

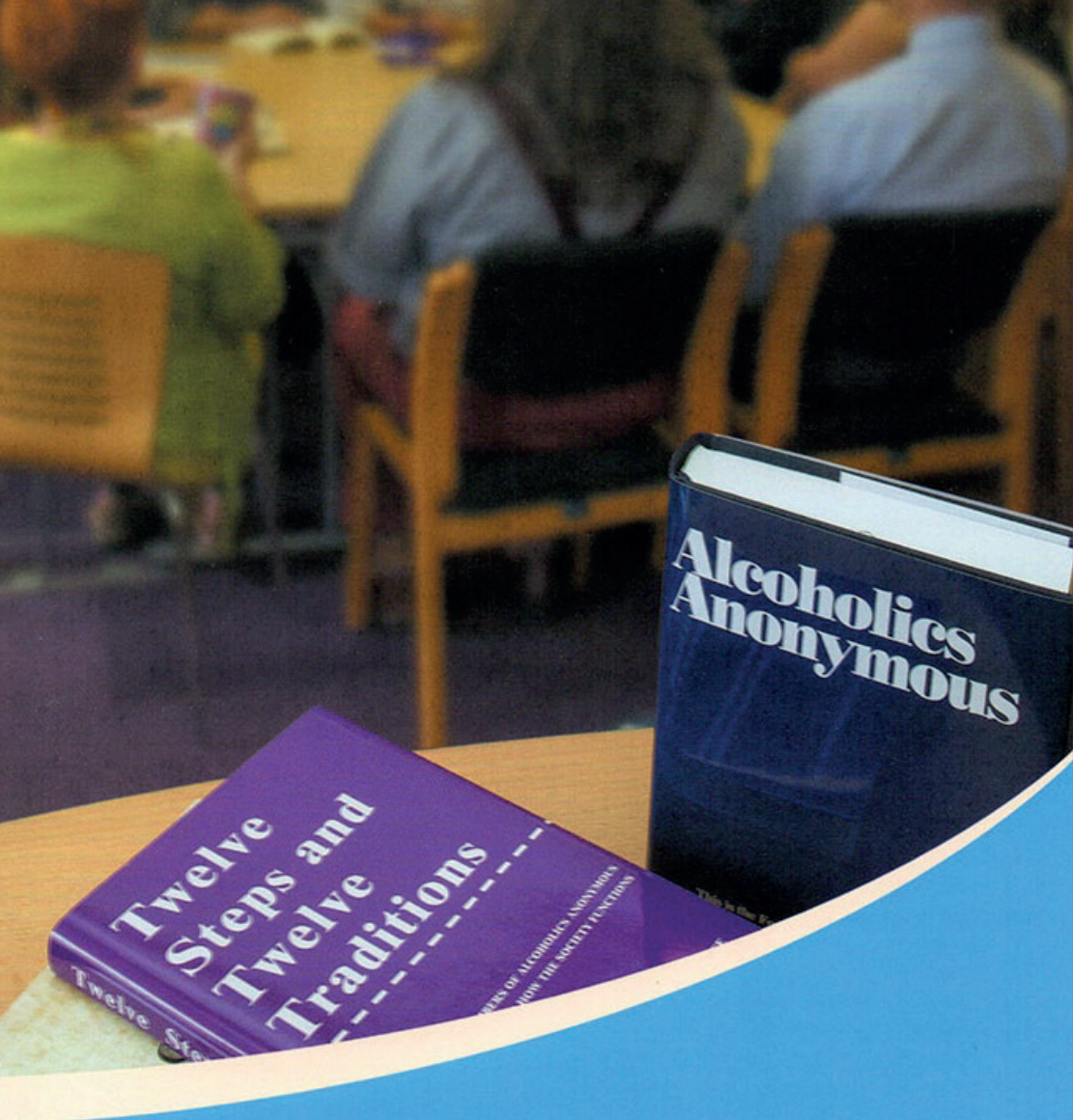
Spring 2023

AA Service News

From the General Service Office of Great Britain



Now Back in Print!



Traditions Checklist

For further information call 01904 644 026

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

12 Traditions Checklist

“3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phoney?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it); race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information and help (even if they can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what that person does for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?”

12 Traditions Checklist - AA Conference Approved Literature



AA Service News

Welcome to the Spring Edition of AA Service News

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

Share Your Service Experience!

Contributions regarding service in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas – individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, sub-committees, GSB. Please send in your articles, and help us to help you!

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

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



AA Service News,
GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

Email: editor.aasn@aamail.org

GSO Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

AA Service News

In this Spring 2023 issue...

