have been intrigued by the concept of a higher being not necessarily God.

In my view it is essential that such messages are put out there as I have also learnt that there are real misconceptions about what AA is and what it represents. I met a person in the media only this week and the state of his knowledge really emphasised to me how we need to get that message out.

I have learnt the Serenity Prayer and so often use it now in my own daily life. I certainly have managed to find the serenity to accept the many things I now realise that I cannot change.

Most important of all I appreciate the importance of anonymity and the Traditions. I have listened to many accounts of the effects of drinking on people's lives and I have met so many different people from all sorts of backgrounds. I have just listened in fascination and often in awe of those accounts. I have noted the respect for the Fellowship and the acknowledgement that the programme has saved their lives or turned their lives around.

As for me, I serve on two Board Sub-Committees now, Public Information and as mentioned Nominations and I am also going to be involved in the preparations for the 2020 Survey. As a member of the Nominations Sub-committee, as I have said, I have interviewed prospective candidates for roles on sub-committees and the Board. The applicants have been many and varied, many have experience in various areas of service and I have noted how many take pride in the work that they do and have done. One person, who I know is in the room, seems to have found a vocation in visiting prisons and took pride in seeing prisoners continuing to attend meetings on release.

For me, my main focus however has been a member of the Public Information Sub-committee. This sub-committee is doing an incredible amount of work as are PI

representatives all over the country. It is designated with the task of delivering the message to the still suffering alcoholic and bringing the work of AA to the attention of professionals. This is work that I see as crucial and it is where I feel I can probably contribute the most and it is quite shocking to learn that many health professionals do not always support or recognise even Alcoholics Anonymous.

As a NAT I am not bound by anonymity restrictions and I might therefore be useful in connecting with the media on your behalf. The work I recognise is not without its difficulties as I have discovered particularly in relation to Tradition 11 the issue of attraction and not promotion. That is a phrase I have not come across before and I get the sense sometimes that the distinction is difficult to understand, for me coming from a background of blatant promotion in a legal practice that was all about promotion and brand building and you may have sometimes come across my old firm, Slater & Gordon, all over Sky News.

I have learned the importance of the Traditions and the way in which they work to ensure unity and a common cause and they are, therefore, I understand, critically important, and the established principles related to dealing with the media, avoiding controversy and anonymity must not be treated lightly. However, I personally adopt the approach sanctioned by Conference 'anonymous but not invisible'.

I have been pleased to be closely involved in some of the recent initiatives resulting in coverage of meetings and issues of addiction to alcohol covered in the media including on TV and I have noted the controversy these have caused. In this day and age in my view it is essential to utilise what the media has to offer to the organisation whilst respecting the Traditions.

I look back now with just over a year's experience of this Fellowship and what I have got to say is that I really regret that I did not have that knowledge and experience and understanding of AA when I was working as a full time criminal lawyer. I am now convinced that such knowledge of the Fellowship and what it offers would have benefitted my clients, at least some of them.

I just briefly want to mention one client. He was a high ranking police officer, he faced a prosecution for drink driving and conviction would mean the loss of his career, that was a certainty, he mortgaged his house to go to a well-known solicitor who is known for finding loop-holes and the solicitor did his job and one was found and he was acquitted.

The lawyer's focus, in all fairness to him, was to achieve that acquittal and not the client's recovery from his drinking. Now, because of the loop-hole the police, his employers, were ready to get the process right and my client drove into work with a car full of empty beer cans and was over the limit, he was breathalysed and this time they got it right and this time he came to me. There was no defence, my focus was primarily on looking for a defence initially, saving his job and his career.

When he came to see me he would often be obviously drunk, sometimes he didn't keep appointments and I started seeing him at the home of his sister, to try and ensure that he was there and he was unable to give me full instructions most of the time. What I did was to refer him to a consultant psychiatrist for a report for court, that was my focus, and also for support. He ended up in Cheadle Royal Hospital and I think he was free from alcohol perhaps for a few weeks. I engineered things, as such was my focus, so that he never appeared in person in court, I had every sympathy with him but on reflection I simply did

not understand his addiction. The legal process was about limiting punishment from a defence solicitor's point of view, trying to save his career and so far as I am aware, and this is the crux of mentioning this to you all, nobody – least of all myself – mentioned AA to him as an option. Whether he would have gone to AA I don't know, whether he really recognised his alcoholism I couldn't say, maybe he was beyond help but I would certainly now do my best to introduce him to AA. Sadly, his case having ended, having lost his family, his house, his wife and son and having lost his long established career he died and his case still has a profound effect on me today.

This is why it is so important the work that is being done through PI to try and persuade the medical professionals to understand the benefits of AA and to get that message out about AA to the still suffering alcoholic.

It is also essential that the criminal justice system understands the impact of addiction and helps the alcoholic rather than focusing on punishment. The same I think can be said of employers.

Would I try to carry the message of AA to clients now? You can bet I would.

The Fellowship needs its members in service offering whatever help they can in all the areas available.

Coming to AA was a chance for me to do something useful with my own life. I have been astonished by the breadth of what the organisation has to offer, to learn about the concept of service, the 12 Traditions and how these operate in practice.

What has really struck me is the accounts of the now many alcoholics I have spoken to and joining the Board has really opened up my world and my mind to the suffering which is caused by alcohol addiction. The personal accounts are delivered with such honesty, it is truly a humbling experience to listen to them and I have learnt about the respect for the Fellowship direct from its members and how much they all appreciate what AA has done for them personally. Many speak, as I have said, of how AA has saved their lives and there is no sense that I can see of over-statement but simple truth.

It has been a short but steep learning curve and on a personal note the first year of my involvement has been humbling and incredibly interesting. I am impressed with the work the GSB does and the many sub-committees and I now see the work put into practice and for me it will be onwards and forwards and, of course, as you do I will be taking each day as it comes.

Amanda closed the Friday evening session at 10.45pm in the customary way by asking everyone to join her in the saying of the serenity prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports

Amanda welcomed everyone back, hoping that they had had a productive day in their committees and read the Preamble. She asked for a moment's silence to remember why we are here, think of the still suffering alcoholic and also gather our thoughts for the evening's session. Amanda then invited Peter F (GSB) to commence the continuation of General Service Board reports.

Public Information

(Peter F)

Good evening Conference, my name is Peter and I am an alcoholic. My presentation is Public Information, the sell side of AA's business hopefully and I am going to go through a few things tonight.

The Sub-Committee and our non-alcoholic Trustee (NAT) has a responsibility for carrying the message to every area of the wider community, to help the still suffering alcoholic find a way to sobriety. PI is often the first contact the public have with the Fellowship.

Thoughts of Bill W:

To reach more alcoholics, understanding of AA and public goodwill toward AA must go on growing everywhere. We need to be on still better terms with medicine, religions, employers, government, courts, prisons, mental hospitals and all those enterprises in the alcoholism field.

CONCEPT 11

I am going to show you now the video that was done in March for the ITV morning programme Good Morning Britain. The programme started at about 7.15 am and it had several clips of an AA meeting but the one I am showing tonight is the main part of the programme.

The Good Morning Britain video was shown to Conference.

Public Information have put on a quite a lot of media events in the last year and the inspiration and approval for staging media events came from Conference 2013 accountable to the Fellowship through its delegate structure.

Committee 2, at that Conference, also addressed the issue of Awareness of AA through Press and Media.

Out of this consultation came the statement "We are Alcoholics Anonymous and not Alcoholics Invisible", and this was subsequently espoused by the Public Information Subcommittee.

The PI Subcommittee are very conscious of all our Traditions which underpin all of our activity, especially when dealing with the media and external bodies.

The need for adherence to the Traditions has been carefully explained to Journalists, their Editors and the Producers of TV Programmes. We have editorial control of the filming and editing of AA content.

The PI Sub-committee met four times during the year. Currently we are at full strength with seven members including the two Board Trustees.

During the year we have had published, an article in the Sunday Mirror which included pixilated photographs and of an AA meeting in the London Area. This was followed by a 'This Morning' ITV programme on the dependant of an Alcoholic and a video sequence of an AA meeting.

Our PI Service Committee Non Alcoholic Trustee (NAT) has also visited the BBC and ITV to meet editorial staff. We are very grateful to Nick for all his hard work, enthusiasm and continued support, he has a unique role in being able to speak more openly of the principles of our Fellowship.

Earlier this year three young AA members were filmed by the BBC and gave their stories for the BBC Online News and Topical Issues Programme. In all cases individual's anonymity has been protected. Some statistics from our 2016 Way Forward Survey were used in this programme.

Parliamentary Events. This year (2016) Parliamentary PI groups were successful in running our yearly events at Westminster and Holyrood. Both were a success and are reported elsewhere. We plan an event at Senedd in Wales in 2017 as unfortunately the 2016 event was not held due to a disappointing response.

Local PI Initiatives:

- Notts. Intergroup were successful in running a sequence of AA video clips on their local TV Service.
- Liverpool Intergroup ran an AA poster campaign on the local Metro train service in January.
- A lot of Nationwide AA PI activity took place during the government Alcohol Awareness week in November.

Regional PI Liaison Officers Meeting

An excellent meeting was held at GSO in York on September 9th and 10th with most of the 16 Regions including Continental Europe being represented.

A lot of interesting and enthusiastic information was exchanged amongst all those attending.

It is clear that many more Intergroups are now setting up a PI Service group within the Intergroup; the Public Information Officer (PILO) being the facilitator. This means much more PI activity within all the areas of Great Britain. Page 21 of the 2017 Service Manual has some very helpful advice on forming a PI service committee.

In September of this year we will hold a Seminar on September 15th & 16th for all Intergroup and Regional PI Liaison Officers in York. It should be an interesting and instructive event.

The PI Service News goes from strength to strength. This publication is circulated throughout the Fellowship on the first day of each month. We had an excellent editor, Jeff B, last year and Charles R succeeds him keeping up the standard set. The input and content from the Fellowship continues to improve.

We have a great appetite for even more PI contributions from the Fellowship. Keep them coming!

I would like to record a very special thanks to Ash Khan as guest speaker on behalf of AA on the Good Morning Britain programme and also to Amanda S for all her fantastic PI work.

Nick H has joined the PI Sub-committee as our NAT and he is already making a very valuable contribution to our media activities. Thank you Nick.

And finally, thoughts of Bill W:

We need the increasing goodwill of editors, writers, television and radio channels. These publicity outlets need to be opened ever wider.

Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.

75th Anniversary Convention

(Wullie I)

Good evening Conference, my name is Wullie, I'm an alcoholic and Vice Chair of the General Service Board.

The 75th year of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain which will happen in 2022. The General Service Board has been tasked by Conference 2016 for a celebratory convention to mark the landmark point of AA in Great Britain.

Conference 2016, Committee 3, question 2:

Would Conference consider the feasibility of holding a single celebratory convention in 2022 to mark the 75th year of AA in Great Britain? This could be along the lines of the 50th anniversary celebration held in 1997. The 50th year anniversary event involved the participation of all 16 regions of Great Britain and Continental Europe and was held at a convenient central location in order to maximize participation across the whole Fellowship.

This Committee unanimously agrees that it is feasible to hold a single celebratory convention in 2022 to mark the 75th year of AA in Great Britain.

Therefore, we recommend that the Board (GSB) appoints a convention committee, formed from the Regions as soon as possible and pays special attention to the following:

1. Finance (aim to be self-supporting)
2. Location
3. Lessons learnt from the 50th Anniversary celebrations

All recommendation on Committee 3 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

To carry out this task we advertised in AA Service News and on the Fellowship website for a sub-committee to plan and organise the event. From the applications six members with relevant experience were chosen:

Andy H	North East Region
Andy G	Midlands Region
Claire B-D	South West Region
David D	Scotia Region
Jim T	North West Region
Nick R	South West Region

They will serve for the duration of the event and will not rotate out. The Committee is completed by the Vice Chair of the General Service Board and the Honourable Treasurer, these two positions will be rotational as the Trustees rotate out the new ones will come in.

The Terms of Reference were set out at the first meeting along with some investigation into what happened at the 50th in Blackpool in 1997 and we have now had two meetings of the sub-committee. The last meeting was two weeks ago and we are now at the stage of short-listing four potential venues to take us forward.

At the 50th Anniversary Convention there was a pin-badge to mark the event and we would like you, the Fellowship, to get involved in designing a commemorative pin-badge to mark our diamond anniversary:

- All you artists out there give us your ideas!
- Email your designs by 30th September 2017
- GSB need to maintain the copywrite of the image

75yearssec@aamail.org

Details will be in AA Service News and on the website of how to get involved in this.

Prisons

(Charlie R)

Good evening Conference, my name is Charlie and I am an alcoholic. It is my duty to bring Conference up to date with the work of the Prison Sub-committee (PSC). The PSC is rather depleted at present, due to rotation etc. and an advert for four new members will appear in the next edition of AA Service News.

At present there are 144 prisons in the UK and AA is currently holding meetings in 103 of them. The PSC sent out a letter to the Governors of all establishments throughout the UK in an effort to raise the profile of AA. The response led us to believe this was very useful and a good public relations exercise.

We also devised and sent out two other letters to all Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers, one explaining the security clearance procedure and the other on the Prison Postal Service. The Prison Postal Service is part of our current ongoing work. Also included in these letters were copies of the new Conference approved pamphlet "Prison and Alcohol", which is now available from GSO.

We are continuing putting adverts and have had articles printed in "Inside Times", the internal magazine distributed in prisons.

The GSB are currently in discussion to update our DVDs, including prisons. Watch this space. The prison map is being kept up to date and the responsibility for this has been transferred to one of our newer members who is being twelve stepped into the position.

The PSC was tasked to hold three Prison Sponsors Meetings along the lines of the very successful meeting held annually in Scotland, its objective being how better we can carry the message within the walls. The first two of these meetings were held last year in Bristol and Cambridge. The general consensus was that these meetings had achieved their objectives, had increased fellowship and unity amongst the attendees and should continue. Various common points were raised for the PSC to address namely:

- Security Clearance (attended to)
- Attracting newcomers to the discipline (in hand)
- Rotation
- Postal Sponsorship (in hand)
- Creating trust with prison staff (in hand)
- Closer cooperation with Probation

In discussion with the GSB we decided to alter the format of these meetings and designate them as Combined Prison/Probation meetings, in an attempt to address the overlap in the two disciplines. The first of which was held in Warrington last April. The meeting was well attended and many points were raised:

- Again Postal Sponsorship was raised
- Are Service Level agreements still in existence? They may be applicable to Substance Misuse meetings within prisons, which AA should endeavour to attend (in hand)
- We ought to work within guidelines laid down by individual prisons
- Updating the Board's current position on updating our DVDs
- We ought to cooperate with other agencies within prisons
- How the file storage on the AA website operates and the code is to be distributed to all Regions and Intergroups (being sent out as we speak)
- Describing the combined Intergroup efforts to introduce AA meetings in the new super prison, HMP Berwyn in North Wales. The first of these super prisons to come on stream.
- How the Probation Service is made up of two parts. CRCs (Community Rehabilitation Companies) for short term inmates and NPS (National Probation Service) for longer term inmates. The list of CRCs has been distributed to all interested parties.
- CRCs and NPS have a statutory duty to provide 'Through the Gate'. Unfortunately by their own admission 'Through the Gate' is not achieving its full potential, but we ought to make efforts to cooperate with this agency.
- The value of the "Chit System" was explained and Groups to be encouraged to participate (in hand)
- Could AA get involved in pre-release classes within some prisons

All present agreed that the combined meeting was a great success and they will encourage combined meetings within their respective Regions.

The Ministry of Justice have issued a white paper on Reforming Criminal Justice and the Trustees for Prisons and Probation have been attending various Government sponsored meetings to keep the Fellowship informed of the significant changes being proposed within the Criminal Justice System They are continuing to raise the profile of AA within the many charitable agencies concerned with the outcomes of these discussions.

Young People

(Wullie I)

Since Conference 2015 the role of the Young People's Liaison Officer has been formally incorporated into the service structure and at Conference 2016 agreed Chapter 12 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

In the last year we have seen the formation of a YP Sub-committee and we have Gemma, Jack, Andrew and David who are a very enthusiastic group.

The first Young People's Liaison Officers meeting was in York in March this year and the meeting was better attended than we had hoped for. Some lively discussion did take place over the weekend. Some areas of the country are more advanced in their roles than others but the exchange of ideas and experience was found to be useful by all.

The main focus of the weekend was how to better define the role of the Young People's Liaison Officer and it was felt that working with other disciplines like PI, Health, Probation, Prisons, Armed Services where younger members of AA can be utilized by these disciplines when giving public and school talks. It was also thought that Telephones could have a 12 Step YP list to help where a caller falls into that category.

For the way forward, it was suggested a Young Peoples' Seminar for next year for Intergroup YP Officers might be useful where the Intergroup Officers can share experience and network with each other.

AA Service News Update

(Joe H)

AA Service News is the principal medium for communication of service within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in Great Britain.

Articles within it give particular emphasis to matters affecting our primary purpose - which is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. There have been a large variety of articles donated over the past twelve months reflecting a wide range of experience within the service of the Fellowship, as well as giving insight to the nature of the services in the Fellowship at all levels of service.

AA Service News has been produced and circulated quarterly. Two editions are given over to Conference questions and its recommendations. The remaining two editions are given over to a variety of service topics. Every edition carries the Personal Application of a certain Concept, as well as a Calendar of AA events, In Memoriam donations and adverts for various GSB Subcommittees. In an attempt to make the contents more accessible to the casual glance the 'contents' page has been moved to the front cover which may encourage further investigation of a topic.

I would like to give a special mention to GSO staff who coordinate the production and enable it to go out on time. Thanks also to the many volunteers who gather four times a year on a Saturday morning at GSO and pack the envelopes. This is no easy task as at times there are several flyers and/or reports per envelope. To those people a very big thank you.

It is the sharing of service experience that not only benefits individuals but the Fellowship as a whole. We might think that everyone carries out this or that service in the same way, but it's the social, geographical, demographical nature of an intergroup, (or region) as well as its resources that makes each service opportunity unique in how it is delivered. If you have had a service event in the recent past please share it with AA Service News.

Three copies of AASN are posted to the mailing contact for all Groups in the GB Service Structure. It is also posted to all Intergroup and Regional officers and the General Service Board. AASN is free of charge to all recipients. If you do not see AASN appear at your Group ring and check the mail contact on your PINK SHEET held at GSO.

Archives Update (Tom H)

My name is Tom, I am an alcoholic and currently the General Service Board (GSB) trustee with responsibility for Archives, I was introduced to the Sub Committee and Fellowship Archivists for the first time and have taken over responsibility for this discipline from the start of October.

Ongoing project work continues to be done by the Sub-Committee with a few changes in Trustees this year. The Policy and Procedure Document for Archives is being edited and updated for 2017.

At present we have no Fellowship Archivist in place and due to staff changes at GSO, a new administrator, Emma, started in November 2016. She is currently working on the pictures we display in the Archives room at GSO.

I attended a meeting in November at Toft Green with the two of the senior archivists from Borthwick Institute of Archives at York University who currently store our archives.

The aim of the meeting was to investigate the possibility of digitally archiving the vast amount of Archival Material currently held at GSO, moving these items to deep storage at the Institute to store them under better conditions.

This will be at a cost to the Fellowship. The Borthwick Institute will report back to us in the New Year with prices for this work and storage so we can set a budget if necessary.

This year's Archives Network Meeting was held September/October at York. It was chaired this year by Joe H (Hon Treasurer of GSB) with 22 in attendance slightly up on last year still well down on the number of Intergroups and Regions.

Trustee for Archives
Tom H

Armed Services Update

(Brian J)

It is a great honour and privilege to serve as the Board Trustee with responsibility for the Armed Services. Before I present the report firstly I would like to give my thanks to the members of the sub-committee for all their sterling work.

