



AA Service News

Spring 2020

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From the General Service Office of Great Britain

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Tradition Seven

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:

While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, intergroups or regions, individual AA members may find it useful – in addition to our co-founder Bill W's writings, a service sponsor if you have one, and reflection on your own service experience.

Additional information about the Concepts can be found in *The AA Service Manual / Twelve Concepts for World Service* and *The Twelve Concepts (GB) Illustrated* pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

Concept III

To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives-with a traditional "Right of Decision."

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we *instruct*?
- Do we trust our trusted servants - GSR, Regional Representative, Conference Delegate, the Conference itself?

Are You Ready for the SURVEY?

The **2020 Membership Survey** will be posted with the next edition of *AA Service News* (Summer 2020). Registered groups in the Continental European Region will be contacted via email. These emails will contain a link to a digital version of the questionnaire. Intergroups will receive an electronic copy to supply those Groups that may not receive *AA Service News* and general guidance on the survey.

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.

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

* Yes, the new *AA Service News* email address is now **live!** Once more it is:

editor.aasn@aamail.org

What's Happening in Your Intergroup and Region?

Are you sending in your region and intergroup Minutes and Agendas to [**aainformation@gsogb.org.uk**](mailto:aainformation@gsogb.org.uk) ?

Safeguarding (Part Two)

The General Service Conference 2019 recommendation to Committee 6, Question 2 regarding safeguarding included a request that: “the General Service Board collate relevant materials, together with feedback from the Fellowship, to produce a safeguarding guidelines document for the whole Fellowship, which will be presented at Conference, preferably in 2020, which groups may adopt.”

The Board has formed a Safeguarding Working Group, which will report back at Conference 2020.

In addition, as a part of the process, the Board has committed to specific safeguarding training for its members.

Accordingly, at the September 2019 General Service Board meeting, the Board saw a training presentation on safeguarding facilitated by a professional who conducts this training for organisations and companies. Included with the presentation were a series of discussions and exercises.

One of the exercises involved reviewing and discussing hypothetical scenarios which might arise or which have arisen within AA groups.

In order to inform the Fellowship about and highlight some of the issues around safeguarding being addressed by the Working Group prior to Conference, the Winter 2019-2020 issue of *AA Service News* featured five scenarios which present potential safeguarding issues. This issue features five additional scenarios. The scenarios are accompanied by suggested questions for discussion.

These are published here for information, for consideration, or for discussion, according to the individual group consciences of the groups, intergroups and regions within AA Great Britain and the English-language Fellowship in Continental Europe.

| <u>SCENARIOS</u> | <u>QUESTIONS</u> |
|--|---|
| <p>An AA Member shows another member sexualised images of children.</p> | <p><u>IS THIS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE?</u></p> <p><u>WHAT ACTION IF ANY IS REQUIRED?</u></p> |
| <p>An AA meeting shares at her group meeting that she is being physically and emotionally abused by her husband. She is frightened for her safety and also worried she may pick up a drink to cope with the stress.</p> | <p><u>IS THIS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE?</u></p> <p><u>WHAT ACTION IF ANY IS REQUIRED?</u></p> |
| <p>A member has recently transitioned. They Now identify as female and wish to be addressed as she / her. Two males in the group are constantly making jokes about this to other members and frequently refer to her as 'him' or 'he'.</p> | <p><u>IS THIS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE?</u></p> <p><u>WHAT ACTION IF ANY IS REQUIRED?</u></p> |
| <p>A sponsee buys their sponsor an 18ct gold bracelet as a thank you for taking them through the Steps.</p> | <p><u>IS THIS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE?</u></p> <p><u>WHAT ACTION IF ANY IS REQUIRED?</u></p> |
| <p>An 'Old Timer' in your group who is well respected physically assaults another member who challenged him on his religious bias towards Muslim people.</p> | <p><u>IS THIS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE?</u></p> <p><u>WHAT ACTION IF ANY IS REQUIRED?</u></p> |

Service – With a Smile

One of my favourite parts of AA literature is the story in the Tradition Four chapter of the Twelve & Twelve which results in the production of a little card reading “Rule #62” for Middleton Group #1. What is this single rule that Middleton Group felt compelled to keep after throwing out many others? “Don’t take yourself too damn seriously...”

