

Spring 2025

AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Gratitude in Action

12 Traditions Checklist

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.



1. Do I sometimes promote AA so frantically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep confidences entrusted in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing about AA names around-even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition 11? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for themselves?

From AAGB "Traditions Checklist"

AA Service News

Welcome to the Spring Edition of AA Service News.

We are really pleased to remind you that **AA Service News is now available in print and digitally**. Please find space for it on your AA literature table, and please hand out copies to group members and newcomers. You can find the Calendar of Events on the **AAGB website**.

Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions on your service experience in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, **AA Service News is about YOUR service!**

AA Service News is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, April, July and October. The General Service Conference report is published each year in the summer issue and Questions and Topics for the following year's Conference in the winter edition.

Please send your service-related articles to: editor.aasn@aamail.org

We look forward to hearing from **you!**



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AA Service News

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What's Happening in Your intergroup and region? Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to:

aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

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Any pictures of people contained within this edition are stock images. They are not of alcoholics. No one's anonymity has been broken.

Conference Steering Committee

2025 Conference Alternate Chair's Report

Spring 2025

Hi, my name is Richard and I'm an alcoholic and it is my great honour as Alternate Chair of Conference 2025 to report to you the deliberations and conscience of the current Conference Steering Committee (CSC).

In my previous report in AASN Winter 2024 I highlighted the CSC's approach to Conference 2025. I now hope to clear up some of the commonly held misconceptions, provide insight into how decisions are reached by CSC and so help inform future questions to be answered without need to via the Question for Conference process.

To add a couple of points to my previous report:

Due to Conference's scheduled timeframe, allocating more than two questions (not including literature changes) per committee will not allow sufficient time for discussion. With 85 questions submitted (brilliant!) and one berth, a full chapter change in the Structure handbook, 74 questions were not accepted.

The Steering Committee individually review questions from June until the cut-off date for submission 31st August. Then meets twice at GSO in York to select questions as per the CSC Terms of Reference (TOR) e.g. accept as is (TOR1) redrafting (TOR 2), consolidation of similar questions (TOR 3) or not accept e.g. covered by existing literature (TOR7), Group autonomy (TOR10), Traditions (TOR11) and send the TORs plus explanations to the Questioners. Some questions are then resolved/actioned via alternative routes, TOR8 – Referred to Board or Subcommittee or GSO. All Questions and CSC responses are published on the AA website with accepted Questions (and Literature submissions) published in the AA Winter Service News (submission date is end of October) to enable Members/Groups/Intergroups & Regions time to review them ahead of Conference. The CSC decisions with respect to questions are therefore final following their October meeting to meet the AASN deadline.

The CSC is responsible for the future viability of Conference and part of this remit is to ensure that the questions are engaging and understandable (clear, accurate & concise background information) for an informed Group Conscience by all members of the fellowship and are consistent with our concepts of service and conference charter. Some questions are about Governance of the General Service Board, and not the remit of Conference - see Concepts and the Articles, or answerable by a very small percentage of the Fellowship professionally qualified in that subject. The question maybe invalid but is best addressed through an alternate route such the Service forums, Regional Trustee or GSO.

It is worth noting the distinction between the General Service Board and the Fellowship. The GSB is a charitable company established by the Fellowship to supply the Groups with the goods,

services and information and explain about the Fellowship to the General Public. Conference is how Groups articulate their wishes for goods, services and information (literature, website, 0800 telephone etc) as well the Fellowship's own group conscience on service e.g. spirit of rotation, encouraging more members into service, use of new media.

The Trustees of the General Service Board are both trusted servants and Directors of the Charitable Company who oversee the execution of these tasks as described in the AA GB Service and Structure Handbooks They as individuals are legally responsible for the Charity's legal and financial governance and therefore are obliged to decide upon how the Charity is governed

Conference (Concept 12) *is not a seat of perilous wealth or power and it places none of its members in a positions of unqualified authority.... And it never performs acts of government;* it is for discussion on services for the Fellowship, whose primary purpose is to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

So, in simple terms, the Board of Trustees serves the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous GB and the General Public according to the Traditions, Concepts and Charity Law.

Regarding Questions rejected I have summarised the CSC thought process as follows.

A question about removing CER from the AA GB Structure

This breaches Traditions of unity and autonomy except if CER votes to leave or 'behaves' so badly or outside traditions that the rest of Fellowship of AAGB wants nothing to do with them. NB This also applies to any other Region.

A question asking to move Chat Now responsibility to Fellowship rather than GSB

It is not possible to move Chat Now due to its integration with the website which is the responsibility of the GSB. The board has legal responsibility for anything published or served via its website. However, any Intergroup or Region could start its own Chat Now service if it so wished.

Several questions relating to the change to the Trustee Nomination Process

When Regions have no Board Trustee for more than 2 years, the Board cannot effectively serve the Fellowship if not sufficiently resourced and changed policy accordingly. The Structure Handbook updates are Committee 4, Question 4 this year. NB the Structure Handbook is descriptive of practice not prescriptive.

Making minutes of Board meetings available

Full board minutes are only available by Charity law to members of a Charity. For the Charity the General Service Board of AA, its sole members are also its Trustees. The Board make provision to inform the Region with the bullet points which the Trustees maybe questioned on.

A question about Conference Delegates completing 3 years following illness

P.159 of the Structure Handbook, under the heading of 3. GSB Members, "If in exceptional circumstances a delegate is unable to complete their 3-year term the sponsoring region may, at

their discretion, permit the delegate to complete their term.” CSC requests this move to p147.

A Request to revert to Violence and Personal conduct information and remove safeguarding guidance.

A Request to adopt the US Safeguarding and Personal Conduct policy V2 revised and replace existing safeguarding policy

Several questions with regards to the Telephones form and the DBS question

A question asking: “Are the Safeguarding measures causing issues within the fellowship?”

There were many questions on Safeguarding hence Committee 4 Question 1 was drafted. However, a number of assertions and assumptions were made that were either incorrect or misguided.

Conference 2019 asked for Safeguarding guidance. It is the Fellowship’s own guidance as was Violence and Personal Conduct. The US guidance is not suitable for AAGB as it covers significantly different ground and requires full knowledge of the fellowship in US and Canada to form part of an informed Group Conscience. The US structure is also different. An informed debate is impossible in such circumstances.

DBS checks are not necessary for Telephone responders which has been communicated through the Regional Telephone Liaison officers. A DBS is required for Chat Now and E-mail Responding services, as this is run by the Board and not the Fellowship and falls under the Charity legal and safeguarding policy.

A question about the UK World Delegate and veto on changes to the Big Book

The World Service Conference is not a decision-making body and so is not the correct forum for making or stopping changes to the Big Book. However, every country is autonomous and can print what they wish hence the GB and CER version of the Big Book. US General Service Conference approved the Plain Language Big Book and like all US conference approved materials can be sold / printed without requiring additional national conference approval.

A request to make the US Service Manual available in the GB Literature store.

A question asking if we should compare Conference to other Conferences in the world as we no longer have the ‘yardstick’ of the World Service Manual.

