

The Growth of Electronic Communications



The growth of electronic communications during the past 20 years, since the AA website was first introduced, has been the main phenomena of our times. Kids who have not yet achieved their 10th birthday carry mobile phones and log on to the internet when they come home from school. To them, its normal practice. Adults, especially the younger adults, turn automatically to the internet as their main information gathering resource – small wonder, then, that the number of prospective new members of our Fellowship making first contact via our website is growing. This is a trend which will not only continue, but increase as years go by. It is up to us, this present generation of AA's, to ensure that this way into the Fellowship is open when anyone needs it. Over the past 20 years our website has grown and expanded the services offered.

Electronic communications has been established as a service in its own right by Conference - in 2005 when it created the position of Electronic Communications Liaison Officer (ECLO) at region, and in (2008) when it confirmed the ECLO post at intergroup level. The establishment of these positions has given us the framework for integrating the service of electronic communications within the Fellowship service structure, generally

and for filling the posts necessary to maintain the routine website functions from within the Fellowship at large.

E.Comms Meeting held in York. Every year regions have been advised, and invited to send their ECLO – or a representative if they have no-one at present in post – to attend. Electronic Communications forum in the members area of the website has been opened so that the Fellowship generally can provide input.

...but in order to provide anything at all, the website must be kept functioning, the emails answered, the forums moderated.

This needs members to step forward in service.

Online responders, forum moderators, web assistants – the application form has been sent to all regions/intergroups, can be downloaded from the website or is available from GSO. Technical genius is not required – just the ability to use the internet. Maybe one of these jobs is waiting for you to fill in the form?

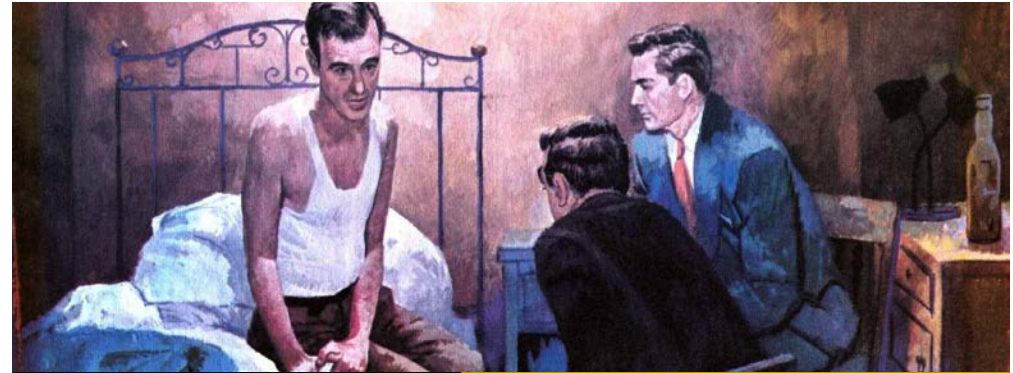
God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

SOUTHERN SERVICE OFFICE BULLETIN



Our primary purpose is to stay sober, and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety

March 2019 **Your Voice Matters: Questions for Conference**
Issue No. 15



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.



1 Raven Wharf, 14 Lafone Street, London SE1 2LR | 020 7407 9217
sso@btconnect.com | alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

There are many reasons why our fellowship is so unique. Anywhere in the world, we can walk into a room full of strangers and know that we are with people who understand us. People who might break into laughter when hearing about tragic drinking episodes, simply because they can relate and have had similar experiences. These people are the ones who show us how our misery can be turned into good for others.

Another extraordinary component of our fellowship is that we all have an equal voice when it comes to making decisions for our groups, intergroups, regions, and ultimately, the fellowship as a whole. Unlike many other organisations, there is no one at the top making decisions for us that we simply have to accept. Each of us holds the privilege and responsibility of shaping the direction of our fellowship.

But how exactly do we do that?

Through the conference process, the fellowship takes its inventory as to how to better carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. This is done through a set of questions released every year at the beginning of December. These questions come from the fellowship itself. Input and experience on the questions is then sought from all members, groups, intergroups and regions. It is then the responsibility of the delegates of each region to bring the collective group conscience from their respective region to conference. There, the delegates from all regions discuss the questions, share experience and make recommendations that are communicated back to the fellowship.

Why is our participation crucial?

All members are encouraged to discuss these questions in their groups and intergroups and share their answers with their respective delegates. This helps to ensure that their voice is heard when the recommendations from conference are formulated. By sharing our experience on the conference questions, each of us helps to participate in an informed group conscience that ultimately aims to enable us to continue to be there for the alcoholic looking for help.

What are these questions, and where can they be found?

If your group is [registered](#) with the General Service Office (GSO) you will have received them in the [Winter 2018 AA Service News](#). This year, some interesting topics such as the public image of AA, digital voting equipment, internet safety, the role and place of young people in AA, a special UK version of the Big Book, and many more will be discussed. Also, new literature items that are aimed at enabling us all to better carry AA's message will be proposed for approval by conference. Join the conversation! Let us know your views.

- Inventory Question Would the Fellowship share its experience and make recommendations with regards to the Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO) service position. Relations with Young People in AA (YPAA) Convention

-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?



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

-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.

-Would the Fellowship consider having a Young People's National Convention?



-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?

-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?

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



-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?