

59th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025



11 - 13 April 2025

Just for Today

Final Report 2025

General Service Office of AA
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FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 11 April 2025

Opening Session

Committee Meetings Commence

Nominations - Conference Chair 2026

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports:
(Session 1)

Finance Presentation
LGBTQIA+ Video Presentation
Literature Presentation
Young Persons Presentation

Saturday 12 April 2025

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of
General Service Board Reports:
(Session 2)

Inclusivity Presentation and LGBTQIA+ Video
British Big Book Presentation

Open Forum

Sunday 13 April 2025

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chair for the Sixtieth General Service
Conference 2026

Confirmation of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

The Fifty-Ninth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain convened in person on Friday 11th April 2025 at 2.45p.m. Held at the Radisson Hotel, North Street, York – 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, Committee proceedings commenced at 4.00pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 89 delegates from sixteen Regions; 22 members of the General Service Board; Alison F - Conference Chair (East of Scotland Region), Ranjan B, the General Secretary and 7 members of staff from the General Service Office attended. Also in attendance were 7 Observers from the following countries:

Denmark	1
Ireland	2
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Turkey	1
USA	1

Total in attendance 127.

Opening of Conference by Alison F (Conference Chair 2025)

Good afternoon, Conference, Welcome to York on this beautiful day. My name is Alison, and I am an alcoholic. On behalf of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is my great pleasure to welcome you, to this the 59th General Service Conference.

Before we begin the formal proceedings, can I ask you to observe a moment of silence to reflect on our primary purpose and to remember the still suffering alcoholic who has yet to come through our doors.

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."

If this is your first year as a Conference delegate I extend a special welcome to you. You will have a Red Dot on your badge. For this weekend, you are affectionately known as 'Red Dotters' and your dot allows other delegates to identify you as a first timer and to look after you. We have some visitors from overseas and I would extend a special welcome to you too. You will have a Green Dot on your badge. This dot also allows other delegates to identify you as being here to observe and I am sure they will be ready to help should you have any questions.

Welcome also to our old timers or should I say experienced 2nd & 3rd year delegates. Thank you for your continued service as delegates to the groups you serve. Welcome too, to the General Service Board Trustees and to the members of the General Service Office who provide an amazing service to us all at Conference but also throughout the year.

Now I would like to invite, Ranjan B, the General Secretary, to read the Twelve Traditions. Thank you Ranjan, and we step out of the norm this year, I'd like to ask Rachel, the Chair of Committee 4, to come up and lead you in the 12 Steps.

Thank you.

Keynote Address: Just for Today

My name is Alison, and I am an alcoholic. My home group is Rosyth Wednesday Evening in Fife. Everyone is welcome, though perhaps not all at once!

I'm going to start my speech with a warning...

This time last year, on what I thought was my last year at Conference, another delegate and I were asked if we would like to be nominated for Chair of Conference. We both originally declined. My reason was that I always get too emotional when I speak about Alcoholics Anonymous, and in the progress I have made in my recovery. So, you've been warned. One of my goals is to get through without tears but, if they come, don't be too alarmed, it's fairly normal for me.

Anyway, another (sneaky) member of the Fellowship nominated me anyway and after picking myself up off the floor, I realised that my Higher Power was simply pointing me towards another bit of Service I could do. I was duly elected but it wasn't until I was travelling home that I was struck by the absolute honour and privilege it is to be one of only 59 people so far in Great Britain to stand as Chair of AA's wonderful Service Conference. Me - an ex-drunk!!

My sobriety date is 6th March 2008. The first day up until today that I managed to stop drinking and stay stopped. For the first time in my adult life, I did what I was told to do, unquestioningly. It was crystal clear to me that when dealing with alcohol, AA knew much more than I did, and if I wanted what my AA family and friends had, I had to do what they do; attend lots of meetings, be a member of AA not just an attender, and stay away from that first fatal drink!

Why the theme "Just for Today"? I really wanted my chosen theme to mean something to me and the one piece of literature that I read every day in my first few years was the "Just for Today" Card.

The "Just for Today" card goes back quite a few years and originally had nothing to do with AA. There were originally 10 suggestions when they first appeared in the "Dr Crane Says...." column in the Boston Globe in 1921. As time passed 9 of the suggestions migrated into AA literature and being formally adopted by AA in 1978.

My husband and I travelled to work together at this time, and I read it aloud **every** morning, to help me prepare and set positive intentions for the day ahead. We would discuss what the Just for Today card said and concluded that this was not such a bad way to live your life, alcoholic or not. There were some suggestions on the card that I found particularly challenging. I'm a teacher in a busy Secondary School – finding a quiet half hour all by myself to relax, trying to talk low and not to try to improve or regulate anybody except myself can be difficult when you're viewed by so many as 'in charge'.

I remember my first drink which must have been when I was about 12. We were on holiday, Mum & Dad were having a drink in the evening, and we were playing a board game with my older sister and her friend. Dad produced 3 bottles of Babycham and right away I was hooked! The small bottle was beautiful with foil of a peacock blue and a picture of Bambi on the label, I must have been a magpie in a former life. As if that wasn't enough, it was fizzy, and the bubbles went up my nose -and then I felt this warm glow as I drank it. Drink had definitely made its impact on me!

I had a long honeymoon period with alcohol. I never needed to drink for confidence but as time went on, I realised I was reaching for alcohol whenever I felt anxious or out of control of a situation, using it as a crutch or self-medicating, as my doctor once said. That was a much more acceptable explanation for my drinking. I had been concerned on a number of occasions that I was drinking too much and drinking alone but every time I thought I might have been in trouble, I was able to stop, and the niggling thought of perhaps having a problem with drink vanished.

It certainly is "Cunning, baffling and powerful" and patient!!

I got married in 1997 and we were desperate to start a family. The minute I knew I was pregnant, I stopped drinking totally and was able to do that. Eventually, after my daughter was born in 1999, my drinking started again, and the progression and the madness escalated from there. In 2004, I was really struggling and by this time I had taken time off work as I could not stay sober, I had also developed unexplained pains in my back. Thinking I was probably on death's door and that my liver had stopped working, I confessed to my husband that I was drinking secretly. I shared my concerns with him and after he got over the shock, he took me to our GP. After I told the Doctor, through tears, that I was dying, he took the wind out of my sails by saying "very good Alison, we are all dying, what's your point?". After his very flippant response, he then suggested that I should go to Alcoholics Anonymous. Well.... How dare he suggest that I was an alcoholic!

In classic 'contempt prior to investigation' I avoided going to AA. Clearly still a long way from admitting I was powerless over alcohol, I agreed to go to Fife Alcohol Support Services and I attended sessions with them for about 2 years, still drinking off and on. Meanwhile relationships were beginning to suffer. One Sunday morning, as I was sobering up after yet another episode of drinking, I was given the gift of desperation, and I phoned the AA Helpline. That was the day of my first meeting. I didn't get sober then, but I started to learn about AA – I hadn't got AA but, because I kept coming back, it had started getting me.

I got a year sober at one stage and boy did I think I was something: getting a first birthday in AA! But I hadn't learned enough. I was drinking again within a few weeks and not once did the message "don't take the first drink for oneself for one day" even enter my head. I hadn't learned enough but critically I learned I was not a bad person; I was a sick person trying to get well.

Thankfully, I managed to get back into meetings. I was reminded that I am not that important and that all I had to do was what was suggested.

I then started to really listen and really do what I was told. I joined a group, , I made sure I did not miss meetings for any reason, real or imaginary. I tried to do at least 3 meetings a week and then I was

propelled into Service by a close friend, now my sponsor. Firstly, I joined the helpline, something I really wanted to be part of as it was the helpline that got me to my first meeting in AA. Then I was nominated and elected as Secretary for the renewed Fife Convention. In that capacity, I was taken to Intergroup and quickly was nominated as Treasurer.

And as I grew in AA I learned how to cope with the anxiety, the fear and the future without needing alcohol.

How did I do it? Well, I did it through AA. And in no small part by living Just for Today.

Just for today I will try to live through this day only and not try to tackle my whole life problems at once. No more important than when I was diagnosed with cancer. Genuine fear and uncertainty about the future and a perfect reason to catastrophise, Just for today helped me to do just that, keep it in the day, deal with what I could, face what I needed to, but leave all of the stuff I couldn't do anything about in that day.

Just for today I will be happy. Most folks are as happy as they make up their mind to be. It's family illness and a family recovery and AA has helped repair my whole family. When I was drinking our house was full of arguments, I could see the impact on my daughter but that didn't stop me drinking. My own mother had told my husband to pack my bags and put them on the doorstep. Thankfully he didn't but I couldn't have blamed him. Today, they don't worry that I'll drink. They may not fully understand but they know that AA works and, more than that, they have seen what AA has done for me.

Just for today I will have a programme. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. This helped me at my work. When the kids were being particularly disagreeable, I had a programme. When the office politics were out of control and conflict seemed to be all around me, I had a framework.

Luxury problems, with the odd genuine problem thrown in, but whatever I've had to deal with I've done because I have a family who love me, but just as importantly, I have an AA programme. A programme which provides structure, faith and a network of like-minded individuals for when the going gets tough. That's a combination I'll take every day of the week (but one day at a time).

Thankfully we aim for progress and not perfection. Some days I work the programme really well, other days not so much – but I do the best I can. And, thanks to AA, even the bad days have been sober. I love being a member of AA, and doing service of any kind helps me give back to the Fellowship that gave me my life back when I was a hopeless drunk.

This will be my last year at Conference and that makes me sad. It has been the best experience ever, and to think that I thought my life had ended the day I came through the doors of AA. Little did I know that the rest of my life had just begun. Since my first year at Conference, I have said to friends in the Fellowship, that the way AA operates, would be an excellent way to run the country. But I must remember we don't endorse any outside enterprise!

As you embark on this weekend of meetings and deliberations, I ask you to remember the "Just for Today" Card. You won't get the chance to be a "mental loafer", try to "do someone a good turn and not get found out", "have a quiet half hour" every day but most of all "do not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful" about our wonderful Fellowship.

Just for today I will embrace my role as a trusted servant of AA and tomorrow... I'll start by reading my Just for Today card.

Thank you, Conference

Introduction of Committee Chairs

Now to introduce our Committee Chairs for this year's Conference:

Committee 1: Patrick R – London Region North
Committee 2: Phil E – Scotia Region
Committee 3: Pragnya G– South Midlands Region
Committee 4: Rachel D– London Region South
Committee 5: Heather G – South West Region
Committee 6: Richard PS – South West Region

As Chair of the Conference Steering Committee, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their diligence in the task that we have undertaken in preparing for Conference 2025. 85 Questions were submitted for this year, and I thank everyone for the time and effort they put into forming and submitting these questions. Not all can be accepted, but the committee arrived at a consensus after careful deliberation, discussion and consideration of how we could best serve Conference and AA in the UK. It's a difficult job but one that was done with the Terms of Reference front and centre in our minds and with a great deal of focus and energy. I commend the committee for their diligence and transparency in this process. Thank you again for all your hard work and for making this unique experience a joy for this Alcoholic.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Richard P-S, South West Region who has been the most dedicated Secretary to the CSC and Alternate Conference Chair.

Conference Steering Committee Report

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 and also describe to you some of the matters arising and explain some the decisions taken by the CSC, essentially a joining of my reports from Winter 2024 AA Service News and Spring 2025 AA Service News but actually read by me, albeit, badly!

I'd like to thank our Conference Chair, Alison, for choosing 'Just for Today' as our theme for this year's Conference, the approach that helped me so much in my early days of recovery and continues to do so, one day at a time. My mind is drawn to the 'Just for Today' card which, for me, finally gave me that set of rules I felt everyone else had been given but I had obviously missed that day at school (it could have been the day I was suspended for being drunk!). Following this card, made those early changes to my behaviours and personality, I believe that it 'opened the door' just enough for me to begin to accept and become open minded, which as we've all come to understand, is key to any recovery.

Just for today I will be agreeable, I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticise not one bit, not find fault with anything and not try to improve or regulate anybody except myself??????? Um, I guess just not today (or tomorrow or Sunday)....

What is the Conference Steering Committee (CSC) and what does it do?

The CSC consists of The Conference Chair, the six Committee Chairs, the Conference Co-ordinator (Sharon Smyth), the General Secretary (Ranjan B) and two Trustees (Hamish McS and Angela S).

Other than permanent members of the CSC, the General Secretary and the Conference Co-ordinator (the board Trustees are rotated), it's members will serve on the CSC for one year unless they are elected Conference Chair. Hence each CSC is unique.

The first meeting of the CSC for 2025 Conference was held on Zoom on 17th May 2024.

The meeting began with the very sad news of the passing of Tom Fox, Non-Alcoholic Trustee, with whom it had been my great pleasure to work on Committee 6 at Conference 2024. He will be sorely missed.

As per it's Terms of Reference each CSC chooses a Secretary to take minutes and an Alternate Chair. It was suggested both roles maybe carried out by one person (no they can't)! I put myself forward and this was uncontested.

The CSC (only the Committee chairs and Conference Chair) voted to accept two Trustees to sit and vote with them. This followed CSC 2023/2024 selecting 2 trustees on consideration of Conference 2023 Committee 1, Question 2 outcome which amongst other points stated: '*Reduce board representation on the CSC from two trustees to one trustee – the General Secretary to remain*'. The recommendation passed with a simple-majority, this means it need not be actioned (a two-thirds majority means that the Board are to carry out the recommendation unless to do so would harm the Fellowship).

The CSC exists to

1. Select Questions for Conference from submissions from the Fellowship.
2. Oversee the agenda and other arrangements for Conference.
3. Be cognisant of the progress of recommendations from the previous Conference aka the Conference Matrix.
4. Act as the conscience of the Fellowship in moments of extremity if Conference cannot take place (e.g. during Covid).

This year 85 questions were submitted, up from the 50 the previous year, in part, consequent to the template produced by the working group tasked by Committee 2 Question 2 Conference 2023 to improve the Conference process, published in AA Service News Summer 2024 (p30).

These 85 needed to be whittled down to 11. Last year it was 12, but Committee 6, Question 2 is a large literature question which is a rewrite of an entire chapter of the AA Service Manual for GB, therefore its size justifies it being considered as a question in its own right.

Being part of this process has certainly been one of the highlights of my service journey so far, it was both intensive and insightful in equal measure.

As part of assessing each submission we all had to do a lot of investigation which involved a lot of reading of the Service and Structure handbooks, checking traditions and concepts (regularly), checking pamphlets, looking back at previous Conference decisions and of course using the experienced knowledge provided to us in the shape of the trustees, the General Secretary and Conference Co-ordinator.

We met in York in September and October to review, debate and eventually agree the eleven questions that will be discussed in the committees over the next couple of days. We divided up between the Committee Chairs the task of writing responses to each of the questioners who were not selected, giving an explanation and a Terms of Reference number (TOR) e.g. TOR7 Question is covered by existing literature.

It is worth noting at this point given some of the challenges we have received from some of those that submitted questions, that all Questions and CSC responses are published on the AA website with accepted Questions and Literature submissions. The Questions are also published in the AA Winter

Service News which has a submission date at the 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 Winter AASN deadline.

There was a question this year asking if there could be a 'right to reply' to the CSC response for not accepting a question? Given the large amount of work the CSC has to do and the tight timelines, this simply is not possible.

The CSC is responsible for the future viability of Conference and part of this remit is to ensure that the questions are engaging, understandable (clear, accurate with concise background information) to enable an informed Group Conscience and are consistent with our Concepts of Service and the Conference Charter.

Some of the questions raised this year were about Governance of the General Service Board, this is not the remit of Conference – for more information see the Concepts and the Articles. Some questions we felt were only answerable by a very small percentage of the Fellowship, those being professionally qualified in certain subjects. In these cases, while the question maybe not a suitable question for Conference it could likely be best addressed through an alternate route such the Service forums, a Regional Trustee or the GSO.

I've mentioned already 85 questions were submitted and 11 were selected to go forward as the 2025 Questions for Conference, however, this does not mean that 74 questions were not accepted. Some questions were of a similar theme and have been consolidated/redrafted to create a complete question (where this has happened has been noted in the questions this year), some questions have been instantly referred to a sub-committee, the GSB or the GSO (under TOR8) to be instantly actioned as they point out inconsistencies in literature or on the website, for example, which have already been decided by Conference but had been missed during updates following these decisions. Then finally, there are questions which seem to be directed at the CSC and were instantly actionable, such as the publication of the Conference Matrix.

What is the Conference Matrix I hear some of you cry? I shall tell you...

The Conference Matrix is the list of actions that need to be completed following the previous Conference or previous Conferences (as it is possible for activities to run over multiple years, the GB version of the Big Book being a good example) in recent years it has been updated (to Conference and subsequently in the Conference report) by the Alternative Delegate. However, as one of the tasks of a Conference Delegate is to report to Region on the Conference Matrix, we felt this should be more visible and more updates should be provided, hence our decision to publish current progress in Winter 2024 AA Service News.

I will now give you an update on the items which remained open following the updated provided in the afore mention publication of AA Service News:

Committee/question	Recommendation	Responsibility	Notes
C2 Q2	Forum for aamail.org	GSB	Angela and Tim (PI and EC) to present as part of Board Reports
C4 Q2	New LGBTQAI++ pamphlet	GSB Inclusivity Comm (by 2026)	Update to be provide by Inclusivity Committee as part of Board Reports
C5 Q2	Creation of GB Big Book	GSB Lit Comm	Update on progress to be provided as part of Board Reports
C6 Q1	Develop AAGB App	GSB PI/E Comms	PI-Ecomm Sub-Committee investigating viability
Q2	Service Online pack /podcast; workshops	GSB; Fellowship	All service disciplines have been instructed to provide information which is in the process of being uploaded so it is easily findable and downloadable

Each CSC is autonomous and maintains its own conscience, however, each CSC can pass on recommendations or tasks for the next CSC to review or approve (or not), we would ask that the next CSC continue to provide this level of transparency to the Fellowship with regards the publication of the Conference Matrix, it is key for all of us to find as many opportunities as possible to get the Fellowship engaged and enthused about Conference and what better way to do this than in demonstrating what is being actioned as a result of their questions and their group conscience's.

OK, nearly there, last bit....

Does it need to be said? Does it need to be said now? Does it need to be said now, by me?

I have already said this in my report in the Winter AASN 2024 and I figure I only ever get to stand here once so, unusually, that's three yeses!

There has been a disappointing aspect to this service and each time it has occurred I have found myself asking 'where is the love in that?', I was always led to believe that this is a Fellowship of love and respect. The Traditions and Concepts teach us that we can have our disagreements and differences, but like all things in our recoveries, they must be right sized and always within our Legacies.

Trusted servants! The Board! Our Trustees have all been Conference Delegates for their Regions (it's one of the criteria for being a Trustee), most have been Chairs of the Committees they were on, some have even been Alternate Chair or Chair of Conference, they have served the Fellowship (and continue to do so) in so many ways, this is why they become the members that Regions choose to put forward as their most trusted servants to become Trustees.

I would like to share one of my many defects of character with you. I would like to think I could call it an old behaviour, but I can't, it lurks, and I have to ensure that I am wary of it when checking my motives: I sometimes look at people I perceive to be on a pedestal, and I want to knock them off, regardless of whether I put them there or not!

Working with Board Trustees, the General Secretary and staff at GSO really is to immerse oneself in the very heart of AA service, they all, without exception, love our fellowship and work tirelessly to ensure

that they do their very best in service to all of us. There is no them and us, there is only us and we, as it should be. Recovery, Service and Unity.

Thank you all for the opportunity I have been given to serve our Fellowship, to all of you, have a wonderful Conference, to the red dotters especially, take it all in and lap it up as I can assure you, you will be absolutely buzzing by the end of the weekend and your desire to carry this back to your Regions and enthuse about Conference and Service in general will be set to full. If any of you have any questions at all about being Committee Chair and or the CSC please feel free to ask any of us, we will be nothing but encouraging.

All my love in fellowship and service,
Richard PS
Alternate Chair

I would like to invite Ranjan, General Secretary, to share the Orientation and Conventions. Ranjan will read the orientation, a copy of which had already been given to delegates, covering any lastminute changes, safety information and the National Convention dates which are:

Scottish Convention	–	9 – 11 May
Welsh Convention	–	30 May – 1 June
Southern Convention	–	19 – 21 September
Northern Convention	–	26 – 29 March 2026

Explanation of Voting Procedures

Last year, for the first time, Conference trialled a new electronic voting system rather than using the traditional traditional “head count” method which had proved challenging in previous years. It was a real success and so we will be using it again this year. When we come to the sessions where you will be required to vote, you will find an electronic keypad on your seat. These **MUST** remain in the hall.

You will have the option when prompted to select three options, yes, no or abstain. These votes will then be counted and presented on the graphic behind the stage. GSO staff members will then record these.

The abstentions will be acknowledged but not included in the final outcome.

A quorum of Conference shall consist of **two thirds** of all the Conference members registered. The staff member will then calculate any majority or otherwise and pass the result to the Chair of Conference, who will then announce the result.

A simple majority is a **recommendation** to the Board to take any necessary action and a proposal that carries a two thirds majority of the vote is **binding** on the Board.

Explanation of Open Forum - (Non-Voting Session)

As you will see from the agenda this is due to take place tomorrow night between 9 and 10 o'clock and it is your opportunity to ask any questions that you may have, particularly if you don't think they are going to be covered anywhere else throughout the weekend.

So please, take some time to think, you have an hour tomorrow night and it really is just an open session giving you an opportunity to ask anything that is on your mind. As many questions as can be fit into the hour will be taken.

The Saturday evening session will consist of the Presentation of the General Service Board Reports followed by the Open Forum and then the distribution of the Committee Reports as you leave the main hall. Should Regions wish to have an informal discussion about the Committee Reports then they are free to do so.

Closing of First Session

We are now approaching time to start your committee proceedings and I take this opportunity to remind you that we work under the guidance of the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts. When dealing with important fellowship business it is very important that we best serve the Fellowship by conducting this business in the spirit of love, patience and understanding. After all, "Love and Tolerance is our code".

Every member of each of the 6 committees has an equal, important voice. You have been specifically delegated to carry the conscience of the groups your Regions represent, and they are relying on you to speak up, challenge and offer insightful comment and thought. Whilst there may be debate and differences in committee proceedings, let us be guided by principle rather than personality.

At every CSC meeting, I decided I was going to start the meeting after, of course, the preamble and the traditions, we started the meeting with a wee positive thought. So, I'm going to continue that. I was told I could do this. So here is a wee positive thought for the next session for you. It was Henry T Ford who said this, 'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success'.

When voting has concluded on Sunday we will have completed important fellowship business which will be disseminated out to the membership. Let us do so with the Fellowship's needs and the protection of it and its members at the forefront of our minds.

Please enjoy your time at Conference this weekend. It is a long few days but I am sure when it is over you will see how important and fruitful a process it really is. "It works, it really does".

Please help me close the session with:

A 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.

The first session ended with everyone saying the Serenity Prayer.

Friday 7.45pm Second Full Session

Alison welcomed everyone back and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence to reflect on why we're here and still suffering alcoholic and asked Colin of South West Scotland Region, and friend, to read the Preamble.

Cherisse (East of Scotland Region) was asked to read her three favourite Traditions which were: Tradition 1, our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon aa unity. Number 3, the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking and number 12, anonymity is a spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Alison then asked for nominations for Conference Chair 2026 before handing over to Justin, Chair of the Board, to introduce the General Service Board Reports.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIR 2026

The under mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chair of the Sixtieth General Service Conference 2026:

Cherisse B	-	East of Scotland Region
Julian B	-	North West Region
Rachel D	-	London Region South
Pragnya G	-	South Midlands Region
Richard P S	-	South West 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 Reports

Introduction

(Justin T, Chair GSB)

My name is Justin and I'm an alcoholic. My current service position is as Chair of the General Service Board.

Welcome – to all Conference delegates, particularly red dotters who'll experience the spiritual magic of Conference for the first time, and our observers from overseas – this year from US/Canada (that Fellowship is one – I'm not making a geopolitical statement) – in the form of Scott; Ireland represented by Jenny and James, Nedim from Turkey, Jonas from Denmark, Andrejz from Poland and Florence from Portugal.

You know we go and visit other conferences, and we always bring something back from them, which helps us in our service, and I hope that you will embrace them in your committees and listen to what they have to say if they pass a comment, because one thing that we do learn is that we move in very parallel ways, and things that affect us here are also affecting people in other structures around the world, and I really thank them for making the effort to come here.

My friend and colleague, Andrina, trustee from Glasgow, reminded me earlier that 86 years ago today, the Big Book was published for the first time. How about that?

This time last year I was happy to announce that Tom Fox would be taking on the role of Vice Chair of the GSB. Sadly, that Sunday was the last time I saw him in person. Despite an illness he attended the May board meeting via Zoom but died the following week. He was a force of nature, from his initial exposure to the programme, working in HMP Barlinnie, he GOT US. You'll see his gentle and wise touch featured in a film later. He was a big part of the GSB and of Conference in recent years. We miss him. I'd like to ask for a moment's silence in memory of him and his contribution to our Fellowship.

Clearly, Tom's death left a void in the Exec and Gretchen, previously Hon. Treasurer, took up that slack. Emma Gipson, a NAT and charity auditor was elected Hon. Treasurer with Gretchen concentrating on the Vice Chair role — thanks to Gretchen and Emma for their flexibility and service.

Without the customary double act of Tim and Tom, or Tom and Tim on PI Ecomms, we've given Tim a break from presenting this year. This year's lineup is: Emma, our Honorary Treasurer, who will cover Finance. Jo will take you through the work of the Literature SC, Holly will update you on the Young People discipline, while Tony will let you know what's been going on with our Inclusivity drive – and showing you our LGBTQIA+ film - twice. Finally, Max will talk about progress with the British Big Book, and probably get us to write our stories!

We also have several pieces of literature for your approval and a podcast proposal, all with the aim of carrying the message to still suffering alcoholics.

All the Chairs of the sub committees are here – if you found something of interest in their report, or would be interesting in applying for subcommittee service, do have a chat with them.

This year I've been asked to address 3 questions that were submitted for this Conference. They were rejected, but forwarded to the board for comment, so here we go:

25. Reviewing new films and/or videos at conference

Would Conference recommend that:-

- A) All future films and/or videos are produced initially as a working draft version only, AND
- B) That arrangements are made for Conference Delegates to view each working draft film/video securely BEFORE they are viewed at Conference to be voted on, AND
- C) That feedback from Conference on the working draft version will be taken into account and the working draft version amended as required by Conference, before the final version is approved for production and use.

RESPONSE:

This sounds like it might be a great way to work, but we've not found a practical and affordable way to do this.

Showing the film prior to delegates prior to Conference as requested after 2019 was reviewed by CSC in 2020/21 and deemed impossible without copies of unapproved material leaking out to social media sites, which had happened previously. To improve the approval process, this year we are showing our LGBTQIA+ film tonight; it'll be reshown tomorrow as part of the Inclusivity presentation and a vote taken after any concerns have been voiced.

Our process has been as follows:

Our films are not scripted - they are constructed from edited shares, so there is no draft script for Conference to review.

A team of trusted servants finds appropriate members to share their E, S and H (casting!) and shares a zoom video of the initial conversation with the director, which helps inform their questioning. Filming takes place at a suitable location where crew and interviewees can be got together. In 2024 we achieved significant economies of scale by filming 4 films over two weekends in York.

Accordingly, each video came in at a little over £10k. Made individually, the cost today would probably double. NB The original quote had been given in 2022, but filming was postponed twice due to uncertainty over travel. That quote was honoured.

Raw interviews are then edited, a narrative emerges and a draft prepared for review by the commissioning team, at which point further edits are made for reasons of both running time and message.

Thereafter the films are locked - close ups applied for anonymity and any voice over or music applied.

After Conference approval, subtitles are added and a master copy issued.

Should Conference require changes, they can be made via editing, but significant changes requiring a reshoot of interviews could double the costs - and postpone the availability of material to help still suffering alcoholics. Please use your position as trusted servants and vote accordingly on Saturday.

80. Review the Board Trustee role and see if responsibilities could be reduced or shared to make is possible for more members to be able to commit the time required to serve

RESPONSE

This is an interesting idea, which we have discussed previously - and will, no doubt, discuss again!

The role of trustees and their appointment is the responsibility of the GSB, and not a Conference led matter.

However, while some trustees chair, or serve on more than one SC, their capacity is always a discussion between the individual and the Exec Committee.

As far as the executive part of the trustee role is concerned, if we have a full complement of trustees, that'd be 16 from the regions and 8 NATs - as well as the three trustees on the Exec. This is ample to cover all SCs and working groups.

With regards to governance, every trustee has a vote (except the chair). Should some regions have job sharing trustees, then the vote could be weighted disproportionately — eg 5 regions in Scotland could have 10 trustees, all allowed (by law) to vote, and could lead to accusations of a voting bloc —similarly with a potential of 6 trustees from London and the South East.

61. That a review be done on the role of the General Secretary on GSB Exec Committees and CSC and make recommendations for issues arising

RESPONSE:

The General Secretary is an employee of the charity, appointed by the GSB via the Nominations Committee. The position is, of course, subject to Employment Law, not just Traditions and Concepts.

Their reporting line is to the Chair of the Board who conducts an annual performance appraisal.

The deployment of their time and responsibilities is arranged in the best interests of the Charity and the Fellowship.

The General Secretary is also the CEO of the Company and the Company Secretary.

As such, they are responsible for providing overall direction and leadership for the Charity, making major corporate decisions in tandem with the Board, managing the company's finances, overseeing the work of other executives and Directors, and the management of the company's employees, and focusing on the company's growth and development. They are responsible for implementing recommendations made from the GSB, and assessing the resources needed and available - both financial and staff.

As Company Secretary their legal responsibility is to ensure the company complies with legal and regulatory requirements, maintaining statutory records, and advising directors on corporate governance, with potential for personal liability for negligence.

Rotation exists in the GSB, with a maximum term of 6 years for AA members and 8 years for NATs. Hence the General Secretary can be the source of corporate memory.

Therefore, they have a place on Finance, Nominations and Exec Committees (on which they have a vote) - and also on the CSC (where they have no vote) in order to fulfil the roles and responsibility of their job, through which they have the concomitant rights. Their role at GSB meetings is advisory - they have no vote.

Any "matters arising" would be dealt with by the GSB which employs the General Secretary.

Those are the questions on which the board was asked to comment, and these responses will, of course, form part of the Conference Report, in due course available to all fellowship members.

I've also been asked to mention our 5 yearly survey, the fieldwork for which will take place shortly. Our last one in 2020 was affected by lockdown and we used online approaches to the email addresses we had on file. This time around we will repeat some of the tools that we were forced to use last time, but with revitalised confidence in our methodology. This will tell us more about those who are in the rooms of AA, but by default, also about those who are not, and where our efforts might best be applied. Please encourage your Regions, Intergroups and Groups to participate, as well as individual members, should they get an invitation.

Our friend Tom Fox had a description that he applied to individuals believing that they spoke as the conscience of the entirety of AA: "I The Fellowship"!

Of course, it is this Conference that is the true conscience of the groups in AAGB and CER and I look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations on Sunday.

That's it from me – have a great Conference!

Finance

(Emma Gipson – Honorary Treasurer GSB)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come and speak today. This is my third conference and it's always a great honour to be here, it's one of the highlights of my year.

We are going to cover an update on the annual report and financial statements for the financial year and the audit process those figures go through, to hopefully give you some comfort in terms of the process and the scrutiny that they go through. I am also going to do a little bit of a look back as to where we are compared to the previous few years, and then a little bit on where we're going to go from here, or where we hope to go from here.

View of Financial Position

Taken from the draft audited Financial Statements

	2024	2023	Variance
Income	£1,830,465	£1,769,948	£60,517
Expenditure	£2,063,690	£1,871,836	£191,854
Surplus/Deficit	(£233,225)	(£101,888)	£131,337
Investment gain	£120,236	£14,624	£105,612

We had income of £1.8 million, ish, I'm not going to verbatim these, which was a 60k increase on the previous year, which is great. Second to that, though, we did have expenditure of just over £2 million, which was nearly £200,000 above the previous year. There's been a number of factors involved in that. Obviously, we are in a bit of a cost of living crisis - that's a bit of an understatement. We are in a cost of living crisis. Expenditure has skyrocketed over the past couple of years, and we have had a number of expensive, very valid and needed to be done Conference projects that have come to fruition in terms of our expenditure. As a result, there was a deficit of £233,000 which was an increase on our deficit on the previous year of £130,000. We did also have an investment gain of £120,000.

Where do your contributions go?

Salaries of GSO/SSO and NSO staff	Publications and associated distribution costs of items such as AASN which is free to fellowship	Conference Costs
National Telephone System	?	Costs of Running the Website
First Response Online/Chat Now	Sub Committee Expenses	Office Costs – Rent/Rates/Utilities

In terms of where your contributions go when they move along the structure. Obviously, we've got the salaries of our wonderful office staff, which we couldn't do anything, that we do as Trustees, and they really do keep everything ticking along. So, thank you, ladies and to everybody else, because we couldn't do it without you.

There's publications and associated distribution costs of items such as AA Service News, which continues to be free for the fellowship.

Conference costs. This is a great event, as I said, It's the highlight of my year. I love coming, you know, but it's unfortunately not free, so it does cost money.

Costs of running things such as the website, office costs - rent, rates, utilities, obviously, they've all gone through the roof in the past year.

Sub Committee expenses and Board expenses, and then things such as the National Telephone system, First Response Online and Chat Now, so there is an awful lot of work that's going on where your contributions make a huge difference.

Publications

In terms of publications, our income from publications comes from things such as Share and Roundabout, plus diaries, calendars and obviously all of the other 'listed' literature that you see on the website.

There's associated costs to that. You have the external printing, postage of things like Share and Roundabout, and then the staff costs, premises costs and office expenses that go alongside that.

In terms of last year, we had a great year when it came to publications. Publication income has increased over the past 12 months:

Income from publications	= £852,724
	LESS
Cost of Publications	= £759,817
Surplus	= £92,907

**** Our literature stock is only of value to AA***

Is this Surplus a Profit

According to Bill W it is not.

"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."

*Concept Twelve; Warranty Two
The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain 2024 page 91*

Reserves Policy

Concept 12 - Warranty Two: 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

Giving a total Free (Prudent) Reserve of over 1.25 year's expenditure.

AA & Charities Commission recommended practice.

Warranty 2

Requirement for the new financial year – based on 23/24 financial statements	1.25 x £2,063,690 = £2,579,613
Net Assets (including restricted funds of £169,193)	£2,523,633
W2 Reserves = Restricted funds – Stock – Debtors + creditors	£2,168,634
Starting W2 deficit 2024/2025	£354,999

So, in terms of our Warranty 2 prudent reserve based on our financial statements that have been audited, our expenditure, as I've said, was £2.6 million. So that leaves us with a requirement for this year of just shy of £2.6m.

Our net assets, which is one way that the auditors look at it, which basically includes everything, including our restricted fund, is £2.5m, so we're really not far off it when you take everything into consideration. But we don't take everything into consideration because it's not necessarily deemed liquid, so it's not easily accessible cash. So, when you take out the restricted fund and things like stock, which are not as easy to move, we're left with £2.16m. At the start of 24/25 we are in a deficit of our Warranty 2 prudent reserve of £355,000 give or take a pound and that's just where we are at this point in time.

Audit Process

This is the second year that we have worked with our current auditors. One of the first things that landed on my plate when I got given this incredible position of Non Alcoholic Trustee was to help with the tender process for the audit. It was an incredibly exhaustive process, and it was nice to be on the other side of the fence, because normally I'm the one presenting and selling my soul to try and win a few fees for the business. Our new auditors. I think it's fair to say, and I think our lovely people working in finance, especially Mandy, would agree, it's an incredibly exhaustive process. They have to go through a very rigorous process which is set out in audit rules and audit land to ensure that our financial statements are true and fair and an accurate representation of what is actually happening. That includes a detailed review of

transactions, they will sample test, they will go back to invoices and they will make sure that everything is accurate.

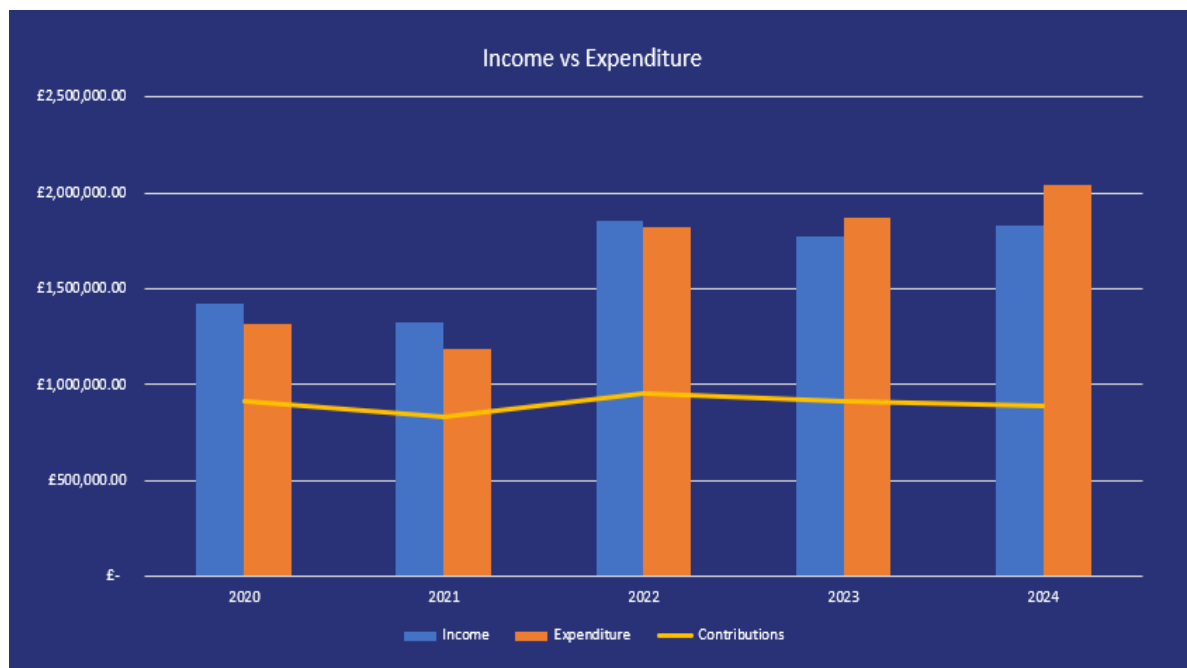
They will also, and I'm very thankful for them for doing this, provide recommendations to the Board on control improvements, and we are going through a process of those to make sure that they are implemented and that we are operating as effectively as we can be. They also provide information through data analytics, so they're looking at the transactions when they've been posted, who's posted them, to make sure that everything's all above board. And they will also provide the board with sector advice and guidance, helping us with things that are coming through the track, things that even overwhelm me as an auditor.

They will also, very importantly, review our financial position and give an opinion on what's called going concern, but it's almost the opposite of what it sounds like. So, if a set of financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, it means that we are going to operate for at least 12 months from the date of signing, so not from 1st October, but from when the accounts get signed at the end of January.

They will look at our budget for the following year, the things that we're going to be doing, our prudent reserve to make sure that we are sufficiently capable of operating for the next 12 months.

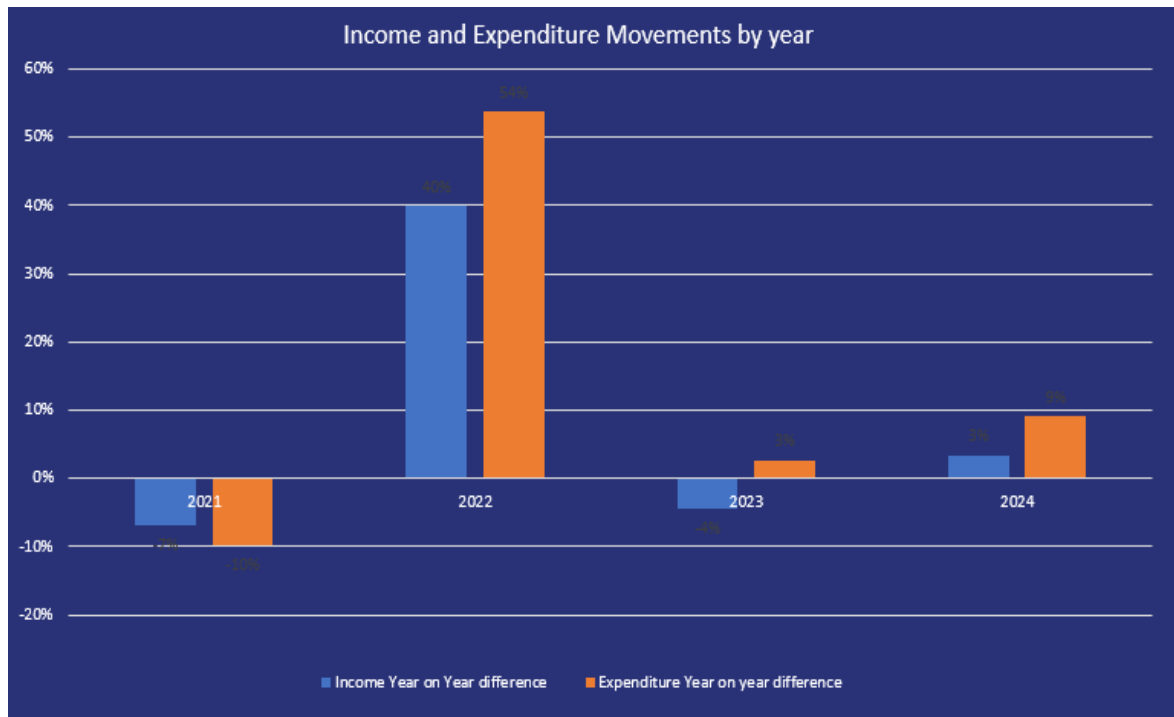
They are happy and content and have given this opinion here to basically say they've concluded that the use of the going concern basis and the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. So that gives us comfort as Trustees, and hopefully you comfort, that everything is hopefully going to keep ticking along, barring any disaster outside of our control for the next 12 months.