Traditions Checklist Three	3
Employment	5
Tech Talk 2	6
World Service Meeting	7
What's Been Happening in the Fellowship	9
Why I Became a Non-Alcoholic Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous	11
General Service Board Vacancies	16
In Memoriam	25
Tradition 7.....	26
AA Service News Order Form	28

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Don't forget to send in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk



Internal pictures
Tim B & Glenn B



Front cover photo:
Glenn B



Back cover photo:
Glenn B

Employment

'Employed or Employer' - aren't most people? 'Alcoholic' - a significant percentage of our population? Sounds like unlimited opportunities for AA!

Opportunities for service are available to members of our Fellowship, and there are many vacancies for Employment Liaison Officers in intergroups, regions and on the Employment Sub Committee.

In my Fellowship experience the employment discipline has often been combined with Public Information (PI), and there is overlap with other disciplines too, such as Health. We are, however, one Fellowship!

My service to the 'employment' journey started in my homegroup when I was invited to deliver pamphlets. This felt good! A tangible contribution to my Primary Purpose. The remarkable AA recovery structure continued at intergroup. Employment was combined with PI, and I was taken along to give talks to all sorts of local organisations, which inevitably included both the employed and employers in some capacity. I gained the experience I needed to lead such events.

At region carefully structured presentations (sometimes combined with PI) were sometimes required for larger organisations - AA teamwork being always helpful. This process gradually provided me with the required and essential experience needed to serve as a member of a sub-committee, together with working the 12 Steps and Traditions. The aims, requirements and application forms for membership of a sub-committee are available on the AAGB website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

The employment sub-committee offers encouragement and support for Fellowship incentives within this discipline. We respond to employment enquiries made to our General Service Office (GSO), and any other source where we may be helpful. Primary Purpose opportunities are serviced within the employment structure, specific workshops and meetings are offered, and we participate in presentations as requested.

The employment sub-committee is currently offering our message to the 'Blue Light' services, specifically the Police and Fire Service, and other organisations such as Mountain Rescue, are within our sights. The potential opportunities are great.

So many examples of our simple Primary Purpose require individual contributions and responsible commitment from members. Our employment sub-committee wants to welcome new Employment Liaison Officers (ELO's) to enjoy the active engagement we have with employers and employees through our Fellowship, and to enjoy the personal benefits of giving service.

I am grateful for our Legacies: Unity, Service and Recovery.

Charles R - Trustee serving with Employment Sub Committee

Tech Talk 2

AA Great Britain Website Update

Work is ramping up on the project to create the new AAGB Website. A Project Team comprising staff from the web development agency, GSO and the PI & EComms Sub Committee meet weekly to agree requirements, specify work tasks, co-ordinate activity and keep things on track.

Work has been completed to survey the existing site structure and get insight of existing web traffic. The Team is now focussed on top level design concepts and elements such as the website structure, page templates, meeting finder requirements and is starting to look at existing content. There is a lot to do and it is important to take the time at this early stage to get the basics right.

**Tim B - Trustee & Tom Fox Non-Alcoholic
Trustee PI EComms**



World Service Meeting

Online October 2022

Theme: “Carrying the Message of AA in the Digital Age”

We had the honour and privilege of representing the AA Great Britain (AAGB) structure at the World Service Meeting. Originally planned for Japan, this event was held online instead and had representation from 50 AA structures. Diversity was evident, but Unity reigned. Delegates from Ukraine and Russia shared the space, as did first time attendees from Mongolia, Iranian AA (who had riots outside their doors), and Cuban delegates who had hurricanes passing through. Broadband service interruptions and technical challenges were overcome with patience and grace.

Business is conducted in two languages, English and Spanish, with constant simultaneous interpretation. Additionally, delegates from Japan, Mongolia and Iran had side-by-side interpreters to assist in their participation. Although the message is the same, customs and descriptions vary – we were surprised to be addressed as “World Leaders” – a challenge for our humility! Meetings were held over six consecutive days from 7 am to 1.30pm, New York time. That is a comfortable noon to 6.30 shift for us in GB, but in the middle of the night for delegates in Vancouver Canada, Eastern Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Each country’s first term delegate reported on highlights in their structure from the past two years. The impact of the pandemic, an

interruption to flow of Tradition 7 monies and a growth in online meetings were almost universal experiences. Second year delegates presented on varied topics. Stevie gave Amanda’s presentation on “Technology and AA – Reaching All Generations”, which she was unable to deliver in person, following a family bereavement. That and the others, were well-received and prompted much discussion.