The reasons why the AA Service Manual and Twelve Concepts of World Service to give it its full title is not in the AAGB Shop is that no one was buying it and it is expensive to import a few copies to keep stock unnecessarily

AA GB Conference will mark 60 years in 2026, meaning nearly 60 years of AA GB exercising its own conscience, making changes to its own structure, with some changes aligning with the US structure but many more not. e.g in1980 AAGB created Regions in such way as to be a fundamental departure from the US service structure. The World Service Manual does not reflect the GB AA Service Structure and referencing it as part of preparation reading for Conference

Delegates confuses as it does not align with decisions made in the AA GB Conference and this should have been removed years ago and to that end a recommendation has been made to the Literature Sub-Committee, to remove to avoid future confusion.

A question asking why GSB is not having Internal and External Communications committees

These internal GSB structures changed many years ago and should have been removed the structure handbook before it was updated in 2023.

A question asking for the Sponsorship: Your Questions answered pamphlet to be amended with regards to changing the men for men and women for women to something more reflective of todays social and sexual climate.

The proposal was to use the wording in the AA World Services pamphlet, Questions and Answers on Sponsorship, however, the wording has been amended in the GB AA Structure Handbook (p.118 7.1 Sponsorship), so referred this to the Literature sub-committee for the pamphlet to be updated with the handbook wording.

A question and point were raised about Concept IV – GSO staff voting at Conference

GSO staff decided not to vote in 2009 and CSC asked again if a vote was wished and the answer was no (still).

A point raised with regards to no CSC action taken over question submitted last year about Terms of Reference for CSC

A question was submitted for 2024 Conference with regards to the CSC Terms of Reference and how the CSC operates.

The CSC responded saying that they would discuss the contents and points made in the question when they met in Feb 2024 and a response would be included in the Alternative Chairs report.

This did not happen with no feedback in the Alternative Chairs report and this year a question was submitted asking why this had not happened and would it be reconsidered by this year's CSC?

CSC response was that a large part of the spirit of the question was under review by Committee 2 Question 2 Working Group from Conference 2023

The Working Group feedback to CSC in February 2024 prior to a full response be provided to the question on CSC Terms of Reference as this may have been addressed as part of "How Questions are selected"

After review CSC decided to pass the WG's recommendations to new CSC for 2024/2025, which voted for use of the new question template used for the August 2024 submissions, noting that the WG advised that the TOR be reviewed by the CSC at the end of each cycle and any amendments be passed to the subsequent CSC to vote on. No changes were passed on from CSC 2023/2024 to CSC 2024/2025.

In summary, the 2023/2024 CSC forgot to feedback to the questioner. To that end we can only apologise, we are trusted servants but also fallible.

Reverse the GSR (Group Service Rep) decision and revert to General Service Rep to align with literature.

Group Service Representative is in alignment with our service structure as opposed to the US structure.

The CSC trusts that providing this information will be useful to the Fellowship in for 2026 Conference and beyond.

I close by thanking the Committee for electing me Alternate Chair to serve on the CSC, my fellow CSC members for their diligence, balance and camaraderie, the Board Trustees, Hamish and Angela, the General Secretary (Ranjan) and the Conference Convener (Sharon) for their sage guidance and advice, without them, Conference just wouldn't happen. Thank you to Alison, our incredible Conference Chair who kept us on target and liberally applied 'teacher stares' to each of us when required! But, most of all, I thank all those who submitted questions, they were (on the whole) well considered and interesting, demonstrating their love for this Fellowship which I believe we all share.

Yours in Fellowship and Service,

Richard PS
Alternate Chair



FULL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

- Structure**
- a) The annually elected Conference Chair, acting as Chair (non-voting)
 - b) All the annually elected Committee Chairs
 - c) Two Board Members for guidance, support & continuity (voting/non-voting as decided annually by CSC)
 - d) General Secretary (non-voting)
 - e) Conference co-ordinator (non-voting)

The Conference Steering Committee (CSC) will continue to rely on the General Service Board, the General Service Office, the General Secretary and Conference Co-ordinator for logistical support, advice and assistance with the development of the Conference itinerary. This ensures continuity and is necessary for the success of the Conference Steering Committee's remit.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (selection criteria for Conference submissions):

The CSC agree that their work principally comprises two important elements. The first is the selection of suitable Conference topics and/or questions & initiatives to be made available to the Fellowship through the General Secretary, together with a copy of the full Terms of Reference. The second is to ensure that Conference fulfils the purpose devised by our Co-Founders, to be a part of the Check & Balance system ensuring that AA continues in accordance with the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

At their first meeting the CSC will elect an alternate chair for Conference. If deemed necessary, the CSC should present a report on its activities to Conference.

Topics and/or Questions for discussion at Conference

All submissions received by August 31st will be reviewed fully by the CSC. In assessing their suitability for Conference, the CSC will be guided by the criteria set out in the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, - "a major subject or subjects of topical importance affecting the Fellowship in the widest possible way...", together with criteria established through Conference recommendations.

It is suggested that submissions be formulated using the following template:

1. Submit a clear and concisely worded motion, topic or question.
2. What issue does this proposal item address?
3. Has this proposal been discussed within the AA GB structure? i.e. Intergroup / Regions / Board and or their Sub-Committees. If so, is there anything you would like to mention?
4. Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material (s) included with the proposal:

5. How will the alcoholic who still suffers benefit or the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous improve its ability to carry the message of recovery from this proposal?
6. Do you consider there to be any costs associated with implementing this proposal? If so would it require the Board to appraise its viability?
7. Please, provide a primary contact for the submission.
8. Final comments:

From these criteria submissions fall into twelve categories:

1. Submissions accepted as suitable for Conference.
2. Submissions accepted as suitable, subject to minor drafting or textual amendments suggested by the CSC and, where practicable, agreed by the questioner.
3. Submissions not accepted as suitable, except by consolidation of submissions with questions of a similar nature, ensuring the spirit of the original submission is maintained.
4. Submissions acceptable through referral by previous Conference recommendation.
5. Submissions not accepted because they have been discussed at Conference within the previous three years.
6. Submissions not accepted due to the lack of sufficient background material pertinent to the submission.
7. Submission not accepted as it is covered by existing Conference approved literature.
8. Submission not accepted but referred to the General Service Board or General Service Board Sub-Committee for consideration.
9. Submission not accepted as Conference upholds the autonomy of Groups and Intergroups and Regions through the conscience of those they serve.
10. Submission not accepted as the CSC considers that the submission is based on an assertion or proposition which it considers to be false.
11. Submission not accepted as it is considered to be contrary to the Traditions.
12. Submissions not accepted for reasons other than the above.

All Conference submissions will be acknowledged by receipt by the General Service Office.

Should a member of the CSC have some involvement in a submitted question then he/she is to declare this to prevent it being allocated to their committee.

Questions received by the CSC and referred to the General Service Board will be recorded on the Conference matrix. Progress made on each question throughout the year will be updated on the matrix and in turn fed back to the CSC and the questioner.