I would also like to give a huge thank you to all of the groups, Intergroups (I/Gs) and Regions who have been 'Carrying the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous' to the armed services community around the country. No initiative goes unnoticed and my grateful thanks to all members concerned for their hard work and for making my role easier.

Excerpt from Guideline 21: AA and The Armed Services: 'I/Gs and Regions are responsible for the appointment of an Armed Services Liaison Officer [ASLO] to work in conjunction with other I/Gs and Regional officers. The role of the ASLO is to establish and maintain communication between Alcoholics Anonymous and The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force and to report back at all levels within I/Gs or Region. It is also important to cultivate similar contact and communication with Community Welfare Officers and organisations such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and Veterans-U.K. Familiarity with the local area and a thorough working knowledge of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain are vital before accepting the role of ASLO.

Over the past 12 months the Sub-Committee has continued to persuade members into the armed services community.

There are 15 Regions within the UK with 102 I/Gs and 4316 groups registered at GSO. At present there are 7 RASLO's and 34 ASLOs in place. So as can be seen from these figures there are huge geographical gaps in the active coverage we are able to undertake.

At the time of writing this update the annual Sub-Committee and RASLO's meeting will have just taken place where the following points were discussed and finalised

- The Terms of Reference were reviewed.
- The Armed Services 12 step list amended to include a version that can be held by I/G TLO's without breaking the data protection of the responders.
- Updating of the Armed Services section on the AA website
- The Armed Services PTSD poster. (To be ratified at conference 2017)
- Planning for the Armed Services Day in June 2017.
- The Armed Services 'HIVE' system. (HIVE's is an Information Centres supporting the Service Community.
- Discussion regarding the Health and Public Information DVD (The Professionals)
- Discussion regarding a generic presentation format for RASLO's.
- Discussion regarding attendance and presentations at Armed Services Health Fairs.
- Discussion on 'Best Practise' regarding follow-on presentation to the Forces charities (British Legion, Combat Stress, and Help the heroes etc.)

The armed services team has received valuable assistance from a contact within the Army's Medical Generals Office. This contact has given us an avenue to explore inside the serving

forces, Intranet and contacts in all three services directing our efforts to the correct person at the first attempt.

This has saved a great deal of time and effort establishing networks within the armed services land bases. This has led to AA meeting being established within the bases themselves and access to the correct welfare officer within individual bases.

The ASSC organise and set-up Public Information Stands for Armed Forces Day Events held in Edinburgh, Livingston and Stirling with much interest being generated.

We continue to liaise with the following charitable organisations offering them assistance and presentations to further expand the message of Alcoholics Anonymous

- Director General, Army Medical Services Directorate.
- Service Base Medical Centres.
- SAAFA
- British Legion.
- Combat Stress.
- Help the Hero's etc.

We continue to make progress in the area of carrying the message to and within service bases. Good relations are being maintained at the following bases

- Faslane Naval Base. (Scotland)
- RAF Lakenheath. (Fenlands)
- HMS Coudrose Naval Base. (Cornwall)
- Dreghorn Barracks Edinburgh. (HIVE Centre)
- Glencorse Barracks. (Medical Centre)
- Headquarters North-West Brigade (Fulwood Barracks) Preston
- Dale Barracks Chester
- Weeton Barracks Blackpool
- Penicuik Edinburgh
- Redford Barracks (Medical Centre) Edinburgh
- Wellington Barracks. North London
- RAF Alconbury Suffolk
- RAF Molsworth Suffolk
- RAF Wyton Suffolk
- Rock Barracks, Suffolk
- 14 Regt Royal Artillery. Wiltshire
- Royal Signals Establishment. Blandford Forum Dorset
- Irish Guards. Aldershot
- MoD Abbey-Wood. Bristol
- MoD Boscombe Down
- Imjin Barracks. Wiltshire.

We continue to visit Bellrock Close Crannhill, Glasgow an ex-service personnel residential unit.

Contact has also been established / reinforced with the following organisations

- Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women
- The Burma Star Association
- The Community Network
- The Forces in Mind Trust
- The Reserve Forces and Cadets' Associations
- The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

Over the past 12 month's adverts have been placed in the following armed service magazines

- Pathfinder (Resettlement Information Magazine)
- The Soldier. (Internal Army Magazine)
- The MoD Intranet (Internal forces information website)

These lists of organisations and contacts are not exhaustive but just examples of the good work being carried out all over the country.

In conclusion if we hope to fulfil our commitment outlined in Guideline 21 an increase in the Liaison Officers would be desirable

Employment Update

(Sandy MacV)

The purpose of the Employment discipline is to carry AA's message to employers. To this end 2016 has been a successful year.

The year started with the first of four planned **Employment Sub Committee** meetings in January.

An Employment Seminar was scheduled for the 25th June 2016 and we started to prepare for the event.

We had hoped that a new starter pack for employment would be ready for distribution at the Seminar and started planning for this.

Work on our website continues throughout the year.

At our next Sub Committee meeting in May we welcomed two new Sub Committee members to the fold. We were joined by Clive K. from Eastern Region and Peter S. from South West Region.

Final preparations for the Seminar were agreed. Speakers had been contacted and were happy to take part in the Seminar. The new starter packs were completed and ready for distribution at the Seminar.

The Annual Regional **Employment Liaison Officers** meeting took place at GSO in York on Friday 24th June. This was preceded by a short Sub Committee meeting to finalise the plans for the Seminar.

We received the reports from the Liaison Officers in attendance. Sub Committee members were amazed at the amount of work being carried out by the Liaison Officers throughout the country.

The **Seminar** which was open to both **Regional and Intergroup Employment Liaison Officers** was held in the Park Inn, York the following day. This proved to be a very successful day. We are very grateful for all the speakers who took part and made the day possible.

A special mention must go to Graham J. a company director and member of the Fellowship. Graham spoke to us about his experiences as an employer dealing with alcohol problems in the workplace and he also shared a little of his experience, strength and hope as a member of AA.

Grateful thanks must go to the Sub Committee members for organising the event.

The general feeling is that the seminar was a success and has generated some interest with enquiries from individuals interested in taking up Employment Liaison posts.

We have produced two HelloELO's newsletters during the year. The first was in July and the latest in December. The newsletters included articles from Sub Committee members and Liaison officers. At present it is intended that we produce two newsletters per annum.

Our final Sub Committee meeting was held in October. The main topic of conversation was feedback from the Seminar in June. The results were positive.

Throughout the year we have received reports from both Intergroup and Regional Employment Liaison Officers. They have been contacting a wide and varied number of employers from many different areas of business.

Liaison Officers have been in contact with:

The Department of Works and Pensions, Legal Practices, Occupational Health, The Health Centre, Banks, Marks and Spencer's, John Lewis plus other mainline stores, Drug and Alcohol Partnerships, Public Companies, Local Councils, Trade Unions and many others, passing on our message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Overall this has been a successful year for the Employment discipline. Thanks to the Sub Committee members and Liaison Officers for their hard work.

Health Update (Nigel P)

This year has been a full and busy one for our Health Liaison Officers across the service structure, with members involving themselves with health professionals at all levels of the various organisations we co-operate with.

From "Adopt a Doctor" to Conferences aimed at NHS Leadership; from organising visitors to the still suffering alcoholic laying in a hospital bed and meetings at hospitals, to providing a key note speaker to the Annual European Conference on Mental Health the service has worked to carry out our primary purpose across Great Britain and Continental Europe.

The method of carrying the message is as varied as it is widespread, our members have addressed groups of professionals both large and small, they have provided open meetings, given demonstration meetings, run literature stands at conventions, left Share and Roundabout magazines in surgeries (with the middle pages removed), arranged for AA information to appear on notice boards, and TV screens in various hospitals, surgeries and communities, to give just a few examples.

Not only do our members do service addressing the Health Professionals, you will also find them at conventions and workshops across the country encouraging others to get involved in service.

At the time of writing the table below shows where we have Regional HLOs in place, and in those regions the percentage of Intergroup posts that are filled (from information held by GSO).

Region	RHLO in Place	No. of Intergroups	%IG posts filled
CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION	Yes	2	0%
EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION	No	4	75%
EASTERN REGION	Yes	10	40%
GLASGOW REGION	Yes	5	60%
HIGHLAND & ISLANDS REGION	No	5	40%
LONDON REGION NORTH	Yes	11	55%
LONDON REGION SOUTH	Yes	6	67%
MIDLANDS REGION	Yes	10	40%
NORTH EAST REGION	No	9	33%
NORTH WEST REGION	Yes	11	45%
SCOTIA REGION	Yes	9	33%
SOUTH EAST REGION	Yes	11	64%
SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION	Yes	7	86%
SOUTH WEST REGION	No	10	50%
SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION	No	5	60%
WALES AND BORDERS REGION	Yes	7	14%
Totals	11	122	48%

In support of this work the Health Sub-Committee meets regularly and hold conference calls to help engender unity, to learn what does and doesn't work from the reports we received and share experience with Liaison Officers across the service structure. At the time of writing the Health Sub-Committee consists of 7 members, Bob S and Gabriel S, who joined us recently, John Mc, Phil H, Ranjan B and Stephen M, together with Mani Mehdikhani, Non Alcoholic Trustee and myself.

Probation/Criminal Justice Update (Clive D)

As with all reports an acknowledgement of the assistance of the Sub Committee must be made.

Thanks also to the members of the Fellowship who have laboured through a period of difficulty. It didn't help with only 46 Intergrups and 2 Regions had (having) liaison officers in post.

There was a tendency by some to use as an excuse for doing little, by taking on board the probation service difficulties (as if they were our problems) and so issues of our own making came, by ignoring the full scope of this discipline in a lot of areas.

Where difficulties in lack of contact by "traditional" probation did exist, then where contact with "mainstream" probation was declined/ignored, then other avenues such as "other" arms of probation/supervision including pre sentence reporting, Approved Premises (bail hostels in old money), Victim liaison officers and Police (including drink driving courses), Courts etc. became apparent, along with chances to talk to University course leaders who train future members of the Criminal Justice profession. A member of the Sub Committee gave a presentation at Oxford University and must have been OK as there has been a repeat invite.