I'm going to show you some graphs.

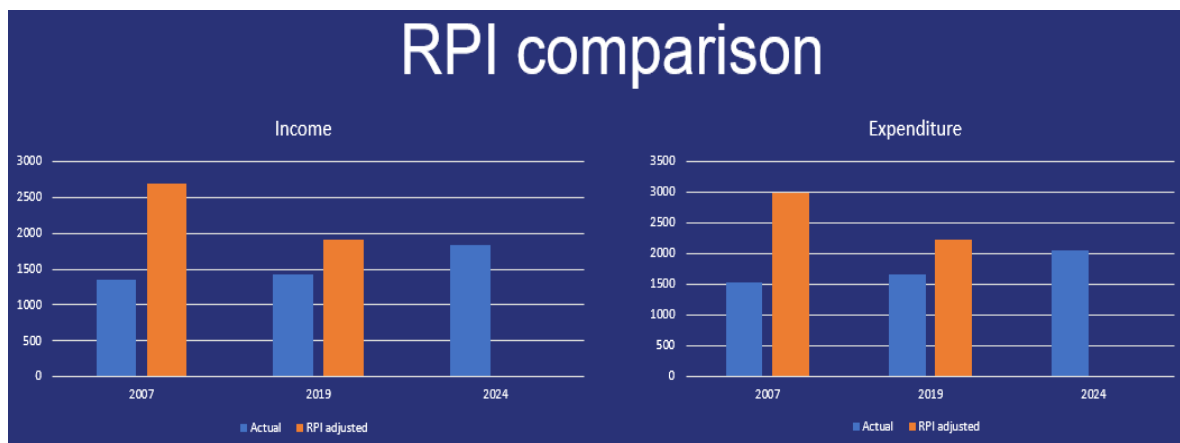


Doing some analysis of our income versus our expenditure, going back to what feels like a lifetime ago now, 2020 and COVID, looking at our income versus expenditure, obviously, 2020, 2021, we're lower to be expected. Obviously, we weren't doing quite as much. 2022 there's been a bit of a spike, and there's been an increase every year since then. But as you can see

from this yellow line, our contributions have stayed relatively the same and have actually dropped the past two years. So whilst our overall income has gone up, and our expenditure has gone up, our contributions have gone down.



In terms of the movements year on year, obviously, as to be expected, 2022 we had a massive spike, because the world was free again, and we were doing things properly and proper conferences and all that kind of thing. 2023/24 have been relatively stable. There has been a spike in the previous year in terms of our expenditure, but this next slide is really interesting:



If you look at our financial position, they've got 2007, 2019 and 2024 inflated for today's prices, we are actually getting less money and spending less. So, we are effectively, to some extent, doing more for less.

In terms of our position over the past 12 months, our expenditure increased by about 9% and our income increased by 3% but as I've already said, the split of income has changed. Publication income now makes up a greater proportion of income than in previous years. With publication income, as I've already mentioned, there is a cost with that. So it does impact our

bottom line more and what we can actually spend our money on, because we've got that cost of publications already taken into account.

Since 2020 and, obviously it's a weird analysis to make, because of the pandemic, expenditure has risen by 55% but our income has risen by only 28%

The Way Forward

We are further refining our budget setting process to make that clearer. We're reviewing our literature costs, ensuring that we keep any price increases as low as possible to the fellowship. We're reviewing our costs and streamlining where we can and sometimes it does cost money to save money in the long run, so we do need to look at our projects and anything we're doing very carefully.

Reviewing our policies and procedures to make sure that they are up to date and fit for purpose.

Obviously, any increases and contributions to the charity will allow the GSB to continue Conference Approved projects without any kind of priority system being put in place. That being said, we are aware that cost of living has affected all levels of the structure. It is much more expensive to hire halls than it was five years ago. It's much more expensive to run meetings, to do your PI, to do all those kind of things, so we are acutely aware of that. There is also increased uncertainty in the markets, and global trade is making the future uncertain. Our investments have been hit, so just bear that in mind, that nice investment gain that we got last year we're probably not going to see this year.

We are also trialling, and some of you may have seen a new reporting format with an aim to be more transparent. That is being further refined as we go and as we're getting feedback from the fellowship, but it is our endeavour, through this, to make everything more transparent and easier for the fellowship to understand what's going on financially.

Thank you.

LGBTQIA+ Video

(Tony S)

My name is Tony and I'm an alcoholic. Today we're going to watch the video for the LGBTQIA+, and what's going to happen? We're going to watch it once today. We're not going to comment on it afterwards. That's tomorrow. We're going to watch it again tomorrow, and then you're going to comment, ask questions, and then we'll go to the vote. This video was made last year with the other three, and it came from a conference question, and that's where it was born from. So, I hope you're going like this video. I like it, but I don't want to persuade you.

The LGBTQIA+ video was shown.

Literature

(Jo F)

Good evening, Conference. My name is Jo and I'm an alcoholic. Nice to be here. I'm the trustee for Eastern Region and have had the privilege of being the Chair of the Literature Sub Committee over the past couple of years. Before I became a trustee, I was part of the Literature Sub Committee.

Before I do move on with the presentation, I just like to say thank you very, very much to the Literature Sub Committee. They've submitted about 16 pieces of work to this conference, and I don't know where they get the time and the energy and the effort from, but they've been absolutely amazing. It's been an absolute ball. They've really supported each other and me through the past two years and I just wanted to say thank you very, very much indeed.

So, for the agenda, I've got two main items, really, that I need to take you through this evening.

First, we've got five items of literature for your approval this evening, or not, and I'll just give you a little bit of an update on what the Literature Sub Committee has been doing over the past year.

Items for your approval this evening:

1. 'A brief guide to AA' - which is a leaflet that was written in the 1980s and that's been fully revised by the Literature Sub Committee.
2. 'AA and Mental Health' - new pamphlet and that comprises nine stories of alcoholics from the fellowship with a parallel journey of their sobriety and mental health.
3. 'AA Service in Prisons' - new leaflet
4. 'Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Employers' – revised leaflet which is much reduced
5. 'Welsh Posters' - new

The information has been sent out to you via AA Service News, through links and things like that, and you've obviously got the information for the Handbooks in your committee packs.

The items for your approval this evening were available on the website, so they went out at the same time as the questions, so hopefully you have had time to consider them, so moving on to the first item:

'A brief guide to AA'

Somebody wrote in and said that they were really concerned that the contact details for the General Service Office weren't on the leaflet, and they generally go on when the leaflets are put into design and publication or go on when we put them in the family look and put them in for our brand guidelines. So, these are the contact details that will go on the leaflet:

FREE Helpline 0800 917 7650 / 24 hours
Email help@aamail.org
CHAT NOW at www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk - instant messaging
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk
General Service Office
PO Box 1
Toft Green
York
YO1 7NJ
01904 644026'
AA logo to be inserted

So that's the first comment that came back from the fellowship on 'A brief guide to AA'.

The second items that came back, sorry I forgot to say that the any amendments or changes are all in yellow. Somebody wrote in and was concerned about the word 'always' being used

before 'after their alcoholism'. The person who wrote in felt it was quite strong, because sometimes you know it may, it might, it may not. So, we discussed this as a committee and the commentator wanted the words 'we have found that' and they particularly wanted those words into the that paragraph as well, and we, as a Literature Sub Committee, discussed this, and we felt that the word 'typically' could be used instead of the word always:

Page 1...

'Most importantly, alcoholics cannot control their drinking and if they do not stop, their alcoholism always gets worse.'

'Most importantly, alcoholics cannot control their drinking and if they do not stop, **we have found that** their alcoholism **typically always** gets worse.'

These are the only comments we have received on the leaflet.

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

'AA and Mental Health'

There was only one comment that came back, and that was to do with a comma. Initially, the comma was behind professional, but the person suggested that we move to the comma to behind of myself, and it does read a lot, lot better:

Mark's story p4...

...Being a mental health professional, myself made this all the harder...'

...Being a mental health professional myself, made this all the harder...'

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

'AA in Prisons'

On page two, it relates to the use of literature and taking literature into prisons. What we hadn't thought about when drafting the leaflet was when we take literature into prisons, particularly Roundabout and Share. There are sometimes people's numbers and contact details in the centre pages. So, this person suggested that we wrote in to the leaflet that we take the centre pages out and the new text reads:

Page 2 – Use of Literature...

'A monthly subscription to Share and Roundabout magazines, funded by your local intergroup or region. Ask your intergroup or region for any old copies they could donate to the prison. January editions are especially useful.' ***'Please remember to take out the centre pages of Share and Roundabout when taking them into prisons, as these can contain members' phone numbers.'***

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

'Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Employers'

We didn't get any comments back from the Fellowship, other than positive comments, so there are no changes made.

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

Welsh Posters

These were sent to the Literature Sub Committee and have come to Conference because posters that are to go in the shop need to be approved by Conference. They've come up from the Welsh region, and they're in dual language, because that's required by law. and they particularly wanted the posters to go in the AA shop so that people in Wales could access the posters through the shop. This is why they're here.

Conference approved the above posters with a two-thirds plus majority

I just like to briefly update you on literature activity over the past year, all the literature that the Conference 2024 approved is now printed and in circulation and selling, they're very popular items.

The literature subcommittee has worked with a whole range of people across the fellowship, and we're always reviewing literature before it goes to reprint, and making sure that language is gender neutralised and it's all put in the family look, or the family way, as one of our Trustees once said, and I can't get that out my head. I thought I'd mention it, because I'm going to say it! So, I thought I'd just say it anyway.

We've revised the 2003 Conference explained leaflet, and that's ready for submission to Conference 2026, and that was revised at the behest of the Conference Steering Committee, and that can go to the Conference Steering Committee next year as well, for their input.

We're hopefully going to review the new LGBTQIA+ leaflet that the Conference last year requested.

We're reviewing the Internet Safety Card, but that's on hold now until the outcome of Committee 6, Question 1, and obviously, any literature items that come out of Conference this year, which will be our priorities, and any anything else that comes through the door, because stuff does come through the door throughout the year.

I'm stepping down as Chair of Literature, and Max J, is going to be our new Chair of Literature, and I'm sure it will be absolutely fantastic in her hands, so please give a round of applause for the Literature Sub Committee.

Thank you.

Young People

(Holly A)

My name is Holly, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of being the Trustee for Young People and am pleased to be speaking to you today about this service discipline.

In 2015, Conference approved a recommendation from Committee 2 that the Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) role be introduced to our service structure. The recommendation stated that the YPLO should ideally be someone who came into AA at the age of 30 or younger, and that they should be "a contact and conduit for young newcomers with a desire to stop drinking" and that "One fundamental aim is to get more younger members into AA and involved in service generally.

YPLOs should strive to be of service to AA in other disciplines, especially after rotating out of service as YPLO.”

So, there are essentially two parts to the YPLO role: the first is to carry the message of recovery to younger people who are struggling with their drinking, and the second is to encourage and support members into service within the Fellowship. I am pleased to report that since the introduction of the role, the discipline has grown into a vibrant and enthusiastic community of members who support and inspire each other to fulfil our primary purpose and also go on to get involved in other service work such as becoming Conference Delegates. Currently, 9 of our 16 regions have a Regional YPLO in place and many are sponsoring other members into service at intergroup and region level.

Fittingly, the tenth anniversary of Young People’s service in our structure is set to be a busy and exciting year. There are increasing numbers of Young People’s meetings across the country that are carrying the message of recovery and providing identification for the younger alcoholic. Intergroup and Regional YPLOs are involved in workshops, poster campaigns, school talks and attendance at ‘freshers weeks’, to mention just a few of the ongoing initiatives.

The Young People’s Sub Committee will be holding a Roadshow in Birmingham on 21st June, which will provide an opportunity for members to get together to share experience and generate ideas, and the format will be a combination of presentations, a panel discussion and a workshop.

Following discussion at the Glasgow Roadshow in 2024, and very useful input from the Regional YPLO’s at our annual meeting, the Sub Committee are holding an online Safeguarding Workshop on 24th April to gather experience and discuss guidance for YPLO’s when they are visiting schools, youth clubs and other outside agencies.

We will be represented at both the Welsh and Scottish National Conventions this year, and the North West Regional Young Person’s Convention - ‘Manypaa 2025’ - will be taking place in Manchester on 30th and 31st August, with the theme of ‘Young at Heart’.

Eurypaa – the European Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous – will be held in Glasgow on 8th to 10th August. Eurypaa is “an annual celebration for the young (and the young at heart) that highlights young people’s sobriety and their role in AA.” Although not part of the AAGB structure, Eurypaa is organised and run by AA members, provides an “inclusive and empowering space where young people can connect, inspire and be inspired” and plays an important role in encouraging younger members of AA to get involved in service.

The Young People’s Sub Committee will be holding a workshop during the weekend about the history of the YPLO role in AAGB, and how members can get involved.

If anyone would like any further information about any of these events, please do let me know and I will be happy to provide it.

To conclude this presentation, I have a proposal to put forward to Conference. The Young People’s Sub Committee have been exploring the concept of an audio podcast as a way of carrying the message of recovery and feel that it would be a powerful and effective way of engaging with the still suffering alcoholic and hopefully encouraging them to attend a meeting.

Therefore, the General Service Board would like to ask Conference to approve the creation of podcasts by sub committees of the Board. As it would be impractical to maintain topicality in a podcast that requires Conference approval for each episode, the proposed process would follow the precedent set by our Share and Roundabout magazines. Rather than each issue of the magazine

requiring approval by Conference before it is published, the concept is approved and ongoing editorial decisions are made by the GSB, through the sub committee. In the same way, the principle of creating the podcast would be approved by Conference, and then the content of each episode can be decided on an ongoing basis by the General Service Board, through the relevant sub committee.

The proposal is:

Does Conference approve, in principle, the creation of audio podcasts by sub committees of the General Service Board with ongoing editorial decisions to be made by members of the sub committee, on behalf of the GSB?

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

Thank you very much everybody and we are going to get to work in carrying the message of recovery to people.

Just before I finish, I'd just like to say what an incredible pleasure it is to work with the Young Peoples Sub Committee. The Young People's discipline is dedicated and enthusiastic and so keen to carry the message of recovery that they have received to other younger people who are struggling with their drinking. It's an absolute honour to work alongside all of them. So, thank you very much.

Alison closed the meeting with a quote from Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" and asked everyone to join her in the Serenity Prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports

Alison welcomed everyone back and opened with a moments silence to remember why we are here and the still suffering alcoholic and invited Tim B (GSB) to read the preamble and James M, observer from Ireland, read three Traditions 1, 2 & 5. Tony S was asked to commence the continuation of General Service Board reports.

Inclusivity and LGBTQIA+ Video

(Tony S)

My name is Tony. I'm an alcoholic. I'm the Trustee and Chair of the Inclusivity Committee. The dictionary definition of being inclusive is not excluding any parties or groups involved in something.

As you heard earlier, the Preamble tells us who we are and what we're about. Alcoholics Anonymous is, and always has been, inclusive. The Big Book, page 17, Chapter 2, 'There is a Solution' second paragraph, gives a general list of backgrounds for some of the then membership. Bill reinforces the idea with 'we are like passengers of a great liner'. The sentence is finished with 'from steerage to captain's table'.

We heard Tradition One, Tradition Three - The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking. Tradition Five is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I'm going to give you a brief introduction of the Inclusivity Committee and how it came into being.

Conference has asked itself numerous times over the years as how to attract people from ethnic minorities or ethnic backgrounds. Conference 1987 question, 'Is there a way that the fellowship can attract more members from ethnic minority groups'? Conference 1992 the question, 'The fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous aims to attract people from all walks of life, including women, young people, members of ethnic minority groups, gays and people with disabilities. The members are not only welcome, but essential for to the growth of our groups. Following recent conference decisions, what are practical experiences of carrying the message to such potential members'. Conference 1994, 'What is the fellowship doing to attract suffering alcoholics from ethnic minorities' all the way up to Conference 2021, 'Conference is asked to consider and make recommendations on ways to reach out to problem drinkers in black, Asian, minority ethnic communities, membership of AA, still predominantly white, even racially mixed towns and cities'.

That includes my town, London, which was found to be true from the 2020 AA Survey. After Conference 2021, the working group was formed, called Diversity Working Group. The following year, we had a box at the 75th AA Anniversary in Leeds, and we held a Diversity Workshop where people of colour members were on the podium. Individuals from all diverse communities turned up and that was unexpected. A member shared from the floor, a lady who had trouble getting into the venue because she was in a wheelchair. The lift had boxes in it, and they didn't have the key. We had questions from the LGBTQIA+ community, plus many more, and that was the light bulb moment.

We met regularly and at the same time, a group in Birmingham had the idea and implemented creating a pamphlet. 'Does anyone else look like me in Alcoholics Anonymous'. In 2023 we held an Online Convention where we talked about sharing experience and what we could do to engage with members from ethnic backgrounds. We had AA members from Europe as well as from America, who shared their experience of what they have done to carry the message to black and Latino

members and the hurdles and pushbacks they went through. We got a lot of encouragement from that workshop.

At that time, the Diversity Workshop changed its name to the Race2Day Working Group, January 2024 the Board asked me to chair the Diversity Committee, which is made up of Trustees. At the moment, it's myself, Zelma and Ranjana. The word 'diversity' felt like it was weighted more towards colour and gender, which in a sense, excludes most of the fellowship and ultimately will, in turn, help the minority. Ranjana, our Non Alcoholic Trustee, who in her professional life advocates for all, suggested Inclusivity as the name, which, to my ears, felt right.

John C, the Archivist Trustee, showed me a very old picture on page 99 of the Service Handbook 2024 with a leak, a thistle, a rose and a shamrock intertwined, reminding us that men and women from different nations working together to aid one another in mutual aid. The Race2Day Working Group became the first working group to fall under the Inclusivity Committee purview. Each working group has a dedicated Chair and Trustee who is assigned to it, and report back to the Inclusivity Committee.

In that January, I started having flashbacks, remembering instances from my past. Members leaving meetings early because they couldn't hear and you can't tell if someone has hearing aids these days, to others who, I would have said, they had ants in their pants, you know, fidgety, which I now know could be a sign of Attention Deficit Disorder. Remember, in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, I don't think anyone had ever heard of ADHD, so most people are now getting diagnosed with that now.

The second working group came into being, Accessibility Working Group, looking at visible and non visible disabilities and those that are neurodivergent. There are now ADHD meetings popping up that use different methods, such as low light, the use of candles, some with cushions for sensory comfort that removes a barrier so they can hear the message of recovery.

Our meetings online have been a major tool in AA, those that can't do traditional service because of ill health, caring responsibilities can now take up service regularly, even at sub committee level, such as Online Responders, Chat Now. Service has come more accessible to a wider spectrum of members than ever before. At present, the Accessibility Working Group are looking at creating a checklist and considerations for groups when setting up new meetings or moving venues to rearranging the seating in ongoing meetings. This would enable us to be access friendly to members at all levels of the fellowship, from greeting and encouragement into service that represents the three sides of the triangle of AA Unity, Service and Recovery. One of the Race2Day Working Group aims is towards a pamphlet written by members of colour. The hope is the stories will aid members to break down barriers and beliefs that they had of Alcoholics Anonymous and that they aren't alone or first from their communities to come into AA.

The hope is that this will give people of colour confidence to take up service at all levels of the structure. The Race2Day Working Group held a workshop in 2024 online. GSO New York came along. Well, they always come. We shared an idea of creating a pamphlet/book and gaining stories. A couple of days later, GSO New York sent us a brand-new pamphlet that they created called 'Black in AA', which will be on sale from our website shop soon. In return, they asked for our presentation to feed back to their structure. They felt on this side of the pond, we could handle the topic of race better.

Justin, the Chair of GSB, went to the World Service Meeting and brought back two books, one from Australia, one from Canada, written by First Nation AA members, which just shows us we aren't the first or the only ones to try and bridge the gap in the fellowship from people of colour.

The LGBTQI Working Group was formed from a 2024 Conference question to rewrite the LGBT Voices pamphlet, so we would like stories from all corners and countries within our service structure, there's a leaflet detailing the contact details and what we're after. So please pick one up and share it with your group. We've only got seven stories so far, but the more the merrier.

It's now time to watch the **LGBTQIA+ video**, after which we will have comments and questions and then go to the vote.