As an egocentric alcoholic I love that rule, although I apply it in practice much less often than I would like. Laughter is a joy I rediscovered in sobriety and laughing at myself and with others in a loving way is a great freedom. I am drawn to those people who have a lightness of spirit and I want what they have. Cheerfulness is contagious.

In my sober journey, nowhere has Rule #62 applied more than in the service positions I have taken on.

If I’m honest (and isn’t this an honest programme?), AA service has given me some of my most challenging moments in sobriety. Whether it is at a home group business meeting or during a discussion at Conference I can get overly involved in deciding what the outcome needs to be. Things feel heavy and burdensome and everything becomes unbalanced. I start questioning why I ever signed up for this, promising myself I’m just going straight home and I never need speak to these people again (a pattern of behaviour very familiar from my drinking days).

But so far, I have stayed, thank goodness, and I would not trade those painful experiences during service meetings, because they have all taught me something. Each one allows me to hold a mirror up to myself and see what adjustments are needed to restore my balance. I learn, strangely, that my

view of situations is often warped and that becoming so invested in the outcome I think is acceptable is damaging to me and those around me. I am taking myself seriously in the worst way.

Of course this learning is only possible for me because I am trying on a daily basis to practice AA's principles in all my affairs. I need to put myself in a position to be teachable; otherwise I learn nothing. And if I don't learn anything, I don't grow and I take everything so seriously it terrifies me.

Laughter is a great antidote to fear. I am so glad that I did not let my myriad fears prevent me standing for the service positions with which I have been honoured. In case anyone reading this thinks that doing any AA service is clearly too scary to contemplate I should also add that some of my most joyful moments and biggest emotional growth spurts have also happened doing service for AA. Great big wonderful gifts of sobriety. I met my lovely husband at an intergroup meeting (though nowhere in the literature does it say that service leads to matrimony...) How amazing is that!

And the other people I meet trudging the service road have also brought incredible richness into my life. A service sponsee recently reminded me that by criticising certain behaviours, I can become the thing I am criticising as well as adding self-righteousness to the mix. Laughter is a great remedy against that.

Dena, Luxembourg

“What a Gift!” A NAT’s-Eye View of AA

My name is Andrew Wetherell and I am a **Non**-Alcoholic, and for over 25 years now, I have been a “Friend of AA”. However, since the General Service Conference in 2019, I also have had the added honour and privilege of serving as a Non-Alcoholic Trustee (“NAT”) on the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain (AA GB).

For as long as I can remember, I have had a fascination with AA, and in 1994 I met an AA member (“ ‘Liquid Len’ from Loughton”) who educated me about the AA Programme of Recovery and suggested that I could go along to a local AA meeting: Monday night at Claybury Hospital, Essex.

I followed Len’s suggestion, and I am so pleased that I did as I saw AA in action and it has left a lasting impression on me. I didn’t realise it at the time, but it was the **Love** in the room which had the biggest impact of me and, of course, it is **Love** that is at the heart of the AA Programme and which, in my experience, has been present in every meeting I have visited since.

I cherish what I call the “Values” of AA and which I would summarise as follows:

- AA has room for anyone & everyone who has a desire to stop drinking (Tradition Three).
- There are no charges for AA membership.
- AA is completely neutral and neither endorses nor opposes anyone or anything (Tradition Ten).
- The AA Programme of Recovery is “Spiritual” in nature and therefore it doesn’t matter what religious beliefs one has, or whether they are atheist or agnostic.