Where contact with the old Probation Trusts was strong, the transfer to the new CRCs (*Community Rehabilitation Companies*) has been reasonably coped with by the Fellowship the "old" way of knocking on doors and/or making phone calls is still of use today.

Self-reporting of attendance at fellowship meetings – our famous CHIT system – is now firmly established throughout the country. I would suggest that care should be taken to show that this is just one of ways of helping probationers and methods of contact with Probation.

The Fellowship has maintained contact with National Offender Management Service and had direct contact with the then Junior Minister of Justice. We have been represented at several government conferences sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Home Office, as well as fellowship Judicial events in Scotland and workshops at National and Intergrup Conventions.

The phrase *Through the Gate* has taken on a life of its own but it is important to know that this is an integral part of the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme and not an optional add on. (**N.B. The fellowship has been helping released prisoners for years.**) Where it comes together is the interaction with Prison/Probation liaison and Prison resettlement units. As a result throughout the year a close(r) relationship between the Trustees and sub committees of Probation/Criminal Justice Service and the Prison Liaison has been apparent and the annual Regional Liaison officers of both disciplines had a joint meeting last June. Feedback has been positive. It is hoped to make this an annual event.

Clive D
Trustee for Probation/Criminal Justice

Telephones Update

(Judy F)

Terms for Reference for the National Telephone Sub-committee (NTSC)

Accepted May 2015

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 subcommittee of the Board and will be chaired by the Trustee with responsibility for the telephone service.

Membership will normally consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members drawn from participating Regions, who are suitably experienced 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.

The Seminar held in August, 2016 was very well attended. The feedback we received was extremely positive and encouraging. Many asking that it be repeated every three to four years! There was considerable enthusiasm for the News Letter and much support for operating a 24hr service national-wide.

London subsequently requested information about overnight calls, (10pm to 10am) to inform discussion regarding their use of an answer machine for these night time calls. For the period from January to November 2016 there were 3,271 calls between 10pm and 10am to the London Region. The total calls received in this time (Jan-Nov) was 12,934. So 25% of all calls were made in this overnight period. Also, looking at National – i.e. not only London - statistics for the same overnight times and the same dates there were 15,412 overnight calls and a total number of 59,062 calls – 26%.

The CD that was produced for the Seminar is available on request from the General Service Office.

At the November meeting of the National Telephone Sub-committee two of our most valuable members rotated from their posts, Bob S. who was our Statistician and Davie D. who held the position of Treasurer. GSO has now taken over the responsibility for the payment of the non-geographic telephone bills. All Regions are now fully up-to-date with their contributions and those who had overpaid have been reimbursed. Chapter Ten: AA

Telephone Services, The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017 has been updated accordingly.

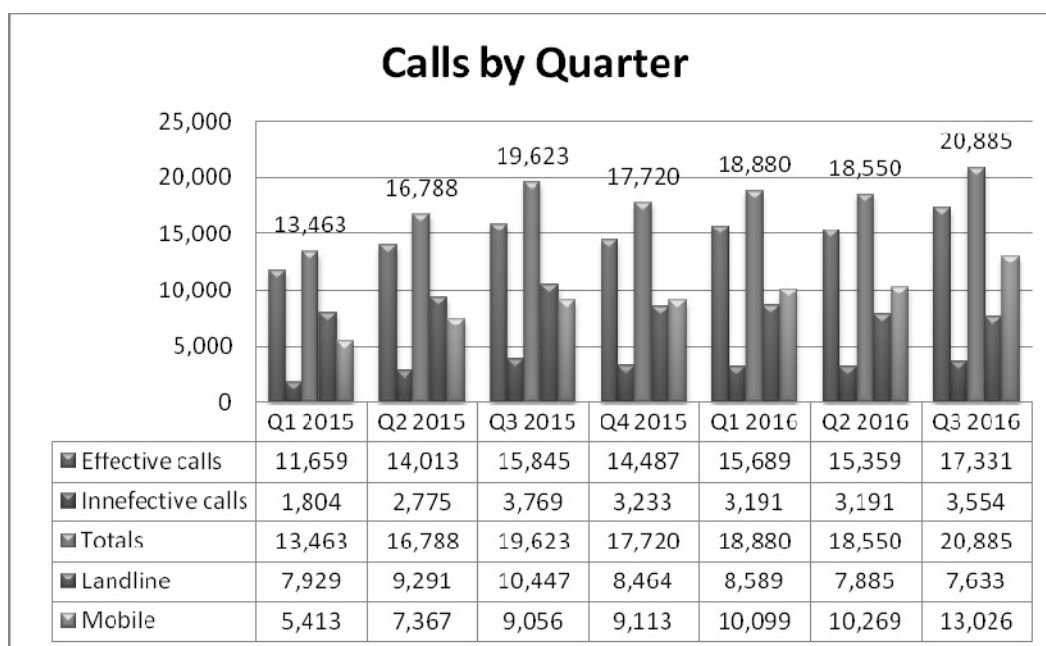
At the time of writing this report, there have been no responses to the advertisement for two replacements for those who rotated and additional members to this committee.

A training CD for members of this Committee has now been completed. This will assist in sponsoring/12th stepping new recruits and as stated in the recommendations made at the 2000 Conference, will enable ',,,cross training for all committee members ...'to take place. It is necessary that each committee member is able to cover for another should the need arise.

The Job Descriptions have been reviewed and are now available in PDF format. The position of Treasurer will no longer be necessary.

Jonathon P., Statistician for the National Telephone Sub Committee has produced the following report on the progress of our National Telephone numbers.

From the advent of the 0800 number the number of calls has increased significantly. As already reported there has been a 24% increase in calls since the 0800 number was introduced (first 6 months of 2015 compared with first 6 months 2016). Call volume has continued to increase albeit at a slower rate, in Q3 2016 total calls exceeded 20,000 a 6% increase from Q3 2015.



The bar chart showing quarterly numbers for the past 7 quarters makes this clear. The number of ineffective calls has increased substantially over this period and the reasons for this remain unclear but the majority of Ring Tone no Reply calls are less than 10 seconds (53%).

Calls to the 0845 number have continued to decline as expected, in November 2016 307 calls compared with 498 in November 2015. (There were 1,282 in July 2015).

The average call length has increased from 4.8 minutes in 2015 to 5.1 minutes in 2016 in the July-November period. Similarly, the number of calls which last over one hour in duration has increased from 48 in the July-November period in 2015 to 63 in the same period in 2016.

Calls from landlines continue to decline (41% in Q3 2016), while calls from mobiles increase (59%).

The File Store, which is for use of our Regional and Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officers, has been updated and all obsolete items have been deleted.

News Letters have been produced quarterly though, sadly, contributions have not been as prolific/forthcoming as hoped. These News Letters are available on the web site

Please note:

A number of organisations have already been advised of the new number – 0800 9177 650. However, the older 0845 number is still being displayed. The committee need the help of all AA members in this matter. Where the 0845 769 7555 number is encountered we would ask that the company is informed of the correct telephone number in order that amendments may be made as soon as possible.

We are all responsible.

Roundabout Update

(James K)

Roundabout is AA's magazine in Scotland. It continues to be published monthly by a team of AA members who work mostly from home, but who meet three or four times a year in Glasgow. There is also an annual meeting to which all Regions and Intergroups in Scotland are invited to send a representative. This will usually be the Liaison Officer for Roundabout. The magazine contains articles from members concerning their experiences, strengths and hopes. It also contains a pullout section containing topical information about changes to Group Meetings in Scotland, together with announcements about certain Service Meetings. This section is for internal use only - it is removed when magazines are passed on to members of the public.

SHARE Update

(Helen S)

SHARE, the "Meeting between Meetings" in England and Wales, provides an important opportunity to 'carry the message'. When Groups and Intergroups appoint a SHARE Rep or Liaison Officer 'news' of this recovery aid reaches more members. Sponsoring members into these service positions is vital to the success of SHARE. Liaison Officers not only garner subscriptions, articles, letters and other material they are also the means of promoting this useful tool across the Fellowship. Two other valuable opportunities of raising awareness of the benefits of SHARE are by the use of the SHARE stand and hosting a Workshop at national and local conventions.

I would like to thank the Editorial Team (SHARE Sub Committee) for their utter dedication to this Fellowship journal. Last year the number of Readers increased to four; a new Editor was appointed in early 2016 and a new Assistant Editor joined the Team at the end of November. The Fellowship should be aware of the total commitment of GSO staff to ensuring the production quality of SHARE. Monthly targets are met without difficulty and the quality of the magazine, including the photography, has improved.

SHARE can be given, by Groups or individuals:

- As a gift to a Newcomer
- To aid in studying the Steps and Traditions
- As an Anniversary present, in the form of a 6 or 12 month subscription
- In CD form (as above)
- For Prison sponsors to 'pass on'
- To be left in doctors surgeries and/or hospitals

In October, the Editorial Team held a Workshop at GSO, which was attended by 16 Intergroup and 3 Regional Liaison Officers. GSO produced subscription figures for each delegate that outlined which Groups were/were not currently subscribing. This was a fantastic opportunity for Liaison Officers to meet each other and share the issues which concern them – and also to share solutions. They met the entire Editorial Team, heard how SHARE is put together each month and what each Team member does. All Liaison Officers were invited to report on the work in their local area. A general discussion on Saturday morning elicited a useful list of ideas for Liaison Officers to take away with them; the meeting agreed to share email addresses, so that further contact and support could be pooled.

SHARE can be found in two areas of the AA GB website (under Members): Fellowship Magazines and Documents Library. The first area gives a good idea of how SHARE 'works'. In the Documents Library, there are a variety of useful tools for Liaison Officers and others to use in promoting SHARE within the Fellowship.