The video was shown and after much discussion it was agreed to take it to a vote with the proposed amendment of the phrase 'gay problem' being removed.

Conference approved the video, as amended, by a two-thirds plus majority.

We can see from previous conferences, we have been questioning and talking about how we can reach the still suffering alcoholic from different demographics who are under-represented because many feel, they do not warrant a seat, because of their perception of AA. This year, the ONS, the Office of National Statistics, published that alcohol specific registered deaths in the UK 2023 reached a new high, 10,473 people.

I'm forever an optimist, looking on the bright side of life, imagine how many fewer deaths there could be if all those 10,473 people had the chance to find themselves going through the programme of AA. I wonder about the makeup of those deaths. Could a simple rearrangement of the chairs stop a person walking out because they couldn't hear, could a member stop coming because they had caring responsibilities, you'd be surprised about the reasons. I know a member who stopped going to meetings because she was going through cancer treatment. She had multiple surgeries. I bumped into her and asked her why she hasn't been around in a while, and she told me she wasn't going to meetings due to her health. I was puzzled. I said, Why don't you go online? There's online meetings you can go to. She says she didn't know how to. She had a laptop and I showed her how to use the laptop and get onto meetings online. She's an insomniac, so she does meetings all around the world. If you don't know, you just don't know, and that's okay.

Hopefully, or my wish, is the Accessibility Working Group will be a conduit for AAs and groups to share their experience to the wider fellowship. My friend has just told me she has terminal breast cancer, but the meetings are giving her renewed vigour for life. She uses what she's learned in AA to help other cancer patients and people she meets on their online meetings.

I can go on and on with different stories that I have picked up in the last few years, but one of the takeaways I've found is some of us will migrate into one of those minority groups. I pose this question to you, and the wider fellowship, How would you like to be treated or helped if it were you? Because, remember, if we can help you, we can help others. We help ourselves. We help others. Right?

The aim of the Inclusivity Committee is to demonstrate that the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous welcomes anyone with desire to stop drinking, as I'm sure it is yours.

Thank you.

British Big Book

(Max J)

Good evening conference. My name is Max, I'm an alcoholic and I'm the Midlands Region trustee. It's an honour and a privilege to be here and tonight, I'm going to give you an update on the British

Big Book. I think I've gone a bit overboard with the slides, so I apologise for that, but there's lots of good stuff in them. I just didn't remember to keep it simple, anyway, what I want to talk about is where we were this time last year, where we are now and where we are going to be this time next year.

This is just a recap of what happened at Conference last year. Lots of you will have been here. Lots of you will have remembered this. Some of you will have been on this committee.

At Conference 2024, Committee 5 was asked:

Would Conference discuss and consider the viability of creating an additional version of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) incorporating stories from AAGB (including CER)?

The committee discussed this question, and they did recommend creating an additional version. They recommended that we retain the pioneers of AA stories from the current edition, and additional stories to then be included from members of the fellowship from Great Britain and English Speaking Continental Europe, and they summarised, for the avoidance of doubt, the preface, the forwards, the doctor's opinion, the first 164 pages and the appendices will also be retained.

In reaching this recommendation, they considered:

1. How we best carry the message
2. No significant additional cost
3. Inclusivity
4. Importance of the Big Book and its stories
5. Individual choice
6. Examples from other countries
7. Opportunity to include stories from across the breadth of Great Britain and English Speaking Continental Europe
8. The work and effort required to achieve this
9. Any impact on Arena, Share or Roundabout magazines
10. Separate publication of Great Britain and English Speaking Continental Europe stories

The vote of Committee 5 was unanimous, and there was a minority opinion that it would have been preferable to have seen the stories before voting on the book, and then on the Sunday morning, Conference approved this recommendation with a two thirds plus majority. So that sort of set the scene for what happened last year.

So, what happened next? The Exec met in May after Conference 2024 and the Chair allocated the project to me to set up a Working Group to deliver the British Big Book and this comprises:

- Max J – Midlands Region Trustee
- Carina H – Continental European Region
- Jane C – North East Region
- John S – Eastern Region
- Michelle C – Midlands Region

We first met last August on Zoom, and we conduct all of our meetings on Zoom so there are no additional costs incurred. All the working group has an AA email address, and we put a call out for stories in the Winter edition of AA Service News, with the closing date for submissions of 1st April. In Service News, we suggested around 3000 words, Word document, but anybody with accessibility

concerns to contact us and we would work with them. They are just suggestions. We've had handwritten letters sent in and we're happy to receive stories in any format whatsoever.

Stories are sent in to my trusty email address and I have a big spreadsheet. I anonymize them, take out any sort of identifying comments, features in them, and then they are passed to a Working Group member to summarise, and then passed to another Working Group member for comments. So, we've got two people looking at the stories.

The Working Group has devised a matrix, and that's just to enable us to be able to quickly, effectively and anonymously talk about each story. As at the 1st April, we've had 45 stories submitted, but so that we can have as much variety as possible, that date has been extended to 1st July, so please take it back to your Regions that we need stories, because it's unlikely that date will change.

Once the stories have been selected, the Working Group will decide on the grouping of them and the presentation.

We're also going to look at Appendix 1V, which is the Lasker Award, and we're going to consider whether we should enhance what's there or replace it with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standard and the Cochrane Report. Appendix V1, consideration will be given to only including the contacts for AAGB, including English Speaking Continental Europe.

The working group intends to have the stories and the revised appendices ready to present to Conference next year.

The proposal, with the appendices, the stories, the grouping of them, will be emailed out in January next year, along with the Conference packs for the questions for Conference so all of the fellowship will have sight of them, so they will all be able to comment on them the way we do with any literature that requires Conference approval.

The stories we have read have all been amazing! We still welcome additional stories and would like to thank the Fellowship for what we have read so far, and for those we have yet to read.

Thank you.

Time was given at the end of each presentation for questions to be asked from the floor.

AA Service News Update

(Jo F and Holly A)

AA Service News (AASN) has grown in size and quantity. At the last count, it was carrying the message to 4000+ alcoholics in print and to 2000 alcoholics digitally, at no cost to the recipient, and will continue to do so on a quarterly basis to individuals, groups, intergroups and regions. As always, AA Service News is placed on the AAGB website, and in the Document Library. It helps meet AA's primary purpose by carrying the message throughout the Fellowship. It comprises your stories about the service you carry out daily.

Also included are:

- Conference questions and recommendations in the winter and summer editions respectively
- Regular messages from the General Secretary
- Board meeting bullet points
- Job adverts for sub committees

- Parliamentary events across Great Britain
- Regular updates on special projects requested by the Fellowship such as the British Big Book, and how the website project has unfolded

There are also occasional requests for shares on particular topics for new AA pamphlets, such as Armed Services, Mental Health and more recently the British Big Book. Given the increased number of applications for sub committee vacancies, we know you are reading it and we are delighted. Your thoughts on improvements are always welcome, along with your articles on service and of course your pictures. Remember, AASN is all about you and you sharing your experience with other members.

As ever, we thank you for your contributions and making AASN an interesting, informative and enjoyable read.

Archives Update

(John C)

My name is John, I am an alcoholic and currently the General Service Boards trustee responsibility for archives. I joined the archives subcommittee as a member in February 2018 and became a trustee after the 2022 conference ratification. I took over responsibility for archives after Thomas B rotated out as trustee at Conference 2023.

Archive Subcommittee Meetings

The archive subcommittee met four times during the past year two online and two at the General Service Office. We continue to invite the AA archivist and other staff from the Borthwick Institute to subcommittee meetings, as it has been informative and productive. In September Barbara M-O join the subcommittee.

Oral Histories

The subcommittee is appealing to archivists to record interview with long standing members of the fellowship. This initiative helps in preserving oral history and, with appropriate consent, allows us to share some of the interviews on the website. If you require assistance with this process, please reach out to the Fellowship Archivist.

Borthwick Institute Cataloguing Project

Emma Hollis the AA Borthwick Archivist works on the AA archives from Wednesday afternoon to Friday. Emma's priority is to finish the cataloguing of the outstanding physical archives and then the cataloguing of the AA digital records. Every December GSO deposits a new batch of archives at Borthwick Institute for Emma to process.

Archive Literature

The subcommittee continues to review existing literature and extend the guidance audio recording, archive displays and cataloguing/storing of digital archives.

Group histories

One of the main sources of information for group histories is the pink form. GSO puts together a spreadsheet for the archives sub-committee which contains Information on group numbers and other non-personal information. Certain groups have not submitted a pink form for years. It would help our work if groups would keep the group information UpToDate by letting GSO know of any changes to the group.

Revised section 2 A brief history of AA in Great Britain

The section entitled "A Brief History of AA in Great Britain" received approval with minor revisions at the 2024 conference.

The Archivist Network

Prior to the network meeting Emma Hollis gave a tour of the archive at the Borthwick Institute to interested network members.

The archive network meeting took place on September 20-21, 2024. A total of twenty members attended 13 in person and 7 online.

Those giving presentations included Emma Hollis, Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain Archivist on their work at the Borthwick institutes, Martin B (Fellowship Archivist) on their activities and a discussion on the best approach when interviewing old timers on their experiences in the fellowship. Charles C (subcommittee member) shared his experience on creating archival inventories. An update was given on the work of the archive subcommittee.

There was a sharing of experience from the attending archivists one example is the Glasgow regional convention display which included banners detailing the history of the first gay group in Glasgow, the first young person's group in Glasgow. Another is the continuation of the darkness into light project which has been running since 2022.

Zoom Presentation

In September members of the subcommittee and Emma Hollis the AA Borthwick Archivist gave an online presentation outlining the process of collecting archives at the general service office, catalogue and storing of archives at the Borthwick institute. The archive zoom presentation received positive feedback, resulting in requests for additional sessions planned for next year.

75th Banners

The banners designed for the 75th archive display at the Leeds City Museum continue to be used at AA event nationwide. They are available for use by the fellowship. if you like to use them at an AA event, please let the archive subcommittee know.

This report would not be complete without expressing my sincere gratitude to this hardworking and extremely supportive subcommittee.

Armed Services Update

(John C)

I would like to start my report with a huge thank you to all the intergroups and Regions Armed Service Liaison Officers who have been carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Armed Services, health workers and their families.

Excerpt from Guidelines 2:1 - AA and The Armed Services:

Intergroups and regions are responsible for the appointment of an Armed Services Liaison Officer [ASLO] to work in conjunction with other intergroup 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 intergroup or region.

Update

- The Armed Services Sub-committee met four times this year two online and two at GSO. The subcommittee consists of one subcommittee member and two trustees. The last subcommittee member will rotate out in February 2026.
- There are several vacancies on the sub-committee which if not filled may impede the ability of the sub-committee in its role of supporting ASLO and Regional Armed Service Liaison Officer [RASLO].
- The terms of reference were reviewed and approved in May 2024.
- The ASLO 12th Steps list continues to be updated by the subcommittee. It contains 73 members and is available on Google document for telephone responders. The distribution for the Regions is: Eastern 12, London 6, Midlands 7, South Midlands 6, North Eastern 8, North West 6, South East 11, South West 6, Wales & Borders 3, Glasgow 1, Scotia 6 and Central European 1.
- In January 2025 according to the confidential directory there were 8 Regional and forty-eight Intergroup liaison officers in post. This is a slight increase from last year.
- New family style presentations are being developed and some national awareness raising to Armed Services Support Organisations has taken place.
- The sub-committee continues to update the existing Armed Services literature. It would like to create a new armed services pamphlet and is actively seeking armed service members to contribute to this. Unfortunately, we have had insufficient responses to take this project forward yet.
- A RASLO meeting was held on February 16th, 2024. There were 9 attendees including 4 subcommittee members. Many points were discussed including advertising on online channels, using AA e-mail address, problems with the flow of information between intergroups, regions and the subcommittee.

Seminar

A seminar was held on the 17th of February 2024. A total of 27 members attended the seminar 6 representing regions, 17 representing intergroups plus 4 sub-committee members.

The morning session included presentations and questions on the role of an intergroup/region armed service liaison officer, armed service sub-committee member, the role of the Armed Services subcommittee followed by feedback from liaison officers on their activities. The afternoon session continued with feedback from liaison officers. The final session was a workshop followed by feedback and a question-and-answer session. The topics of the workshop were internal communications, external communications, 12 step list and resources for armed services liaison officers.

Feedback indicates that significant work in carrying the message is being done at local level by ASLO and RASLO, but the large number of vacant positions impacts on communication and support.

Some of the responses when asked what was your favourite part of the seminar? included hearing different ways of carrying the message to Alcoholics, the positive impact of hearing a share from a still serving AA member, meeting other ASLO's and committee members. Talking with other ASLO's and hearing their experience of what they are doing in service. Great to connect to other ASLO's, RASLO's and other ex- servicemen / women. Learning about how subcommittees work. Learning what kind of event I can support.

This report would not be complete without expressing my sincere gratitude to this hardworking and extremely supportive subcommittee. We said goodbye to Mike S who rotated out in February 2024.

Employment Update

(Tony S)

It has been a massive learning curve as a newly inducted Trustee, who came into service earlier this year. I have been fortunate in the discipline I now chair, as it has a well-established team of dedicated and informed sub committee members to guide me into service and to work with.

The sub committee has carried the message of recovery to employers such as Network Rail & NatWest, Enable Disability network which are rolling programs. After our last presentation in January 2025 the wellbeing team leader kindly contacted us to say that one attendee had reached out to AA as a result of the presentation.

We have been using the new 'Blue Light Video' when reconnecting with emergency services such as the Police, London Fire Brigade & RNLI. The video was well received.

We started a relationship with Premier Foods: our presentation was part of their health & safety week and the local RELO attended in line with our remit to create local contacts to continue AA support. On the 4th of July we gave a presentation to National Theatre Well-being team & Building Manager which employs around 1500 staff, the meeting was attended by 12 people, we left AA posters & literature for the back of house area. One of our team who attends regular theatre & opera had a ball walking through the Stage Door.

I gave a presentation to members of the Welsh Senedd in November. I found the updated AAGB website most useful as it gives a step-by-step brief on how to present AA to professionals including downloadable AA literature.

At our yearly Regional Liaison Meeting we shared and came together to find solutions such as, asking PI Ecomms on guidance on how to use LinkedIn. We are currently working on ways to refresh our presentation material to reach all types of employers. A subcommittee member shared an exciting new way to contact & meet Employers. The Employment Liaison team at The Potteries and District Intergroup join their local Chambers of Commerce which resulted in successful contact with over 1000 business leaders, the initiative has been taken up by other Regions. Britain has 53 Chambers of Commerce representing over 50,000 businesses across the UK, which employ more than 6 million people.

This year at Conference the Employment Liaison Officer leaflet was passed. Conference 2025 will be presented with a revised external facing leaflet for employers.

The outgoing Secretary has said how much they enjoyed working as part of the Employment subcommittee team, "it has been a privilege to work alongside AAs who are committed to service."

First Response Online Update

(Holly A)

The First Response Online Sub Committee (FROSC) is responsible for the administration of our two online services: Chat Now and the Online Response Service (ORS) which are live chat and email services.

The services are continuing to do vital primary purpose work by being the hand of AA for anyone who is reaching out for help with their drinking.

In the past year we have been working hard to attract more members to join the services. We attended the Northern National and Southern National Conventions, as well as the North East

Regional Forum, where we found that members were very interested and enthusiastic. As a result, we are delighted to have many new responders, and hope that we continue to get new applications.

We are continuing to spread the message about Chat Now and ORS and will be holding an online workshop on Saturday 7th June 2025.

We have also been working on the training guides for both Chat Now and ORS which have now been fully updated, including guidance on how best to respond to enquiries from minors and to any safeguarding issue. We have streamlined the application process and introduced a new job description and application form. All current responders have now undertaken DBS checks, and we continue to screen chats and emails to ensure that we fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

In the past, the two services have operated somewhat independently of each other, and the sub committee has made great progress in bringing them together to simplify all our procedures and enable each service to share experience and learn from each other. My sincere thanks to all members of FROSC and to all our responders for the work that they do in fulfilling our primary purpose.

Health Update

(Carmel G)

Barbara O and Kieran M, Trustees for Health, presented to Conference 2024 on the revised National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance for treating people with Alcohol Use Disorders. The Guidance – published as Quality Standard (QS) 11 - recognises 12-step fellowship programmes as effective ways of “maintaining abstinence” in their words – ‘staying stopped’ in ours.

NICE addresses QS11 to Health and Social Care, and also Criminal Justice, professionals in England and Wales. It underpins QS11 with 5 Quality Statements – which managers may or may not interpret as performance measures. We believe this opens doors for members doing Health service in England and Wales. (NICE Quality Standards don’t apply to Scotland, but can inform practice, as the services in Regions and Intergroups in Scotland show.) We thank you all for your service.

Since Conference 2024, AA members have told us that The Samaritans does not include AA in its national Directory of Resources. We approached The Samaritans’ headquarters, drawing attention to QS11. Unfortunately, we have received a disappointing reply.

Conference 2024 approved a new Guide for Health Liaison Officers. With thanks to the Literature SC for proofreading, and GSO staff for design, it is now available from the online Shop (product code 3071).

We have published online articles for professionals:

[NICE work!](#)

[Alcohol problems in older people](#)

[Copies of these articles also appeared in AA Service News.](#)

[We have written up internal notes about the NICE guidance for members doing service in Health and Criminal Justice in England and Wales.](#)

[We’re currently refreshing and rebuilding health resources on the website. Published resources will appear on the Health Service page or in the Health section of the new Document Library. Internal resources and templates will be in the Health Filestore.](#)

The Annual Health Meeting with Regional Health Liaison Officers (HLOs) in September was inspiring. We were pleased to welcome and hear from Intergroup HLOs who joined online on Saturday morning too. Many HLOs are current or former health professionals who can guide the Fellowship in our approaches to professionals - and the ever-changing machinery of government in Health. We thank all for sharing their experience. Cooperation with Public Information Liaison Officers continues to be really productive.

At the Annual Meeting, we learned that hospitals and treatment centres are increasingly requiring members who visit for service purposes to have DBS checks. And the degree of the check can vary from hospital to hospital. We noted that following Safeguarding protocols as requested can protect members. But it does also place an added cost on individual members in Health service.

We noted that Intergroups and Safeguarding Liaison Officers usually step in to support members and resolve issues. We're grateful for their support.

We began 2024 with four vacancies on the Health SC and have been delighted to welcome three new members this year. We are planning a Health Seminar in York on 27 September 2025.

We also thank Barbara O, who rotated out as Health Trustee at Conference 2024, for her service, good humour, and light touch.

PI & Ecomms Update

(Tim B)

First things first so mention must be made of the sad loss of Tom Fox in May 2024. Tom was a member of the PI & EComms Sub Committee and made a huge contribution to the website project and, indeed, to all the work of the subcommittee. His wit and discerning wisdom are still sadly missed but his legacy does live on, not least in the success of the new website.

The PI & Ecomms Sub Committee takes on work assigned to it by the GSB through questions discussed at Conference. In the past year, in conjunction with GSO, we have evaluated the provision of an online forum to facilitate communication, as requested by Committee 2 Q2, and investigated the requirements and cost of creating an AAGB app as requested by Committee 6, Q1. We noted that an online forum had been used by AA previously and was stopped because of the challenge and difficulty in moderating the forum. Moderation is required to safeguard forum users but is challenging to provide consistently and safely. Therefore, we believe that other forms of online communication are more appropriate than an AAGB web forum.

Investigations into building an AAGB app returned budget costs starting at £25K for a very basic app rising sharply if additional features are included. Consequently, it was not felt that the Fellowship should commit to this level of expenditure at this time.

Understandably, a significant focus of the PI & EComms Sub Committee in 2024 has been the new Fellowship website and more on that below. However, in addition to this task, the Sub Committee has continued to provide and support users of the AAGB Filestore, Workplace and the Intergroup and Regional microsites. The Helpdesk facility on the AAGB website continues to receive almost daily requests for assistance from newcomers and members alike. Many thanks to the to all the Sub Committee members for their diligence and constant service looking after these facilities.

For members of the Fellowship doing service at Intergroup and Region, we continue to offer generic email addresses to help preserve anonymity and aid in GDPR compliance. Please help out by completing the Intergroup and Region Officer Registration Form following rotations of

service posts. This form is available from the website Document Library and includes a tick box to request an aamail.org email address. Timely updates ensure that the Confidential Directory is kept up to date

Activities in in the 12 months to April 2025

Website update

The new AA GB website was launched on the 13th May 2024 after eighteen months of dedicated and consistent effort by the project team members. There were a few teething troubles which, once identified, were speedily resolved. Since then, the new website has proven to be a rock solid and reliable platform. Regular monitoring of traffic to the website shows us that the number of visitors is usually 30 – 35% higher than traffic to the old website. This is a great result with visitor numbers continuing to trend upwards.