One message I try to get across to the general public is that **AA WORKS!**

Over the past 25 years or so, I have had the privilege of meeting many AA Members who have found a new way of life and recovery through the AA Programme. Some of these folk are a few years sober, some are decades sober, and some are over fifty years sober, but I would say that they have all had “another chance at life”.

Attending “Open” AA Meetings has had an immensely beneficial effect for me as, of course, I have heard much wisdom and hope from people who have been to darker emotional places than me, and I always get “identification” when I listen to AA members share their “Experience, Strength and Hope”.

It continues to impress me greatly when I look at the folk who attend AA as, invariably, they come from vastly different backgrounds and, as it says in the Big Book, they would not normally mix. Personally, I am not aware of anywhere else that this can be experienced outside of a 12 Step Meeting setting.

I used to work in a busy office environment (1981 to 1993) within a close team, so having been self-employed now for over twenty years and working largely on my own, I do miss being part of a team and “belonging” somewhere. However, since being appointed to the General Service Board as a NAT, I now feel that I *do* belong somewhere and feel very at home with AA.

Expanding on the above slightly, I need to say that I have been made to feel extremely welcome at every AA meeting I have attended since 1994, including “Closed” meetings where, having reported to the secretary, they have always agreed to open the meeting and, again, made me feel more than welcome.

When I write about AA, I get quite enthused and I could go on for pages about the people I have met, the wisdom I have heard, the values I have learnt, etc., so there is a lot I have omitted from this article. There are, however, a few gems I would like to share before I conclude:

- “The 12 Steps are just certain principles you apply in order to achieve certain Outcomes” (The late Mike Q from Garston, Liverpool)
- “It is impossible for me to drink if I do exactly what is suggested in the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous” (“Liverpool Jimmy” – Sobriety Date: 29th March, 1967)
- During the Troubles in Belfast, “The lights of Alcoholics Anonymous never went out” and Catholics and Protestants would attend meetings together. (The late Archie C – “Belfast Archie” – Sober: 24th September, 1963, to 13th May, 2014, when he passed away)
- “The World Record for Sobriety is 24 hours” (The late Joe M – Sober: 7th January, 1969, to 29th April, 2015, when he passed away).

And finally, I would like to acknowledge a man whom, in my opinion, was well ahead of his time: Dr W. D. Silkworth. He, of course, gave Bill Wilson the helpful suggestion to “hold on” to the Spiritual Experience he had at The Town’s Hospital. Had Dr Silkworth simply dismissed Bill’s experience as a hallucination, our wonderful Fellowship (together with the associated 12 Step Fellowships) might never have come into existence – **COMPLETELY UNTHINKABLE!**

Alcoholics Anonymous – *What a Gift!*

Andrew Wetherell

(Non-Alcoholic Trustee, General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain, Limited)

Service in the Fellowship

One night at my group meeting one of our members asked if I would like to attend the next intergroup meeting as a visitor. Immediately I replied that I wasn't ready for service but thank you for asking me. I had no idea that the guy was offering me an opportunity to serve others.

The member proceeded to inform me that I had already been of service within the group over the year that I had been sober and that Intergroup would be yet another way of being of some value to someone I may never meet. The impact of those few short words in the form of a question to attend Intergroup allowed me to give some thought as to the possibility of being of further service to a fellowship I barely understood. But, given the chance I would grow with understanding while helping others.

So, another new beginning in my recovery had begun where I had commenced to consider others and our joint needs in recovery, beginning with that first intergroup meeting – that I was not ready for!

Growing from group to intergroup, through to region on to Conference and the General Service Board, as exciting, revealing and enlightening as these parts of my journey have been, the most heartening experience has been the *nomination* from other members. The idea that members took the time to consider me as a possible candidate for a position anywhere within our service structure has been a privilege and a pleasure.