In order to fill each issue, SHARE needs to receive 20-30 articles (from a couple of paragraphs up to 1000 words) – *each and every month*. There is a two-month time lag so, for example, articles for the July issue should arrive at GSO before the end of April. Writing for SHARE is yet another way to meet the duty we each have to Twelfth Step work. SHARE needs the full participation of AA members to survive. The Editorial Team wants to hear from a *wide diversity of contributors* and their experience of recovery from our threefold illness. It is important to have as much variety of experience, strength and hope expressed as possible - especially for the benefit of the Newcomer – but also to hold the interest of regular readers. Why not put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) today?

The SHARE Editorial Team invites all members to support our Fellowship magazine, by subscribing and by submitting articles, letters, photographs and cartoons.

SHARE is our story. Share yours.

Houses of Parliament Event Update

(Carol H)

As I rotate out as Trustee with responsibility for the Parliamentary Presentation, I would like to thank the members of the committee for all their hard work over the past four years. Members come from the London Regions, North and South, together with members from adjoining regions, in particular South East Region. Monthly committee meetings are held from September through to the final wash-up meeting in May/June.

The aim of the Presentation is to explain the effectiveness and work of Alcoholics Anonymous to Parliamentarians of all political parties and to members of relevant professional groups with a view to establishing a relationship with AA at the local level.

The 2016 presentation was held in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, on 17th June and was well attended; for the majority it was their first time at the event. Eighty seven people registered with seventy attending, an increase on the previous year.

Twelve MPs registered with four attending. Our host, Fiona Bruce MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm, was able to be present for the whole event.

Professor Elish Gilvarry, Consultant Addictions Psychiatrist at the Newcastle and North Tyneside Addictions Service offered a strong endorsement of AA and quoted from recent research which confirms the effectiveness of AA in facilitating long term sobriety.

Adrian Thompson, Head of Safety at Wandsworth Prison gave a moving talk about the difficulties faced by prisoners with alcohol problems both inside and after release. He also expressed his gratitude and admiration for the work done by AA members involved in facilitating meetings and sponsorship in the prison.

Our AA speakers Martyn B and Claire B-D both come from professional backgrounds and gave an insight into the extent in which alcoholism can be so powerful as to destroy even the most successful of careers.

Preparations are well under way for the next presentation to be held in May 2017.

Scottish Parliament Event Update

(Sandy MacV)

The Scottish Parliamentary awareness event was held at the Parliament buildings Holyrood, Edinburgh on October 6th 2016.

The host for our event was Rhoda Grant, Labour MSP for Highlands and Islands Area.

Sandy MacV, Trustee for the Scottish Parliament event chaired the meeting. He gave a power point presentation and an overall view of what AA is and is not. He explained the roles of liaison officers within the Fellowship and the part they play in co-operating with the professional community. He stressed our policy of Cooperation and not Affiliation.

He also highlighted the importance of Anonymity to the Fellowship.

The number of professionals in attendance was down on previous years with about 12 invited guests in attendance.

Guest speakers for the event were Sheriff Alistair Duff who is the Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland. Sheriff Duff spoke on the topic of '**39 Years of Alcohol - a Life in Crime**'.

Next to speak was Dr. Jonathan Chick, Chief Medical Officer at Castle Craig Hospital and past member and NAT on the Board of Trustees for Alcoholics Anonymous. Jonathon gave a very interesting, informative and very well received talk on '**The effectiveness of Mutual Aid**'.

The AA speaker for the event was Alex H. from East of Scotland Region. Alex shared his experience, strength and hope with us. Following Alex's presentation we had a short questions and answers session.

Following this Sandy invited our host Rhoda Grant to sum up. Rhoda was amazed and inspired by what she had heard.

Sandy then thanked Rhoda for very kindly acting as our host for the event.

He thanked the speakers for their very interesting and informative presentations; the parliament staff and the AA members who helped to make the event possible.

Finally he thanked the invited guests for their attendance at the event.

Overall, although we were small in numbers, the event proved to be a success.

Northern National Convention Update (Denise H)

The Forty-second Northern National Convention duly took place on 18/19/20 March 2016 at Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. A total of 914 people registered over the weekend. There was a full programme of meetings over the entire weekend, which included meetings for Al-Anon and Alateen. There were marathon meetings until 1.00 am on the Friday and Saturday. The service seminar was extremely well-attended, most probably because this year it didn't coincide with the Saturday morning big meeting. Entertainment was provided on the Friday and Saturday evenings with a DJ and open mic sessions. AA-related films were shown continuously during Friday and Saturday. There were also young people's and old timers' meetings, as well as a full programme of Al-Anon meetings.

The opening big meeting on Friday evening was designated as an open public one, was shared with Al-Anon and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Blackpool. Martin Weegmann, Non-Alcoholic Trustee, who had agreed to be a speaker, unfortunately was not able to attend because of circumstances beyond his control. However, he did have a statement read out to the meeting so that he would have some contact with the convention. Charlie C, North West Region and Northern National Convention Archivist once again staged a most impressive archives display, which was themed in accordance with the convention timeline.

The Final Gathering (spiritual meeting) had AA and Al-Anon speakers. The usual sobriety countdown took place, with the longest-sober member presenting a copy of the Big Book to the newest person in recovery. The decibel-rating of the audience singing 'One Day at a Time' was thunderous! The meeting ended with the entire audience holding hands in a circle around the hall whilst saying the Serenity Prayer.

Income over expenditure reveals a surplus of £2867.27 and the Tradition 7 'Pot' was £1,780.51, (which is accounted for separately) and was sent directly to GSO. The total contributed to the general funds of GSO in the financial year ending 30th April 2016 was £3,365.64. This includes the surplus funds from the 2015 Convention.

A fantastic addition to the National Northern Convention is the Survey, which is overseen, designed and administered by Michaela the NNC Secretary. A summary of the results is tabled below.

QUESTION	% YES	% NO	% N/A
1. Is this your first visit to the Northern National Convention?	36%	64%	0%
2. Would you come again?	99%	1%	0%
3. Did you enjoy the open public meeting?	88%	5%	7%
4. Did you enjoy the Saturday night dance?	63%	13%	24%
5. Did you enjoy the archive display	70%	2%	28%
6. Did you enjoy the open mic. session?	54%	4%	42%
7. Did you enjoy the workshops?	41%	3%	56%
8. Did you enjoy any of the films?	37%	5%	58%
9. Did you enjoy the marathon meeting?	81%	3%	16%
10. Did you find the convention map helpful	92%	2%	6%

This is true fellowship in action – everyone has a voice and the right to participation and as always, we 'keep coming back' time and time again.

Scottish National Convention Update

(Charlie R)

The Feasibility Study Committee had their first meeting in St. John's Hall, Perth on Sunday 15th January. Only 3 regions, Glasgow, Scotia and East of Scotland, were in attendance.

The committee agreed the following points:

- There will be a National Convention in 2018
- That the feasibility study will work out costing, venues and TORs for the convention before a SNCC is elected
- Each Region would cost 2 venues from within their regions assuming the provisional dates the weekends of 27th April or 11th May 2018.
- TORs from 2015 and 2016 to be emailed to all in attendance for discussion and review at the next meeting

Southern National Convention Update

(Peter F)

The Southern National Convention took place over the weekend of 2nd, 3rd and 4th of September at Mill Rythe on Hayling Island.

There was an excellent programme over the three days which included Open meetings, separate meetings for AA, Al Anon and Al Ateen. There was a live band, a disco, an

informal singalong in the evenings and a Spiritual Meeting on the Sunday morning, complete with a home grown choir. The attendance was over 727 registered attendees both from AA and Al Anon members and all the Resort's rooms were taken. We of course get many members coming locally for the day or all the days!

The Event was self-supporting and a contribution of £2500 sent to GSO.

At the AGM in January this year, each of the six supporting Regional Chairs attended with Treasurers. The accounts were accepted for 2015/2016 and the incoming Executive Committee for the 2017 convention was ratified. The full complement of Executive members is in place for 2017.

Each of the six Regions nominate two representatives for the organising committee and there remains at present only two members to fill from two of the Regions. We trust that shortly we will have a full complement as it is a very rewarding service opportunity.

The Convention for this year is from the 1st to 3rd of September with the theme "Anonymity is the Spiritual Foundation"; again it is being held at Mill Ryde, Hayling Island; all the rooms at present are booked but there are nearby hotels, B&B's etc.

For next year 2018, the booking will open the week after the 2017 Convention. This will avoid congestion and delay on the Sept 2nd (Saturday) morning with a more efficient and better staffed opportunity for Conventionists to book. Do come along in September, it is a joyous weekend.

Welsh National Convention Update (Judy F)

Once again Wales and Borders Region offered a very warm welcome to all those who attended the convention. The theme was 'Sobriety – an exciting journey...Sobrwydd – taith gyffrous...'. The venue was again, The Metropole Hotel, Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys which is in the very beautiful heart of Wales.

The Committee has decided to retain this theme for the convention to be held in 2017. The dates are 2nd – 4th June 2017. We look forward to seeing you there.

The numbers attending are steadily growing and in 2016 increased from 150 in 2015 to 173. Wrist bands were introduced this year and served as a souvenir as well as confirmation of registration.

The workshop was run by Roger E., Trustee for Prisons and was interesting, informative and well attended.

The meetings, also, were very well attended and the speakers were, as always, eloquent, lively and entertaining, carrying an excellent message. A Welsh language meeting where simultaneous translation was provided was held. Come and Go meetings ran throughout Saturday until late.

All the speakers have been approached and confirmed for the Convention in 2017. A Non Alcoholic Trustee has, also, been invited to speak. The workshop will be run by the Trustee for Armed Services, Brian J.

Everyone enjoyed the Twympath – dance – held on Friday evening and the disco on Saturday evening was excellent.

The Committee, once again, have worked extremely hard to create a lively and interesting Convention which was apparent from the feedback received from those who attended; this was, mostly, both positive and encouraging.

Open Forum

(Non Voting Session)

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 Amanda thanking everyone for their hard work and asking all to join her in saying the Serenity Prayer, following which the preliminary Committee Reports were distributed and the opportunity given for Regions to discuss these.

