



September 2018

INFORMATION LETTER No: 68

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

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: THIS LETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT NEWS SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT IN FULL TO YOUR GROUPS. ***THERE'S A LOT GOING ON!***

Dear Members,

I would like to update you with what happened at the most recent General Service Board (GSB) meeting. The GSB met on 13th, 14th and 16th September 2018, before and after our Annual Conference at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. All Trustees attended.

THE EXCITING STUFF...

PI Campaign. Plans are progressing well for a major national PI campaign timed with Alcohol Awareness Week in the UK (19-25 November 2018), focussing on "The Untold Story" of how alcoholism affects families. This campaign will have a greater impact if everyone gets involved. To hear about how you can help, go along to your Area Assembly where your Area Delegate will explain more about the campaign. **A reminder – please remember to report your local PI efforts to the PI desk at GSO (pi@al-anonuk.org.uk). We love to hear your success stories.**

New Website. The GSB approved designs for our all-new website which will be launched in time for Alcohol Awareness Week. The new website will be cleaner and simpler, device friendly, and easy to navigate.

New Literature. We have exciting new books and leaflets on offer. The latest addition is *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships* priced £16.20. The long-awaited *Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents* has arrived (£1.30 or £10.10 for 10). A new *Welcome Newcomers* pack includes a handy compilation of leaflets and book marks, costs £1.50 (£11.10 for 10) and will be available soon. For a limited period only, a special edition 50th anniversary edition of ODAT is available on line while stocks last and is priced at £15.00. We can only sell this until December. Finally, *Al-Anon Family Groups Welcome Adult Children of Alcoholics* is available (50p per copy, £2.10 for 10 and £5.90 for 50).

NOT QUITE SUCH EXCITING NEWS...BUT VERY IMPORTANT

Finances. The Treasurer reported that donations continue to show an increasingly worrying downward trend (when legacies are excluded) and asked that Groups and Areas be reminded we can't rely on the generosity of the deceased! We need to remain self-supporting, so please encourage members to dig a little deeper, where possible, and do not hold on to excess funds which are needed for the General Fund.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION

Phone volunteers. There is a shortage of volunteers on the helpline both at GSO and for the out of hours service. We are particularly keen to find volunteers willing to cover the helpline from home on Fridays, during the day.

TEAM Events. These continue to be popular with Area 18 & 20's TEAM event in June attracting 55 members. Area 9 will have its own event on 3rd November in Barnsley; Ireland North (Areas 13 and 30) will hold theirs on 13th April 2019 and Area 17 on 8th June 2019.

Next PI magazine. The Editorial Committee is looking for shares from professionals to go in the 2019 PI magazine. If you know any health professionals who would be willing to talk about their experience of signposting people to Al-Anon, please put us in touch.

Charity Status in Eire. The GSB agreed to instruct solicitors in the UK and Ireland to begin the process of bringing Family Groups Limited into compliance with Irish charity law.

Motions. The GSB ratified motions agreed during Conference which were:

Trustee appointments

The following received traditional approval at Conference, which were then ratified by the General Service Board:

- The appointment of Liz Pritchard as Trustee at Large and Chairman of the Executive Committee from January 2019 for a three-year term
- The appointment of Angela Brice as Regional Trustee, England West and South Wales from January 2019 for a three-year term

The GSB co-opted Giovanna Coyle onto the General Service Board, as Trustee at Large with responsibility for Ireland North, for a period of one year from January 2019.

Trustee Vacancies. There are a number of Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large vacancies coming up, to start from January 2020. These include:

- Regional Trustee, Scotland
- Regional Trustee, England South and East.
- Regional Trustee, Ireland North
- Chairman, Editorial Committee
- Chairman, Conference Committee
- Chairman, PI Committee.

Application forms and further information about any of the above vacancies are available from GSO and your Area Delegate. Deadline for applications to reach GSO is 14th May 2019.

Yours in fellowship



Susie Little
Chairman
General Service Board

This letter and other information are circulated directly to members who have signed up for the free eNewsletter.

If you wish to sign up, simply visit the members' website www.al-anonuk.org.uk/members-resources and enter your email address to receive the eNewsletter.