**The Terms of Reference are reviewed annually and circulated each year
May 2024**

First Response Online Sub Committee

Online Workshop

Sat 7th June 2025 at 10am - 12pm

Chat Now



Email
Service on
AAGB
Website

Live Chat
Service on
AAGB
Website

**Online
Response
Service**



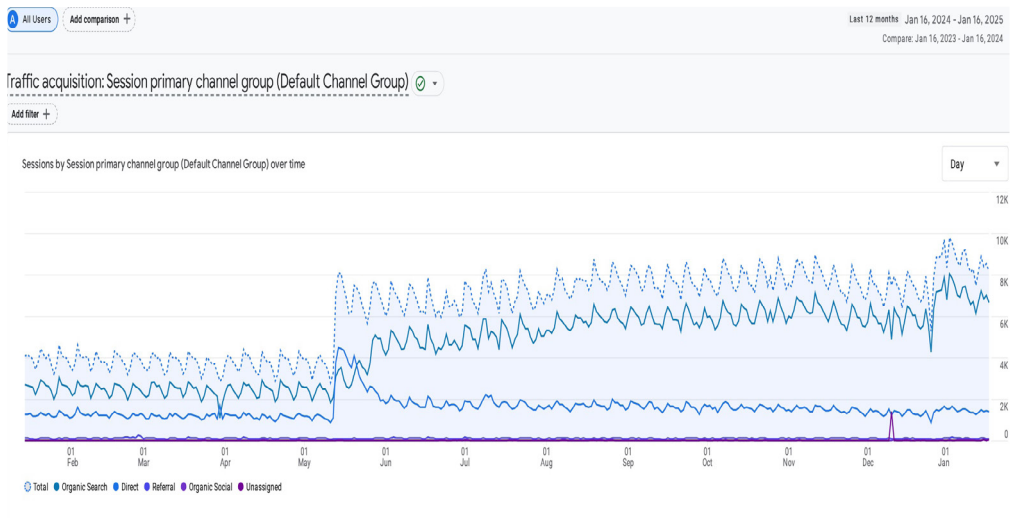
If you are looking for new service where you can directly help the newcomer into Alcoholics Anonymous we invite you to join us to learn more about our 2 online first response services

Zoom Login: 834 7171 4056

Password: FROSC

To help us gauge how many will be attending please register by emailing: secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org

Web Stats Show Web Success



Introduction

The current AAGB website was launched in May 2024, replacing the previous bespoke website. The new website runs on the popular Wordpress platform and is a comprehensive and flexible Content Management System (CMS). Plugins are used to extend functionality including the Yoast plugin which is a Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) tool. This allows us to manage the website, making it more visible in search engine results and easier for the still suffering alcoholic to find.

What are Webstats?

'How does increased visibility work, and how does it help the Fellowship?', you may ask. Well, we make use of the web analytics service provided by Google Analytics, a powerful tool which allows us to track and report on website traffic. So, when a visitor interacts with the website, information such as how a visitor reaches the website, which pages are visited, how long a visitor stays on a specific page and which page they visit next, is recorded by Google Analytics. All this information is aggregated and made available via a dashboard to provide insight into how the website is being used. This insight then allows us to make decisions on how to develop, tailor and tweak the website and meet one of its primary goals which is to help the still suffering alcoholic make contact with our frontline services and get to an AA meeting.

Key Features of Web Analytics

Traffic Analysis:

- **Page views:** tracks how many times a specific page has been viewed.
- **Unique visitors:** Identifies how many users visited the page, providing insight into reach.

User Behaviour Tracking:

- **Bounce Rate:** Measures the percentage of visitors who leave the site after viewing only one page, indicating the effectiveness of the content.
- **Average Time on Page:** Shows how long users spend on a particular page, reflecting engagement levels.

Source of Traffic:

- **Referral Sources:** Identifies where visitors are coming from (e.g., search engines, social media, direct traffic), helping to understand which channels are most effective.
- **Segmentation:** Allows analysis of specific user groups (e.g., new vs. returning visitors) to understand how different audiences interact with the page.

Results

As you can see from the previous paragraph, the language used to describe SEO and web analytics is slightly different to 'normal' English. I will try to summarise what we have monitored since the new website went live, using plain English...!

The first consistent pattern we see in both the old and new websites is a drop in traffic over a weekend and just before a national holiday, followed by a corresponding spike in the number of visits after each drop. Visitor numbers on a typical Monday and Tuesday often increase by up to 25%. No prizes for guessing why this is! The consistent pattern shows that the new website is attracting the same visitors.

The second consistent fact - and one that jumps out since the new website was launched - is that ALL the metrics for the new website show an uptick when compared to the same period, in the previous year, on the old website. At the start of May 2024, there were around 3,000 visits per day to the old website. Immediately after the launch of the new one, the number of visits spiked up to around 5,250 per day. We could tell by the number of unique visitors that this spike was members of the Fellowship dropping in to see what the new website looked like. Once people's curiosity was satisfied the total number of visits dropped slightly but remained well above traffic numbers to the old website.

It is also clear that the Meeting Finder is the most visited page in the new website. Making it easier to find a meeting was one of the main objectives of the new site, so this confirms the value of the efforts that went in to designing and building this feature.

- Page Views have continued to trend upwards, peaking in mid-November before tailing off slightly in the run up to Christmas
- Engagement is up for the main site and also for the Microsites - meeting another requirement of Conference.
- Good engagement means a low Bounce Rate as the average time on a page remains consistent or increases
- The design of the new website is more striking
- The AA Shop has more visits and is easier to use
- Page content is more attractive
- SEO is more effective

Monitoring web stats gives us the opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of our efforts to carry the message during specific periods of time.

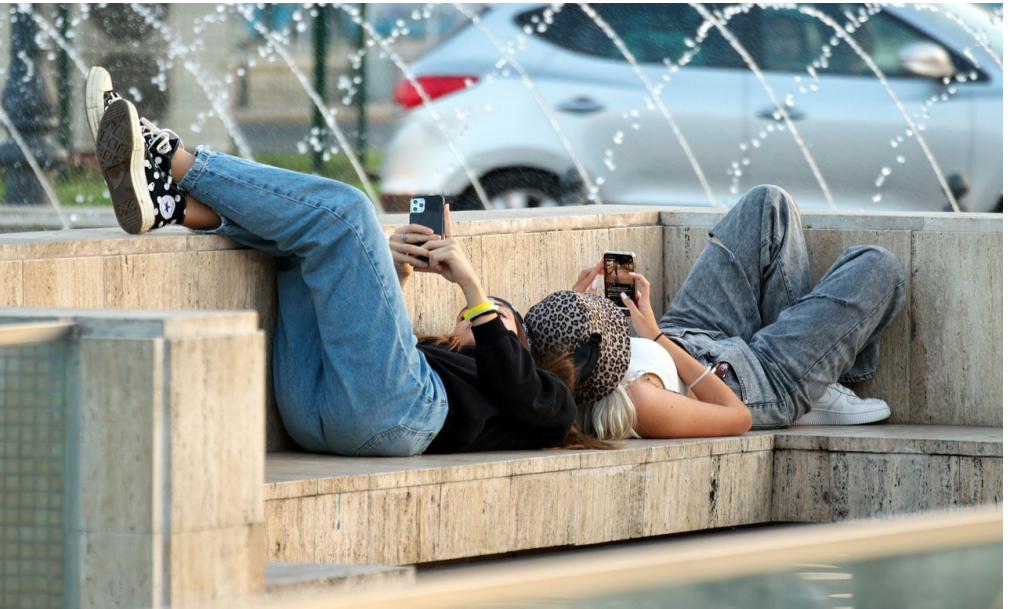
In July 2025 and from Boxing Day through to the end of January 2025, the Alcoholics Anonymous 'Anonymous Ad Campaign' ran in several cities across Great Britain. Whilst it's difficult to directly attribute an increase in visits to the website, the upward trend of overall visitors and the engagement rate of visitors staying on the website are definite and positive signs that the campaigns have been effective. The analytics platform even allows us to monitor traffic from the specific cities where the ads have been displayed. In every city where ads have been shown, the positive trends have been similar.

