

# Service Sponsorship and Sponsoring into Service

Suggested changes to: 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' (pamphlet)

## 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered' (pamphlet)

### Literature Sub Committee proposal(s):

In the AAGB pamphlet, 'Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered', the text below is suggested to be inserted at the end, replacing the section 'Sponsoring into Service'.

The first sentence is retained from existing text. The suggested new text is in **red**.

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In addition, in the section of the pamphlet, 'What does a sponsor do?', the following is suggested to be added in brackets at the end of the third paragraph (after the sentence that ends with '... and get into service'):

'Please see the final section, "Service Sponsorship and Sponsoring into Service".'

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### New Section Text:

#### **Service Sponsorship and Sponsoring into Service**

Quite apart from sponsorship of the AA programme, it is suggested that new members are 'sponsored' into service. Some AA Members may have or be a 'service sponsor'.

**Although there is no formal definition of service sponsorship or of sponsoring into service, the two may be understood in similar terms. (Some AA members would say that service sponsorship is not separate, but simply a part of sponsorship.)**

**If we understand sponsorship as one alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery programme sharing that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic, service sponsorship is essentially doing much the same but with a focus specifically on AA's Third Legacy of Service.**

**In particular, the service sponsor shares experience, strength, and hope about service roles and positions within the AAGB service structure. An alcoholic may take on (or be elected or appointed to take on) such responsibilities within the group or in the levels further down our inverted triangle – that is, at intergroup and region levels.**

**A service sponsor supports and encourages the member in all service activities – regardless of level – and leads by example. The service sponsor may suggest opportunities a member might consider and can help the member gain a deeper understanding of AA's Traditions and Concepts.**

Service sponsors can also help a member understand the commitment and responsibilities of a service position. This could help them determine whether they have the time available and are sufficiently far enough along in their sobriety to meet the obligations of the role.

Service sponsors can share their own service experiences on how interdependent the Fellowship's Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service are. They share about specific service positions they have held. A person who is rotating out of a service position – or who has formerly held it – can share direct experience of the expectations and responsibilities of that role. This is sometimes referred to as 'sponsoring into service', a term that also applies to the continuing encouragement and support more experienced members and sponsors provide to newer members and those exploring AA service and service opportunities.

Through service, many of us learn, for example, about:

- How AA functions as a Fellowship;
- How literature gets produced, how telephones get answered;
- How prisoners connect with AA members 'outside';
- How patients in treatment environments may first have direct contact with AA;
- What happens with our Seventh Tradition contributions;
- What the General Service Office – and the General Service Board and its sub committees do.

In service we can discover more about our deep history and how members have kept our Fellowship alive over the decades, thus ensuring that AA is still here for alcoholics today and tomorrow.

*\*Please also see the section 'Sponsorship into Service' in the AAGB pamphlet, 'Growing into Service', and Section 1.5, 'Sponsorship, Service Sponsorship, and Sponsoring into Service', in the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain*