



September 2021

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire
57B Great Suffolk St
London SE1 0BB
Office: 020 7593 2070

INFORMATION LETTER No: 77

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: THIS LETTER GIVES MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOUR TRUSTED SERVANTS ON THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD DO ON THEIR BEHALF, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT IN FULL TO YOUR GROUPS.

Dear Members,

I would like to update you with what happened at the most recent General Service Board (GSB) meeting held virtually on Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and Sunday 12th September. All Trustees were in attendance.

This letter and other information will be circulated directly to the Area Delegates and to members who have signed up for the free GSO eNewsletter. Simply visit the Al-Anon website www.al-anonuk.org.uk and sign up to the GSO eNewsletter via the members' area to ensure you have access to the most up to date information from GSO.

Reports. Interim Reports from Standing Committee Chairmen (Editorial, Conference, GSB Nominating Committee and TEAM Events Committee), Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Regional Trustees were received, discussed and approved.

Finances. The Board received the Treasurer's Interim Report and reviewed management accounts for the first quarter of the 2021-22 financial year. The Treasurer reported that donations to the General Fund have reduced but this was expected as Groups are re-opening and Districts and Areas now need financial support.

The Treasurer presented an amended budget for the year 2021-22 and the projected budget for the year 2022-23. She warned that the budgets may change significantly due to the changing circumstances of the pandemic and the lack of certainty but are monitored carefully.

Helpline. There has been an increase in calls to the Helpline since adopting the new freephone number and updating the website. GSO needs more Helpline volunteers and eResponders to reply to distress emails. Call GSO for further information about these important and rewarding service roles.

Members are asked not to use the 0800 freephone number to call GSO because this will increase the telephone costs for Al-Anon. Please phone the office on 020 7593 2070. If you require meeting information, please telephone 020 7403 0888 as this will not have an adverse effect on telephone costs to the General Fund.

Public Information (PI). The Board was updated on current PI plans. The Chairman of the PI Committee is rotating off the Board in January 2022. There were no applications for the vacancy, so in effect there will be no PI Committee.

A new PI Banner was approved by the Board and will be available on the online shop soon.

Literature. Sales are down due to the temporary closure of Groups and there are also delays in getting literature stock from the World Service Office (WSO).

Some UK Guidelines have been updated and approved by the Board and will be available on the website for members to download as required.

Editorial Committee. The Committee will be seeking relevant shares from members for the Christmas edition of the e-zine *Al-Anon Today*. Watch out for the requests.

Working Party. Following the World Service Conference (WSC) Motion on allowing Structures to register online meetings a Working Party was set up by the Board to look at the required policies and procedures, guidelines and other documents in readiness for Conference 2022.

IAGSM. The 2022 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) will be hosted by the UK & Eire Structure and will be held in London from 12th – 15th October.

Eire. The accounts for the company Al-Anon Family Groups Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) were approved by the Board. The Regional Trustee, Eire reported that there has been a delay in progressing to charitable status due to queries from the Charity Regulator. These are being addressed and we are hopeful for a positive outcome.

GSO. There are job opportunities at GSO for Group Records Administrator, Conference Secretary and Bookkeeper and these vacancies will be advertised on the website.

AA 75th Anniversary Celebrations. The Board of AA invited the Al-Anon Board to participate in the 75th anniversary celebrations at Leeds Direct Arena 10th – 12th June 2022. Registration is open and is required before the event. A flyer, information and registration can be found on the Al-Anon events page of the website or the AA event website which is aa75.co.uk. If you are planning to attend this event and are willing to volunteer for Al-Anon over the weekend, please contact the Al-Anon Committee at enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk.

Appointments. The following Trustee appointments received traditional approval by the Conference, effective from January 2022:

- Michael Donnelly, Regional Trustee, Ireland North (three-year term)
- Miriam MacGrath, Regional Trustee, Eire (two-year term)
- Isobel Durbidge, Regional Trustee, England West & South Wales (three-year term)
- Sue McDonald, Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales (two-year term)
- Heather McKaig, Regional Trustee, England South & East (one-year term)
- Liz Pritchard, Trustee at Large, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Vice-Chairman of the GSB (three-year term)
- Angela Lidster, Trustee at Large, Treasurer (two-year term).

The GSB approved the appointment of Miriam MacGrath, Regional Trustee, Eire as IAGSM Delegate for a four-year term commencing January 2022.

Trustee Vacancies. The following vacancies will be coming up in 2023:

- Regional Trustee, Scotland
- Regional Trustee, England South & East
- Chairman, Public Information Committee (one-year term)
- Chairman, Conference Committee
- Chairman, Editorial Committee.

Yours in fellowship

Nuala Carroll

Nuala Carroll
Chairman
General Service Board