Conclusion

It has been a real privilege to be involved in the project to deliver a brand-new AAGB website, and meet the requirements requested by Conference 2022. It is even more rewarding to see that web analytics show that the performance of the website far exceeds that of the old website and continues to develop.

Analytics will play a significant part in ongoing management of the site to further optimise content and continue to improve user experience, helping us continue to fulfil our primary purpose and carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

Tim B
Trustee for PI & Ecomms



The formation of London online intergroup

London Online Intergroup supports online groups of Alcoholics Anonymous who consider themselves based in London England.

London Online Intergroup met for the first time on 13th May 2024. This was after a series of discussions led by Ben D with GSRs and other interested parties from London Regions North and South. The initial discussions started in January 2024 - there were questions on finance and whether a group could be part of more than one intergroup, among others. However, the first question that needed to be addressed was "Do we want to form an online intergroup?" and GSRs were asked to take that question back to their groups. The response was positive and at the next meeting expressions of interest in service were requested, as well as AA CVs. Both Jenny D and I put our names forward as willing to do service and I became chair of London Online Intergroup and Jenny was elected as secretary.

We then formed a working party which met in March to review the draft terms of reference and to look at any other administration that was required. The staff at GSO were extremely

helpful and encouraging when I contacted them for advice. The working party decided that the intergroup would ask to be part of London Region North. It was with some trepidation that we then made the decision to go ahead and form the intergroup and planned the first meeting to be held in May 2024. At the first meeting 26 people attended and at least 13 groups were represented.

The focus of the intergroup is to support online groups and help members into service and the terms of reference are available on the microsite. On 2nd June 2024, the intergroup joined London Region North and is therefore now part of the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain.

In July, Jenny D resigned as secretary for health reasons and Jerry R took up the role. We also have an ECLO - Laura S - who sorts out all our electronic communications very efficiently.

To date, the intergroup has met 6 times, five times as an intergroup and once to hold an online safety workshop. We have also made financial contributions to London Region North, and our microsite is up and running. We currently have 30 meetings registered and 48 group contacts, and our next meeting is in March 2025.

Any online groups who consider themselves based in London England can register with London Online Intergroup via GSO.

Yvonne C
Chair London Online Intergroup



Get your story published in the new AAGB edition of the Big Book

Conference 2024 approved the publication of a new edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous with an updated story section to better reflect the fellowship in AA Great Britain and Continental Europe (AAGB) (GSC 2024, Committee 5, Q2).

All members who have got sober within AAGB are now invited to submit their story to the Big Book Working Group. Submissions meeting the following criteria will be considered for publication:

- **Structure:** Describe your alcoholism, outline the progression of your disease, tell the reader how you found Alcoholics Anonymous and how you are now living life sober by recovering through the AA programme.
- **Format:** Submit your document as a Word document, (.doc or .docx) and as a guide 2500-3500 words in length. In line with our tradition of anonymity, do not indicate your name in the file name or in the document itself.
- **Demographics:** Only stories of members who got sober in the geographical area served by AAGB, which includes Great Britain and English-Speaking Continental Europe, will be considered. We welcome stories from individuals from various backgrounds.
- **Suggested sobriety:** 12 months
- **Singleness of purpose:** The stories that will be considered for inclusion in the AAGB edition of the Big Book will focus on alcoholism and the recovery of alcoholism through the AA programme. AA has no opinion on outside issues.
- **Submission:** Please email your manuscript to the Big Book Working Group no later than 1 July 2025 to trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk or send them to: General Service Office (GSO), Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 10, Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

If your story is accepted for inclusion, the Working Group reserves the right to make small editorial changes (grammar, punctuation, language) but will still retain the original voice of the author. The Big Book Working Group will be in contact with authors once a decision has been made. This is likely to be a lengthy process.

Thank YOU

My Experience of the Plain Language Big Book

I was impressed by the clarity regarding the description of the aim of helping people access the AA 12-step recovery programme. On receiving the book, I thought the best way to test it was to use it.

I used it as part of my daily evening review and was pleased that the p 86 'When we retire at night' reading I do was also on p 86 of the Plain Language Big Book. It read very well, and I was satisfied that it not only covers everything the Big Book covers, it does so in language that is more accessible and open. I also used it for part of my regular morning routine. Again, p86 'On awakening' to the end of the chapter was in the same place. I started thinking of how many people this new book would help. I am incredibly grateful to those who formatted the text, that it ended up with p86 being on the same page number - 'Is it odd or is it God?!' - especially as these readings were part of my introduction to attempting to practice a daily programme, and I know it is widely suggested and practised in our worldwide fellowship.

Next was to check some cornerstones of my recovery. So, I checked 'The Doctor's Opinion' and found the new text alongside the original to be clear and easy to read. Having thrown my first Big Book in a bottom drawer after reading two pages of the original Doctor's Opinion and proceeding to drink for another 5 years, it was highly encouraging. Again, I was greatly enthused that this may help many more new people.

I checked the first few paragraphs of 'We Agnostics' then 'How It Works' with the unchanged steps (which I knew should be the case) and the description is truly clear in both sections. I checked the instruction given for undertaking Step 4 and was delighted that

it encourages columns, and then looking for my mistakes rather than my part, as this is so often misquoted - causing problems for me when first attempting Step 4, looking at resentments that I could see no part in.

Being convinced, I bought copies to give to a couple of newcomers I have been working with. They were delighted. Both had struggled with the Big Book, and both have reported that they have found reading sections in the plain language book has really helped them understand the start of the programme and what the Big Book is saying. One is now over 5 months sober and getting to grips with the programme. The other loves the book and is getting a clearer understanding of much that had previously been confusing. We are only starting to go through 'We Agnostics' together; however, we have all benefitted from the clarity in the plain language book.

Friends at my home group liked it very much and voted to start using it for our weekly reading; as we are a Beginners Group, it is perfect. We also encourage members to read the Big Book after reading the plain language version, preferably with their sponsors. Those of us who have been around for a little while are also enjoying the plain language book and no one has seen or heard anything which detracts from their understanding of the programme. People are keen to get copies and work with it.

Hamish McS
Trustee for East of Scotland Region

THE PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK

A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous OR - A translation into Modern English?

For many years some alcoholics have found the Big Book hard to get to grips with, despite their best efforts and those of their sponsors. This new piece of literature is not intended as a substitute for the original text, cherished by many, but as a helpful tool for understanding its message of hope for still-suffering alcoholics. The text is clear and simple. It's aimed at a contemporary reader, with a realistic comprehension age for most newcomers. The chapter "To Wives" is now presented as "To Partners" and the language throughout the book reflects the reality of diversity within our Fellowship.

It's not another 'money-making' recovery book – it's had a long gestation, being commissioned by the conscience of the US/Canada Fellowship, then closely reviewed and given final approval at the US/Canada General Service Conference in April 2024.

Launched in New York on November 1st, 2024, it sold over 42,000 copies in the first 24 hours. Initial response has been overwhelming for AAGB too – we order copies from the World Service Office in the US and we're now on our third order. Hopefully we'll be given a licence to print here before long.