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

Amanda welcomed everyone back to the final session of Conference, asked for a few moments silence to remember why we are here, to remember the still suffering alcoholic and gather thoughts before the morning session.

As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded.

Amanda then invited the Chairs 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 54 - 55
Committee No. 2	Pages 56 - 57
Committee No. 3	Pages 58 - 60
Committee No. 4	Pages 61 - 62
Committee No. 5	Pages 63 - 65
Committee No. 6	Pages 66 - 67

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR CONFERENCE 2018

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Sid D (Eastern Region) was duly elected.

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Geoff H, Chair GSB)

Good morning Conference, my name is Geoff and I am an alcoholic. Conference never ceases to amaze me, everyone is different yet they are all the same and this must be the best democracy in the world. When I think about the course the Conference questions take, everybody gets the opportunity to submit them, to talk about them, they are discussed here in the Committees and then voted on by the whole of Conference, it always comes together in the end. I think that is the wonderful part of our Fellowship and the feeling in the room whilst this is happening is quite palpable and I can feel it in my tummy now. This thing about 'we can disagree without being disagreeable' really says it all about our Fellowship. Where there is a lot of love we look after each other and that is what has happened this weekend and congratulations to Sid upon his election as Conference Chair for next year.

It is my job this morning to present four of our new Trustees for confirmation or to use the old term ratification, which I notice most people still use anyway:

Amanda S – London Region South

Amanda joined the Board in January of this year and her allocations are going to be Young People, European Service Meeting, Finance Committee and the Westminster event.

Jeff B – Midlands Region

Jeff had his first Board meeting last Thursday of this week and is going to be responsible for Probation/Criminal Justice Services, AA Service News and the Conference Steering Committee.

Mani Mehdikhani – Non Alcoholic Trustee

Mani started on the Board in July of last year. He works as a Clinical Psychologist in the North West of England in the addiction field. Mani is on the working group of the Survey and is also allocated to the Health Sub-committee on which he has been serving since last July.

Peter S – South West Region

Peter has been allocated to the Telephones discipline and also to the Nominations Committee.

Rotation is practised on the Board, as it is everywhere else in the Fellowship, and I believe passionately in rotation as it helps to keep our Fellowship healthy, although there is a certain sadness to it because it means that I have to acknowledge that five people today are rotating off the General Service Board. We are going to miss them and that for me is the downside of rotation, and the first is:

Ash Kahn – Non Alcoholic Trustee

Ash, as a non-alcoholic Trustee, has served for the magnificent time of eight years which is two terms. Ash has done so much work for us especially outside of the Fellowship in the numerous speaking engagements he has undertaken. He really can reach the parts of the professional community where the average AA member can't because of our constraints around anonymity. He has served on the Nominations Committee, chairing the Committee and has been the link between that Committee and the Board. Ash has also been on the Membership Surveys and has attended the Irish Conference. We wish you well and thank you for all of your splendid service.

Carol H – London Region South

We have seen Carol stood up here at Conference on a regular basis doing her very best to get literature proposals through and most of them have gone through. There must be a slight frustration when pieces of paper have to keep coming back to Conference but they have always been finalised eventually. In addition to serving on the Literature Committee she has also served on the Nominations Committee, the Westminster Parliamentary event and attended the Polish and Flemish Conferences. Thank you very much for your service to the Fellowship and the Board.

Clive D – Midlands Region

Clive has been beaver away on the Probation/Criminal Justice Services discipline for the last four years and in addition he has been on the Finance Committee and attended the Danish General Service Conference. Thank you very much for your service.

Judy F – Wales & Borders Region

Judy has served in the Telephones discipline for the duration of her time on the Board and her legacy is her getting the 0800 freephone number established

after many years of great debate in the Fellowship. Judy has also been on the Welsh Assembly planning committee, the Welsh National Convention and also attended the Polish General Service Conference. Thank you for your service to the Board.

Wullie I – Vice Chair, General Service Board

In addition to being Vice Chair for the last two years, Wullie has also been responsible for several disciplines. He started off in Electronic Communications and literally transformed the website and, before then, I know there was a lot of criticism about the website, but I seldom hear of criticism now. It's been a long, gradual process and Wullie put in an incredible amount of hours behind the scene in setting it all up and populating it.

Wullie was also on the Prisons discipline for a while, then Public Information, Membership Survey, Conference Steering Committee, started the Young Peoples discipline off, currently on the 75th Anniversary Committee and attended the Polish and Danish Conferences. Thank you very much in deed for your service.

There were two resignations during the year namely Jim F and Tom H who resigned for personal reasons so are not with us here this weekend.

I would like to introduce to you now the new Vice Chair of the Board, Roger E, and in addition to the duties of Vice Chair, Roger will chair the 75th Anniversary Sub-committee and also is going to be on the Nominations Committee. He will also continue attending the Mutual Aid Reference Group meetings at Public Health England which really deals with both Health Liaison and Prisons Liaison so he will be the go-between, as it were, between those two disciplines.

I would like to thank Amanda for being an excellent Conference Chair and I really do think it is a very demanding job.

My role has been quite different this year as it is the first time I have attended Conference and not been allocated to a Committee. That felt very different because my personality demands that I get involved at the level of cut and thrust, which was not the case this year. What it did do was enable me to look at the Conference as a whole. That has been good and I have been well aware of all of the hard work that has gone on, especially within the Committees, because that really is the heart of Conference and where most of the work is done, thank you Committees and Chairs.

I would like to thank our staff who have helped here over the weekend – we could not do it without you. I would like to thank Keith, who sits quietly in the corner, and very efficiently looks after our AV equipment and, lastly, all of you for bringing the conscience of your regions to this Conference.

Close of Conference

(Amanda S)

My name is Amanda and I'm an alcoholic. At the start of the weekend I spoke of the power and love in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, we have seen that in action this weekend.

I'd like to thank all of you for your service – the hard work that you have done preparing for Conference and please thank your groups and Intergroups for being part of such an important process.

Again, thanks to the GSO staff, especially Roger and Sharon and I'd like to thank the hotel staff for looking after us.

Thank you again to the CSC for all their hard work, it was a pleasure to work with you and get to know you all, I think we all learnt a lot. To next year's Steering Committee, thanks in advance for taking this on, you may be feeling a bit of fear but walk through it, this is going to be a wonderful experience for you and it is a great privilege and congratulations and good luck to next year's Chair, Sid – I hope you get as much out of it as I did.

I hope all of you, especially the red dotters, have had a good Conference and go away full of enthusiasm for next year.

I want to thank you, Conference, for making me feel so supported and for making my job a joy to do, it has truly been an honour and a privilege. I feel so fortunate that I will be able to come back again next year as a Trustee and continue walking this wonderful path in Alcoholics Anonymous. I wish you all a safe journey home and I look forward to seeing many of you again next year.

Before we go I'd like to share an extract from the Keys of the Kingdom – which sums up for me how wonderful this Fellowship is:

'The last 15 years of my life have been rich and meaningful. I have had my share of problems, heartaches and disappointments, because that is life, but I have also known a great deal of joy and a peace that is the handmaiden of an inner freedom. I have a wealth of friends and with my AA friends, an unusual quality of fellowship. For, to these people, I am truly related. First, through mutual pain and despair and later through mutual objectives and new found faith and hope. And as the years go by, working together, sharing our experiences with one another, and also sharing a mutual trust, understanding and love – without strings, without obligation – we acquire relationships that are unique and priceless. There is no more aloneness with that awful ache, so deep in the heart of every alcoholic that nothing before could reach it. That ache is gone never need return again. Now there is a sense of belonging of being wanted and needed and loved. In return for a bottle and a hangover we have been given the Keys of the Kingdom.'

We have now concluded the business of Conference 2017 – please can you join me in closing with the Serenity prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Fifty-Third General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Park Inn, North Street, York on 13-15 April 2018.

FIFTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2017

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIR JO F EASTERN REGION

SECRETARY ANNE W SOUTH EAST REGION

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

- 1. Would the Fellowship share experience on the use of Confirmation of Attendance 'Chits' in their Groups and consider the benefit of using the 'Chits' for other areas such as but not restricted to Employment and Social Services and any adaptations that may be required to accommodate other areas of our Service Structure?**

The Committee shared the Fellowship's experience of the chit system. This ranged from no knowledge or experience to the full use of it. Where there was experience, the outcomes were mainly positive.

Many of the suggestions for its use with outside agencies are already included in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services).

Following sharing of the Fellowship's experience, we are aware from some members that the chit system is used in Health, Employment and Social Services.

As such, some of the benefits include but are not restricted to the following:

- a) Broadening knowledge of AA to outside agencies.
- b) Broadening knowledge within the Fellowship, for example, by referring other service areas to the content of the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services).

Whilst recognising that each group is autonomous in deciding whether it uses the chit system, it is suggested that where used, consideration is given to Traditions 6, 10 and 12.

It is recommended that the content of Section 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services) in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, be brought to the attention of all service areas of AA. This could be for example, by means of an article in AA Service News and a reference to 9.3.2 page 61 (Probation/Criminal Justice Services) in the 2017 AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, in future editions of the Service Handbook.

Vote was unanimous

- 2. Would the Fellowship consider reviewing the group service handbook page 39 4.2.1 "AA members employed in the alcoholism field"?**

Following detailed and open discussions the committee recommends that paragraph 4.2.1, page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017) be reviewed.

As a consequence of our discussions on paragraph 4.2.1, page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017), the committee felt that should Conference consider it appropriate, the whole of Chapter 4 should also be reviewed.

The committee felt that the Service Handbook considers service and AA as a whole, whereas Chapter 4 is looking at individuals and external employment and therefore not AA service.

The committee recommends to Conference the removal of 4.2.1 page 39 of the AA Service Handbook 2013 (2017). It also recommends the review of Chapter 4 at Conference 2018.

Vote was unanimous.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Anne W of South East Region as Chair of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2018.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Gemma B of London Region South as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2018.

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

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIR HOLLY A SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY RON D CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

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

1. Would the Fellowship consider the role of "autonomy" in the relationship between Conference, the AA Service Structure and individual groups and share experience?

