

Proposed addition to the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*, page 112

In the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2018*, in the chapter 'The General Service Board', section 3, under the heading 'Appointment of new members of the General Service Board' (pages 112-113), it is proposed to add the sentence:

'Interviews for prospective Trustees will be conducted only when there are two or more Trustee candidates from the region.'

The sentence would be added as a stand alone paragraph, after the fourth paragraph, which begins with 'Regions are requested...' and ends with '...unique contribution to the work of the Board'. The added sentence / paragraph would be before the paragraph which begins with 'In considering who to nominate...'

BACKGROUND:

This proposed addition would in no way change the procedures of the Nominations Committee of the General Service Board with regards to the interviewing of Trustee nominees and the committee's recommendations to the Board.

It reflects long-standing practice and is proposed for the purposes of clarification and to make the process more transparent for the Fellowship.

This change was approved by the General Service Board at its November 2019 meeting. If approved by the General Service Conference, the full text of the section ('Appointment of new of the General Service Board', found on pages 112-113) would then read as follows (proposed added sentence bolded and underlined):

Appointment of new members of the General Service Board

'Alcoholic members of the General Service Board are appointed on the basis of one from each of the 16 regions.

In addition, a region whose Trustee is elected to serve as Chair, Vice-Chair or Treasurer of the Board shall be entitled to submit new nominations for another Trustee to take the place of the member elected to serve in one of these offices. Trustees appointed under this provision shall serve a full term of membership.

At least six months before the retirement of an alcoholic member, the Secretary of the Board will notify the region which the retiring member represents, and invite the region to submit the names of suitable candidates for consideration by the Board. This invitation will be accompanied by nomination forms and reference copies of *The Good Trustee Guide* and *Introduction to the Board*.

Regions are requested to nominate at least two candidates in order to afford the Board the opportunity to select the candidate whose personal qualities are most needed at a particular time. This may mean that an excellent candidate whose experience and aptitudes are already matched in the existing membership may be less suitable than another candidate who could make a unique contribution to the work of the Board.

Interviews for prospective Trustees will be conducted only when there are two or more Trustee candidates from the region.

In considering who to nominate, regions should bear in mind the service of former office-bearers who may no longer be active but whose experience would make them especially suitable for Board membership. Regions will wish to give careful consideration to the suggested qualifications for Board membership outlined in previous paragraphs.

The Nominations Sub-committee will make its recommendations to the General Service Board which is empowered to make an appointment to the Board or to decline any or all of the nominations. The appointment of an alcoholic member will be submitted to the next General Service Conference for confirmation and will take effect immediately after such confirmation. Ideally, nominations of new alcoholic members should be approved by the General Service Board at the meeting immediately prior to the General Service Conference.

New members of the General Service Board are required to attend a formal 'Introduction to the Board' at which they receive copies of the Introduction to the Board, Good Trustees Guide, Charity Leaflet CC3 and GSB policy documents explaining their responsibilities as Trustees.

When an alcoholic member moves away from the region which nominated him or her as a Trustee, the region and the Trustee concerned should consider whether he or she should resign from the Board. Vacancies resulting from such resignations, or from resignations for other reasons, will be filled by the procedure described above.

Non-alcoholic Trustees are appointed to the General Service Board for the special contributions they are able to make by virtue of their personal experience and background. Such appointments are made by the General Service Board on its own initiative and are subject to confirmation by the General Service Conference. The Fellowship of AA owes a deep debt of gratitude to our non-alcoholic Trustees who have helped us very greatly over the years by opening many doors which might otherwise remain closed to the message of AA. They come from many different walks of life and gladly and voluntarily share in the work of spreading the AA message.'