There are members who believe any alteration to the founders' words to be heresy and fear the message will be diluted. Such concern is understandable – these words saved our lives. Hopefully approval from the US/Canada Conference will offer comfort in this area. It is interesting to consider the foreign language versions of 'Alcoholics Anonymous' – each translated into a new tongue to reach 'their' alcoholics in the best way. To improve communication some languages have now had multiple translations. Our English version has remained unaltered for over 85 years.

The volume contains none of the stories in Parts II and III that varied between editions one to four, save that of Doctor Bob (and Bill, of course). While 'A Doctor's Opinion' is included, the appendices cover the Steps, Traditions, Spiritual Experience, The Medical View on AA, The Lasker Award, The Religious View on AA, How to Get in Touch with AA, The Concepts, and a history of the book.

Early response to the content of the book has been enthusiastic:

“Like looking through a newly cleaned window”

“Bound to get new sponsees keen to read the original text”

“Saves me looking for a dictionary definition for shivering denizens!”

A colleague's experience in using the Plain Language Big Book is included on page 17 of this issue of AA Service News.

If you feel that this book is not for you, and you have no desire to examine it, you may be reassured that a popular quotation is still included, albeit paraphrased:

“There is a mindset that prevents people from accepting new information. It works well against all arguments and keeps people in the darkness forever. The mindset is contempt prior to investigation: deciding to dislike new ideas before you have learned anything about them”

Herbert Spencer (p.166 PLBB)

Should you want to get copies of this new volume, they should be available via the AAGB bookshop. Perhaps consider ordering via your group, to minimise postal costs to the charity?

Justin T
Chair General Service Board



Dear Fellowship...

Pot Goes to Africa!

In response to a rumour that all our pot money goes to Africa and therefore groups should not send any money to intergroup / region / GSO, a quick (ish) explanation follows...

Every 2 years for the last 20 or so there has been a Sub-Saharan African Service Meeting (SSASM) in South Africa. This event is for AA representatives from African countries to share their experience to help one another grow and better carry the message of recovery. The meeting has been funded entirely by AAGB and AA US / Canada and the fund pays for all participants accommodation, venue costs, printing costs and the travel costs of attendees from the African nations, as their Fellowships are very small. Excess funds have paid for translation of the Big Book and other literature into, Afrikaans, Swahili, Tui, Xhosa, Zulu, helping those pioneers to carry the message of recovery.

AAGB pays the SSASM from our Development Fund. This fund is to support the development of AA outside of Great Britain. It was created as part of a promise made to Bill W after his donation of 1,500 Big Books to AAGB and licence to print it, to use the Royalties from their sale, to fund such development. We give as we once received. The Development Fund today receives royalties from sales of the hardback 'Big Book', hardback '12 and 12' and hardback 'As Bills Sees It'. Excess funds over and above that required by the SSASM is sent to the World Service Meeting Fund.

We also manage the European Service Fund. This pays for the European Service Meeting, and is funded entirely by non-English speaking European countries. It is instrumental in carrying the message of recovery to tens of thousands of alcoholics who by virtue of geography would not have received the message that recovery from alcoholism was possible.

The Development Fund and the European Service Fund is AAGBs own unique contribution to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Worldwide. They are AAGBs exercise of its primary purpose. But for AAGB to function such that it can exercise its primary purpose here; it needs your contributions to flow through the structure to intergroup and beyond.

Ranjan
General Secretary



Board Bullet Points November 2024 and January 2025

Treasurers

In the fourth quarter of the financial year 2023/24, the Charity finances have improved but continue to be weak with reserves approximately £175k below this year's prudent reserve (W2 level), due to

- A reduction in contributions from Regions and Intergroups
- Increased costs of postage and production of literature which has not been passed onto the Fellowship.

A regular steady flow of contributions through the service structure helps us as trustees of the Charity and the chief service arm of Conference, to plan and co-ordinate projects effectively for the benefit of the whole Fellowship across AAGB and CER.

The 2023 – 24 Audited Annual Report will be presented at Conference 2025.

The Quarter 1, 2024 –25 Finance Report will be sent out to Regional Treasurers in April.

Service Positions

The following will be joining **Board Sub Committees:**

- Sally H, Northwest Region – Young Peoples
- Mike C, Eastern Region – Survey
- John K, Wales and Borders Region - Survey
- David S, Wales and Borders Region– PI and Ecomms
- Tom S, Southeastern Region – Telephones
- John T Northeastern Region – Share Editorial Reader
- Michael L, London Region North – Health
- David T, London Region North – Health

Jim M has been offered the position as Trustee Elect for Eastern Region: Jim will be ratified at Conference 2025 in April.

The Board welcomed four new **Non-Alcoholic Trustees (NATs):**

- Dr Jill Tolfrey MSc MCSP
- Mike Newton
- Graham Duncan
- Dr Hassan Zaidi PhD, MIET, Csci, MIMA, PGCE.

They will bring their experience of public speaking and varied areas of expertise which will

benefit the work of the Fellowship. They will be ratified at Conference 2025 in April.
PLEASE NOTE: The next deadline for getting Sub Committee applications to GSO is **4 April 2025** Sub Committee application forms can be found here: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/document/sub-committee-application-form/> Please use those forms and not any older documents you may be holding from past applications.

Is your trustee rotating out in April 2026? Please consider nominating two or more applicants for the role of trustee to your region.

Literature Orders

- Please encourage members to order Literature via a bulk group order where possible to save on the charity's postal costs
- The Plain English Big book, billed as a reading guide, will be in the AA shop from late December. Because it has been approved by AA US/Canada it is automatically approved for AAGB.

Service Offices

- AA Northern Service Office, Room 101, Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow, G2 6HJ, Tel. 0141 226 2214 (Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm) email: northernserviceoffice@gsogb.org.uk is available for scheduled service meetings, access facilitated by a keyholder system. We can accommodate space for 14 people. The Northern Service Office will be holding another Open Day this year, on 28th February for outside agencies.
- The new Southern Service Office, Unit B, 15 Bell Yard Mews, London SE1 3TY, tel. 020 7407 9217 email: sso@gsogb.org.uk now accommodates the Telephone Service running 3-4 shifts weekly and is available for service committee meetings. Southern Service Office will be holding an Open Day on 2 May 2025.

Diary Items

- The national poster site campaign on digital billboards across GB provided by JCDecaux will run again between Boxing Day and 31st January 2025. AAGB will reach out with a press release for the campaign in January and utilise the new NATs in doing PI work i.e. interviews. For more information about the billboards see here: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/2024/07/01/national-advertising-campaign-1st-4th-july-2024/>
- **Conference 2025 will be held at the Radisson Hotel in York from 11 to 13 April 2025**
- **Parliamentary Events**
Scottish Parliamentary event 12 March 2025.
Westminster Parliamentary event 3 June 2025
Welsh Parliamentary event 2025 TBC
- **National Conventions**
Northern National Convention: 27 – 30 March 2025
Scottish National Convention: 9 – 11 May 2025

Welsh National Convention: 30 May – 1 June 2025
Southern National Convention: 19 - 21 September 2025

Forums and Seminars

CER Forum (Prague) – 1st March 2025
Southwest Scotland Forum – 29 June 2025
Wales and Borders Forum – 7 September 2025
Health Seminar 27 September 2025

- **First Response Online Workshop Saturday 7th June 10am - 12pm**
Zoom login: 834 7171 4056 Password: FROSC
An opportunity to learn about our live chat and email services and find out how to get involved and help carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Everyone welcome! To register to attend email secretary.fro.sc@aamail.org
- **The European Service Meeting in October 2025 will be held in York**

Can you contribute?