After coming out of project phase, the website is in a “Business as Usual” mode now. This includes managing ongoing tasks such as updating shop categories on the website, updating the contents of the document library and improvements to the Group Registration Form (Pink Form) as well as regular content updates and adding news items.

Alcoholics Anonymous’ Anonymous Ad Campaign

Following an approach by JC Decaux and a presentation at Conference 2024, the GSB, GSO and PI & EComms SC collaborated with JC Decaux and The Raised Eyebrow design agency on an innovative advertising campaign across London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Bristol and Southampton. The campaign ran during the first week of July 2024 and from Boxing Day until the end of January 2025 on prominent digital billboards in well-travelled locations. A range of “anonymous” ads displayed a variety of specially selected phrases containing only two A’s, designed to spark the curiosity of people seeing the ads. There was a significant uptick of visits to the website and calls to the National Helpline during and just after each run of ads.

In accordance with our traditions, a nominal fee was paid to JC Decaux for the space and the design agency fully recompensed for their creative input.

Workplace for Public Information

Each service discipline holds an annual Regional Liaison meeting in York and, as a trial, we invited both the Regional PILO’s and ECLO’s to a combined meeting in August 2024. Service specific sessions for PI and EComms were mixed with joint sessions and a combined wrap up session on Saturday morning. A huge amount of enthusiastic discussion and collaboration took place with lots of sharing of experience and information. Several new Liaison Officers spoke up about how useful it was to be able to talk to experienced LO’s and find out how to get started in post. It was so successful, the PI & EComms Subcommittee was asked to facilitate an online session for further collaboration. This was held in February 2025.

PI Newsletter

The PI Newsletter has been relaunched, initially on a quarterly basis, with the first edition sent out to Region and Intergroup Chairs and PILO’s. Please feel free to distribute additional copies electronically or in printed form. We would be really pleased to receive your PI related news for consideration and possible inclusion in future editions of the newsletter. Send your news items to aainformation@qsogb.org.uk.

Family Look Guidelines

As a reminder, when communicating or presenting when doing service on behalf of AA, following the AA “Family Look” fosters **consistency**, **trust**, and **recognition** and contributes to the overall effectiveness of the communication. The Family Look Guidelines are available in the Document Library on the AA GB Website.

Literature Work

Literature work by the Sub Committee has included updating the Hints and Tips for Internet Safety card and reviewing Chapters 1 and 3 in the AA Service Handbook before passing them on to the Literature Sub-Committee.

Prisons Update

(Zelma K)

I am pleased to say this year we have attracted more members onto our subcommittee, and this has enabled us to work in more areas. This year we have been concentrating on finding out which of our prisons have AA meetings and those without. This is ever changing, and we ask our Liaison Officers (LO) to inform us of any changes as they occur. We are in the process of getting this into the Document Library in the form of a map which can be updated as needed. The Prison information in the Document Library is in the process of being updated and rewritten when needed.

Beyond the Bars, a quarterly paper, has been reinstated and is now in its 2nd edition. We are asking for stories both from AA sponsors and prisoners to be submitted.

In July we hosted a joint Prison/Probation Regional Liaison Officer meeting in York where valuable information is passed both ways.

We are asking Conference to approve a leaflet giving information on how to proceed as a prison sponsor/LO. This will provide much needed guidance for those new to prison service if accepted.

I was invited to attend a Prison seminar in Bulgaria this September. This was both beneficial and informative allowing me to see how AA works in prisons in another country. I was grateful for this opportunity.

This year we will be celebrating 60 years of AA within HMP Barlinnie, Scotland. This is our longest running prison meeting in the UK.

In the coming year we hope to get the work on the Document Library complete, rewrite the Prison section of the Service handbook ready for Conference 2026 along with other things as they arise.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside the enthusiastic Prison Subcommittee and thank them all for their hard work.

Probation/Community Justice Update

(Hamish McS)

The Probation Sub Committee (SC) has had another productive and busy year. Following Board approval, the SC now has five members. As cooperation with Probation and community justice (CJS) agencies throughout Great Britain is increasing we hope to fill our two remaining spaces to support the Fellowship’s wonderful service work in this discipline.

More AA groups, with Probation/Criminal Justice Service Liaison Officers’ (LOs) support, have been getting the Chit System in place. Figures from our website show that in December 2023, 603

Alcoholics Anonymous groups in GB were listed as offering it. This figure has risen to 764 at the end of January 2025. There are also 39 online meetings offering the Chit system. Reports from Intergroups are showing the Chit System is available in many areas of Great Britain supporting those who want or need proof of attendance to support their recovery in AA. We never know when we will need this crucial tool.

In April, Conference approved the new leaflet produced by the SC 'AA as a Resource for Criminal Justice Professionals' which is now available in the AA family style on our website. Our gratitude to the Literature Subcommittee who helped develop it for Conference 2024. The previous leaflet has now been discontinued.

During May the Probation SC delivered a national workshop online for Liaison Officers and members interested in this area of service. Over 55 members were in attendance and requested that this is run annually. The aim was not only to carry the message but to do so in a cost-effective and efficient way. All agreed that the workshop was an immense success. Our gratitude to GSO staff, who helped facilitate this innovative format.

Our co-operation with HMPPS Recovery Focussed Approved Premises has continued and in June we gave the first ever online Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness presentation to all 105 Approved Premises in England and Wales for staff and residents. This was not only a first for AA but also the Approved Premises, requiring careful planning to ensure Alcoholics Anonymous message reached as many people as possible while following our traditions and safeguarding guidance. LOs and SC members are continuing to give presentations to Recovery Focussed Approved Premises reinvigorating and enthusing cooperation at local levels.

In September we were invited to present to the HMPPS Health & Justice Leads at their Quarterly National Meeting online. Our presentation included information about the NICE guidance, gave an overview of the service Alcoholics Anonymous provides and finished with a positive question and answer session. Our aim was to raise HMPPS managers' awareness to aid support for Intergroups and Regions.

The SC has also been cooperating with other disciplines giving Chit presentations when requested: to Prison LOs at the Scottish Zonal meeting, and online to the Armed Services SC. We have been approached by developing overseas AA structures interested in Probation/CJS service including Bulgaria and Ukraine.

Our efforts in Scotland have been invigorated by new members joining the Subcommittee and they have been working with Intergroups and Regions to engage with the Scottish Social Work Departments across the country. We planned this strategy with Tom Fox, former GSB Vice Chair and NAT, who we sadly miss.

Developments continue with The Scottish Courts and HMCTS in England and Wales. LOs and RLOs are doing great service in many areas, including at the Glasgow Alcohol Court. Cooperative working has also been progressing with Police Services in England and Wales, and Scotland. The Custody Suite project in London is also progressing well. Criminal Justice professionals were invited to and attended the Westminster Parliamentary event.

The Probation Sub Committee continues to review content for our discipline on the GB website and develop resources for Liaison Officers.

Roundabout Update

(Andrina C)

The subcommittee have attended three online meetings, 7th June and 9th August and 6th December 2024.

As Scottish Regions are requesting a Roundabout stall at their conventions it was decided that the Roundabout subcommittee would man stalls at the following Conventions in 2024/5:

Convention dates

21st June	–	Glasgow – Ian attended
13th July	–	Irvine, North East Ayrshire - Ian attended
3rd August	–	Aberdeen – Cath attended
31st August	–	Dundee – Ian attended
13-15th Sept	–	Stornoway – Jan attended
7 th -8 th Feb 2025	–	Oban – Andrina attended
9 th -11 th May 2025	–	Scottish – Ian to attend

It is of major importance to raise awareness of the Roundabout magazine with convention attendees, to obtain articles and interviews and shares from them, as well as encouraging new subscriptions to the Scottish magazine. It is also a way of attracting people into Service and all this is done by the members of the subcommittee with the aid of banners and making available back copies of the magazine.

Subcommittee meetings scheduled for 2025:

Subcommittee Meeting - 31st January and 1st February in Pitlochry. The Atholl Centre provided meals for the whole weekend and it was cheaper than the hotels there. The subcommittee managed to complete an induction course for the new member of the subcommittee. An Agenda for the Regional Liaison Officers Workshop was agreed.

1st March - Regional Liaison Officers Workshop in the Renfield St Stephen's Centre at 260 Bath Street, Glasgow. This was well attended by Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers and also people who help with the Roundabout. Great topics were discussed and ideas will be taken on board.

Online subcommittee meetings scheduled for 2025:

6th June.....8th August.....10th October...5th December.....**All online**

Everything is going well with the Roundabout. I have been keeping in touch with the subcommittee, especially Cath, Editor and Jan, Secretary.

Cath and Ian, Link Officer, attended the Share Annual meeting in York and they really enjoyed the experience. They would like to thank everyone for making them so welcome.

Share Update

(Charon B)

In January last year the new pricing came into effect. It was quite a complicated switch over, taking into account prepaid subscriptions. The staff at GSO worked hard to ensure that everyone was charged correctly.

The Fellowship has been very supportive of the changes that have taken place over the past 12 months. We had some teething problems as we tried to work out the best way to accommodate the accessibility guidelines, alongside suggestions from our regular subscribers. Everyone kindly bore with us as our font grew and shrank until finally, we now believe we have it right. Thank you for all the positive and constructive feedback we've received, we appreciate your support.

Alongside all the larger changes that were taking place, the Share team were beaver away to hit deadlines every month, make an impact at The London Convention as well as producing artwork for new Banners, Bookmarks and Wallet Cards.

We are delighted that our current Asst. Editor, Bridget, will be staying on as Editor when Agnes rotates out at the end of next year. Caroline, who has been an Editorial Reader, will step into Bridget's shoes, so a smooth rotation and continuity for the next four years is assured. For anyone interested in joining us we have a new role on the Share team 'Share Liaison Officers Coordinator' which is currently being advertised as a vacancy in the magazine and AASN. This will help to bridge the gap between the SLO's and the Editorial team. We are excited to see how this service position will shape up over time.

Our 2024 annual SLO's meeting at GSO was filled with enthusiasm and fantastic ideas on how to provide the Fellowship with the best version of Share magazine possible. We are grateful to all of you wonderful intergroup and region officers who put time and effort into this cause.

Finally, big thank you to the Share team for all their hard work to help our magazine through this period of growth, and to our subscribers and readers for your support.

Survey Update

(Max J)

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain [GSB GB]) Limited have conducted a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972.

The intention of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship in GB and Continental Europe so that AA's message of recovery may be disseminated more effectively to the still suffering alcoholic, thus helping us to fulfil our primary purpose.

The Survey Sub Committee was established as a separate subcommittee tasked to deliver the 2020 Survey. Previously the Survey was delivered by the PI Subcommittee. Due to Covid and lockdown the 2020 survey was delivered online for the first time. The decision to continue the survey online has been agreed using what was learned in 2020 to improve the content and method of communication to the Fellowship and increase engagement.

The results of the 2020 survey were reported to Conference 2021 and the committee produced and infographic leaflet for the fellowship and to be used as a public information outreach tool.

The committee are currently finalising the content of the questionnaire and the timeline including communication to the fellowship. The survey will be launched in 2025 and the final results will be reported to Conference 2026.

Telephones Update

(Levey P)

The National Telephone Sub Committee (NTSC) received a task from Conference in 2021 which read as follows:

We would also recommend that this opportunity be taken to review the national telephone service as a whole, including Continental European Region, to promote unity and consistency.

Just for clarification the 0800 number is simply a call distribution system, it has no function as a helpline, this is done by the local groups.

A working party was set up, reviews completed, numerous meetings with various telecoms companies were had and a decision was finally taken, by the GSB from the recommendations of the NTSC, to ask Gamma Communications to take over the call distribution from BT. Unfortunately, Gamma was not able to deliver the product it had promised us.

Since this is now dead in the water we are essentially back to square one! The number of helplines has always caused problems. Disorganised service provided by some of these helplines has not helped when trying to resolve the current situation. So having had discussions at the last NTSC meeting we decided to offer our thoughts and to possibly go back to Conference for direction. Firstly, seeking direction from the GSB.

The issue was discussed at length at the November 2024 GSB meeting and it was decided that we would go back and revisit another provider, who earlier wasn't able to meet all our needs, specifically call distribution and call blocking. The reason for the revisit was because they had been working on providing new solutions for the above-mentioned needs, not just for us, but also for other clients.

We are now in the process of talking to the new provider, ensuring that they can provide all our needs. With this step forward, and if all our requirements are met, we are hoping to have a test period of thirty days to see how the system operates.

We were asked to promote 'Unity and consistency' across the helplines. Having 39 helplines with 39 different ways of operating makes this very difficult. It should be noted that although the NTSC asked the fellowship to look at reducing the number of helplines by rationalising at regional level, we now have an increase in the number from 37 to 39 local helplines!

Whatever solution is agreed on will require the cooperation of ALL helplines.

The NTSC will give this one more try to come up with a better solution as recommended by Conference 2021. We are optimistic that we can present something at the next Conference.

National Convention Updates

Northern

(Angela S)

The 48th National Northern Convention (NNC) took place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, in March 2024. 1101 tickets were sold this year, an increase of 14% on the previous year. This has been the highest attendance over the last 20 years and the committee members appreciate all the support from the Fellowship.

The NNC is supported by 3 regions, Midlands, Northeast and Northwest and the committee comprises regional delegates, the Executive Committee, the NW Region Trustee and 2 representatives from Al-Anon. The committee meets 4 times a year with the AGM taking place in October. Regional Chairs are also invited to the AGM.

The programme included: Regional Archives presentation, Chat Now and On-line Response, Yellow Brick Road Recovery Banner, Service meeting presented by a Non-Alcoholic Trustee on behalf of the Health GSB SC, Old-timer meeting, Disco Friday and Saturday evening, a quiet room, AA approved Literature stand, raffle (with good prizes), Al-anon participation and AA related films were shown in the cinema.

The raffle and ticket sales generate income for the next year's event and the Tradition 7 contributions are sent directly to GSO. The raffle income and Tradition 7 contributions were down slightly compared to last year 2023.

The committee have worked tirelessly and with due diligence over the last 12 months, in preparation for the 49th NNC. The theme for this year's is "A New Beginning". It will take place on Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th March 2025 and the committee looks forward to welcoming you.

Flyers for the event were distributed through the Regional Assemblies and they were also available from GSO. The flyer was also added to the AA GB National Website, in the events section.

The 50th National Northern Convention will take place in 2026 and the committee has already started preparing for this. The committee is keen to celebrate this milestone and to give the Fellowship a joyful experience.

Southern (Tim B)

The Southern National Convention 2024 took place on the 20th - 22nd September at Sand Bay Holiday Park in Weston Super Mare. Attendance peaked at 800 people with 628 people staying on site and a further 172 weekend or day visitors. General feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

A full programme of Fellowship activities was held over the weekend with live entertainment on the Friday and Saturday nights. There was also the option to stay on site for an additional night of Fellowship. Our friends at Al-Anon were in attendance throughout the weekend and the First Response Online Sub Committee hosted a workshop on the Saturday afternoon which was well received.

Following a period of uncertainty and disappointment after the Hayling Island site became unavailable, the organising Committee was extremely pleased to see so many people enjoy the weekend in 2024. The Convention is self-supporting with a sufficient prudent reserve to comfortably plan for the 2025 Convention.

The 2025 event will be the 50th Southern National Convention with the theme of "Our Pick Struck Gold!". Approximately 400 bookings have already been taken as of the end of January 2025. The Conference is looking forward to a bumper event to celebrate the golden anniversary!

Welsh

(Zelma K)

The Welsh National Convention (WNC) was held this year on the weekend of 30th/31st May at the Metropole hotel, Llandrindod Wells. There were 197 attendees with a total of 2,300 years sobriety with the longest 50 years and the shortest 4 days.

Platform speaker meetings were held over the weekend along with a Welsh speaker meeting on the Saturday afternoon with simultaneous translation into English via headsets.

There was entertainment on the Friday evening with musicians and a disco and raffle were enjoyed on the Saturday evening.

The Sunday morning spiritual service was held in both English and Welsh with a choir of our Welsh speaking members leading Calon Lan (pure heart).

Marathon come and go meetings were run alongside the above.

The WNC will take place at the Metropole hotel Llandrindod Wells 30th May to 1st June 2025.

Due to inflation we have had to raise the Registration to £15 for part or full weekend. This is the first rise in some years. The theme is Love and Gratitude. There will be information about Young People and Telephone disciplines. A workshop on sponsorship will be held. Tabletop and Marathon come and go meetings, Raffle, disco and entertainment not forgetting our platform meeting held in Welsh with a simultaneous translation on Saturday. Fliers have been circulated also available on the Wales and Borders web page.

We look forward to another successful year. Although this is a small National Convention, the committee will be doing everything they can to make this a successful convention and there will be a warm Welsh welcome for anyone attending.

Scottish

(Hamish McS)

The 67th Scottish National Convention (SNC), Queens Hall, Dunoon 26th to 28th April 2024

The SNC website <https://scottishnationalconvention.co.uk/> aided with planning and event management.

The convention had its regular meetings hosted by each Scottish Region, as well as a Young Persons and Old Timers meetings. More meetings were 'open' this year to encourage attendance by our non-alcoholic friends. The Saturday night meeting included an AI Anon speaker and a sobriety countdown ranging from 59 years to 4 days continuous sobriety. An AI Anon meeting room was also provided. The 'service area' was popular with Roundabout, National Telephones & FROSC and Probation / Criminal Justice represented, as well as a well-stocked AA literature stand. The entertainment was popular, and a few members took advantage of the great weather and went cold water swimming!

Feedback forms were incredibly positive.

The Committee AGM took place in July. Although the convention was not fully self-supporting, primarily due to a reduction in registrations, Tradition 7 contributions were up from the previous

year to £1552.36 reflecting the gratitude and positivity of members. The Scottish Regional Chairs present reviewed the TOR and accounts and encouraged the committee to look at cost saving and increasing attendance numbers. The Committee have taken this onboard reducing various costs and have been working effectively, meeting online with one in person meeting planned prior to the convention.

The 68th Scottish National Convention 9th to 11th May 2025 will be again at The Queens Hall, Dunoon, we look forward to welcoming you!

Parliamentary Event Updates

Westminster

(Gretchen S)

Last year's event, held in Portcullis House on 21 of May 2024, was a tremendous success. Our sponsoring MP was Rachael Maskell, Labour (Co-op) MP for York Central. Our professional speakers were:

Richard Scullion, Police Sergeant, Custody Management & Specialist Operations.

Mike Trace CEO Forward Trust.

We also had two very impressive speakers from the Fellowship sharing their experience, strength and hope.

We had 56 attendees, all of whom were very engaged and positive about the event and the Fellowship. This was reflected by the fact that 52 of the attendees filled out and submitted feedback forms. Notable positives were that:

- 100% stated that they would recommend the presentation to another professional
- 100% stated that they would recommend AA to a suffering alcoholic
- 10 attendees stated that they would like to attend an open AA meeting.

We have learned lots from this year's event and hope that will bear fruit for future events. Planning for the 2025 event has been underway for the past six months. We have struggled to find a sponsoring MP this year which has led us to widening our reach to include the House of Lords. This seems, so far, to be a very positive move and we're hoping it will produce better engagement from members of Parliament. We now have a date set for Tuesday June 3, 2025, in the Cholmondeley Room, in the House of Lords, and our sponsor will be Lord Cameron of Dillington.

Senydd

(Zelma K)

This year's presentation to professionals was held at the Senydd, Cardiff Bay on the 28th November 11am – 2pm. There were about 25 people present.

The aim of this presentation is to inform professionals on what AA can do for them and to let them know who and what we are.

The presentation was hosted by Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Plaid Cymru who introduced our Trustee for Wales and Borders who gave an overview of how our structure has its place in Wales, followed by Tony S, Trustee for Employment speaking about how AA can assist employers followed

by the Blue light video. This was followed by two of our members sharing their ESH and a Q and A session.

Holyrood

(Gretchen S)

Due to problems in finding an MSP to sponsor this event in 2024, there was no event at Holyrood in 2024.

The committee has since gotten the support of Marie McNair, MSP for Clydebank and Milngavie to sponsor the event which is scheduled for Wednesday 12 March 2025 in the Fleming Room in Holyrood.

The new Chair of the committee, Andrina C, Trustee for Glasgow Region, had to pull out recently due to health reasons and I (Gretchen S, Vice Chair (GSB) have stepped in to help until Andrina is able to return. Anne Marie, who oversees the Northern Service Office has also been very instrumental in getting the committee up to speed with such short notice.

The committee has agreed fellowship speakers and a communication plan to invite:

- MSP's,
- Health and Social Care Professionals.
- Drug and Alcohol Teams.
- General Practitioners and Hospital Administrators

to come and hear about what we do. The title and theme of the event is to be: Dispelling the Myth: What do you know about AA? The event will draw upon some of the experience strength and hope to be found in the Scottish archives and talked about by a member of the Archives Sub Committee that is based in Scotland as well as another member of the fellowship.