Each delegate is part of a committee for both of their two terms of service: Agenda (Amanda/Stevie), Policy Admissions and Finance (Justin), Working with Others, and Literature. Each has its own agenda and work was focussed and inclusive. We were also assigned to Workshop groups for three sessions, each time with new people. Broad topics (The 7th Tradition in a pandemic, Integration of virtual groups into the structure, AA and social media) contained specific questions to encourage debate and led to valid experience being shared. The output from these is attached.

Finance is always a tricky subject in AA, and it was interesting to learn that some Latin American structures, although 80 plus years old, have very limited income from Tradition 7. I realised that one such country took less money each year than a popular London meeting. But they work hard to carry the message of AA recovery to still-suffering alcoholics. Unsurprisingly, the budget for the next meeting, hopefully to be held in New York, 24-31

October 2024 (Halloween costumes optional) prompted some frank exchanges of views. AA US/Canada has supported the WSM in the past to the tune of up to a quarter of a million dollars for each event, which it would be unable to do in this financial year. It is estimated that actual participation costs are in the region of US\$5k per person. A figure of US\$2,000 was approved as participation contribution from each delegate for 2024, but more affluent nations are encouraged to donate to the WSM fund (as does AAGB) to offer bursaries to less-wealthy structures. Some structures are sponsored and funded to attend by neighbouring fellowships. It is hoped that all who wish to participate will be able to. Bob, General Secretary of AA US/Canada, observed: "While the monetary size of contributions may vary, all donations have equal spiritual value." Wise words to consider when trying to find equity for structures from the Third World.

We were given an update on the International Literature Fund and progress on the issue of licences. It was interesting to learn that US/Canada is working on a 5th Edition of the Big Book – this will not contain international stories, as it's geared to still-suffering alcoholics in those countries. Each structure can commission stories to add in its own editions to enable the greatest identification. Additionally, a "Plain and Simple" Big Book is under preparation, using language which it is hoped will resonate more loudly with younger readers.

No more 'shivering denizens', perhaps?

It was interesting to observe that once a committee has completed its work, and has been proposed and seconded, the report or recommendation then belongs to the whole WSM group and is no longer the committee's property. If anyone wishes to make an amendment to the proposal or wording, the Committee have no further say in that, except in exercising their vote. We believe that this is worthy of consideration; it seems to help remove discord, as the minority view is voted upon. Perhaps a subtle difference from our procedure, but it has merit, and we saw it work to harmonious effect.

Initial reservations about the online format of the World Service Meeting were gradually eased, and after six days, true fellowship was experienced, not least during the online dancing between sessions. We all learned from others' experience, strength and hope, and it is humbling and reassuring to know that the message of AA is being carried throughout the world.

As the Latin American delegates wished us: "Happy Twenty-Four Hours!"

Stevie S, Alternate Delegate
Justin T, First Term Delegate (now Chair of Policy, Admission and Finance)



What's Been Happening in the Fellowship?

Dear Fellowship,

Looking forward to Conference 2023, and a loving gathering of mutual support between GSO, Trustees and the Fellowship, in our shared endeavours of primary purpose in carrying our message to the alcoholic inside and outside of the rooms.

Feedback from the Fellowship over the year in response to Conference 2022 has been excellent, with progress made in some of the following areas:

- Safeguarding liaison officers appointed at intergroups
- Community liaison positions created in Birmingham and London
- The world's first 'Race Today' AA Convention held virtually in October 2022, with a second Convention due to be held on March 25th 2023
- Forthcoming films on recovery for LGBT+, women, ethnic minorities and 'blue light' services
- New website design and build commenced
- Literature updated and produced

The BBC 2 documentary, occasioned by our 75th Anniversary, was enthusiastically received in and out of the rooms. The Fellowship saw an 53% increase in traffic to the website, and anecdotally many people coming to their first meeting as a result!

Prison and probation have been very successful in stimulating interest in our programme of recovery in the criminal justice system through their Roadshow around Great Britain. Our Health Sub Committee has supported the increasing number of workshops for medical professionals and students making

AA a fixture in modern treatment modalities.

All this needs money, and thanks to the generosity and trust of the Fellowship, coming out of lockdown our finances are in good shape to deliver the goods and services the Fellowship requires whilst weathering the current economic head winds. See our Annual Report, and please continue to deliver our primary purpose.

There are 3 Forums due to be held this year, and 2 seminars which includes the first Finance seminar for a generation to show:

- how we do
- what we do
- how we can do it better in the future

Forums and seminars help inspire the next generation of trusted servant, so if you are in an intergroup or hoping to join and see what service is about, get involved and come along.

See you all soon for a better recovery, one day at a time.

Ranjan B
General Secretary



Would you like your pictures in future editions of AA Service News? If yes, great!

We would need 2MB in size for printing. QUIRKY is good, and pictures that will grab the attention of an alcoholic!

Please send them to the editor at:
editor.aasn@aamail.org

Thank you!

AA Service is for you, by you. Please send articles on your AA service to the editor at:

editor.aasn@aamail.org

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

Why I became a ‘Non-Alcoholic Trustee’ for Alcoholics Anonymous

Kieran Moriarty CBE, MA, MD, FRCP, FRCPI
‘Non-Alcoholic Trustee’ for Alcoholics Anonymous 2022 - Current
Government Alcohol Adviser 2000-2020
British Society of Gastroenterology Alcohol Lead 2009-2019
Consultant Gastroenterologist and Liver Specialist Royal Bolton Hospital 1990-2018

Mission Statement and Philosophy

‘We never give up on anyone, even if they give up on themselves’

Whenever I say these words, I become emotional. At my interview to become a Non-Alcoholic Trustee (NAT) on the General Service Board, I looked around the table and realised these words would resonate with members of the interview panel. I could not get the words out and started to cry. I was not alone.

My mission statement was inspired by Kathy (not her real name), a 27-year old lady who had drunk one bottle of vodka per day since her teens. In 1994, this was her 10th admission for alcohol-related cirrhosis, internal bleeding and liver failure. On the ward round, she looked up at me and said ‘I have had enough and I want to give up’. All I could think of to say was ‘Well, Kathy, we are not giving up on you’. Those words would have a profound effect on both of our lives. Kathy pulled through, left hospital, became abstinent, resumed care for her young daughter and became successful in work.

Collaborative Liver and Psychiatry Alcohol Care at Royal Bolton Hospital

In 1990, I was appointed Consultant Gastroenterologist and Liver Specialist at Royal Bolton Hospital. Typically, in most hospitals, patients were admitted with acute alcohol withdrawal, be given a 5-7 days detoxification regime and then discharged with no follow-up, only to be readmitted soon after under another physician. I wrote to all the Bolton GPs and my consultant colleagues and asked them to refer all patients with alcohol use disorders (AUDs). They were more than pleased and I received a 660% increase in referrals!

Consequently, Wendy Darling, Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist in Substance Abuse, Stephen Liversedge, Primary Care Alcohol Lead, and our multidisciplinary team of nurses, therapists and social workers, established pioneering, collaborative liver and psychiatry primary, secondary and community person-centred alcohol care. Our teamworking ethos ensured that everyone felt valued. Historically, liver doctors (hepatologists) had worked in liver units and psychiatrists in addiction units and there was no joined-up care, especially at patient discharge. The key elements of our care evolved over 30 years. The Alcohol Specialist Nurses (ASNs) have a blend of alcohol, liver and

mental health expertise. At 8.00h, 365 days per year, an ASN goes to the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) to help to identify patients with alcohol use disorders using an 'AUDIT-C' questionnaire (similar to the tick list in the AA 'Starter Pack - Who Me?'). This detects the severity of heavy drinking, alcohol misuse or dependence with a high degree of sensitivity and specificity. This is then followed by a 'Brief Intervention' when a Healthcare Professional (HCP) identifies and discusses alcohol misuse with a person.

In 1999, I entered our team into the British Hospital Doctor Awards and remembered Kathy. Our mission statement deeply touched the judges and we won the Gastroenterology Team of the Year Award and I became the Overall British Hospital Doctor of the Year. In 2000, Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England, asked me to be a Government Adviser, and in 2002, he nominated me for the CBE. Kathy often reminded me that I owed everything to her.

What is an Alcohol Care Team?

In 2009, I was appointed the Alcohol Lead for the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG). In a 2010 paper, we first coined the expression 'Alcohol Care Teams' (ACTs), which has resonated widely. ACTs, mainly developed in acute UK hospitals, reduce acute hospital admissions, readmissions and mortality and improve the quality and efficiency of alcohol care. Many hospital clinicians and managers, Public Health England and NHS England were impressed with the evidence for their efficacy and have funded and implemented ACTs widely.

I wrote a paper for a lay and professional readership and would encourage AA members, especially Health Liaison Officers (HLOs), to read it online.

See: *Moriarty KJ. Alcohol care teams: where are we now? Frontline Gastroenterology Published Online First: 14 August 2019. doi:10.1136/flgastro-2019-101241*

AA Cooperation with ACTs

I have been really encouraged by hearing from AA members and from liver and psychiatry colleagues about how AA is liaising with Emergency Departments (EDs), ACTs, ASNs in liver, psychiatry and general wards, Primary Care and in healthcare undergraduate and postgraduate courses, with Continuous Professional Development (CPD) accreditation being awarded. Students and doctors particularly value listening to AA members share. The Alcohol Assertive Outreach Team (AAOT), led by Professor Colin Drummond, Addiction Psychiatrist at King's College London, has received excellent community support from AA members.

The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain 2022, chapter 6, 'AA and Healthcare in the Community', includes excellent suggestions about how HLOs, with support, can make contact with HCPs and start hospital and treatment centre groups. The AA Health Sub Committee (HSC) submitted an update on chapter 6 that will be discussed at the 2023 AA Conference. I am learning about the particular challenges, especially geographical, faced by members and HLOs in the Continental European Region (CER).

Alcoholism, Terminology and Stigma

Inspired by a friend of 50 years, I applied and formally became a NAT in April 2022. Sadly, in 43 years caring for patients with alcohol-related disease, I never once sought the help of AA and neither did they contact me about any patient. Many HCPs prefer the term 'Alcohol-Related



Liver Disease', rather than 'Alcoholic Liver Disease', partly due to the stigmatising nature of the word 'Alcoholic', which has historically, and still today, led to inferior hospital treatment, denial of admission to intensive care or consideration for liver transplantation. Other terms include alcohol-dependent or misuser, problem drinker or person with lived experience. The World Health Organisation uses 'Alcoholic' and people in AA self-define as 'Alcoholic', which is fundamental.

AA and a Higher Power ('God')

There is a commonly held view that AA is a religious organisation and that many people, including healthcare professionals, may be put off by the use of the 'God' word in AA literature and discourse. This, however, is belied by findings from the most recent survey of AA members (the 2020 AA Membership Survey), which asked respondents (numbering 1694) about the foundations of their views on spirituality and their notion of a higher power (or God). 65% reported that these were based on a secular foundation, compared with 35% who reported that their views of the above had an overtly religious basis. My perception has changed since becoming a trustee.

AA 12-Step Facilitation Programs – What is the Evidence?

There is powerful evidence in the 2020 Cochrane meta-analysis of 27 research studies that showed that the AA/12-Step Facilitation Programs (AA/TSF) for people with AUD were superior to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Motivational Enhancement Therapy in maintaining abstinence from alcohol. In addition, AA/TSF produces substantial healthcare cost savings since all support from AA members is free, an important consideration when patients are being discharged from hospital and the difficulties in accessing Community Alcohol Services. Moreover, AA/TSF, potentially, is a lifelong commitment, rather than typically time-limited NHS treatment.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standards - Alcohol-Use Disorders
The NICE Quality Standards are the gold-standard guidance for clinical care. Current guidance for both care staff and for people with alcohol misuse recommends giving information on the value and availability of community support networks and self-help and support groups, such as AA and SMART Recovery, together with helping people to participate by encouraging them to go to

meetings, and by arranging support.

NICE also highlights evidence from many trials involving AA and patient testimonies as to the support and efficacy of AA.

Currently, there is a 2023 NICE Consultation Update. The AA Health Sub Committee has submitted the results of the Cochrane Review and the AA 2020 survey.

Aims and Suggestions as a Non-Alcoholic Trustee:

- Listen to, and learn from AA members and be guided by their experience
- Emphasise that AA is a rapid access, supportive and free resource
- Facilitate contacts with friends and former colleagues in the healthcare community
- Encourage AA members to engage GP practice managers and nurses to establish meetings in GP surgeries, as well as in community and voluntary sector care
- Encourage AA members to establish links with clinical leads of EDs, ASNs and AMUs, liver and psychiatry consultants and ward staff. HLOs may draw on experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic
- In hospitals, given the huge pressures and limited access, prioritise establishing AA meetings to engage inpatients and support them at discharge

Currently, the AA Health Sub Committee comprises 3 trustees and soon there will be just 1 other member of the Fellowship. If we are to be effective, we need more AA members. Please consider applying. Please refer the Health advert on page 19 below for a full list of qualifying criteria.

I have been humbled to see how AA helps people to achieve abstinence, regain their self-respect, be reunited with their loved ones and flourish at home and at work, and to witness the selfless devotion to support, sponsor and help others to achieve and sustain abstinence with a commitment that is all-embracing and lifelong.

Kathy's Legacy

Sadly, Kathy is no longer with us. Hopefully, in my service to AA, I will be faithful to her legacy.

Kieran Moriarty Non-Alcoholic Trustee



31st Welsh National Convention

June 2nd - 4th 2023

The Metropole Hotel
Llandrindod Wells
Powys

Tel: 01597 823700

Email: info@metropole.co.uk



AAGB People of Colour Working Group

Race Today-Tomorrow?

Online Convention
25.03.23 @ Noon



Introduction and Opening Address: 12pm Ranjan B

Workshops

12.30-2pm: Accessibility: entering AA – Pragnya G

2.30-4pm: Integration: service in AA – Tony S

4-5pm: General Discussion

Register: AAInformation@gsqgb.org.uk

General Service Board Vacancies



How to Apply

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

The chair, vice chair, secretary or a currently serving liaison officer of the sponsoring region or intergroup **must** endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

You will need five years continuous sobriety and have a good understanding and use of the Steps and Traditions, the AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain, and other Conference approved AA literature.

Qualified sub-committee applicants will be interviewed by two GSB members of the Nominations Committee in a single interview through a video platform, at a time agreed by the applicants.

Successful candidates would normally be expected to attend four meetings a year; two of these will normally be in York, but the other two may be held online. Term of service is 4 years.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on a GSB Sub Committee, please email the relevant GSB Trustee (below each vacancy notice) BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

The deadline for ALL applications is *Friday 31st March 2023*

Current Sub Committee Vacancies

Archives

There are vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB).

The Archives Sub Committee advises the GSB on issues concerning the care and management of AAGB's Archives and reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives. The main AA Archive is now located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives of the University of York. The Archives Sub Committee works with archivists at the Borthwick Institute to develop and enhance AA archive, while managing access to it for the purpose of research. Other AA archives are held by regions and intergroups, and are looked after by local archivists. The Archives Sub Committee liaises with these archivists through the Archive Network of regional and intergroup archivists.

In addition to the standard requirements, some experience of archival work is desirable - especially experience as an intergroup or regional archivist within AA. Some knowledge of AA history is also advantageous, as are good communication and IT skills.

For more information about the vacancy, please contact John C Trustee for Archives [trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk](mailto:northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)



Armed Services

The Armed Services Sub Committee is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to past and present members of Armed Services.

Experience

Experience in intergroup and/or regional Armed Service Liaison or other relative experience would be advantageous, and good organisation and communication skills are desirable. The ability to produce written and verbal reports would be an advantage, as well as relevant IT skills. Service within the Armed Service is desirable but not essential.

Aim

The principal aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship and to Armed Service communities and their supported community groups.

Its objects are to:

- Raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within all areas of the Armed Services community, including serving persons, veterans, and their families
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies connected with the Tri-services
- Offer support and advice to regional Armed Services Liaison Officers
- Be responsible for the Armed Services 12 Stepper list
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations

For more information about the vacancy please contact John C, GSB Trustee for Armed Services, trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

Employment

There are vacancies on the Employment Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies
- Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level
- Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level
- Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme
- Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers
- Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events
- Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Charles R, GSB Trustee for Employment trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk

First Response Online Sub Committee

There are vacancies on the newly formed First Response Online Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The new sub-committee comprises a group of people organising the initial contact, the first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via email or instant chat channels.

Chat Now: 2 vacancies

The main purpose of the Chat Now Help Desk is to answer live, real-time queries from the still suffering alcoholic and to direct them to the telephone helpline and/or to a meeting.

Responders working from their home computers have live 1-on-1 conversations with people who are often just starting their journey or maybe questioning if they should do so. For more information on the service and an application, please email us at: chatadmin@aamail.org or Levey P at trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk

Online Response Service: 3 vacancies

The main purpose of the Online Response Service (ORS) is to help the still suffering alcoholic who writes an email to help@aamail.org and is looking for fellowship and answers to their recovery.

For more information on the service please email Levey P trustee.cer@gsogb.org.uk

Please specify whether you are applying for Chat Now or ORS on the application form.

Health

Rotation has created the opportunity for new members to join this dedicated team. If you fulfil the qualifying criteria and are enthusiastic and experienced in health or a complimentary discipline, we would love to hear from you, so please apply.

It is suggested that you have proven experience at intergroup and / or region preferably as a Health Liaison Officer or a complimentary discipline. Or working experience in the health service together with Intergroup /

The primary role of the Health Sub Committee is to:

- Implement health initiatives as directed by the General Service Board (GSB) on the recommendation of Conference, and to understand the relationship between the GSB and the Health Sub Committee
- Provide support to Regional and Intergroup Health Liaison Officers by providing information, advice and resources
- Create and encourage open communication channels with regional and intergroup Health Liaison Officers, including virtual and live meetings and seminars if appropriate
- Establish and maintain relationships at national level with health professionals and professional bodies
- Carry the message and increase awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Step

programme to all health-related environments as appropriate

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Barbara O trustee.midlandsregion@gsofb.org.uk

Literature

To enable the Literature Sub Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) to fulfil its role of:

- Considering needs for new literature
- Undertaking selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of the literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain
- Assessing literature for its suitability for revision or discontinuance
- Work on material as requested by Conference

Its members would have a sound understanding of the Conference process (Conference experience is highly desirable, but an understanding of the process does not need to come solely from having attended Conference)

Essential requirements:

- Have time between committee meetings to work on assigned projects, liaise with other committee members, provide feedback on projects other members are working on, and prepare for committee meetings by reading all relevant materials
- Be familiar with the wide range of AA literature
- Have a sound command of English written grammar and style
- Be familiar with word processing and email programmes, as well as file-sharing
- The ability to work collaboratively as a contributing member of the Sub Committee. Most projects require members to work together in close collaboration, including in pairs or small groups, in the production of multiple drafts, with detailed editing, towards a final version
- The ability to work towards set deadlines

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Jo F trustee.easternregion@gsofb.org.uk



Prisons

The Prison Sub Committee is looking for new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery within the prison walls.

The principal aim of the Sub Committee is to raise awareness throughout the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain of service to the Prison community.

Its objectives are to:

- Offer support and advice to regional Prison Liaison Officers (PLOs)
- Help promote and encourage the appointment of Liaison Officers
- Provide a more coordinated approach to Prison work throughout GB
- Carry out a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to help identify both successful and problem areas
- Assist in the implementation of Conference recommendations
- Hold a regional Prison Liaison Officer's meeting annually in York

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Zelma K, trustee.w.bregion@gsofb.org.uk

Probation

The applicant should be enthusiastic about Probation / Criminal Justice Service (CJS).

Basic Role Requirements:

- Good organisational and communication skills along with the ability to produce written and verbal reports
- The willingness to work as part of a team who are directly responsible to the General Service Board of AA

For more information about these vacancies, please contact Hamish McS, trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsofb.org.uk



Roundabout

Your chance to join the Roundabout Sub Committee and help shape your magazine.

We currently have a number of vacancies within the Editorial Team for Roundabout including for a Secretary, Assistant Editor and Proofreader.

Tasks include: minute taking; proofreading; administration of article submissions; and magazine content collation and design. A high standard of English literacy is required along with a proficiency in computer technology; the ability to work as part of a team and be flexible.

Members of the team are expected to support the representation of Roundabout at conventions where possible, and promote the magazine within their own groups, Intergroups and Regions. All successful applicants will be 12-Stepped into their new role and support provided from fellow sub-committee members.

We invite applications from all regions of Scotland.

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies, please contact **Andrina C, Trustee at trustee.glasgowregion@gsogb.org.uk**

Share

Assistant Editor

The SHARE Sub Committee has a vacancy for an Assistant Editor, AA's monthly magazine in England and Wales.

The Assistant Editor receives articles weekly by email. These are edited to correct spelling, punctuation and ensure the SHARE 'house style' is complied with, while most importantly maintaining the author's 'voice.' Each article is scored on suitability for publication and then sent on to the Editor together with any comments helping the Editor decide on publication. It is vital that good communication is maintained between the Assistant Editor and the Editor. A record of articles received needs to be kept.

Each month the printer sends a proof copy of the next magazine and the Assistant Editor needs to proofread the whole magazine within 48 hours, emailing the Editor with any amendments. An understanding of deadlines is vital for this position to guarantee SHARE is delivered to AA groups by the first week of the month.

The monthly production of SHARE magazine is a Team effort; it is essential for the Assistant Editor to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at Region. Computer and email competence is indispensable. It would be desirable to have previous editing experience but training will be given.

Editorial Reader

Our Readers are part of a team. The job involves reading and scoring all articles and letters submitted, to provide a guide for suitability to publish, checking quotations, suggesting titles and supporting the team to develop SHARE magazine. Most of the work is done electronically and

requires working to deadlines.

Readers should have a good standard of English language and be able to work to deadlines. The monthly production of SHARE magazine is a Team effort. It is essential for a Reader to be an experienced team player with good experience of service within AA including service at Intergroup and preferably service at Region. Computer and email competence is indispensable. Full training will be given.

For further information about the positions, please contact Charon B, trustee.LRN@gsogb.org.uk GSB Trustee for SHARE

Survey

Rare Service Opportunity to Take the Pulse of AA

Summary

The General Service Board (GSB) Survey Sub Committee (SSC) seeks new members to assist in executing the next membership-wide survey. Strategic planning sessions are launching summer 2022. Minimum 5 years sobriety. Details and application info below.

What is the Pulse of AA Post-Pandemic?

Every five years the GSB, as mandated by Conference, conducts a membership-wide survey to keep abreast of trends in our Fellowship's characteristics. The survey provides factual numbers for the professional community and public as prescribed by our primary purpose, to carry the message to those suffering from alcoholism.

The pandemic and its subsequent restrictions, however, upended 'business as usual'. In particular, a groups' reliance on 'snail mail' to receive important communications.

Consequently, the SSC, responsible for planning, execution and managing the 2020 survey, had to pivot at the 11th hour, and deploy an online-only survey model. Despite reaching only groups with an email contact on record with York, the survey produced critical key insights gathered from over 3000 Groups in Great Britain and the Continental Europe Region (CER).

Rare Opportunity

Valuable lessons were learned by the SSC from its first digital survey undertaking. Lessons it seeks to leverage, ensuring that the next survey measures what is most important to members, the public and the professional community in these fast-changing times.

But currently, the SSC is disadvantaged with too few committee members. The SSC's problem, therefore, offers you a rare opportunity to join its existing core team as they begin strategic planning for the 2025 Survey

Apply Now

Send your application (or questions) to Gretchen S. GSB Trustee for the Survey at trustee.LRS@gsogb.org.uk

Telephones (NTL)

Experience of the telephone service at regional or intergroup level and a willingness to use and be informed about current communication systems would be an advantage. The role may require frequent contact with members involved in the telephone service at all levels of the Fellowship. The subcommittee is comprised of a group of people organizing the initial contact, the first response, to the still suffering alcoholic via the telephone.

A job description for the subcommittee vacancy:

- Maintain the existing telephone system to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.
- Keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.
- Be involved in all changes to the system and to liaise with the system provider following consultation with regions.
- Investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service
- Maintain a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

Please specify you are applying for NTL sub-committee. **For additional information please contact the NTL Trustee: Levey Patocs, trustee.cer@gsoqb.org.uk**

Young Persons

Experience of working as a Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) at either intergroup or region level would be an advantage, but is not essential.

The Young People's Sub Committee is looking for new members who are enthusiastic about helping and encouraging young people into service within AA.

Main aims are to:

- Assist in the recruitment and support of YPLOs at intergroup and region levels
- Support the development and sharing of good practice and review/update literature, media resources and Guidelines (subject to approval)
- Establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:

If you have any questions contact Gretchen (Young People's Sub Committee Trustee) before or upon submitting your application trustee.LRS@gsoqb.org.uk

In Memoriam

Dunoon Online Meeting	William I	£250
Midlands Region	Michael G	£100
North Thames Intergroup	Robyn W	£50



Tradition 7

Regional Contributions October to December 2022	£
East of Scotland Region	200
Eastern Region	31,261
Glasgow Region	2,504
Highlands and Islands Region	681
London Region North	25,581
London Region South	1,299
Midlands Region	10,933
North East Region	9,120
North West Region	21,584
Scotia Region	11,700
South East Region	950
South Midlands Region	19,264
South West Region	13,572
South West Scotland Region	1,030
Wales & Borders Region	10,726
Continental European Region	611
Sundry & Unidentifiable Receipts	1,080
Total	162,095

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

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

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

Taken from AA GB Conference approved pamphlet “The Pot”

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

AA Comes of Age, page 140

The Role of GSO

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



66th Scottish National Convention

“A New Beginning”
28th - 30th April 2023

Queens Hall, 9 Argyll St, DUNOON,
PA23 7HH

(Travel by road or ferry)

AA participation throughout the weekend

Registration £15
Pre-Registration is necessary as last year was a
sell out

To Register and find out more information about
the Weekend Programme, Hotels & Ferries
visit:

www.scottishnationalconvention.co.uk

Any questions, email:
convention.snc@aamail.org

Sponsored by all 5 Scottish Regions
Alcoholics Anonymous GB

Subscribe to AA Service News

Contact [Sharon at GSO](#) for your digital copy

For your printed copy, update the group 'Pink Form'. Alternatively, complete the below and send to the address provided. Printed AA Service News is mailed in a plain envelope.



SEND TO (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Group Name/Day:

Group No.*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email to

AA Service News, GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ

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