New English Big Book Stories Requested

Stories are wanted for the Conference 2024 commissioned **new English edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous** with an updated story section to better reflect the fellowship in AA Great Britain and Continental Europe (GSC 2024, Committee 5, Q2). All members who have got sober within AAGB are now invited to submit their story to the Big Book Working Group.

Send your submission to: trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk or send them to: General Service Office (GSO), Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 10, Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ For more details and guidance see AA Service News Winter 2024 edition, page 20.

The **Share Magazine Sub Committee** has a vacancy for a share liaison coordination officer. Anyone interested get in touch with Maxine at: trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

The **Probation Community Justice Sub Committee** is looking for people with experience of using the **Chit System** to write about it and share their experience of the system trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

The **LGBTQI Working Group** is working on a rewrite of the LGBT Voices publication. If you think you could offer some ESH to this project, see here for some guidelines for submissions: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members/service/lgbt-voices-working-group-request/>

The **Accessibility Working Group** is looking for people with hearing or sight impairments to gather information of experience of dealing with this in the Fellowship. Anyone who could share their experience please get in touch with trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk.

The 28th World Service Meeting

The Three Legacies in Our Digital Era: Our Great Responsibility to the Alcoholic Being Born Today'

The 28th World Service Meeting took place in New York from 27th to 31st October 2024 and was attended by delegates from 38 countries, and I had the privilege of attending as one of the two delegates from Great Britain and Continental European Region. Presentations from various countries included 'AA in a Virtual World', 'Finding Balance Between Innovations and Traditions', 'Expressing Our Gratitude Through Service' and 'Country to Country Sponsorship.' There were also presentations on the International Literature Fund, the World Service Meeting Fund, and Licensing and Translation of literature.

The meeting included workshops covering topics such as 'Are Our Groups Really Practicing the Traditions?', and 'Online Groups in the World: Here to Stay', which provided an opportunity for delegates to share experience on the ways in which their structures are adapting to the increase in online meetings.

Reflecting the theme of the meeting, much of the discussion throughout the week focussed on how we can best utilise the technology now available to us to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic, whilst also being mindful of the challenges that these innovations may present.

The meeting offered an opportunity to learn about the various structures around the world, and the similarities between us and the ways in which we differ. Discussion during the workshop titled, 'The Seventh Tradition: Self-Supporting in the Digital Era', provided a fascinating insight into how many countries send their Tradition 7 contributions through their structure. The 60/30/10% principle was commonly used in several countries, where they send 60% of their funds to the service level below the group, 30% to the service level below that, and retain 10% for the running of their group.

One of the highlights for me was the chance to see examples of AA literature from all around the world. Our 'Family Look' literature was much admired, and of particular interest to the other delegates were our Service and Structure Handbooks, as well as our 'Sponsorship into Service' leaflet. I learned of the challenges faced by many countries in the licensing and translation of literature, and that when translating the Big Book, many structures took the opportunity to include stories from their own membership. Seeing the Big Book in so many different forms and translations was extraordinary, and this feeling of unity was enhanced at the close of the meeting when everyone joined hands, and the delegates took turns to recite the Serenity Prayer in every language represented.

Whilst in New York, we were taken for a visit to the US/Canada General Service Office and had the chance to meet many of the staff members and to view the extensive archives. The GSO staff did an extraordinary job of transporting about 70 visitors on the subway to the office and back again, without losing a single delegate! We were also treated to several impromptu and enthusiastic sing-alongs by the Latin American delegates, which certainly added to the international feel of the event!

We were fortunate to be taken to visit 'Stepping Stones' - the home of Bill and Lois Wilson which is about an hour outside of New York City. The house has been perfectly preserved and is full of archives and mementos showing the rich history of the Fellowship. We were able to see the very first printing of the first edition of the Big Book, in which Bill had written a dedication to Lois in recognition of her support. The table at which Bill and Ebby discussed a spiritual solution to alcoholism is sitting in the kitchen, and the desk that Bill W used while writing the Big Book is in his writing shed, which he named 'Wit's End.' It was an incredibly moving and emotional experience to be in the presence of so much of the history of this remarkable Fellowship.

To finish off an incredibly busy trip, the World Service Meeting delegates were invited to observe some of the meetings of the US/Canada General Service Board. One of the parts that I found particularly interesting was the way in which their Conference process differs from ours when it comes to the selection of topics for discussion at Conference. Whilst our Conference Questions are selected by a Steering Committee, elected by members at Conference the previous year, many of their 'Proposed Agenda Items' are in fact selected by the General Service Board themselves. It was very interesting to see the ways in which our structure and processes differ from those in US/Canada, and indeed the rest of the world, and shows that there is not a 'one size fits all' approach.

The service structures around the world vary greatly in terms of their size and how long they have been established, and each is developing to meet the specific and varying needs of each country. I came away from the whole experience with a strong sense of how fortunate we are in AAGB in comparison to many countries that have significant challenges that we have either moved through or are simply not an issue for us. The whole meeting was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, share experience, and offer support. The overwhelming feeling of unity and our shared purpose was a powerful and inspiring experience, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have taken part in it.

Holly A
First Term World Service Delegate and Trustee for South West Region



2025 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Every five years the Fellowship of AA in GB and the English Speaking Continental Europe Region (CER) undertakes a membership-wide Survey. Driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Survey was the first to be undertaken online, the 2025 Survey will be using the same method

The overarching aim of the Survey is to capture current trends and learn more about the Fellowship in GB and CER so that AA's message of recovery can be disseminated effectively to the still suffering alcoholic. Additionally, the survey will inform the Fellowship, Conference and the GSB how AA resources can best be allocated and communicated to the professional community and the Fellowship

The Survey is carried out over two phases: the Group Survey, due to launch in May 2025, followed by the Members Survey in June. To participate your group simply needs to be registered with GSO and have an AA group email address to be contacted on. If you are not registered, please contact groupinformation@gsogb.org.uk If you are not able to undertake the survey online but would still like to participate, paper copies are available on request from emma.wilson@gsogb.org.uk



Scan the QR code or use the link below to see the main findings of the 2020 Membership Survey.

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/2025/01/15/survey-2025/>

A little dive in the archive has brought up a letter referencing the first AAGB survey undertaken in 1972.

The letter was written by Ronald L who was then chair. There is a lot of material behind the letter and if you are curious to find out more, then please contact Max J who heads up the Survey Sub Committee at trustee.mindlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk

P.O.Box 514,
11, Redcliffe Gardens,
London. S.W.10 9DG.

September 1972.

Dear Friend,

Approximately 400 of the Questionnaires which were distributed at the 1972 General Service Conference were completed by members, and as far as it is possible to ascertain the answers represent a five to ten percent cross section of the Fellowship.

The replies have been analysed, and the detailed findings given on the attached sheets. You will note that in addition to the National figures, comparative percentages have been shown for the seven main areas.

This is our first ever attempt to discover some more detailed information about the Fellowship in the United Kingdom, and the General Service Board hope that this will provide you with interesting material for discussion locally, and suggest that a study and comparison with the information contained in the pamphlet "The Alcoholics Anonymous Survey" would be interesting.