The Scottish Parliamentary event is always a great success and there is no doubt it will be again in March. It has been a joy and a privilege for me to work with the committee and I look forward to the event. Hopefully Andrina will be well enough to attend the event, which would make it perfect.

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 focused 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-a-longs 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 GSB Trustee

OPEN FORUM

Alison welcomed all to the Open Forum, which is a non-voting session, where delegates get the chance to ask any questions which may not be covered this weekend or about anything they have heard this weekend so far.

Alison thanked everyone for their hard work and left all a wee quote for the day, “Unity is strength, and when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved”.

The meeting closed with everyone saying the Serenity Prayer, following which the preliminary Committee Reports were distributed.

SUNDAY 13 APRIL

Alison welcomed everyone back for the third and final day of Conference and opened with a moments silence to remember the still suffering alcoholic and then asked Heather to read the Preamble and Richard to read the Twelve Steps.

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

Alison then invited the Chairs of the six Committees to present their respective reports which were fully discussed and adopted and as much time as was possible given for minority opinions to be heard.

These Committee Reports are included in this report on the pages indicated below:

Committee No. 1	Pages	55 - 58
Committee No. 2	Pages	59 - 62
Committee No. 3	Pages	63 - 66
Committee No. 4	Pages	67 - 69
Committee No. 5	Pages	70 - 72
Committee No. 6	Pages	73 - 82

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR CONFERENCE 2026

The nomination received on Friday evening was presented and, after a vote, Richard P-S (South West Region) was duly elected.

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Justin T, Chair GSB)

My name is Justin and I am an alcoholic.

It's been great. I think it's been a really good conference. I've been hugely impressed with the presentations from the Committees and the Committee Chairs. Speaking from experience, it's quite a daunting thing to get up here and run through a document and changes to it, and have to consult your committee. I think it's the first time, and I've been to quite a few conferences, that there's been a complete clean sweep of approval, and if there's nothing else that demonstrates unity, that will do for me.

It's been fab having observers here. I've heard stories about how their input in the committee rooms has been really helpful. They've added a lot to the social and fellowship part of the weekend. I'd also like to thank the staff who worked so hard to keep us on an even keel, fed, watered, nourished, keypads, etc, etc. I'd also like to congratulate Richard on his new position. I've already written a number of questions!

This has been my 8th Conference – In 2017 I was a delegate, then committee secretary and committee chair. We all missed 2020, when I would have attended as trustee elect, then 2021 took place online. It's been great to be back face to face for the past four years. It always amazes me how even the most binary of issues can find common ground in our committee rooms and a

conscience from the fellowship can emerge. Thanks for your hard work in gathering the feedback from your Regions and then being able to bring that to Conference - along with an open mind. I've seen the same spiritual magic in play at Conference in Ireland and at two World Service Meetings, all unforgettable experiences. Thank you for those opportunities.

It is now my duty and pleasure to make some announcements about the composition of our board. I'm going to mention several trustees. Please stand up as I mention you, so that everyone knows who you are.

It's a sad goodbye to **Ranjana** – our NAT who, over the last two years, has given us so much help in our Inclusivity drive. Her legacy is in the vibrant Race Today working group, the films we have created to reach minority audiences, and in our self-awareness of unconscious bias. Henry Lowe, our youngest ever NAT, left in July. Pressures of his Cabinet Office role meant that he couldn't commit as fully as he'd hoped.

We have some new NATs to announce: hello to **Graham Duncan**, who is already playing a role as our spokesperson as part of his PI and EComms SC work, **Hassan Zaidi** (who's sadly been unable to join us this weekend) who is also on PI EComms - and Finance, **Jill Tolfrey** on Employment, and **Mike Newton** who will serve on Nominations. They all have really good governance experience as well, so they're really supportive to those of us who are complete amateurs, as the alcoholic trustees.

Next year the Board will have massive turnover, with no fewer than 7 trustees rotating out. These 'Magnificent Seven' will ride into the sunset after next year's Conference. If you are completing three years of Conference (or will by this time next year) and have 10 years of continuous sobriety, you are qualified for nomination by your region. Please consider this service.

Hi to **Jim** from Eastern Region, who you may remember as last year's Alternate Conference Chair. He'll be working on Armed Services, Conference Steering Committee and Archives.

Congratulations to **Jo** who takes over as Chair of the GSB in approximately 10 minutes. She's been our trustee from Eastern Region for the past 4 years, served on Literature SC before that, and since joining the Board has edited AA Service News, chaired Literature, sat on Nominations, and on the Inclusivity Group. When volunteers are sought, she seems incapable of keeping her hand down. She'll be a great Chair and has been a constant source of support and friendship over our time serving together.

I took on the position as Chair two years ago, with the expectation of serving three years. At last year's Conference I mentioned that I had found the previous year challenging. What I didn't say was that I had resigned in October 2023, opting to reduce my term to two years rather than 3. I did this because of the effect that the role was having on my family, my mental health and my sobriety. In my first 6 months in this role a bombardment of bile and discontent was levelled at the position. Here are a few examples:

A pressure group directed by a non-alcoholic sought to by-pass the structure, playing loose with the concept of confidentiality, both in communicating with members in service of the Fellowship and passing round confidential legal letters – even before the addressee had received them. Continuous threats of reporting the Charity to the Charities Commission were used to try and leverage the Board – even in settling frivolous legal expenses with your tradition 7 contributions. Throughout this process, personal remarks were made to service holders with suggestions of how and where step work was needed by us. Thankfully, the Board adhered to the charity's solicitors' advice, kept the Charities Commission informed, and we did not succumb to their blackmail. I should add a rather more positive postscript. One member of this group later addressed their concern

individually with the GSB; we met with them and have since improved some of our SC processes - because of a civil and adult discussion.

In a separate incident, a journalist member took up a campaign on behalf of another member, objecting to the group consciences of groups and an intergroup. They asked us to intervene, with a view to upending the upside-down triangle and disregarding group autonomy. My considered response, agreed by the Board, was dissected and ridiculed in a magazine for which I had previously worked - forming part of a series of stories about AA that they sold to the magazine. Some ex-colleagues from that magazine recognized me from clues within the story.

The event that impacted me the most was within my region. The chair (incidentally a sponsee) sent a letter to all the other region chairs suggesting withholding funds to the GSB. Shocked Chairs immediately brought it to my attention. I called him and asked if it was sent as result of the region assembly's group conscience. He said that it was not, but that individuals had asked him to do it. I suggested that promoting the use of the Power of the Purse should really be executed only after a vote - with Intergroups given the opportunity to consider. He thanked me for this view, said he'd consider it - and later withdrew the letter. He sent me cordial texts thanking me. Reportedly, at the next assembly, he was quizzed by these members on why the letter had been withdrawn - and I was accused of pressurising him. A zealous region rep then took it on themselves to circulate this falsehood to all groups in my intergroup - including my home group. Thankfully somebody shared it with me, and the letter was eventually withdrawn, but without explanation or apology. Both these people had been friends and could have picked up the phone to discuss it with me but chose not to. Local groups now felt unsafe to me, and I didn't feel that I should need to defend myself each time I went to a meeting. This was the straw that broke this camel's back - I wanted to walk away and have nothing further to do with this role - I even toyed with the idea of having a drink to disqualify myself.

Thankfully online meetings welcomed me, while the Exec, other board members, and sober friends gave wise counsel. Rather than flounce off and just walk, I opted to offer to sponsor a successor into the role and leave in 18 months. So, some years into my sobriety, I started counting days again, but downwards this time! My countdown is now at zero - I'm leaving this role in just a few minutes.

Last year I bumped into my estranged friend, the Regional Chair, who said that he needed to contact me to make amends and would call. He died last week, nearly a year later, having never made that call. I really mourn that friendship.

I hope you'll take my explanation of why I left in the spirit in which it's intended, which is not as rebuke. I've dealt with the resentments. It is to illustrate the effect of using the Board and its servants as whipping posts - and the broader issue of how easily our structure meetings can become toxic, leading to people being unwilling to attend to do service. I addressed a question on Friday night about the problem of finding trustees - this is my experience and an opinion as to why the role may be unattractive to some. Trustees join the Board, nominated by their Region, then vetted by the Nominations Committee, to give back to this life saving fellowship and to help still suffering alcoholics, not to act as punch bags. We all come from the structure and have served at all levels of it - we are not suddenly indoctrinated with a non-AA agenda as part of our induction. Far too many conspiracy theories gain traction in this fellowship.

The past year has been a lot more peaceful, albeit with occasional bumps in the road and fires to be put out. I can look back on my tenure as a board trustee with gratitude for being able to witness at first hand the hard work from my board colleagues, members of SCs and the GSO staff. I'd like to think that my service has helped carry the message to a few more people - and it has certainly strengthened my sobriety. Thanks for the opportunity.

Next weekend I'll be back at my home group, perhaps as assistant tea maker. If you should see me, I suggest you go for the tea, not the coffee – I have never learned how to make a decent cup from granules. So - Have a sober 24 hours! And I'll finish on this. Thank you.

Close of Conference

Conference 2025 draws to a close and I can assure you that what I have seen is, through love, tolerance and unity, we have achieved so much. So I thank you for that and I thank every one of you for playing your part in that.

It's so important that we're able to take forward the conscience of the fellowship. It has been a wonderful experience to have been trusted as Chair of Conference, and I've learned so much. And Richard, I hope you have a great time doing it. It's really been terrific.

Before I go, I want to thank a number of people. Firstly, the fellowship and all of the members who both took the time to form and submit excellent questions, the groups, intergroups and regions who took the time to consider all of these suggestions and questions and come back with feedback to the CSC, so that we had something to work with

To the trustees of GSB, for all the work they do on behalf of the fellowship. It's mind blowing what actually is achieved here.

Sharon, thank you so much for being there and being our Confidence Co-ordinator. I've witnessed now four years, and I know it goes way back more than that, of very smooth running, and the event is just a delight for everyone and you've been a personal help to me. Thank you.

To the members of the GSO staff who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of this weekend, ladies, and I think there's some gentlemen back at the office, thank you all so much.

To Glen and Keith for their audio-visual talents and expertise, it's just been lovely to work along with you. Thank you.

My next thanks are to our overseas visitors and we hope you've enjoyed your time with us. Andrzej asked if he could have two minutes to say a few words:

My name is Andrzej. I'm alcoholic. I came here from Poland full of doubts and fears and living with grateful heart and now with a heart full of experience gained from you. It was an amazing time. Thank you very much, everybody, for every hack, for every smile, for everything.

We are similar in our structures, in our procedures, the fellowships in Poland and in the UK. These two fellowships are like mother and daughter, the mother is 75 and the daughter is 50 and the mother can give a lot of her experience to the daughter and daughter can also support the mother and give feedback.

Last year about 6000 alcoholics and friends met in Poznan. We celebrated at the convention, the 50th anniversary of our unique fellowship. I was there. I don't know if anybody in this room went to Poznan but it was wonderful time. I have in my pocket a small gift from Poznan from the Polish fellowship. It is a commemorative medal of this occasion. Let me pass it to Ranjan.

Everybody is welcome to come to Poland and we look forward to meeting with Angela and Carmel in two weeks at our National Conference. Thank you very much.

Ranjan thanked Andrzej for the medal and said that it would be placed in our reception in one of the archive display cabinets.

I would like to thank Ranjan and Sharon, as I said before, because they've been with me all the way through this process. They've supported and encouraged me, and I was scared at the beginning.

The Confidence Steering Committee, to Pragna, to Patrick, Phil, Rachel, Heather and to you, Richard, it's just been brilliant. We were a special team. Thank you.

To you, the delegates, thank you for all your hard work throughout the weekend, for all the wee comments and people being positive about how things are going generally and to me, personally, you've done the most incredible job. I've had it quite easy - just had to stand here and cry! To those who rotate out this year, thank you for your continued service, and hopefully you will stay in service in some way and keep things moving here, just for today.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank the hotel staff, who just made it a wonderful weekend and to the highest standard.

I've said congratulations to you, Richard. I must have put that in the wrong place, anyway, it's been a complete privilege and an honour to be here as Conference Chair, and I will remain a humble servant in the fellowship.

I can't leave you without one last quote, because it's been our thing, this one comes from Mother Teresa, "I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together, we can do great things".

I would really like if you would join me a in closing the conference with the Responsibility Statement and the Serenity Prayer, please.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Sixtieth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Raddison Hotel, North Street, York on 17 – 19 April 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIR PATRICK R LONDON REGION NORTH

SECRETARY DAVID H SOUTH WEST REGION

1. On behalf of our Online AA meeting, we are writing to request a definition of 'Cross Sharing' to be read out at meetings. The reason for this is that it has become a popular phrase in meetings in our region, yet there is not clear understanding of what this means. This has led to some people thinking that they cannot relate to a concept or theme that another person has shared in the meeting. When we have discussed this as a group, members offer up many different interpretations. We do not want a misinterpretation to inhibit member's connections and shares in meetings. Yet we are sensitive to people in meetings telling others what to do or commenting on the quality of that other person's recovery.

As such, we contacted the AA head office (AAInformation@gsogb.org.uk) to request any literature that may exist on cross-sharing. This was the response to our question:

"Cross Sharing"

The phrase 'cross sharing' seems to be coming into common parlance in AA however, it is not contained in any AA literature nor does GSO have any interpretation of its meaning or any knowledge of the origin of the phrase. I believe it would be useful if the Fellowship could come to some conclusion on this and similar issues which of course could only happen at AA's Conference. I would like to suggest that your Intergroup draft a question for Conference on this issue to be received at GSO before the end of August 2024, unfortunately, it is too late for the 2024 Conference. It is up to the conscience of each group how it handles matters such as these.

We believe that groups, as a whole, would benefit from having this definition at hand so that the quality of sharing is in the spirit of recovery and fellowship.

This Committee recommends that the following definition of cross-sharing be included in the Structure Handbook at (p105) in the Chapter titled 'The Group' in the section titled 'Participation'.

In line with Tradition 4, groups may wish to provide some guidance on how we share our experience, strength and hope at meetings:

"All members should feel safe to share their experience, strength and hope. Interruption, unsolicited advice or direct comment are often referred to as 'Cross-Sharing', and this is to be avoided".

As it says in the Big Book:

'A man may criticise or laugh at himself, and it will affect others favourably, but criticism or ridicule coming from another often produces the contrary effect.'
Big Book pg.125

Vote: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. What guidance can Conference provide to ensure the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous are truly open to all those who have a desire to stop drinking - regardless of problems other than alcohol?

Many people come to the Fellowship with other problems especially addictions. Some groups are concerned that we may be creating barriers to recovery for multi-addicted sufferers. They feel we may not be sufficiently welcoming to them as a solution to their problems, if we have an overly restrictive interpretation of the Third Tradition.

Other groups find that when some members identify only as an addict it is very concerning and confusing for a new member coming in with only a drink problem, particularly at closed meetings.

Some Fellowship experience suggests that newcomers with multiple issues are being put off our Fellowship as they are not hearing that the desire to stop drinking regardless of your other issues and afflictions is what unites members. They are hearing 'you are not welcome here unless your problem is solely with alcohol.'

The recommendation of this committee is that the existing literature and our Traditions provide sufficient guidance on this matter. Tradition 3 [long form] ensures that the doors of AA remain open to all with the desire to stop drinking:

'Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.'

This committee suggests that groups make use of the existing literature [e.g. as referenced in the question background], and including but not limited to:

1. The Twelve Traditions - especially T1, T3, T4 & T5
2. The 12 Steps & 12 Traditions pg. 139 (Tradition 3)
3. 'Problems other than alcohol' pamphlet
4. Both sides of the Blue Card for open & closed meetings, statements of purpose
5. Open / closed meetings in the Structure Handbook pg. 102
6. Participation – Structure Handbook pg.105
7. The Non-Alcoholic addict – Service Handbook pg. 18
8. The Language of The Heart - 'Problems other than alcohol' pg. 222

Furthermore, it is essential that newcomers find identification as alcoholics at our meetings, regardless of other issues. Additionally sponsors have an important role in guiding members with our Steps & Traditions.

Individual groups have autonomy over their meeting scripts & format, and the secretary can intervene to ensure that our spiritual principles are observed. If we focus on what unites us rather than what divides us, our Fellowship will survive to be there for all alcoholics who are yet to come.

Vote: Unanimous

Minority opinion from the floor was the essence of the question has been lost. People feel they're not welcome with other addictions when they come to our fellowship, that literature already exists, which is not being read, so to repeat they need to read the literature is not answering the question.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Review new Service Positions Executive Summary for the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

Introduction

Service at all levels within the Fellowship is an important part of our recovery, as well as vital to AA's existence.

There are a wide range of service positions that need to be filled at group, intergroup and region.

Some are individual positions, and some are part of a team.

ALL of these service positions require a good knowledge of our Steps and Traditions or a willingness to become familiar with them, and for each there is a suggested length of sobriety. All service disciplines are supported by a relevant sub-committee who will share their experience.

Survey

AA conducts a survey of the Fellowship every five years [TYPO remove 'since'.]

After Share and Roundabout sections add a line:

In Continental European Region there is also the publication Arena News

Also Propose to make the following changes:

Further Amendments

To Probation Criminal Justice Service wording (as approved and submitted by PCJS Subcommittee):

Alcoholics Anonymous relationship with Probation/Community Justice Systems (CJS) is vital in providing a link for those involved with Police, Courts, Prison - on Release, Probation and Social Services.

We work across all areas and levels from using the chit system in groups to cooperating with CJS workers. This offers hope to alcoholics involved with the Probation/CJ systems looking for a way out of the merry-go-round of alcoholism.

Include compulsory DBS/Disclosure & PVG check requirement in First Response Online Sub Committee & Chat-Now (as run by the Charity).

Minority Opinion

Patrick (London North) disagrees with compulsory DBS as it discourages 12 Step Work

Vote: 17 For, 1 Against

Minority opinion from the floor that if the Charity choose to carry out DBS checks on their own employees, that's fine, but it shouldn't be imposed on the Fellowship.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review revised Chapter 10 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain – Telephone Services.

Q4 Report Amendments to Literature Question Telephone Service

10.2 Our traditions of autonomy and self-support apply to all helplines **in line with Tradition 4 and Tradition 7**
Change word **monies to money**
Emergency services

Call... on 999 (UK ONLY), 112 (EUROPE)

Insert correct link for telephone service (link does not work)

Final paragraph

Contact your local telephone liaison officer

Vote: Passed with 2 Abstentions

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

5. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Mark T, North East Region as Chair of Committee 1 for Conference 2026

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Julie P, Wales & Borders Region as Secretary of Committee 1 for Conference 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIR PHIL E SCOTIA REGION

SECRETARY IAN C MIDLANDS REGION

1. Can the Fellowship consider inclusivity and add clarity as it relates to special interest groups within the AA structure, so we remain within our traditions?

The committee has understood that this question is asking us to add clarity on Inclusivity as it relates to special interest groups.

This committee understands inclusivity to mean including all and everyone.

Being truly inclusive involves being genuinely curious about other ways of thinking and being, allowing those variations to exist and thrive in the same space. Being part of a group doesn't only look one way – people bring a diverse set of lived experiences to the group that we can all benefit from (Autumn 24 Service News reference).

The 12 Traditions should always underpin all aspects, including inclusivity, safeguarding and special interests of AA groups and meetings.

The AA guidelines state on the AA GB website –

[AA GB Website - Members/Meetings/Starting a new group:](#)

“It's important to know what your group can't be if it's to be part of the AA Fellowship.

AA meetings are non-restrictive; groups that are not open to ALL alcoholics cannot be registered and listed with the AA's General Service Office (for example a “women-only group” will not be registered).

This was in response to Conference 2007 C1 Q2.

Our committee recommends:

- a. Make these guidelines clear on the Pink Form when opening a new Meeting/Group
- b. Make these guidelines clear in the info pack sent to new meetings
- c. Make it clear in the Meeting Finder that Special Interest Meetings are open to all (subject to Open/Closed criteria).
- e. Make it clear in Public Information talks etc
- f. The guidelines should be changed to: “AA meetings are non-restrictive; groups that are not open to ALL alcoholics cannot be registered and listed with the AA's General Service Office (for example a “women-only group” will not be registered but a “women's group” would be).”

The committee recommends that each special interest group should agree what happens if someone outside the normal membership attends.

Vote:

Yes 18

No 0

Abstention: 1

No minority opinion

A minority opinion from the floor that the last sentence was a bit ambiguous when it talks about normal membership, there is only one requirement for membership for AA meetings.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. Would the fellowship and conference please advise if they believe that the terms Open and Closed should be changed?

If yes, what should they be changed to?

Would the fellowship consider if meeting finders should be updated with notes defining what Open and Closed or the new terms mean?