It seems that as I began to understand and implement the guidance contained in the responsibilities attached to any of the previous and present positions held, along comes that word I have come to deeply appreciate. The

hidden, important depths of meaning of *rotation* reveal themselves. For us all it gives the opportunity to grow more conscious of the reasons for such words as unity, common welfare, trusted servants, autonomy, principles, primary purpose, self-supporting, public controversy, attraction, and sacrifice – not necessarily in their order of importance. I believe that I already had some understanding of these words prior to discovering the reasons for them within our structure. But, through participation in service, I have realised time and again that these same words are more opportunities to discover how far I'm prepared to go to serve the Fellowship in the disciplined manner that the Fellowship requires.

So that when that individual, whom I wouldn't know, and who wouldn't know me enters the Fellowship, it is my responsibility to be there for him.

Jim T

Blackpool

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 (Forms) 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 Friday, 17th April 2020.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on a General Service Board Sub Committee, please email the relevant General Service Board Trustee below each notice BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the 75th Anniversary Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

At Conference 2016 the General Service Board (GSB) was tasked by Conference to oversee the organisation of a single celebratory convention in 2022 to mark the 75th year of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain.

June 2022 is getting closer and the 75th Anniversary Sub Convention Sub Committee is seeking two additional members in the run-up to the event.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety. Members will serve until the sub committee's work is completed (not more than four years), and should be familiar with Conference approved literature, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain*.

To ensure a convention programme and sober experience that reflect as great a diversity within our Fellowship as possible, the sub committee would be interested particularly in younger candidates and / or members who sobered up before the age of thirty.

The sub committee will meet up to four times a year in York.

Experience of serving on the Committee of one of our National Conventions (Northern, Southern, Welsh, Scottish) would be very helpful.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the 75th Anniversary Convention Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Stevie S (trustee.scotiaregion@gsgb.org.uk)

GSB Trustee, 75th Anniversary of AA in Great Britain Convention

Archives Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Archives Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

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' continuous 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*, and the *AA Service Handbook* and the *AA Structure Handbook 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.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Archives Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Clive K, GSB Trustee for Archives (trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Electronic Communications Sub Committee Vacancies

Vacancies for the Electronic Communications Sub Committee

**There are two vacancies on the Electronics Communications
Sub Committee.**

Can you help carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic?

The Electronic Communications Sub Committee (ECSC) invites members of our Fellowship to join us in the exciting work of using electronic communications to help those who need help, and to keep members informed.

In addition to the instant chat and email help desks, other roles exist:

- Postmaster – this position supports members who use the aamail.org email service, supervising the system, fighting spam, etc.
- Webmaster – this position supports the website, and coordinates new features and changes with the professional web developer.

Several other general roles are open right now where an interest in electronic communications and a desire to do meaningful service in a fascinating area is more important than anything else.

Our various IT suppliers provide technical support so although good basic computer literacy is required, more important to us is an understanding of how people communicate and the desire to help us improve what we do.

As with all sub committee vacancies, five years' continuous sobriety and the endorsement of your Region are required. You should be flexible with time commitments and be prepared to join us five times per year in York where accommodation is provided and expenses are paid.

For details of where to obtain and return the application form please look in the Document Library (Forms) of the AA (GB) website:

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Or request by email: jennypryke@gsogb.org.uk

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Electronic Communications Sub Committee (ECSC), please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

**Norman B, GSB Trustee for Electronic Communications
(trustee.eastscotlandregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

Employment Sub Committee Vacancies

Vacancies for Employment Sub Committee

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

We have vacancies for up to two Sub Committee members.

Our Primary Functions are to:

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 and 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 officer's 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 on the AA GB website.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Employment Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Mike P, GSB Trustee for Employment (trustee.lrn@gsogb.org.uk)

Health Sub Committee Vacancy

We currently have one vacancy on the Health Sub Committee for applicants with a minimum of five years' sobriety. The term of the appointment is four years.

Essential requirements:

- Good communication and organisational skills
- An ability to work independently and in a team
- An ability to produce and deliver digital, written and verbal reports
- Proven experience of interaction with and / or delivering presentations to Healthcare Professionals.