At this stage the information is confidential, and the results are for use within the Fellowship only, and are not for publication or disclosure to outside persons.

As important today as it was over 50 years ago when the fellowship conducted its very first survey, the time has come to carry out our next piece of research.

Offering an important insight into our numbers, meeting patterns and the makeup of AAGB, the 2025 Survey is a vital tool in understanding our current membership.

With the last survey conducted during the Covid19 pandemic in 2020, your input will be incredibly valuable.

Please look out for more information later in the year, and thank you in advance for contributing.

Max J
Trustee Survey

Race2Day Working Group October 2024 Online Convention

The Race2Day working group online convention was held on October 26th 2024. It was a magical experience.

We heard wonderful shares from Sewor, Margaret and Daljinder, with each speaker sharing their views of obstacles they faced about coming into AA, and what they felt about AA since. They spoke movingly about how they were able to overcome their particular cultural and family issues, by attempting to focus resolutely on AA's core principle of inclusivity - that anyone can join AA if they have a desire to stop drinking. They described how in time, they began to make inroads into cultivating and forging strong links with others in their group after they had initially connected with others, "who looked just like me", in online and in-person meetings.

One of the speakers from the traveller community spoke about the difficulty encountered in accessing AA and expressed heartfelt gratitude in finally finding the courage to get to a meeting and "keep coming back". Everyone spoke about the importance of sponsorship and service, and the value of remaining open minded in their outlook, appreciating that whilst there could be some challenges in being accepted in meetings, their resolve in "keeping coming back" and learning to share and identify with people from different backgrounds would eventually help them to stay in AA. I think this takes resolve and courage.

A pertinent point made from the sharing, post speakers, was the importance of availability of AA literature in different languages. I am pleased to report that, "AA at a glance", is available in different languages as are the Big Book, Living Sober and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. These are available from the online AAGB shop. Languages include Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Tamil, Urdu and Punjabi, to name but a few.



The second part of the convention began with a short introduction from Ranjan describing the purpose of the convention, culminating with a presentation, “The Way Ahead”, with an historical/archival theme to it.

“What is the Fellowship doing to attract suffering alcoholics from the ethnic minorities?”

The presentation began with a 1994 Conference question about ethnic minorities:and it took us on a journey to where we are today. It described how we started as an informal group in 2021 and how today we are a proper working group under auspices of the newly formed Inclusivity committee.

By recognising that each person or groups have different circumstances and needs, the group is working hard to try to match resources and opportunities people from diverse and ethnic communities need to achieve sobriety. People do not have to lose everything to get sober, we can raise their “rock bottom”, as we do with young people, both of which has been about the practical implementation of AA’s core principle of Inclusivity and Common Welfare.

Thank you to all who attended the convention, in particular my heartfelt thanks to the Board and members of this group who gave up their valuable time and effort in making the convention such a success.

Pragnya G
Chair
Race2Day Working Group



Race2Day

Perspectives from a White Woman

My name is Jenny and I'm an alcoholic. I'm a white woman and have been a member of the Race2Day working group for some time. I've always been aware that AA is overwhelmingly white, even in racially diverse Bristol where I got sober, and have been troubled by that. I worry that the message isn't being carried effectively and that when a person of colour first comes, they may be put off coming back.

I have wondered how it would have been for me as a woman coming to AA, if nearly all of the meetings I went to were men only and I hardly ever saw another woman. Of course, I identify with the alcoholism of men in multiple ways and have been warmly welcomed and helped by many men some of who are now good friends. But at my first meeting I know I would have found it intimidating and if this was almost always the case may have questioned if I belonged or whether some of my experiences would be understood. I can imagine it could very well be the same for a Black or Asian newcomer entering a room of only white people.

There are things I can't identify with and it's important that there are those who can.

Also, if the ethnic makeup of the fellowship does not reflect that of society, then it tells me we are not carrying the message effectively to parts of the community. Doing a bit of fact checking for this piece, the 2020 AA membership survey says that 97% of respondents said they were white, but in the national 2021 census of England and Wales just under 82% were white. That's a big difference so we must be not getting the message to large numbers of suffering alcoholics. The 2020 AA survey report also said that the proportion of women members had risen from 22% in 1972 to 47% in 2020,

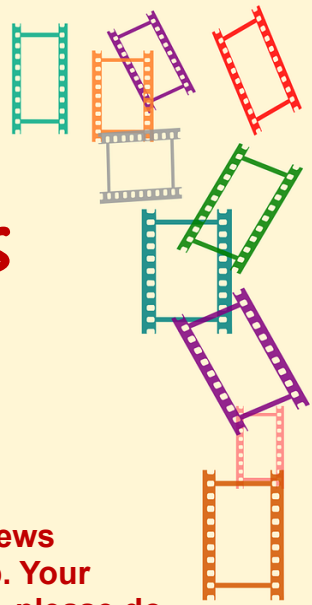
reflecting more closely the general population, showing that with concerted effort it is possible deficiencies in message carrying to change. While much of the effort in achieving that change came from women themselves, I am grateful to the men who have worked for it as well.

I understand that some members are very concerned by talk of diversity and inclusion, worrying that it is diverting us from our primary purpose; getting involved in outside issues and believing that we already have all that is needed in this respect with our 3rd Tradition which says that, 'the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking'. My experience of the Race2Day working group is that 100% of the effort is about that primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, it is the only thing that is ever talked about, but in the knowledge that currently we're not doing that well enough in some areas, so targeted action is needed. Just like we focus on young people, or prisoners, or those in hospital or the armed forces, this is no different- it's all about how to best bring the lifesaving message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic and I'm grateful to be part of that.

Jenny D Member
Race2Day Working Group



AA Service News Is Yours...!



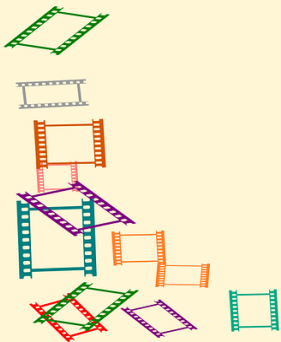
All of the service articles in AA Service News are written by members of the Fellowship. Your experience is valuable and very welcome, please do share it with others...

All you need to do is email the editor with your service articles at:

editor.aasn@aamail.org

Please note that the opinions expressed in AA Service News may not necessarily represent the views of the General Service Board

The Editor, AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ. Website:
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk



Calling all LGBTQIA+'s Can you share your story...?

Following Conference 2024 and the recommendation to revise/rewrite the leaflet 'LGBT Voices', a working group was set up to help incorporate the whole of the LGBTQIA+ community as part of the work being done on inclusivity in AA.

It is a great opportunity for you to support AA's from the LGBTQIA+ community locally, nationally and internationally, by helping to share your experience, strength and hope, specifically about anyone you, or anyone you know who might identify as part of it!

To help get you thinking, we've listed a few thoughts of our own, that as individuals we know we would benefit from reading about, to aid LGBTQIA+ people in relation to their use of alcohol, in seeking recovery, and their lives now.

- Life before members came to AA and drinking experiences for identification
- What life was like, what happened and what it's like now
- Were there any fears of losing LGBTQIA+ identity?
- God, AA and being LGBTQIA+
- Were AA people like you?
- Making the programme work for you
- Is there life in sobriety for LGBTQIA+ members through AA?
- Living life on life's terms for LGBTQIA+ people

Whether you're new to AA or got a few years under your belt – your VOICE and help matter and it matters even more to be of service to other people. You don't need to write like a novelist – we want you to write from your HEART and say it as it was and is now, for you.

