



AA Service News

Winter 2018

No.177

From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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Twelve Concepts. Personal Checklist. Following the General Service Conference recommendation in 2006, the original Twelve Concepts Checklist was adapted to reflect the structure of the Fellowship in Great Britain and approved by Conference in 2007:

Concept X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

- Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions?
- Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of AA? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority?"

Two Ways to Share Your Service Experience!

AA Service News

Contributions regarding service in the Fellowship are welcomed from all areas - individuals, groups, intergroups, regions, Sub-committees, GSB.

AA Service News is published in early March, June, September and December each year with deadline dates of the last Friday of January, the last Friday of April, the last Friday of July and the last Friday of 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.

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Are you sending in your Region and Intergroup Minutes and Agendas to aainformation@gsogb.org.uk ?

Conference Steering Committee Report 2019

By Bob S, Chair Committee Two, Alternate Conference Chair

Theme: Pass it on

My name is Bob and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is the Friday night newcomers' meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Guildford. Thirty years ago I was referred by my employers to the Pinel House Alcohol Unit at Warlingham Park Hospital. I told the Consultant Psychiatrist there that I had ruined my recent wedding day and honeymoon, that I had just been suspended from my job, that I owed thousands of pounds to the bank and to numerous credit card companies and that I had been told by my GP that I had an enlarged liver and an alcohol-induced heart condition (atrial fibrillation). I was 31 years old.

Whilst awaiting admission into the unit I was advised by my wife (who by then was a member of Al-Anon) to try a local AA meeting in Oxted. I felt before attending my first meeting that a lot of people were on my case. My boss, my wife, my mum, my GP, the bank manager, the credit card companies – everyone expressing their concern but seemingly no-one who really understood why I had to drink. At the meeting that night I finally met people who had been there. It blew my mind! When asked if I would like a coffee, I refused – as I always did – fearing that my shaking hands would be noticed. I was asked to try half a cup and grip the cup tightly. Amazing – he knew what I was going through.

I took my last drink on 13th September 1988 and have been blessed since then with a happy marriage, two children and a rewarding career. Also, a wonderful life in Alcoholics Anonymous thanks to our incredible recovery programme, the AA fellowship and a loving Higher Power. I have been in service throughout this time, firstly at group level and then at intergroup and region. I joined the AA telephone service – firstly as a responder and a 12th stepper and then later as intergroup TLO, region TLO and then a member of the telephone subcommittee. I am now a member of the subcommittee for health and for the last two years I have had the honour of serving as

Conference Delegate for South East Region. At Conference 2018 I was elected as Committee Chair for Conference 2019 Committee Two. My report below is a summary of the work carried out so far to select the questions.

The Conference Steering Committee (CSC) for 2019 first met in June 2018—a few weeks after Conference finished in April. Matt S from Continental European Region introduced himself as Chair and was accompanied by Roger B (General Secretary) and Sharon (Conference Co-ordinator). Also on the CSC are the six committee chairs (Bob S, Justin T, Mark D, Mark F, Gretchen S and Mike E) and two board members (Maxine and Sandi). The terms of reference for questions were established and became the document that the CSC refers to when selecting questions submitted for Conference.

The CSC met again in September to discuss the 67 questions submitted before the deadline of 31st August. The CSC expressed its gratitude to all the members of the fellowship who took the time to write and submit an excellent collection of questions. We then began the difficult process of reviewing all the questions for suitability as agenda items for Conference 2019. The reasons for non-acceptance vary – it could be because they have already been discussed at Conference during the last three years or perhaps because not enough background material has been supplied to support the question. In some cases, several questions related to the same subject matter. We therefore selected the one question that best captured the spirit of the others.

Although the questions covered a variety of current issues in Alcoholics Anonymous, there were some common themes such as young persons' concerns, safeguarding, conventions, literature and social media. There were also some new and innovative questions relating to Conference, the Big Book and the public perception of our image as portrayed by our literature and other communications materials. All this plus more traditional issues such as the power of the purse and awareness of the Concepts for Service.

The CSC felt confident by the end of the September meeting that a strong collection of questions had been chosen. The questions covered not only the general themes highlighted in the original 67 questions but also some interesting topics that we felt would prove popular in discussions throughout our service structure. The CSC then met again in October to finalise the questions and to allocate them to the six Conference committees. Members of

the CSC expressed the view gained from experience at previous Conferences that it is difficult to assume that some questions are 'short' and some are 'long'. Although the committees being tasked with discussing three questions would normally be allocated questions which are considered shorter than others, you can never tell until Conference is underway how deeply the Fellowship feels about each particular issue or how controversial that issue may turn out to be.

Having finalised the distribution of the 15 selected Conference questions to the committee chairs it was then agreed that all of the questions not accepted should be afforded a written response. AA members who have taken the time and trouble to write and submit a question for Conference are sent a written explanation of the reason why their question cannot be accepted for Conference on this occasion. I know from personal experience that members appreciate this courtesy – it has encouraged me to continue to submit questions for consideration at future Conferences when questions of my own couldn't be selected. The meeting then finished with a general discussion on other matters which relate to Conference – such as how to give delegates with a minority view the opportunity to present their views to the Fellowship.

Being a member of the Conference Steering Committee has been extremely rewarding for me. It has given me a greater appreciation of the Fellowship's commitment to the Conference process and the true spirit of our Conference theme 'Pass it on'. Just as I stay sober by passing the message as one alcoholic to another, so we work as a fellowship to ensure that our experience in service is passed on to others through continuous rotation.

It was the general view of all members of the CSC for Conference 2019 that we had taken the greatest possible care to select an interesting and pertinent set of questions. It is hoped that these questions will inspire members of our Fellowship throughout the service structure to engage in thoughtful discussion and to generate some great ideas for discussion next April. Also, that these views and ideas will be presented and discussed at Conference according to the wonderful democratic process that is so cherished by us all.

Yours in Fellowship,

Bob S (South East Region)

Committee One

1. Inventory Question

Would the Fellowship share its experience and make recommendations with regards to the Young People’s Liaison Officer (YPLO) service position, in particular:

- a. **Recent integration into our service structure**
- b. **Getting more younger members into AA and involved in service generally**
- c. **Relations with Young People in AA (YPAA) Conventions**

Background:

Recent experience has shown that many people are now coming into recovery in their teens and twenties. Some of these members are also establishing groups and getting involved in other activities such as workshops and conventions specifically geared towards the needs of young people in recovery. Although these activities are often in alignment with our Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, they usually take place separately from our traditional service structure.

In 2015, Conference recommended that the YPLO service position be integrated into our service structure, with guidelines added to our service handbooks the following year. One fundamental aim of the YPLO was to get more younger members into AA and involved in service generally.

As it has been more than three years since the introduction of the YPLO position, the Fellowship would benefit from the sharing of recent experience of working with young people in AA, and then making further recommendations as to how our services can be strengthened in the pursuit of our Primary Purpose, all the while appreciating that our young members are the future of AA.

References:

Conference 2015 Recommendation Committee 2 Question 1

The Services of AA in Great Britain Handbook, Chapter Twelve:
Young People's Liaison Officer

2. **Would the Fellowship consider reverting back to the name General Service Representative as intended by Bill W and as described in the Concepts?**

Background:

The Term GSR was originally used by Bill W as the abbreviation for the General Service Representative.

"The strength of our whole AA service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative (GSR) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR's importance."

Pamphlet 'The AA Group' page 11, 'What do Group Service Representatives (GSRs) do?'

Page 80/81 of The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain.

Committee Two

1. **Would the Fellowship review our current “public image” as portrayed by our literature, with respect to our primary purpose, and identify any areas for improvement and make recommendations?**

Background:

AA Great Britain has a variety of communication materials and messaging, e.g. books, pamphlets, posters, videos, and websites, that have been developed over periods of time. These materials have helped us both carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic, health professionals and the public at large, and form our current public perception of AA.

References:

Our current range of external communication materials including, but not limited to, our website, books, pamphlets, and videos

Concept 11

Tradition 8

Tradition 5

2. **Would the Fellowship review the AA GB pamphlet “Now that you’ve stopped: 15 Points” against our Twelve Step recovery programme and if any inconsistencies are found consider revising or withdrawing it from publication?**

Background:

The Conference Approved AA GB Pamphlet “Now that you’ve stopped: 15 Points” claims to offer practical tips that should help make it easier to not start drinking again. These tips range from going to a meeting and cleaning your shoes, to taking a bath and drinking coffee with plenty of sugar. Upon closer inspection however, several of these tips may in fact be inconsistent with our Twelve Step recovery programme as defined in our book Alcoholics Anonymous. For example:

Tip #1 says to “try to understand that you have a choice - between unhappy drunken drinking and a happy, sober life by staying away from the first drink”. Whereas, our book Alcoholics Anonymous says on page 24 “The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called will power becomes practically nonexistent.” (Refer to Step 1).

Tip #8 says to not “allow yourself to think a drink or two would make some bad situation better.” Whereas, our book Alcoholics Anonymous says on page 37 that no matter how rational our thinking is, “there inevitably ran some insanely trivial excuse for taking the first drink. Our sound reasoning failed to hold us in check. The insane idea won out.” (Refer to Steps 1 & 2).

Tip #12 says to link in your mind the idea that “a drink was the single cause of all the misery, shame and fear you have ever known”. Whereas, our book Alcoholics Anonymous says on page 24 that we are “unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink. The almost certain consequences that follow taking even a glass of beer do not crowd into the mind to deter us.” (Refer to Steps 1 & 2).

Furthermore, none of the practical tips in the pamphlet specifically suggest working the Twelve Steps. Whereas the main practical tip in our book Alcoholics Anonymous for how to not start drinking again is

clearly stated on page 59: “Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery”.

References:

Now that you've stopped: 15 Points. 3045. Available online:
[https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Newcomers%20starter%20pack%20PDFs/Now that you have stopped%20-%2015%20Points.pdf](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Newcomers%20starter%20pack%20PDFs/Now%20that%20you%20have%20stopped%20-%2015%20Points.pdf)

Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book)

The Twelve Steps

12th Step Starter Pack Complete in Wallet. 3260

Committee Three

1. Will the Fellowship discuss the use of digital voting equipment during Conference?

Background:

Conference is always tight on time and one of the most time-consuming functions is voting and counting. There is the possibility of miscounting if people get up whilst voting is taking place. Also, with digital voting equipment everything would be visible on the screen for delegates, for Yes/No/Abstentions. Although there is a cost element perhaps the efficiency and speed outweigh these.

Indicative costs are in the region of £2000 per Conference.

2. **Would the Fellowship share its experience and make recommendations as to updating existing literature in order to raise further awareness for internet safety and security when using social media, apps and other forms of electronic communications.**

Background:

Whilst recognizing that there is the AA approved literature "Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety" card, this does not cover the increasing ways in which the internet is now used. For example, potential employers may search the internet for social media posts by job candidates. This highlights the importance of making members particularly aware of the difference between "open", "closed" and "secret" groups within social media platforms. Likewise, similar issues surround being targeted by on-line "trolls" – who look for private information and then target people.

3. **Would the Fellowship consider having a Young People's National Convention?**

Personal Experience: *It has been my own experience that coming into A.A at a young age (21) there were always "hurdles" I came up against. I feared I had lost my entire life coming to A.A and everything a young person does at a young age revolves around drinking. Major dilemmas would be "how do I find a fulfilling life when everyone else is out partying and drinking?". I couldn't see past complete isolation and depression. The first couple of years this worry kept coming into my life as there really weren't any young people in sobriety and certainly none with any length of sobriety. I then found service and heard about the Young People's Project and it opened a new hope for me. I decided to try service and haven't looked back since. By then the Young People's Liaison Officer came about and I found my place and found new friends; sober, happy friends whom are still to this day.*

I think a Young People's National Convention can shed a little hope to every corner of A.A in GB to others like myself who felt quite alone at such a young age. I believe it will help young people who are still feeling this loneliness and isolation and mark an event for Young People to celebrate sobriety and to meet more people their age.

Committee Four

- 1. Would the Fellowship consider and make recommendations on the common practice at Intergroup, Region and other service committee meetings to collect Tradition 7 contributions and how it affects the 'power of the purse'?**

Background:

The section 'AA Money' in the AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain states that most of AA's revenue consists of the voluntary contributions of members at group meetings. It does not state that these contributions are also collected at Intergroup, Region or at other service committee meetings such as workshops. Tradition 7 states specifically that that AA groups ought to be fully self-supporting.

Many Intergroups and Regions collect contributions from GSRs / Region Reps respectively as well as from other serving officers and visitors at their service and business meetings. The view is taken that these contributions pay for the meeting costs (rent and refreshments) and thus protect the monies received from contributing groups or intergroups.

Intergroups and Regions are not groups – they are service committees responsible to the groups they serve. As Bill points out in Concept 7, should the groups feel dissatisfied with the way in which their interests are represented by these service committees, they should always have the power to render them redundant by by-

passing them when contributing funds to GSO. Bill calls this 'the power of the purse'.

Such service committees, being starved of operating funds, would be forced to review their effectiveness and make good their commitment to serving the groups. If, however, Tradition 7 monies are collected at service committees to cover the committees' meeting costs, the committees could continue to operate in a way that isn't necessarily in the best interests of AA groups.

2. Would the Fellowship:

- a. Share experience on how our Twelve Concepts for Service are currently being practiced at the group, intergroup, and region levels**
- b. Provide useful examples of the Concepts as applied in practice at the group**
- c. Recommend ways to further apply the Concepts throughout our Fellowship**

Background:

Our Twelve Concepts for Service are as vital to AA as our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. However, it is still common for members to think that the Concepts are reserved only for the Conference and Board service levels, and that when the affairs of their local group are concerned, the Twelve Concepts are not often referred to.

In addition, many members are not aware that the principles contained in the Twelve Concepts also offer valuable guidance for groups, intergroups, and regions, and that the Concepts can be put into practice throughout our whole service structure, and not just at the Conference and Board levels.

Intention:

By discussing this question at Conference, it is hoped the Fellowship will benefit from the helpful experience contained in the Concepts and be able to more easily apply them in our group service work.

References:

The Structure for AA in GB Handbook

The Twelve Concepts for Service in Great Britain

Committee Five

- 1. Would the Fellowship discuss the feasibility of publishing a special edition of the Big Book with the original text but with British members' stories at the back?**

Background:

Recently I learnt that Australia had a special edition of the Big Book printed with Australian members' stories published in the back which has been very popular by all accounts. I believe it is a great idea first and foremost for identification for the newcomer. In my very early days reading the big book was too hard to understand and I chose to read the stories at the back. Whilst I enjoyed them I couldn't help but struggle a little over the grammar used and the fact all these stories were all from North America.

I would like members, groups and Conference to give this question consideration given the wider picture of reaching out to others in Great Britain and giving AA GB some identity in history that may be popular with our existing members too.

2. Would the Fellowship consider making the AA Meeting Finder available in app form?

Background:

The current AA Meeting Finder has proved accurate, easy to use and hugely popular with over a million visits.

However, it requires internet access to function.

Once downloaded, an app version would continue to be available to those seeking an AA meeting in areas of GB where there is poor or no internet access, only requiring further access to Wi-Fi or 3G/4G for updates.

Access to the AA website is dominated by mobile devices and the Electronic Communications Sub Committee has begun to re-design the AA website, starting with its appearance on a mobile phone screen.

Perhaps there is an opportunity here to make the AA Meeting Finder even easier to use on a mobile phone, whilst increasing accessibility.

An app would require external links to the larger app stores, for example: Google Play and Apple's App Store.

References:

Tradition Five.

Final Report. General Service Conference 2018, pages 19 and 21.

- 3. In order to help AA carry the message to the greatest number of Fellowship members, would Conference consider extending the remit of ECSC to allow the use of external links enabling those in service to download items such as the new Conference-approved videos?**

Background:

- For example, recently-produced videos are of a size that should several downloads take place simultaneously, our website is likely to crash.
- Precedent exists with the use of PayPal and Google Maps.
- Concept 3.
- Committee 6, Conference 2013 recommended that “All other external links will require Conference approval”.

Committee Six

- 1. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how individual groups could include within its Group Conscience a strategy to deal with safeguarding issues should they arise?**

Background:

Safeguarding Standards in AA Fellowship: June 2018

[https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Safeguarding/Safeguarding%202018%20\(GSB\).pdf](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Safeguarding/Safeguarding%202018%20(GSB).pdf)

- 2. Would the Fellowship consider that all posters and videos put to Conference be looked at on an individual basis i.e. voting on each poster and or video separately. And that all posters and or videos are circulated and made more accessible to the Fellowship through the service structure.**

Background:

I refer to the last few years of Conference, the circulation of posters to the Fellowship has been almost non-existent. To the point that many members have not even known that there were posters and videos going to Conference.

Also, our Conference delegates had not seen any videos prior to plenary. As such they had not been prepared and were unable to carry the Conscience of their Regions. Videos and posters were put to plenary as an all or nothing vote, i.e. you could either have all of these or none of them. There were issues with a particular poster and a particular video.

Also see the 12 Concepts for World Service.

- 3. Review changes to The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain on the following pages:**

Page 79: Treasurer

Page 82: Group Money

Page 90: Intergroup Money

Page 95: Region Money

Background:

Draft changes to The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain.

Northern National Convention 45th Anniversary

Archives Request

Next year, 2019, will be the 45th Anniversary of the Northern National Convention, which started in 1975. There have been a few Archive requests from the Convention Committee (NNC/C) over the years; the first recorded was back in 2004 and this might not be the last. In 2013, I became involved with the NNC/C as North West Region Archivist. The NNCC was hoping for a display of NW Region archives, but newly in post I managed to convince the NNC/C that it might be possible to create a NNC/C Archive for the 40th anniversary in 2014. I wrote to all the GB Archivists and several were able to donate archive material relating to the NNC, and several past members of the Committee were able to donate Committee minutes and archive memorabilia—mugs, badges, book marks—as were other members of the fellowship. I was able to create a display for the 40th anniversary and in 2015 I was accepted as NNC/C Archivist.

Over the last five years I have worked towards making each rotating Committee Archive conscious; it is within my job description to collect Committee minutes from May, the beginning of the Convention year, till the last Committee meeting at the Convention weekend. Over the Convention weekend I collect raffle tickets, used and unused, the final gathering flyer and any Committee related paper work, like “Road to Recovery” collation sheets, cinema paperwork, marathon meeting schedules, meeting Chairs’ and Sharers’ lists etc.

The outgoing Chair has embraced this Archive consciousness and donates his notes as the weekend progresses, setting an example of selflessness to the rest of the Committee. Who wouldn’t want to keep something as a keepsake from the weekend, but a collective Archive serves the next Committee better than a personal one. The treasurer keeps to hand the previous year’s financial documents but hands over the year’s before for the archive.

Over the last five years I have tried to display what has been donated in a way that members can see what we have collected and what’s missing, in a hope it might encourage others to add to the Archive and Archive display. The Archive display is made up of photographed and photocopied materials to preserve original materials. The display includes Convention flyers, Share

magazine Convention adverts, mugs, bookmarks, badges, menus, spiritual/final gathering meeting flyers, etc.

The Archive also includes the Convention Committee minutes, which we have found going back to 2004. Collected from previous Committee members, these have been archived as a confidential accessible archive for the Executive Committee. I have not been able to find Committee minutes beyond 2004; if you have them on paper or could put them to Disc or USB Stick they would be gratefully received.

Last year I put together all the information I had gather over four years into a Convention "Time Line". I was fortunate to find further information at GSO in York on the Region/Intergroup Minutes on microfilm. There are seven chapters to the "Time Line". There's no narrative as yet so I won't call it a book, but it covers the history of the Convention and its Committees since 1975 to the present date. I hope to display this information at next year's Convention and would like here to appeal to the Fellowship that if you have any relating material to the Convention and its Committee I would gladly receive it to add to the Archive and the Archive display.

Yours in fellowship,

Charlie C

GSB Sub-Committee Vacancies

When applying for any of the vacancies below please note that forms are available from Jenny Pryke at GSO, PO Box 1,10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ; 01904 644 026; jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk or in the Document Library of the AA (GB) website www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk.

The Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the sponsoring Region or Intergroup must endorse the application by way of a covering letter.

The deadline for ALL applications is 21st December 2018.

Archives

Two vacancies exist for members of the General Service Board Archives Sub-Committee.

The Archives Sub-committee works to preserve the history of the Fellowship as well as aiming to develop its network of Regional and Intergroup archivists. The Sub-committee reports to the Board through the Trustee responsible for Archives.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years sobriety, will normally serve for a period of four years and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Service and Structure Handbooks for Great Britain. An interest in AA history, good communication and IT skills along with an ability to work as part of a team would be highly advantageous. Some knowledge and/or experience of archival work would also be useful. The successful candidates would be required to attend up to four meetings a year in York.

Clive K, Trustee Archives

Employment

Vacancies for Employment Sub-Committee

The Employment Committee is a Sub-Committee of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We have a vacancy for two Sub-Committee members.

Our Primary Functions are:

1. Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies

2. Establish and maintain good relations with professionals and professional bodies at national level
3. Establish and maintain good relations with employers and companies at national level
4. Increase public and professional knowledge of the AA programme
5. Offer support to Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers
6. Create and maintain an accurate system of record keeping for future officers and events
7. Communicate effectively with the Fellowship
8. Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.

The committee meets up to four times a year in York, although some of the meetings may take the form of telephone conferencing. (Skype). Much of the work is done in the interim generally in partnership with the other members of the committee.

The post is subject to rotation after four years.

It is suggested that we follow the following criteria:

- A minimum of five years continuous sobriety.
- A sound knowledge of the AA Structure, Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- Sub- Committee applicants should be endorsed by the AA structure i.e. a serving officer in their Intergroup or Region. The serving officers endorsement should be in the form of a letter attached to the completed nomination form.
- Application forms are available from GSO and can also be found in the document library:

Application forms are available from GSO.

Mike P

GSB Trustee for Employment

Literature

Vacancies for Literature Sub-Committee (Up to Four)

The Literature Committee is a Sub-Committee of the General Service Board. Its role is:

- To undertake selective review of the content and appearance of the entire range of literature published by the Fellowship in Great Britain
- To assess its suitability for revision or discontinuance
- To consider needs for new literature.

The work of the committee is generated by the requirements of Conference, requests from the Fellowship and a systematic, proactive review of current literature and handbooks.

The committee meets up to four times a year in York. Much of the work is done in the interim, by email, generally in partnership with another member of the committee. The sub-committee functions very much as a team to ensure that our literature is of the highest possible standard.

The post is subject to rotation after four years.

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria;

- Minimum of five years continuous sobriety.
- A sound grasp of AA structure, Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.
- Accuracy of written grammar and style.
- Experience in copy-editing, design, document drafting or similar work would be very helpful.
- I.T. skills would be an advantage.
- A personal service history at Intergroup and/or Region.
- Sub-Committee applicants should be endorsed by the AA structure, i.e., a serving officer of their Intergroup or Region. The serving officer's endorsement should be in the form of a letter attached to the completed nomination form.

Application forms are available from the Region Secretary, or directly from GSO.

Denise H

GSB Trustee for Literature

Share Magazine

VACANCY FOR A SHARE MAGAZINE ASSISTANT EDITOR

The SHARE Magazine Sub-Committee seeks to appoint an Assistant Editor of Share, 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. 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. 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 proof read 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. Computer and email competence is

indispensable. It would be desirable to have previous editing experience; training will be given.

This is a four-year unpaid commitment, although expenses may be claimed. Applicants must have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety at the time of application. They should be familiar with Conference-approved literature, Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, Twelve Concepts and the AA Structure and Service Handbooks for Great Britain. The Team can hold up to four annual meetings, either in York or by conference-call, including an annual, national SHARE Liaisons Officers' meeting. The day-to-day business of the Team is carried out electronically.

Closing date for applications is: **21st December 2018.**

Application forms are available from the AA GB website go to Members, Vacancies; or write/call:

GSO, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York YO1 7NJ Tel: 01904 644026

Maxine W

GSB Trustee for Share

In Memoriam

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018

Bristol Downend	£ 64,00	In memory of Vince J
Potteries & District	£ 40,00	In memory of Jason B
Bude Monday	£ 40,00	In memory of Julia A
Members	£ 474,90	In memory of Rodney
J Smith	£ 20,00	In memory of Rodney

Those in Receipt of AA Service News

Three copies are posted to the mailing contact for all Groups in the GB Service Structure. It is also posted to all Intergroup and Regional officers and the General Service Board.

If your Group is not in receipt of AA Service News please contact GSO and check who is the “mail contact” on your Group’s **PINK FORM** and if necessary update it. Thank you

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

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

Email: editor.aasn@btconnect.com

Tradition Seven

“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.

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

From Regions July-September 2018	Contributions £s
East of Scotland	£ 3.279,00
Eastern	£ 15.305,00
Glasgow	£ 250,00
Highlands & Islands	£ 4.400,00
London North	£ 12.636,00
London South	£ 28.766,00
Midlands	£ 566,00
North East	£ 8.550,00
North West	£ 12.723,00
Scotia	£ 11.030,00
South East	£ 51.132,00
South Midlands	£ 4.334,00
South West	£ 19.152,00
SW Scotland	£ 2.864,00
Wales & Borders	£ 3.850,00
Continental Europe	£ 540,00

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.

Taken from GB Conference approved pamphlet ‘The Pot’