Preferable requirements:

- Proven experience at Intergroup and / or Region as a Health Liaison Officer
- A thorough understanding and enthusiasm for the Health Discipline
- Availability to attend Health related Conferences and events, if required
- Prior attendance at AA's annual General Service Conference as a Delegate.

Role and Responsibilities:

- To have a working knowledge of the AA structure and to adhere to the Traditions, Concepts and guidance contained in the *AA Service and Structure Handbooks*
- To work within the Terms of Reference for the Health Sub Committee (These are available in the Health Discipline area of the AA website.)
- To acquire a thorough understanding of the working relationship between the Health Sub Committee and the General Service Board
- To build and maintain supportive relationships with at least two allocated Regions
- To be mindful of the Traditions, particularly Traditions Six, Eight, Ten and Eleven when interacting with professionals or attending conferences or events

- To maintain communication with conference and event organisers, to ensure that requirements for equipment are met and Health and Safety legislation is adhered to
- To liaise with GSO when ordering literature and equipment for professional conferences and events
- To attend four Health Sub Committee meetings in York each year, giving prior notice to the Trustee of the Health Sub-committee if unable to attend.

Closing date for applications is 17th April 2020.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Health Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Terri S, GSB Trustee (trustee.highlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Probation Sub Committee Vacancy

There are two vacancies on the Probation Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

We have two vacancies on the Probation Sub Committee.

The post requires five years' continuous sobriety and experience at intergroup and region as a minimum. The post is four years in duration and the applicant should be enthusiastic about probation / criminal justice service.

Basic Role Requirements:

- A working knowledge of the Traditions, Concepts and the AA GB service structure are essential
- Willing to work within our Terms of Reference as presented on the AA GB website

- Prepared to attend up to four meetings per year held at GSO York
- 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.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Probation Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

**Maxine W, GSB Trustee for Probation
(trustee.northeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

Public Information Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Public Information (PI) Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The PI Sub Committee (PISC) is looking for two new members to join a committed team who are passionate about finding innovative ways of passing the message of recovery to the public, professionals and the still suffering alcoholic at a national, regional and group level.

Our primary functions are to:

- Create a consistent message externally that differentiates AA from other bodies.
- Increase awareness of the AA programme with professionals and professional bodies, members of the media, and journalists at national level.

- Offer support and advice to Regional PI committees and liaison officers.
- Provide leadership to the PI network through national projects
Communicate effectively with the Fellowship.
- Comply with the principles and guidelines of AA.
- Update the PI web site and other PI resources.
- Publish the *PI Newsletter* and *Newsletter for Professionals*.

Role requirements are:

- The position is rotational after four years and requires a minimum of five years' sobriety at the time of applying.
- A sound knowledge of the service structure and Traditions of the Fellowship
- To provide guidance on media projects
- To work within PI Sub Committee Terms of Reference
- To attend up to four PI Sub Committee meetings and "teleconference" meetings.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Public Information Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

**Peter F, GSB Trustee for Public Information
(trustee.southeastregion@gsogb.org.uk)**

Survey Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Survey Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

The General Service Conference 2017 determined that there should be a new Survey Sub Committee to be given the task of preparing and producing the 2020 Survey and all subsequent surveys.

The General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous (GB) has been conducting a survey of the Fellowship every five years since 1972. The intention of these surveys is to learn more about the Fellowship in Great Britain so that the AA message can reach the still suffering alcoholic more effectively, thus helping us to fulfil our Primary Purpose in the most effective manner.

Additional reasons for conducting this survey include: estimating the number of people in the Fellowship, informing the GSB regarding the effective allocation of resources, and gaining information that could be useful in communication with professionals.

There are currently two vacancies for members of the Fellowship to join the Survey Sub Committee.

It would be preferable for applicants to have experience in conducting surveys and in using computer software.

Applicants should also be able to work as part of a team and to liaise with professional advisers. They should have the expertise to consider previous surveys and draft additional questions to assist in improving and building on the data available. In addition they should be prepared to undertake ad hoc tasks as required from time to time.

As with all sub committees, a minimum of five years' continuous sobriety is required. All applicants should have experience of service at Intergroup and Regional levels.

Experience as a Conference Delegate is also desirable. They should have gained a working knowledge of the *Service* and *Structure Handbooks for AA Great Britain* in addition to the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts for World Service.

The successful candidate will be required to attend up to four meetings per year in York and will normally serve for a period of not more than four years.

The application must be endorsed by way of a covering letter from the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary of the sponsoring intergroup or region.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Survey Sub Committee, please email one of the General Service Board Trustees below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Mani Mehdikhani (trustee.nat1@gsogb.org.uk)

Clive K (trustee.easternregion@gsogb.org.uk)

GSB Trustees for the Fellowship Survey

National Telephones Sub Committee Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the National Telephones Sub Committee of the General Service Board

Vacancies exist for new team members. 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 telephones sub committee's role is to:

- 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.

The team meets four times a year in York and also stays in touch by using various technologies i.e. email and internet forums. The appointment is for four years and requires a minimum of five years' sobriety with a sound knowledge of AA Traditions and Concepts.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Telephones Sub Committee, please email the General Service Board Trustee below BEFORE or UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Thank you!

Jonathan P, GSB Trustee for Telephones (trustee.w.bregion@gsogb.org.uk)

Young People's Sub Committee Vacancies

There are four vacancies on the Young People's Sub Committee of the General Service Board.

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 aim of the Young People's Sub Committee is to raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous within the youth community.

Main aims are:

- To assist in the recruitment and support of YPLOs at Intergroup and Region levels
- To support the development and sharing of good practice and review and update literature, media resources and guidelines (subject to approval)
- To establish and maintain good relationships with professionals and professional bodies.

It is suggested that applicants would fulfil the following criteria:

- A minimum of five years' sobriety at time of application
- A strong grasp of AA service structure, Guidelines and Traditions
- A personal service history at Intergroup and / or Region in this discipline
- Good organisational and communication skills.

If you have any questions contact Amanda S or Sandi A (Trustees of the Young People's Sub Committee) via GSO.

Application forms are available from Region Secretaries, GSO or the AA GB website in the Document Library.

If you have questions about the specific responsibilities of service on the Young People's Sub Committee, please email one of the General Service Board Trustees below **BEFORE** or **UPON SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**. Thank you!

Amanda S (trustee.lrs@gsogb.org.uk)

Sandi A (trustee.southmidlandsregion@gsogb.org.uk)

GSB Trustees for Young People

In Memoriam

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Somerset Intergroup | £ 32,90 | In memory of Paul G (Blagdon Group) |
| Dundee Number 3 Group | £ 210.00 | Legacy from John G |
| Gosport Friday | £ 76.59 | In memory of Alison |
| Nottinghamshire & Leicestershire | £ 106.65 | In memory of Tommy F |

Seventh Tradition

“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.

| From Regions October – December 2019 | Contributions £s |
|---|-----------------------------|
| East of Scotland Region | £ 420.00 |
| Eastern Region | £ 900.00 |
| Glasgow Region | £ 20,300.00 |
| Highlands & Islands Region | £ 293.00 |
| London Region North | £ 25,659.00 |
| London Region South | £ 150.00 |
| Midlands Region | £ 20,467.00 |
| North East Region | £ 7,150.00 |
| North West Region | £ 15,545.00 |
| Scotia Region | £ 4,130.00 |
| South East Region | £ 449.00 |
| South Midlands Region | £ 25,600.00 |
| South West Region | £ 11,033.00 |
| South West Scotland Region | £ 150.00 |
| Wales & Borders Region | £ 5,103.00 |
| Continental Europe Region | -- |
| Sundry & Unidentifiable Receipts | £ 5,543.00 |

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** (Registration Form) and if necessary update it. Thank you.

For special orders of extra copies for conventions,
please see the note on page 6 of this issue.

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

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