This Committee had an exhaustive and in depth discussion about the terms Open and Closed and agreed these should stay as they are. We explore potential issues related to these terms, particularly for newcomers and professionals, and developed these recommendations:

- a. The committee has found different definitions across the website and literature for the terms Open and Closed. We suggest that these should be consistent and recommend these definitions of Open and Closed as stated in the AA GB Structure Handbook (page 102 Group Meetings).
The Closed Meeting is intended for alcoholics and for those with an alcohol problem who have a desire to stop drinking.
The Open Meeting is intended for alcoholics and non-alcoholics e.g. family, friends and anyone interested in AA.
- b. Could GSB ensure that the definitions of Open and Closed are displayed prominently in appropriate places on the AAGB website such as Find a Meeting page, on the results page of the Meeting Finder; on the actual meeting details page; at the top of the Intergroup Meetings List that's automatically produced on the Intergroup microsites homepage; in the "Download PDF Meeting List".
- c. The website has checkbox options for adding Open and Closed to the filters on the search page.

Voting:

Yes 17

No 1

Abstain: 1

Minority Opinion:

1. The term closed should be removed as it has for many years been a confusing term to newcomers/those yet to find the rooms. Fellowship was suggested as a replacement term for Closed.
2. One region decided to remove the term Closed from its meeting finder due to the possible confusion
One delegate felt that both terms Open and Closed are confusing and should be removed.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Review revised Introduction, Point 3 – What professionals have said about Alcoholics Anonymous, AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

Our committee voted and passed with a majority vote with recommendation of the following change: Cochrane Evidence Review and Authors' Soundbites - AA/12-Step Facilitation (AA/TSF) Works ([see full report](#)).

Voted:

Yes 15

No 2

Abstention 2

Minority opinion:

A delegate expressed the quotes from Sir Isaac Newton and Tom Hanks were felt to be inappropriate and should be excluded. The quote from Henry Kissinger was also considered inappropriate.

Conference approved this recommendation with a simple majority.

4. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 6 (Health), Point 6.13 - Alcoholics Anonymous/12-Step Facilitation (AA/TSF) NICE Recommendation and Cochrane Evidence Review

The NICE Quality Standard (QS11) '**Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis and management**', commissioned by NHS England, published July 2023, provides 'best practice' recommendations in England and Wales. The Quality standard is the new Gold Standard for Alcohol-use disorders (AUDs).

HLOs can mention this information when they talk to professionals and adults seeking help for an alcohol-use disorder, noting that it does not come from AA, and being mindful of Traditions 6, 10 and 11.

QS11 covers identifying and supporting adults and young people (aged 10 and over) who may have an alcohol problem and caring for people with alcohol-related health problems, as well as support for their families and carers.

Out of the 5 Quality Statements set out in QS11, **Quality Statement 2** states:

'Adults seeking help for an alcohol-use disorder are given information on, and support to access, community support networks and self-help groups.'

This is relevant to the 12-step programme offered by AA.

Further information on the NICE QS11 can be found at:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs11>

Cochrane Evidence Review

The Cochrane Review of 27 relevant scientific studies showed that AA/TSF produced similar benefits to cognitive behaviour therapy and motivational enhancement therapy on all drinking-related outcomes, except for continuous abstinence and remission, where AA/TSF was superior. This is achieved largely through the long-term use of TSF

and enduring AA participation. AA/TSF also tended to reduce healthcare costs since AA support from members is free.

(Kelly JF, Humphreys K, Ferri M. Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programs for alcohol use disorder. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD012880. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012880.pub2.)

The Cochrane Review can be found at:

https://www.cochrane.org/CD012880/ADDICTN_alcoholics-anonymous-aa-and-other-12-step-programs-alcohol-use-disorder

In this AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Introduction, Section 3, 'What professionals have said about Alcoholics Anonymous', there are quotations from and the link to a YouTube interview about the Cochrane Review with co-authors, John Kelly and Keith Humphreys.

YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgMjTIwh_LA

RESPONSE:

This document was agreed as read above.

Voted:

Yes: 17

No: None

Abstain: 2

No minority views

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

5. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Dave W, South West Region for Committee 2, Conference 2026.

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Simon P, South Midlands Region for Committee 2, Conference 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIR PRAGNYA G SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

SECRETARY GILLIAN S CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

1. **Would Conference recommend creating a new leaflet explaining the use of the language in the Big Book and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the historical period it was written.**

The Plain Language Big Book was frequently mentioned as already addressing this need although it should be noted that the timing of the question coincided with the Plain Language Big Book becoming available in AAGB.

This committee has considered the question carefully and concluded that a new leaflet is not necessary.

Majority view

The Plain Language Book is now available and this addresses many of these issues.

Sponsorship : Many regions felt explaining the language and historical context is a sponsor's role.

Resource Allocation: Concerns about using time and money that could be directed to other work e.g. Plain Language 12 and 12.

Consistency Issues: Difficulty in deciding which words to explain and potential for diluting the message.

Limited Effectiveness: Comments that leaflets are often not read or available

Minority view

Sponsorship is not uniform. In this context, a leaflet could provide support.

There was acknowledgment that language barriers do exist, particularly for members with diverse needs and for those for whom English is not their first language.

Discussion points

Digital Solutions: Website features like hover-over explanations or online resources. On the AAGB website landing page consider inserting a one line sentence saying eg, we would like to draw awareness to the fact that the language of the BB is of its time and concentrate on the message.

Minimal Additions: Bookmarks, brief inserts, or prefaces in future editions. These could offer flexibility in reaching all those who need AA. Obviously, costs will be incurred but this should not be the primary consideration.

Promote Existing Resources: Better awareness of the Plain Language Big Book and other available materials

Group Solutions: Having a "dictionary person" in meetings who can explain terminology.

The Twelve and Twelve portion of the question was largely ignored in responses.

Some regions had mixed opinions with no clear consensus.

Vote: unanimous

Minority opinion from the floor was that it is not clear and concise, and it could be very easily misinterpreted.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. Would Conference consider recommending changing the terms of service for positions within intergroup and region, to attract more members into service by increasing or decreasing the term.

Our Committee does not recommend changing the terms of service either at intergroup or at region. The current terms of service are suggested and are a good balance between length of commitment and building effectiveness in the role. Please refer to Traditions 4 and 9.

It is suggested that service sponsorship focuses on AA's Third Legacy of Service.

Ref. Service Handbook (2024 edition), p13. 1.5

Vote: unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Introduction, New Point 5 – for the new Appendix – the former Chapter 4.

The committee recommends deleting the words 'considered to be' from the second paragraph so it reads

'Whilst this is not part of AA service...'

Also at the end of paragraph 3 add the words 'and service'.

Vote: unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 13, Publications new section 13.6 Literature.

Service Handbook

DRAFT

For inclusion into the PUBLICATION Chapter

13.6 Literature Group

Each group, being autonomous, selects the officers its members feel are necessary for the smooth running of the group. Most groups select a Literature Secretary, who has a known period of continuous sobriety of at least one year, and have shown themselves willing and available to give dependable service through regular attendance at meetings.

The duties of the Literature Secretary include but are not limited to ensuring that the group has available its own copy of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) and ordering and keeping the group supplied with Conference approved books and pamphlets published by AA, which are available from GSO. Other duties for a Literature Secretary may be:

- putting together selected packs of literature for newcomers, making sure the stocks are replenished
- ensuring that literature is on display and available to members at group meetings, encouraging members to buy from the collection
- purchasing literature from the AAGB online bookshop
- encouraging individuals/groups to combine orders to reduce postage costs
- making available the current edition of the AA Service News and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain, especially at business meetings
- passing any accounts for payment of literature to the Treasurer
- helping the Secretary to circulate AA Service News, convention flyers, notices from GSO, etc.

Intergroup and Region

There tends to be no literature roles at intergroups and regions. Each service discipline usually sources their own literature. Some intergroups, however, do have specific roles for literature.

Literature Sub Committee

Aims

The Literature Sub Committee ensures that our literature remains current in line with AA's Steps, Traditions and Concepts and is always available for AA members to use in their recovery and service. In this way, the message is carried to the still suffering alcoholic in a clear and concise way.

Objectives

Under the guidance of Conference via the GSB, the Literature Sub Committee is responsible for drafting new and reviewing existing literature. It collaborates with other service disciplines by reviewing and updating their literature.

To serve as a member of the Literature Sub Committee you would need to:

- have five years' sobriety

- have an understanding of the **Steps, Traditions and Concepts**
- be able to commit for a period of four years whilst working collaboratively with others
- be able to attend meetings up to four times a year - twice in York and twice online
- be happy to work in smaller teams on projects.

Experience at intergroup and region would be an advantage, and experience at Conference would be useful but is not necessary.

Apart from getting involved and growing within service, members benefit from discovering the joy, satisfaction and excitement gained in creating new literature as directed by Conference. They see the difference this makes to AA's primary purpose.

Working as part of a team, where everyone is listened to and all ideas are considered, members acquire skills such as active listening, flexibility, assertiveness and learning the practical values of AA's Traditions and Concepts.

Vote: unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

5. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Cath W, Highlands & Islands Region as Chair of Committee 3 for Conference 2026.

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Adam G, London Region North as Secretary of Committee 3 for Conference 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIR RACHEL D LONDON REGION SOUTH

SECRETARY ANGELA Y GLASGOW REGION

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss how to improve our common welfare at all levels of AAGB and encourage groups to seek their own conscience in regard of the safeguarding guidance when an issue arises, e.g.**
 - a. **outside the law**
 - b. **within the law**
 - c. **if someone feels they have been falsely accused**

Committee 4 had a full discussion on the safeguarding question and all opinions were considered. There was confusion within the committee in relation to safeguarding which reflects the confusion within the Fellowship. The consensus is that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the Fellowship, and any issues should be dealt with at group level with clear guidance from GSB in accordance with the AA Traditions.

It is the conscience of Committee 4, to improve our common welfare, there should be clarification on 'The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Safeguarding Policy Document' and the 'Safeguarding and Personal Conduct' Chapter 5 in the AA Structure Handbook.

We ask GSB to

1. Review and amend Chapter 5 in the AA Structure Handbook, specifically paragraph 5.1, to distinguish between:
 - a) The Safeguarding Policy which applies to the charitable organisation (AAGB)
 - b) Guidance provided by the remainder of this section of the Structure Handbook Section 5 – Section 8.
2. Review The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Safeguarding Policy Document (specifically the language used)

Vote: Unanimous

Minority opinion from the floor to remove the word safeguarding, because the term safeguarding has legal connotations and can lead professionals we work with to have expectations we may not meet, such as reporting to the 'relevant authorities'.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. a. Can Conference review the use of the phrase “men for men and women for women” in the ‘Sponsorship: Your questions answered’ pamphlet, and make recommendations?

b. Would Conference recommend producing a card, for groups to read out when a newcomer is attending, giving guidance around seeking help/sponsorship from members within the Fellowship?

a) A man for a man and a woman for a woman has often been suggested as working best today. However, we recognise that sexual and/or romantic attraction, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, can be problematic and may create safeguarding issues. So we have answered that as Yes and we would like the pamphlet to reflect what is currently in the Structure Handbook.

b) No

Vote: Unanimous

Minority opinion from the floor was that there could have been two votes, one on the first question and one on the second question.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. **Review revised AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 3 – AA and Electronic Communications**

Committee 4 propose the following changes to Chapter 3 in the AA Service Handbook:

- An additional sentence be added to Section 3.8 Online Responder Service and Chat Now Service
When applying to be a responder, applicants will also need to agree to a basic DBS/Disclosure & PVG check, **as they will be volunteers for the charity.**

Minority view recorded from the Fellowship: Section 3.8 should be removed from the handbook as it is conflicted with Tradition 2 and Concept 4.

Vote: 17 For, 1 Against

Minority opinions from the floor that if the Charity choose to carry out DBS checks on their own employees, that’s fine, but it shouldn’t be imposed on the Fellowship.
I don’t volunteer for the Charity; I volunteer for the Fellowship.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. **Review AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain, The General Service Board page 162, add new paragraph between the part paragraph at the top of page before the first full paragraph.**

Yes

Vote: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Angela Y, Glasgow Region as Chair of Committee 4 for Conference 2026.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Suzie C, North West Region as Secretary of Committee 4 for Conference 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIR HEATHER G SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY ANDY D WALES & BORDERS REGION

1. **Would the fellowship consider the creation of a video which is aimed at encouraging Men into AA. This would complement the suite of videos already available for Women, Armed Forces, People of Colour, Bluelight Services and LGBTQIA+.**

Committee 5 considered the question and recommends the Board to investigate the creation of a shorter form video aimed at encouraging men into AA, and report back to Conference 2026.

Committee 5 recommends the board consider:

- a. A lower production cost option
- b. Ease of use / visibility within the AA website
- c. Challenging stereotypes

Decision: Vote Unanimous

Minority opinion from the floor that if we create this which is essentially a better resource than what has already been created for other groups of people, we will then have a better resource for men in AA than for all of the other groups.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. **Would the Fellowship discuss and offer experience of the use of the 'Pink Form' and suggest ways for groups to more regularly update their group information.**

The committee felt the use of the name 'Pink Form' caused some confusion and instead suggests using the name, 'Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form'. It was the committee's experience that best practice was for the GSR to regularly and promptly complete the form with up-to-date information
What is the purpose of the form?

- a. Transmits accurate up-to-date information to newcomers, members, and visitors
- b. Registers a meeting with GSO meeting finder
- c. Potentially provides access to Public Liability Insurance (check via Intergroup/Region)
- d. Can help acquire a group bank account if required
- e. Helps AA archivists chart group history
- f. Provides unique group number
- g. Facilitates access to GSO notifications and information
- h. Keeps telephone and online response information up to date
- k. Supports the CHIT system

Where is it?

- a. Some Intergroups appoint Liaison Officers to help groups register
- b. Some Intergroups give paper instructions to their GSRs
- c. Available online (AAGB website)

When?

It is the committee's experience the Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form should be used when:

- a. Registering a new meeting
- b. A meeting closes
- c. Group details change
- d. Or at least on an annual basis

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- a. Changing the name of the form to 'Group Information – Registration and Update Meeting Form'.
- b. The Committee recommends that AA literature (all formats) consistently reflects the name change
- c. GSO creates a QR code to be used in AA literature that directs members to the form
- d. Requests the Board considers ways to automate and streamline the group registration and update process whilst remaining GDPR compliant
- e. The Board considers use of the AA World Services meeting guide technology
- f. The Committee suggests the board creates a 'How To Guide' to complete the form digitally (e.g. drop-down guides)
- g. Pull out copy in centre pages of the AA service news
- h. The Committee recommends the board brings a report to Conference 2026.

The Committee's experience was there is a significant number of groups either not registered or disengaged with the AA service structure, and therefore we suggest this should be addressed as a separate question at a future conference.

Vote 18 for 1 against

Minority opinion: the group secretaries or designated officer should have responsibility for the form as groups may not have a GSR.

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Old Chapter 4 now Appendix X: For AA Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

Experience has shown that a member, well-informed about AA, combined with a professional responsibility, can be invaluable to both roles.

AA contributors to this guidance overwhelmingly agreed that it is professional skill and experience, not AA membership, which qualifies one for these positions.

Understanding the Twelve Traditions and how they were developed is encouraged, especially Traditions Six, Eight, Ten and Eleven. If in any doubt, seek guidance from a sponsor.

An individual working in the alcoholism field may well be the only AA member that their colleagues have ever met. It should be made clear from the start that they do not represent AA.

In accordance with Tradition Six, members working within agencies should discourage the use of the AA name in its promotional literature or using language that implies endorsement by AA.

AA does not recommend people for jobs in the alcoholism field. Individuals may recommend another member, but on the clear understanding that the reference is strictly personal.

Anonymity

Whether or not we disclose AA membership is up to the individual, remembering that it is important not to violate Tradition Eleven. Saying publicly or in print, on television or anywhere else “I am an alcoholic” or “a recovering alcoholic” does not break an AA Tradition provided AA membership is not included in that statement. It is vital to remember never to reveal another member’s identity.

Helpful Hints:

- a. Personal recovery comes first, recognising the separation between AA and the job;
- b. If possible, speak to other AA members employed in similar fields;
- c. Consider your personal and professional boundaries before:
 - Sponsoring a current client or service user
 - Attending the same meeting as your current clients or service users; remember that they may feel uncomfortable. It would be useful to remind them that you are there as an AA member only.

Common sense should always apply!
(Revised 2025)

Vote: Unanimous

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

4. Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Gary H, Glasgow Region for Committee 5 for Conference 2026

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.

The Committee elected Phill O, Eastern Region for Committee 5, Conference 2026

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIR RICHARD P-S SOUTH WEST REGION
SECRETARY SHARON W GLASGOW REGION

1. **Would the Fellowship share its experience on how our message of recovery can be carried to online platforms such as:**

YouTube
Instagram
TikTok
Facebook
Snapchat
Twitch
Vimeo

Whilst remaining faithful to our Traditions.

The conscience of Committee 6 is as follows –

The experience of the Fellowship is limited in the use of online platforms; however, members recognise the need to explore these opportunities to carry our message of recovery. We are also aware of the potential challenges of doing so.

As the world continues to shift online, there's a growing conversation about whether and how AA can find a meaningful, respectful space within the digital landscape.

Some of the challenges we have identified are –

1. Misinformation online
2. Protecting Anonymity
3. The AA name being brought into public controversy
4. Fear of violating the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts
5. Concern over a lack of expertise in this area

Some of the potential benefits are –

- a) Reaching a greater number and a more diverse audience of still suffering alcoholics
- b) Carrying the message to a younger generation
- c) Greater visibility and awareness (we are anonymous not invisible)
- d) Cost effective and flexible
- e) Clear signposting and accessibility

Committee 6 recommends that the General Service Board produces and provides guidance for the Fellowship on platform-neutral social media use.

Committee 6 further recommends that the General Service Board explores and implements a secure and non-interactive presence for AAGB on a selection of social media platforms to signpost visitors to the AAGB website, with a view to expanding our social media presence moving forward.

As stated in the summary of the AA and Electronic Communications chapter of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2024 (3:10 p.50)

“Electronic Communications are evolving swiftly. New features and services, which are not possible at the time of writing the guidance, will appear. There will be greater advantages to be gained – and greater pitfalls to avoid. We are responsible – not only for making the best use of service and facilities available – but also of ensuring that it is used with integrity and in accordance with our Traditions. If we do this, we will not go far wrong.”

Vote:

For 15

Against 0

Abstained 1

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

2. Review AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Chapter 1 – Public Information.

Chapter 1 : Public Information

Public Information is **part of the** Third Legacy of Service in action. Along with Recovery and Unity, we have inherited this legacy from the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous.

One of the co-founders, Bill W, had this to say:

“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 enterprises in the alcoholism field.”

Concept XI – Twelve Concepts for World Service

AA needs effective communication with the general public and professional communities involved with the alcoholic.

1. Introduction

Public Information (PI) in AA means carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the AA programme. We do this by getting in touch with professionals and any organisation which is in a position to pass on knowledge of what AA can do for the still suffering alcoholic.

~~Our first aim of this chapter is to suggest ways in which members can carry out PI work.~~

The aim of this chapter is to guide you through the PI process, from the formation of a committee through the functions such a committee can perform. What follows suggests ways members and local PI Committees can do PI work.

Those undertaking PI work for the first time, at group, intergroup or at regional level, should be encouraged to read this Handbook.

It is important to remember that ~~the Traditions of AA should be observed~~ all PI work **should be carried out within the confines of AA's 12 Traditions.** We should remain anonymous at the level of press, radio and TV on a personal basis, but that does not mean that we cannot identify ourselves fully when dealing with

professionals. We are not secret; those doing PI service work need to be accessible by name and address to those with whom we wish to conduct our business.

~~Our second aim is to tell the~~ Our purpose is to inform the public through as many organisations as possible what AA is, how it works, and where contact can be made. We should make clear that it

has worked for us. An important element of this is a willingness to spread the message by ~~making contact with~~ contacting appropriate professionals and services. Sponsorship into service and working with other PIs at committee level provides experience for this type of service.

2. What is PI?

PI work is also referred to as 'Carrying ~~the our~~ message to the general public'. Experience has shown that intergroups and regions are the bodies that can most usefully discuss PI matters, and from which one or more PI committees can be formed. Groups are encouraged to undertake local PI working with their intergroup where possible. PI is a co-operative venture; communication across intergroup is essential, and the sharing of service experience is ~~usual commonplace~~. Positive steps should be taken to keep the health, prison, probation/courts and the criminal justice service in Scotland, and all other liaison officers informed of PI developments. The service structure of AA encourages the appointment of ~~an Intergroup/Region~~ ~~Regional~~ PI Officer ~~to~~ help co-ordinate events, information and skills.

3. The PI Committee

For many years local Public Information Committees (~~PI Committees~~) have been the way the message has been carried to the professional community and, in many places, this is still the case. A ~~PI~~ ~~PI Committee~~ at intergroup may be formed of members from the Fellowship, and chaired by the intergroup PI liaison officer.