In considering the role of "autonomy" in the relationship between Conference, the AA Service Structure and individual groups, we were mindful of the words of our co-founder, Bill W in "Language of the Heart":

"Tradition Four is yet another confident declaration of mutual trust and love as it flows from each AA group to the other. We give each group full autonomy, the undisturbed right to manage its own affairs. To make this condition doubly permanent and secure, we have guaranteed to all AA groups that they will never be subjected to any centralized government or authority. In turn each group agrees that it will never take any action that could injure us all. Rarely indeed has any AA group ever forgotten that precious trust." (p. 317).

Autonomy is fully explained in our Service and Structure Manuals, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and the Concepts and Traditions Checklists.

An AA group, through its registration with the General Service Office (GB), is assumed to have agreed to affiliate solely to AA and to operate within AA's Traditions, Concepts and Service Structure.

While each group is self-governing, when making its decisions through its group conscience, it should always consider that AA unity is paramount for our common welfare (Traditions 1, 3 and 4 long form).

In relation to our primary purpose, we would ask that groups acting autonomously do nothing that would prejudice the activities of AA as a whole.

"Unless there is approximate conformity to AA's Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die." ("Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", Tradition Nine, p.174).

Any group considering ideas that may affect other groups, or Alcoholics Anonymous, as a whole, has a well proven process to do so via the Service Structure. Through our trusted servants, every individual has the right of participation enabling their views to be heard throughout the Fellowship at Intergroups, Regions, and ultimately Conference - the collective conscience of AA Great Britain (Concepts 1 and 2).

Vote was unanimous.

2. Would the Fellowship consider adopting Continental European Region's new 'The General Service Conference Annual Process Map'?

This committee considered adopting Continental European Region's new "General Service Conference Annual Process Map" and recommends it be adopted with the following modifications:

- a) Add a header line above the process map stating "Questions for Conference can be submitted at any time throughout the year."
- b) Link the sections of the inverted triangle as a direct facsimile of the diagram in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain (p. 6).
- c) Enlarge the arrow above the text "repeats annually" on the right-hand side of the timeline.
- d) Embolden the sentence "The annual process begins with the group conscience."
- e) Include an arrowhead on the red dotted line.
- f) Amend the line "More information on Conference" with the addition of "available from the General Service Office" and delete '.pdf' references.
- g) Remove all references to specific regions.

Vote:

18 in favour, 1 against

Minority view

The minority view is that the process map does not accurately portray:

1. Representation of the views of individual members on the Conference questions.
2. Access of different levels of the Service Structure to Conference delegates and therefore Conference.
3. The decisions of Conference being imposed on the General Service Board for action.
4. Feedback on the recommendations of Conference being made directly available to all levels of the Service Structure including individual members.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Ron D of Continental European Region as Chair of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2018.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Bob S of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2018.

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

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIR SID D EASTERN REGION

SECRETARY STEFAN S LONDON REGION NORTH

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

- 1. Would the Fellowship share experience on how best to liaise between Intergroups and Regions especially where our boundaries don't match those of the organisations we are trying to work with.**

The committee shared a variety of experiences which had the common factors of communication, cooperation and coordination that were deemed to be the best practice for negotiating problems.

Existing experience from the Fellowship may be found in the Service and Structure Handbooks, in particular, but not limited to:

- a) The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2017, p54 states:
"Consider responding flexibly to the needs of the professional community and, through regular service meetings/workshops, a plan for your area will emerge. Do not be afraid to ask for help or to contact members in similar service positions in other areas."
- b) The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, p87 states:
"Practice has shown that boundaries evolve without the overlapping of neighbouring areas. Where two or more intergroups fall within a local authority area their liaison officers cooperate in trying to carry the message (e.g. prisons, hospitals, etc)."

There is a lot of advice on how to organise workshops and discussion meetings on page 92 of the Structure Handbook.

The Annual Regional Liaison Officers' meetings which normally take place in York, are very useful for sharing information. Where a regional post is vacant appropriate representation, (e.g. an intergroup liaison officer) may attend.

The Fellowship's shared experience included the following:

- a) Neighbouring intergroups often communicate with each other even when not in the same region. This frequently occurs in prisons, telephone services and other services.
- b) Two regions and three intergroups have liaised successfully to take AA into prisons, organizing AA meetings in a new super prison in Wrexham, an area with no history of prison service.

- c) Fife intergroup has a strong prison liaison representation despite there being no prisons in Fife, working with neighbouring intergroups to cover prisons in their areas. There are similar examples in Kent, Solent and London.
- d) The internet and the new standardized AA email formats have made communication easier than ever, so liaison should not be a problem.
- e) Experience of Intergroups liaising by setting up a sub-committee of HLOs to provide responders for a new superhospital in Glasgow, following the closure of several smaller hospitals.
- f) The TLOs from Northdown and Solent intergroups have been working together for many years to cover their duties. This cooperation led to an arrangement in prisons within the same intergroups.

It is important to encourage and sponsor AAs into service, especially liaison roles, to maximize opportunities for communication throughout the service structure.

Voting was unanimous.

2. Would Conference approve a change of wording to The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2013; to reflect the current practice of the General Service Board?

Page 120; "GSO Money"; 3rd bullet point

From:

"...than is required to do the job well including a prudent reserve equivalent to the budget expenditure for the forthcoming year."

To:

"...than is required to do the job well, including a prudent reserve of more than the previous year's expenditure, plus a quarter of the previous year's expenditure to meet the General Service Board's operating costs"

Following clarification, Committee 3 recommends that Conference approves a change of wording to the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017; to reflect the current practice of the General Service Board.

Page 121: "GSO Money"; 3rd Bullet point

From: "...than is required to do the job well including a prudent reserve equivalent to the budget expenditure for the forthcoming year."

To: "than is required to do the job well, including a prudent reserve of more than the previous year's expenditure, plus a quarter of the previous year's expenditure to meet the General Service Board's operating costs".

Committee 3 also acknowledges that there were some reservations raised in the Fellowship, particularly regarding the words "more than", which relate to Board policy and would need to be addressed through the Trustees.

Concerns regarding an accumulation of wealth were alleviated by the Treasurer's presentation of the Board's policy to spend any surplus funds on additional Primary Purpose activities.

Yes 16

No 1

Abstentions 0

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Stefan S of London Region North as Chair of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2018.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Gretchen S of London Region South as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2018.

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

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIR PAULINE B NORTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY MATT S CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN
REGION

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

- 1. Would the Fellowship discuss and make recommendations on the merits of AA posters that emphasise the positive aspects and benefits of sobriety as an addition to the current posters that concentrate on the negative aspects of alcoholism?**

While the Fellowship would like to see AA posters that focus on the positive aspects and benefits of sobriety as an addition to the current posters, in discussion, this committee felt that identifying the merits is not an easy task because:

- Everybody's perceptions of the benefits of sobriety are different
- Making promises that may not be realised can be damaging to the Fellowship
- Existing posters already have positive aspects
- Identification with the drinking problem first is most important to the newcomer

This committee recommends the increased use of existing AA posters and that various GSB sub-committees, e.g. Health and Prisons, consider positive aspects when designing target-specific posters.

AA members, Groups, Intergroups and Regions are invited to generate new AA posters for submission to the appropriate sub-committee for approval at Conference.

The vote was unanimous.

- 2. Would the Fellowship share experience of problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings and consider issuing something similar to the letter first issued by GSO in March 1982.**

The committee discussed the Fellowship's experience of problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings. The overall view was that this is not a widespread concern. It was felt that problems other than alcohol being shared at group meetings is generally well managed. Our guiding principles are our Twelve Traditions as practised with love, patience and tolerance.

Additionally, there is existing guidance, for example:

- The Twelve Traditions*. Particularly 3, 4 and 5
- The AA Preamble*
- Primary Purpose Card*. "The Blue Card", 4014
- Our Primary Purpose and Problems other than Alcohol*. The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2017, pages 76-77

- e) *Problems other than Alcohol*. AA Pamphlet, 3180
- f) *The A.A. Group*. AA Pamphlet, 3270
- g) *Information on Alcoholics Anonymous*. The AA Service Handbook Great Britain 2017, pages 10-12

This committee is also mindful of the autonomy of the group conscience, along with their trusted servants, to manage their meetings.

It is recommended that the letter, *Problems other than Alcohol* first issued by GSO in March 1982, be published in the June AA Service News, coinciding with the Conference recommendations.

The vote was unanimous.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Matt S of Continental European Region as Chair of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2018.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Linda O of South Midlands Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2018.

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

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIR ANDY K SCOTIA REGION

SECRETARY KENNY M SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

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

1. Would the Fellowship ask the General Service Board to conduct a strategic review of the future of its magazine publications, and make recommendations?

This Committee recommends that a Strategic Review of the future of our Magazine publications is undertaken.

This Committee makes the following recommendations that the Review should:

- a. Examine the strengths, weaknesses and values of the three publications (Roundabout, Share and AA Service News)
- b. Investigate a reported undertaking regarding the retention of Roundabout following the disbandment of the Scottish Service Committee.
- c. Consider making them more appealing to the readership
- d. Consider the feasibility of using professional assistance in the design and editing process.
- e. Investigate online and audio version through subscription.

Recognising that this may take some time, the Committee also recommends that there should be a reporting process from the Board to Conference. The Committee also recognises that the recommendations are not an exhaustive list.

Voting: Unanimous

2. In 2015 many groups participated in a survey of the Fellowship membership. The data has been analysed by the Board and their findings and conclusions presented to Conference 2016. The survey team were thus able to receive some feedback. Would the Fellowship now discuss the results of this survey and feed back to Conference their perceptions of the survey and their interpretations of the results.

The Committee agreed that the Survey is a valuable tool to the Fellowship and General Service Board, however the Committee found that knowledge of the results of the survey varied across the Fellowship and considered how this might be improved.

The Committee agreed that the Survey contains useful information which facilitates the Primary Purpose of the Fellowship.

