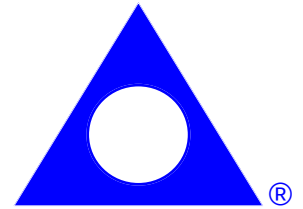


Al-Anon Family Groups



Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

September 2019

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

INFORMATION LETTER No: 71

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. This letter and other information are also circulated directly to members who have signed up for the free eNewsletter. Simply visit the members' website <https://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/members-resources/> and enter your email address to receive the GSO eNewsletter. The GSB meeting was held on 5th, 6th and 8th September 2019 at Hinsley Hall, Leeds preceding and following the 2019 Annual Service Conference.

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 2019-20 financial year. The Treasurer reported that the members' response to her recent appeal was encouraging. An increase in donations meant we are on target to meet our budget. However she cautioned that, without £17,000 in legacies, we would still be in deficit by £20,000. Groups should be reminded of the need to continue to increase the level of donations. The Treasurer also asked that Groups consider sending surplus money, after supporting their District and Area budget, direct to the General Service Office (GSO) (rather than via Area, where it can be delayed for some time). It is worth reminding Groups why their donations are important and what they cover eg. the increased cost associated with the new 0800 freephone helpline number, production and distribution of literature, maintaining the website and running costs for our GSO.

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.

Public Information (PI). The Board was updated on current PI plans, which include mini-campaigns continuing on the theme of "The Untold Story" but tied in specifically with two upcoming events –16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence in November, and dealing with living with the effects of alcoholism post-Christmas/New Year. Members are asked to submit their stories to the PI Officer at GSO (pi@al-anonuk.org.uk) for use on social media on both of these themes.

Members are urgently required to re-form the PI Committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee and getting involved in our future communications plans, please contact the PI Officer at GSO.

Al-Anon • Alateen
Family Groups Ltd.
Registered Charity
Co. Reg. No. 984912
Place of Registration – England
VAT No. 237 4145 69

Helpline: 0800 0086 811 (10am-10pm)
enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk
www.al-anonuk.org.uk
 @AlAnonFamilyGroupsUK
  @AlAnonUKandEire

Literature. Sales are buoyant, with the new pamphlet *Welcome Newcomer!* proving especially popular. GSO has remaining stocks of Public Information posters with the 020 7403 0888 helpline number which can be included free of charge when Groups are ordering literature.

Appointments. It was announced that Nuala Carroll is to resign as General Secretary and Trish Bainbridge will become the new General Secretary with effect from 1st November 2019. Trish is well known throughout the fellowship as she has been part of the team at GSO for several years, most recently as Office Manager.

The following Trustee appointments received traditional approval by the Conference, effective from January 2020:

- Becky Donohoe is appointed Trustee at Large with responsibility for England South & East region for a period of one year.
- Karen Murdoch is appointed Regional Trustee, Scotland.
- Marie Barkey is appointed Regional Trustee, Ireland North.
- Helen McMorrow is appointed Trustee at Large, Chairman, Conference Committee.
- Pete Colton is appointed Trustee at Large, Chairman, Public Information Committee for a one year term.
- Katharine Lanham is appointed Trustee at Large, Chairman, Editorial Committee for a second three-year term.

The GSB approved the appointment of Nuala Carroll as Chairman of the General Service Board for a three-year term from January 2020.

Trustee Vacancies: The following vacancies will be coming up in 2021

- Regional Trustee, Eire.
- Regional Trustee, England West & South Wales (to complete remaining 1 year term, following the resignation of the current Regional Trustee).
- Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales.
- Regional Trustee, England South & East (to complete remaining 2 year term).
- Chairman, Public Information Committee.
- Treasurer.

Eire. The Regional Trustee for Eire reported that the company Al-Anon Family Groups Company Limited by Guarantee has now been incorporated and the next stage will be to establish a charity in Ireland.

Yours in fellowship



Susie Little
Chairman
General Service Board