How do I get involved?

Please write your story - about 800 to 1000 words - then email it to Jane C, the Chair of the working group, at chair.lgbtqia.wg@aamail.org



GSB Vacancies

GSB Vacancies - Service on a Sub Committee

You will notice that in this issue of AA Service News, we have decided to change the way that we advertise Sub Committee vacancies. Many thanks to Louise F for her suggestion, and please do let us know what you think!

Rotation creates the opportunity for new members to join a General Service Board (GSB) Sub Committee (SC). The primary purpose of a SC is to deliver Conference recommendations.

If you have experience at intergroup and region and are 5 years+ sober, then we would welcome your application.

All sub committee members go through an application and interview process. Sub committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through an online platform, at a time agreed by the applicants.

Please find following the requirements for service on a sub committee.

General requirements

- Understand the relationship between the GSB and a SC
- 5 years+ continuous sobriety
- Good knowledge and application of the 12 Steps / 12 Traditions
- An understanding of the AA structure
- Ability to 'carry the message' to audiences outside of AA
- Work with outside organisations
- Create and encourage open communication channels at intergroup and regional levels
- Work collectively as a team
- Ability to assist in delivering relevant Conference recommendations
- Successful candidates would be expected to attend four meetings a year; usually two in York and two online. The term of service is usually 4 years.

Additional requirements

- Have worked in a complimentary discipline to the one being applied for
- Understanding / application of the 12 Concepts for service
- A degree of confidence in establishing relationships to local, regional or national bodies outside of the Fellowship
- Conference experience

How to apply

When applying for any of the sub committee vacancies below, please obtain an up-to-date application form from either **Jenny Pryke** at GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ: 01904 644026; jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk or from the Document Library (select 'Forms') at the AAGB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk.

The chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer or a currently serving liaison officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter. GSO will need to receive this covering letter by the application deadline. If there is no covering letter by the specified deadline, then you will not be eligible for interview.

The deadline for application is 4th April 2025

For any application, we would suggest you contact the Trustee responsible for the sub committee you are interested in working for. All vacancies are listed below together with relevant trustee contact details.

Current Sub Committee Vacancies

- **Archives**
Email John C on: trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Armed Services**
Email John C on trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Employment**
Email Tony S on: trustee.lrs@gsogb.org.uk
- **First Response Online**
Email Holly A on: trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Health**
Email Carmel G on: trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Probation/Community Justice**
Email Hamish McS on: trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Roundabout Assistant Editor**
Email Cath, th Editor of Roundabout, on: roundabout@aamail.org
- **Share Liaison Officers' Coordinator**
Email Charon B on: trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk
- **Survey**
Email Max J on: trustee.midlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk
- **Telephones**
Email Levey P on: trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk
- **Young People**
Email Holly A on: trustee.southwestregion@gsogb.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



PI Newsletter
**Shared Service
Experience**



Start spreading your news...



We are always looking for articles for this newsletter.

Please let us know about any PI activity or updates from your area.

We welcome information from throughout Great Britain and Continental European Region.

Contact: aainformation@gsogb.org.uk

**Tim B
Trustee for PI**

Calling all PI, Health, Employment, Probation and Prison Liaison Officers!

We need your help!

Have you professional contacts that would benefit from attending the Westminster Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness Event for professionals on:

**Tuesday 03 June 2025 from 3pm to 5pm
The Cholmondeley Room and Terrace, House of Lords,
Westminster, SW1A 0PA**

A presentation hosted and sponsored by Lord Cameron of Dillington

Please help us publicise this event among health practitioners and other professionals who would benefit from learning about Alcoholics Anonymous, and how to signpost people to AA.

The 2-hour event is open to all professionals working in the health and well-being fields, social sphere, and criminal justice system.

Please speak with your local professional contacts about the event, and let us know the contact details of those interested in receiving an invitation. We will invite professionals in positions of influence in their fields. There may well be other potential invitees such as students carrying out studies on relevant subjects who may also be invited.

Please help us compile a list of invitees, we will need the:

- professional's name,
- job title
- organisation /place of work
- email address

Invites will be sent out by e-mail in due course.

Please send contact details of potential invitees to:

Sophie.Perring@gsoagb.org.uk and adminssso@gsoagb.org.uk

As you know, places are limited, costs are kept to a minimum, and the events is budgeted to cover as many external professionals as possible, so this is **not** a general event for AA members. If you are both an AA member and a professional in the field, **please free up places by encouraging your colleagues who are not already familiar with AA to come along.**

Many thanks for your help!

2025 Westminster Parliamentary Event Committee

The General Service Office (GSO)

“All groups, intergroups and regions should accept responsibility for the funding of the General Service Office. The financial operations at GSO, the methods of accountability to Conference through the Board, and the broad financial strategies adopted on behalf of the Fellowship, are all subject to continuous review.”

Taken from AAGB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

“Services can require committees, Delegates, Trustees and Conferences. They include small voluntary money contributions so that the group, the area, and AA as a whole can function. They range all the way from the cup of coffee to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum of all these services is AA’s Third Legacy”

AA Comes of Age, page 140

The Role of GSO

With just under five thousand groups to service, GSO is the vital administrative centre of our Fellowship, supported by Northern and Southern Service Offices. It produces and distributes AA literature and publications, and is responsible for service meetings of Liaison Officers, for Conference and for meetings of the General Service Board (GSB). GSO liaises with and supports European and World Services. It is also responsible for Fellowship Archives. Staff also deal with all telephone calls from members, the media and outside organisations.

Prudent reserves

Suggested prudent reserves set out by Regional Treasurers at their Regional Seminar, January 2024

- **Groups** - 1 months running expenses
- **Intergroups** - 3 months running expenses
- **Regions** - 3 months running expenses
- **AAGB** - 1.25 years running expenses (as per warranty 2 in Concept 12, and required by the Charities Commission)

Tradition 7

“Every AA group ought to be fully self supporting declining outside contributions”

| Tradition 7 Contributions October-December 2024 | Contributions £ |
|---|--------------------|
| Some of these contributions come from regional assemblies, whilst others may come from individual members or groups | |
| Eastern Region | 27,958 |
| London Region North | 40,786 |
| London Region South | 1,270 |
| Midlands Region | 9,171 |
| North East Region | 20,756 |
| North West Region | 18,304 |
| South East Region | 2,602 |
| South Midlands Region | 12,710 |
| South West Region | 15,364 |
| Wales & Borders Region | 1,480 |
| East of Scotland Region | 3,250 |
| Glasgow Region | 1,080 |
| Highlands & Islands Region | 0 |
| Scotia Region | 20,250 |
| South West Scotland Region | 5,090 |
| Continental European | 3,171 |
| Sundry- Unidentifiable receipts | 3,399 |
| Total | 186,640 |

In Memoriam

October-December 2024

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| In Memory of Neil C | Bournemouth Group | £160.15 |
| In Memory of Paul N | Lincoln | £60.00 |
| In Memory of Ben K | West Sussex | £50.00 |
| In Memory of Jess | | £225.00 |



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*GSO reference for each AA group - register with GSO by filling in the group registration, or 'pink' form