In deciding what activities the ~~PI~~ ~~PI Committee~~ initiates in relation to other service disciplines, the following extract may be useful:

"In keeping with our Traditions of placing principles before personalities, who or what committee carries the AA message is not important as long as our message is carried to the still suffering alcoholic." (reference TBI)

Another thought to keep in mind is, '~~e~~Easy does it'. Once you get started with the formation of a committee, it is a good idea to take it easy at first until you are sure just what the needs are, and how many people you have available to get the job done. For some committees the first task is to inform AA members about co-operating with professionals, sometimes to correct misconceptions about whether AAs should be taking the initiative in going out to non-AA members. A few newly formed ~~PI~~ ~~PI Committees~~ have reported resistance from members who fear they will be doing 'promotion' by letting professionals know about AA. Whether or not misconceptions exist, it is always a good idea to make sure there are members available and eager to start before setting up ambitious projects.

4. Communication

Communication ~~within AA~~ about PI work is important for ongoing initiatives. Some ~~PI~~ ~~PI Committes~~:

- ☐ share with one another via region or by exchanging minutes of their meetings
- ☐ share activities and ideas with the General Service Office (GSO) for possible inclusion in AA Service News and other relevant communication channels
- ☐ are visible to other AAs through regular attendance and participation at group and

other AA business meetings

☐ share service experience, encouraging sponsorship into service

☐ let the Online Response Service and intergroups know whom to approach when there is a need for a PI contact

Often, the AA programme works when an active alcoholic wants help, and an AA is on hand to give that help. Professional services such as doctors, alcoholism agencies, treatment facilities, employers, or even a relative may be crucial to getting that alcoholic into recovery because of the message that had been carried to them.

5. Working within the Traditions

~~The role of a doctor or a member of the clergy in relation to an alcoholic is far different from the AA custom of sharing experience. Professionals necessarily work on different assumptions from ours. It is helpful to non-alcoholics—and vital to our health as a Fellowship—that others understand our assumptions.~~

Our guiding principles as a Fellowship are contained in the Twelve Traditions. The responsibility for preserving our Traditions rests with AA's and with us alone. In order to preserve them, we must understand them. We cannot expect non-AA members to comprehend and observe the Traditions unless we are well informed about them ourselves.

Thoughtful reading of AA literature, such as 'Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions' and the pamphlets, 'AA Tradition – How it Developed', and, 'An Introduction to our 12 Traditions', is recommended for anyone who works with non-AA members. In addition, the first few pages of, 'How AA Members Co-operate with Professionals', point out some ways all the Traditions are relevant for PI. ~~and which Traditions that Let us take a look at a few Traditions that on the face of it seem unrelated to PI work. The First Tradition points out that personal recovery depends on unity—something we can all keep in mind when, for example, new members cause controversy within the group. The Second Tradition reminds us that a loving God as expressed in the group conscience is our ultimate authority and is a help when we are tempted to impose the 'right' way of working the programme to seemingly unwilling newcomers. The Third Tradition reminds us that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, and that we cannot judge whether another alcoholic has a desire to stop drinking. And the Fifth Tradition brings us back to the primary purpose of any AA group—to carry the message.~~

~~The Traditions most directly connected with PI are Six (co-operation without affiliation), Seven (self-support), Eight (AAs should always remain non-professional), Ten (no opinion on outside issues), Eleven and Twelve (anonymity). apply most directly.~~

~~Tradition Six: "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."~~

~~Many alcoholism programmes run by external agencies co-operate closely with AA and their representatives speak glowingly of the 12 Step programme. To what extent should AA members participate in the programmes of these agencies?~~

~~Experience has given us a simple guiding principle: we do co-operate, but we do not affiliate. We want to work with other alcoholic organisations, but not be merged with them in the public mind. We should be careful to make it clear that AA is available as a resource for other agencies, but public linking of the AA name can give the impression of affiliation. To avoid this, we should always be careful to make it clear that we are always available purely through co-operation and not affiliation.~~

~~Tradition Seven: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside~~

contributions.”

As active alcoholics, many of us were always looking for a handout, and part of personal recovery lies in making ourselves responsible human beings. The same principle applies to the Fellowship, and much of the respect of AA accorded by non-AA members results from this Tradition. Handsome gifts may have strings attached. Our effectiveness as a Fellowship and our usefulness to other organisations that call on us is greatly enhanced by the fact that we are free to do what we do best—share a programme of recovery with no outside obligations.

Tradition Eight “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.”

This Tradition asks AA members to stick to what they know best, personal recovery and Twelfth Step work, not to become authorities on the whole field of alcoholism and recovery. We share only our individual recovery programme, but we are not professionals. We have no official definition of alcoholism. Although we are the victims of the illness, we have no profound knowledge of either its cause or ‘cure’. We should also never comment on the practices of other alcohol treatment agencies just because they vary from our own beliefs.

Most AAs have had the experience of explaining to a cynical newcomer: ‘No, I don’t get paid for talking to you. I do it because it helps me stay sober.’ Just as professionals can reach people AA might never encounter, we can get through to active alcoholics in a unique way that a professional may not be able to offer.

Tradition Ten: “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

Here again, a Tradition reminds us to do what we know best and not be diverted from our primary purpose. By staying away from public controversy, we strengthen AA’s unity within and its reputation in the public eye.

Tradition Eleven: “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.”

Tradition Twelve: “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

The anonymity Traditions remind us that our responsibility is to make the AA way of life look attractive to alcoholic and non-alcoholic alike. They alert us, too, to the dangers of pushing AA on professionals rather than providing information for others to use in the most appropriate way. The assurance of anonymity for the newcomer is also crucial, and a professional who refers an alcoholic to AA appreciates being given that assurance.

We find it helpful to emphasise that our anonymity Traditions mean we are a Fellowship of peers, and that we learn to help others without expecting credit or reward.

This subject has already been touched upon in the introduction to this document. It is worth repeating, however, that there is an important distinction between person-to-person anonymity and anonymity at the media level. It is strongly suggested that the book, ‘Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions’, is read by all those who seek to understand this and of course, the other Traditions.

When a PI COMMITTEE finds itself in trouble, it is usually because its members do not fully

understand the Traditions and thus, cannot adequately explain them to non-AA members.

The Traditions are our Traditions and the responsibility for preserving them is ours.

Many PICs place fundamental importance on informing their working members about

~~these Traditions — what they are and why they came into being. Only with this groundwork can PICs effectively communicate AA principles to the general public and to representatives of the media. We cannot expect others to understand and observe the Traditions if we are too poorly informed of them ourselves. Sadly, we have also found that lack of information can lead to intolerance. For example, if an AA member's anonymity is broken at the media level, it is often quite simply the result of a misunderstanding. Members who jump to the conclusion that the media (or an inefficient PIC) is at fault, and who write indignant letters or make hasty phone calls, would do well to think twice. A courteous note explaining the Traditions, either to the member involved or to the media, is helpful; a snap judgement is not. The same principle applies when other Traditions are broken by AA members or non-AA members. Love and tolerance is the AA way.~~

6. Contacting professionals

A very important part of PI work is contacting professionals for example to:

- ☐ establish formal contact between the organisation and AA
- ☐ ask for an appointment with a representative of the organisation
- ☐ provide speakers to give talks about AA and share their experience
- ☐ provide literature

~~When carrying out PI work, ideally, two members should present.~~ Sponsors may wish to invite sponsees, as this will provide a valuable learning experience. ~~When carrying out PI work, ideally, two members should present.~~ On some occasions it may be convenient to play an AA Conference approved video.

Members can provide AA published literature at a talk, and it is suggested that a telephone number should be provided for attendees to contact AA following the meeting.

Most people at a meeting of non-AA members want to know what AA is and what it does, rather than hear a drinking story. Speakers may wish to draw upon the AA Preamble and Twelve Traditions and also provide a short history of AA. PowerPoint slides may also be used. Some presentations and templates are available on the AAGB website. ~~[Please insert www. Link here]~~

~~It is important that members of AA remember that they are guests and co-operate fully.~~

We should all bear in mind the statement of PI adopted by the Fellowship in 1956:

“In all public relations, AA's sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him, and those who may be interested in his problems, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We further believe that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of AA are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.”

What your committee decides to do will be dictated by your own needs and experience. The suggestions here are just that – suggestions. It is hoped they will spark your thinking and give you leads on new ways to approach professional people where you are.

7. Personal identification

Conference 1998 decided “In today's society there is an ever-increasing requirement for protecting the identity of members of the Fellowship.”

When working with outside agencies for PI work, the host may require individual

personal identification, such as a letter from intergroup or region, passport, ID card, driving licence or letter of invitation. It is important that members of Alcoholics Anonymous remember that they are guests and co-operate fully.

Notification of the arrangements made for visits or talks including, where appropriate, the sponsoring PI Officer, should provide the names of members attending to the host organisation.

It is important that Alcoholics Anonymous does not become invisible – some loss of anonymity is inherent in PI work.

8. Ways to proceed

The following are some of the ways AA members in your area can tell others about AA, and to keep the friends of AA working with us.

8.1. Public Information meeting for non-AA persons

A public information meeting can do a lot to strengthen relationships with non-alcoholic friends and help make new friends. Such meetings can be set up by the PI committee and sometimes groups hold public meetings (to celebrate the group anniversary, for example). Many groups regularly invite to their open meetings: doctors, ministers, police officers, employers, public service workers and others who deal with active alcoholics.

Many such meetings benefit from being in the day time, as most professionals find this more convenient in their schedule. It is a good idea to send invitations well in advance to professionals before a meeting is planned. Send invitations to friends of AA and to all who are interested in the problem, such as, doctors, judges, alcoholism agencies, clergy/spiritual leaders, HR directors, social workers and the media.

8.2. A suggested meeting format

Short introduction by AA Chair who should try to cover the following:

☐ welcoming remarks: AA's willingness to help whenever it can

☐ anonymity: A request that all present respect the anonymity of AA members present

☐ what AA is and is not

☐ ~~AA is not a religious programme but a spiritual way of life~~

☐ AA is inclusive ~~and open to all regardless of age, gender, personal circumstances or ethnicity~~

☐ AA is available 24/7 ~~and we are self-supporting through our own contributions at the point of entry~~

☐ ways of contacting AA

☐ ~~AA's Tradition of self-support~~

As many non-AA members have helped us, a non-AA guest speaker may be invited to discuss AA from their point of view and experience. An AA may speak briefly about their drinking experience, the AA programme and especially their recovery. Some time could be provided for questions from visiting professionals. There could be concluding remarks from the Chair, thanking all those present, reminding them of how AA can help and where it can be found, and asking those attending to encourage other professionals they know to come to future open or public meetings.

It is not always necessary to include non-AA speakers but experience shows that many ~~PICs~~ **PI Committees** have had larger attendance and support from other professionals when a non-AA speaks well of our Fellowship.

Many **PICsPI Committees** use the 'public meeting' as an introduction to professionals and other interested parties. Professionals attending such meetings could then be contacted by

members offering literature, telephone service numbers and lists of local meetings, as well as giving further talks about how AA can co-operate.

8.3. AA Speakers at non-AA meetings

Talks to outside groups are perhaps the most widely used and are a popular method of PI. Detailed suggestions on this means of communication will be found in the pamphlet, 'Speaking at non-AA Meetings'. The pamphlet, 'AA at a Glance', is often used as a give-away item when members speak to non-AA member's groups.

8.4. Participation in non-AA member's events

In observance of Tradition Six (co-operation but not affiliation) many **PICsPI Committees** participate in events sponsored by non-AA organisations.

PI liaison officers are often asked to participate in Health Fairs or voluntary organisation open-days, sponsored by local colleges, public health organisations etc. Members of the local **PIC PI Committee** frequently staff an AA booth to provide any information requested. Some health and social care providers along with intergroups and regions organise Alcohol Awareness days which provide other opportunities for AA to co-operate.

Display units and literature for use in these events can be obtained from GSO.

Experience shows that by attending such events, the message is not only carried to those visiting but also to other voluntary or professional organisations attending the sponsored event. This sometimes creates follow-up actions for the **PIC-PI Committee**.

8.5. A Public Information workshop for members of the Fellowship

Many **PICsPI Committees** have found that holding workshops to look at local needs and opportunities, the service structure and the Traditions are a great way of exploring ideas and settling on methods to carry the message.

Here is an example:

An all-day workshop was planned. It was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by a reading of the short form of the Twelve Concepts. The Fifth Tradition was also read and related to the First Concept. The Tradition says that each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the message; the ultimate responsibility and authority belong to the groups. A brief presentation on PI was given. The bulk of the day was devoted to discussion. Breakout groups were organised to discuss specific topics with a secretary appointed to take notes and report back.

Discussion topics were assigned to each breakout group. Suggested topics could include:

- ❑ what is the best way to form a **PIC-PI Committee**?
- ❑ how do we form a working plan for the committee?
- ❑ what is the best way to reach and engage with professionals?
- ❑ how can we sponsor members of the Fellowship into service?
- ❑ how can we support doctors, clergy, and police?
- ❑ how can we bridge the gap between professionals and AA?
- ❑ what types of presentations are appropriate for professionals?
- ❑ what is AA's attitude towards professionals?

Each breakout group then presented a summary of their discussion to the full workshop.

8.6. A public information newsletter

One ~~PI~~ **PI Committee** chair started a PI newsletter, sharing news of what was going on in the area, urging members to get involved and to help find others who wanted to participate. One newsletter suggested the use of literature as a training tool for new committee members and as handouts to professionals where appropriate. The chair included lists of literature appropriate for these purposes, and offered to work with local committees. The use of Conference approved literature for all PI work was recommended.

The newsletter was circulated to all Group Service Representatives, suggesting that attendance at intergroup and participation in ~~PI~~ **PI Committee** meetings would be a great way to get involved in carrying the message.

9. Suggested professional contacts and helping organisations

Some suggested organisations that you can provide information and help to are:

- ☐ Alcohol Treatment Units, NHS Alcohol Support, community-based alcohol services
- ☐ Agencies involved with delivering work related assessments to health benefit claimants
- ☐ Age UK
- ☐ Approved Premises
- ☐ Armed Services
- ☐ Carers e.g. Carers UK
- ☐ Chambers of Commerce
- ☐ Charities
- ☐ Citizens Advice – a source of a wide range of organisations
- ☐ Civil Service – www.gov.uk, follow ‘contact’ links
- ☐ Deafness – e.g. Deafness Support Network. (The Big Book is available in BSL on DVD)
- ☐ Dentists
- ☐ Ethnic Community Groups
- ☐ GPs – also Practice Nurses and Practice Managers within the surgery
- ☐ Health and Safety organisations
- ☐ Health Service e.g. District Nurses, Community Psychiatric Nurses, Health Visitors, Nursing Tutors, Health Education Services, to name a few
- ☐ Hospitals e.g. Accident and Emergency, Medical and Surgical wards, substance misuse
- ☐ Homeless hostels
- ☐ Housing Aid and Advice Centres
- ☐ Housing Department of Local Authority
- ☐ JobCentre Plus – e.g. Personal Advisors, Employment Engagement Team, Disability Employment Advisor, all of whom may welcome greater awareness
- ☐ Libraries – may be willing to display posters, literature, videos etc.
- ☐ Magistrates – The Clerk to the Court can be very helpful e.g. by displaying posters and passing on literature to the magistrates
- ☐ Mediation services – divorce and separation specialists
- ☐ Pharmacies
- ☐ Police e.g. Police Community Support Officers, Community Liaison Officers and Domestic Violence Units
- ☐ Prisons
- ☐ Probation Services – besides dealing with offenders, they can provide help and support with severe family problems. May also use the chit system
- ☐ Public Health and Health Planning departments

- ☐ Rotary Club
- ☐ Samaritans
- ☐ Schools and colleges
- ☐ Spiritual leaders
- ☐ Trades Unions
- ☐ Vision support (Literature is available in Braille and spoken word Big Book on CD. There is also a soundtrack on the Big Book BSL DVD)
- ☐ Welfare Rights
- ☐ Youth and community services

Regular contact with organisations is important as staff may change frequently. Check the local press to ensure that the AA telephone number and website details are listed in the Helpline Services. Make posters and contact cards available to doctors' surgeries, pharmacies, police stations, Citizens Advice, churches etc. Also make available AA contact details to charities and other organisations.

10. Suggested Literature at events

Please find following some suggested literature that may be appropriate for distribution at events (available from GSO)

- ☐ An Introduction to our 12 Traditions [\[Please provide link to PI Document Store on www.\]](#)
- ☐ Speaking at non-AA Meetings
- ☐ A Message for Professionals
- ☐ How AA Members Co-operate with Professionals
- ☐ A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous
- ☐ Problems other than Alcoholism
- ☐ Understanding Anonymity
- ☐ Is AA for you?
- ☐ A Brief Guide to AA
- ☐ The AA Member, Medication and other Drugs
- ☐ The God Word

(Revised 2024)

Vote:

16 For

0 Against

0 Abstentions

Conference approved this recommendation with a two-thirds plus majority.

3. **Elect Committee Chair for Conference 2026.**

The Committee elected Phil S, Eastern Region as Chair of Committee 6 for Conference 2026.

4. **Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2026.**

The Committee elected Barry McL, Scotia Region as Secretary of Committee 6 for Conference 2026.

FIFTY-NINTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2025

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: ALISON F (East of Scotland Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

			COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Justin	T			
Holly	A		6	
Tim	B		4	
Charon	B		1	
Andrina	C		4	
John	C		5	
Jo	F		5	
Carmel	G		3	
Max	J		3	
Zelma	K		2	
Hamish	McS		1	
Levey	P		6	
Angela	S		6	
Tony	S		2	
Gretchen	S		4	
Jim	M	(Elect)	2	
Ranjana Bell			5	
Emma Gipson			5	
Kieran Moriarty			2	
Graham Duncan		(Elect)	3	
Mike Newton		(Elect)	1	
Jill Tolfrey		(Elect)	4	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ranjan B General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Sophie Wright
Jenny Pryke
Chris North
Mandy Tervet
Emma W
Catherine W

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Steve	C	1	1
Kevin	D	2	2
Laura	W	3	1
Greg	H	4	3
Phil	O’N	5	1
Phil	S	6	2

LONDON REGION NORTH

Patrick	R	1	3
Ed	B	2	2
Adam	G	3	1
Richard	D	4	2
Rawiri	J	5	A
Michelle	McG	6	A

LONDON REGION SOUTH

Sheila	C	1	1
Gary	E	2	3
Barbara	R	3	1
Rachel	D	4	3
Rose	W	5	2
Victor	T	6	1

MIDLANDS REGION

Alex	Mc	1	2
Ian	C	2	2
Patricia	C	3	A
Andy	P	4	1
Tom	McD	5	1
		6	

NORTH EAST REGION

Mark	T	1	2
Bob	W	2	2
Jonathan	T	3	3
Joanne	H	4	1
Jerry	B	5	2
Aline	B	6	3

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
NORTH WEST REGION			
Pete	N	1	3
Sheila	E	2	1
Julian	B	3	3
Suzie	C	4	1
Sally	H	5	1
Chris	D	6	3
SOUTH EAST REGION			
Steve	W	1	3
Marie	L	2	2
Steve	E	3	2
Martin	S	4	2
Richard	D P	5	1
Vanessa	H	6	2
SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION			
Tania	P	1	1
Simon	P	2	1
Pragnya	G	3	3
John	B	4	3
Janet	V	5	3
Anna	D	6	1
SOUTH WEST REGION			
David	H	1	2
Dave	W	2	1
Peter	A-L	3	2
Jorge	L	4	2
Heather	G	5	3
Richard	P-S	6	2
WALES & BORDERS REGION			
Julie	P	1	1
Carol	N	2	1
Amanda	T-H	3	3
Mik	N	4	3
Andy	D	5	3
Sandra	Mac	6	1

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Stuart	P	1	1
Cherisse	D	2	3
Hunter	H	3	1
Reuben	S	4	1
Gordon	F	5	1
David	F	6	1

GLASGOW REGION

John	C	1	1
Davie	McW	2	3
Craig	C	3	A
Angela	Y	4	2
Gary	H	5	2
Sharon	W	6	3

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Becca	C	1	1
Ian	M	2	2
Cath	W	3	2
		4	
		5	
		6	

SCOTIA REGION

Sarah	R	1	1
Phil	E	2	3
Charlie	Q	3	2
David	S	4	3
Jemma	E	5	1
Barry	McL	6	1

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

		1	
Billy	T	2	3
Colin	A	3	2
		4	
Scott	R	5	1
		6	

			COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION				
Marketa	K		1	1
Elizabeth	B		2	2
Gillian	S		3	2
Marisa	C		4	2
Jonathan	P		5	3
Jan	J		6	3

OBSERVERS

Jonas	K	(Denmark)	4	1
Jenny	K	(Ireland)	6	1
James	M	(Ireland)	5	1
Andrzej	P	(Poland)	6	1
Florence	G	(Portugal)	3	1
Nedim	G	(Turkey)	1	1
Scott	H	(USA)	2	1

Glossary of Abbreviations Used

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