The benefits include:

- a. Addressing preconceived ideas of AA and thereby increasing the attractiveness to the still suffering alcoholic.

- b. Providing information regarding the effectiveness of the Fellowship in assisting people in their recovery.
- c. Provide information for the purposes of Public Information.
- d. Identifying and responding to the trends.

To increase awareness of the Fellowship to the value of the Survey this Committee recommends that the General Service Board establishes a Survey sub-committee tasked with:

- a. Managing the Survey process
- b. Analysing and extracting the information of the Survey and,
- c. Disseminating this to the Fellowship using the AA website and AA Service News at regular intervals.

Minority View: Surveys

Surveys in an anonymous organisation can be misleading though well meaning, recovery is often qualitative and not quantitative – “How long is a piece of String?” The heart of AA is the Home Group.

- a. Surveys may lead to increased professionalism of the 12th Step
- b. Interpretations are subjective
- c. Professional recovery organisations compete for funding and we should be wary of AA being used to promote profits

One ex-drunk talking with another is our modus operandi and our experience validates this – we don’t need a survey.

Voting: For 18 Against 1

3. a. Review revised Chapter Three: AA and Electronic Communications, The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

This Committee accepts the amendments as presented and notes the change of email address shown in para 3.8 for the Online Responder Service to help@aamail.org

Minority view:

The minority view welcomes many significant developments encompassed in this question, fulfilling the recommendations of Conference 2013, and other Conferences.

It regrets the removal of this sentence from the Service Handbook 2013 para 3:6, Local Websites. “It should be noted that the only websites which can be truly called AA websites are those which are endorsed by an official AA Service body (i.e. intergroup, region or country)”.

This may be a question for a future Conference.

Voting: For 17 Against 1 Abstain 1

b. Review revised page 114: AA (GB) Website, The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain.

This Committee accepts the amendments as presented.

Voting: Unanimous

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Dee Y of North East Region as Chair of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2018.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.

The Committee elected Oswin T of London Region South as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2018.

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

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIR SOPHIE F NORTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY EVIE G LONDON REGION NORTH

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

1. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on the use of mobile 'phones and other devices for photography and video recording during conventions?

This committee's experience that mobile phones and social media are already in common use by members of the Fellowship.

This committee recommends that, in accordance with Tradition 11, the Fellowship raise awareness of the importance of anonymity throughout conventions, including meetings and social events therein.

This ought to include but is not limited to:

- a) Publishing in Share and Roundabout, the AA website, and convention publicity, a reminder of the potential breach of anonymity by taking photographs at conventions.
- b) Amending p.123 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain to include reading the AA anonymity announcement at all meetings, not restricted to public meetings.
- c) Amending p.123 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain after the sentence "thus we respectfully ask that no AA speaker — or any AA member — is identified by full name and that no photograph is published or broadcast in reports on our meetings" to be added: "This includes taking photographs and/or videos at convention social events (as well as the meetings) and publishing on social media."
- d) Amending p.86 of the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain to add a new boxed text with a reference to Tradition 11 and social media, e.g. a phone or camera with a line through it.
- e) Raising awareness of the "*Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety*" card at Conventions

The vote was unanimous.

- 2. Would the Fellowship discuss and share experience on the size of Intergroups both in terms of geography and number of constituent groups which would be effective.**

Could the Fellowship provide guidance on how Intergroups too small or too large effect change?

It is this committee's experience that due to the vast difference in size, geographical area and numbers of Groups and Intergroups, there is no standard formula for effectiveness and Intergroups have adapted according to local conditions. Factors which may affect local decisions about size of Intergroup are travel distance, population, number of groups and local services. This committee recognises that the size of an Intergroup does not always correlate to the number of service vacancies.

This committee feels that this is an Intergroup issue. Guidance is suggested in The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, p.87 Intergroup.

The vote: 18 Yes, 1 No

- 3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2018.**

The Committee elected Terri S of Highlands & Islands Region as Chair of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2018.

- 4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2018.**

The Committee elected Ben D of London Region South as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2018.

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

FIFTY-SECOND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2017

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: **AMANDA S** (London Region South)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Geoff	H		
Clive	D	1	
Roger	E	6	
Judy	F	4	
Peter	F	3	
Denise	H	4	
Joe	H	3	
Carol	H	3	
Wullie	I	4	
Brian	J	2	
James	K	5	
Sandy	MacV	6	
Nigel	P	2	
Charles	R	6	
Helen	S	5	
Jeff	B (Elect)	2	
Peter	S (Elect)	1	
Nick Holroyd		1	
Ash Kahn		5	
Mani Mehdikhani		2	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Roger B General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Sophie Perring
Chris North
Karen Martin
Jenny Pryke
Anne-Marie S

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Jo	F	1	3
Trevor	E	2	1
Sid	D	3	3
Phyllis	H	4	2
Kevan	D	5	3
Graham	B	6	A

LONDON REGION NORTH

Sean	N	1	A
Ann	O’K	2	2
Stefan	S	3	2
		5	
Ann	A-H	5	A
Evie	G	6	1

LONDON REGION SOUTH

Gemma	B	1	1
Allen	A	2	2
Gretchen	S	3	1
Brian	A	4	2
Oswin	T	5	1
Ben	D	6	1

MIDLANDS REGION

Michael	E	1	1
Steve	W	2	1
Paul	S	3	3
Dean	M	4	3
Jill	R	5	A
Sue	C	6	1

NORTH EAST REGION

Kirk	T	1	1
Lee	M	2	1
Phil	M	3	2
Pauline	B	4	3
Dee	Y	5	2
June	R	6	2

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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NORTH WEST REGION

Phil	H	1	2
Geoff	F	2	1
Carl	B	3	2
Peter	V	4	A
Mary	Mac	5	1
Sophie	F	6	2

SOUTH EAST REGION

Anne	W	1	2
Bob	S	2	1
Mick	Q	3	1
Charles	R	4	1
Carmel	G	5	3
Theresa	N	6	1

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Paul	M	1	2
Jonny	J	2	A
Cas	S	3	2
Linda	O	4	1
Sandi	A	5	2
Lindsay	K	6	3

SOUTH WEST REGION

Chris	S	1	1
Holly	A	2	3
David	K	3	A
Justin	T	4	1
Rosemary	C	5	3
Ian	G	6	1

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Hywel	P	1	3
Stuart	B	2	1
Jonathan	P	3	3
Neil	W	4	3
Zelma	K	5	A
Nico	V	6	1

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Hazel	McC	1	A
Hamish	McS	2	3
Allan	MacL	3	A
Alan	P	4	1
Lana	K	5	1
Bruce	E	6	1

GLASGOW REGION

Eileen	C	1	1
Ronnie	R	2	1
Wullie	D	3	2
Elaine	C	4	A
Stevie	McC	5	3
Hugh	S	6	1

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Donnie	MacR	1	1
James	C	2	3
		3	
DJ	Mac	4	1
Jan	O	5	3
Terri	S	6	2

SCOTIA REGION

Mary	M	1	1
Jaqui	McK	2	2
Michael	T	3	3
Bill	B	4	1
Andy	K	5	2
Brian	H	6	3

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Linda	C	1	3
Ivie	S	2	3
Willie	H	3	1
Jackie	B	4	2
Kenny	M	5	3
Marc	D	6	1

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER****TERM OF
SERVICE****CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION**

Ronald	vV	1	1
Ron	D	2	2
Tim	S	3	1
Matt	S	4	2
Roger	C	5	2
Joel	B	6	2

OBSERVERS

Sirma	H	(Bulgaria)	1	1
Jana	R	(Czech Republic)	2	1
Colum	P	(Ireland)	5	1
Martin	C	(Ireland)	6	1
Michal	F	(Poland)	5	1
Maciej	J	(Poland)	4	1
Leonor	P	(Portugal)	3	1

Glossary of Abbreviations Used

<i>AA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
<i>AAA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness</i>
<i>AASN</i>	-	<i>AA Service News</i>
<i>AAWS</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
<i>ASL</i>	-	<i>American Sign Language</i>
<i>ASLO</i>	-	<i>Armed Services Liaison Officer</i>
<i>BSL</i>	-	<i>British Sign Language</i>
<i>CER</i>	-	<i>Continental European Region</i>
<i>CMS</i>	-	<i>Content Management System</i>
<i>CSC</i>	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
<i>DAAT</i>	-	<i>Drug and Alcohol Teams</i>
<i>ECLO</i>	-	<i>Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
<i>ECSC</i>	-	<i>Electronic Communication Sub 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>GSR</i>	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
<i>HLO</i>	-	<i>Health Liaison Officer</i>
<i>HSC</i>	-	<i>Health Sub Committee</i>
<i>MOJ</i>	-	<i>Ministry of Justice</i>
<i>NAT</i>	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
<i>NHS</i>	-	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>NICE</i>	-	<i>National Institute for Clinical Excellence</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>NTA</i>	-	<i>National Treatment Agency</i>
<i>ORS</i>	-	<i>Online Response Service</i>
<i>PI</i>	-	<i>Public Information</i>
<i>PLO</i>	-	<i>Prison Liaison Officer</i>
<i>PPS</i>	-	<i>Prison Postal Service</i>
<i>PR</i>	-	<i>Public Relations</i>
<i>P/SS</i>	-	<i>Probation/Social Services</i>
<i>RECLLO</i>	-	<i>Regional Electronic Communication Liaison Officer</i>
<i>RELO</i>	-	<i>Regional Employment Liaison Officer</i>
<i>RTLO</i>	-	<i>Regional Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>SPPS</i>	-	<i>Scottish Prison Postal Service</i>
<i>SPS</i>	-	<i>Scottish Prison Service</i>
<i>SSAFA</i>	-	<i>Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association</i>
<i>SSASM</i>	-	<i>Sub Saharan Africa Service Meeting</i>
<i>SSO</i>	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
<i>TLO</i>	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>TOR</i>	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>
<i>YPLO</i>	-	<i>Young Peoples Liaison Officer</i>
<i>YPP</i>	-	<i>Young People Project</i>

The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

