

Information for a Prospective Class A Member of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous New Zealand.

The New Zealand General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Incorporated has but one purpose, that of serving the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is a structure designated by the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous to maintain services for those who seek, through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means for arresting the disease of alcoholism through the application to their own lives, in whole or in part, of the Twelve Steps which constitute the recovery programme upon which the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.

In addition, the Board is responsible for financial and policy integrity and the oversight of the General Service Office (GSO) and its staff.

The Board is charged with ensuring that all New Zealand laws pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous as an Incorporated Society are adhered to, as well as all other laws that apply to a group such as the fellowship. The Board is the employer of paid staff in the General Service Office, or elsewhere should the Board see fit. Therefore the Board must ensure that all labour laws, employment laws and health and safety laws are complied with, including any other applicable laws that are the duty of an employer in New Zealand.

The General Service Board consists of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 15 members.

Qualifications of an effective Board Member

The selection of effective Board members, ensuring the future of A.A. is of paramount importance. The Class B (alcoholic) Board members are made up of Conference experienced members and members who bring specific skills to the Board, while Class A (non-alcoholic) Board members are selected from a variety of professional backgrounds. There are no hard and fast rules governing qualification but full participation and a willingness to learn are deemed indispensable.

Good leaders can bring to the Board the quality of resoluteness and the courage of their convictions, along with good judgement, the ability to compromise, objectivity and the willingness to stand up and express themselves. Such candidates can represent the Board and interpret its actions at A.A. and at events when requested.

Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Members

In seeking candidates for Class A members, the Board looks for people with a proven track record in their field, an interest in Alcoholics Anonymous and a willingness to serve.

While business or professional experience is not essential for all the alcoholic members of the Board, it has proved essential for non-alcoholic members.

Time Commitment Required of Board Members

Members of the Board are expected to attend two General Service Conference (GSC) weekends with Board meetings preceding the GSC. These take place in April and October in Auckland and run Friday to Sunday afternoon.

In addition to the twice-yearly meetings, online meetings are scheduled throughout the year. These online meetings can last 2 or more hours. Time commitment varies but a person could expect to

average approximately 5 hours per week at busy times on Board duties so being able to commit this time is an important consideration.

All Board members will assist with the perfunctory responsibilities pertaining to a non-profit organisation and in addition will be assigned to subcommittees to complete various tasks.

All Board members are required to join an assigned committee on the General Service Conference. These committees meet the Friday night of the General Service Conference.

Board members serve for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Members are not paid for this service but all travel/accommodation costs relating to authorised General Service Conference, General Service Board and Approved Representatives meetings will be organised and booked by the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

General Service Board Committees

The Board Chair will assign Board members roles on Board committees, and this will entail work outside attendance at meetings developing policy or getting tasks completed for the Board. Matching skills with these tasks is a consideration the Board Chair takes in account and will discuss these roles with you prior to allocation.

Nominating Procedure

The General Service Board nominates Class A Members after a search and interview process that begins by asking current and past members, delegates and GSO staff to submit names and background information for 'friends of A.A.' to fill a vacancy. Business or professional resumes can be sent to GSO, Board Secretary and Board Chair with a cover letter describing previous experience with A.A., if any, as well as their reasons for volunteering their services to the General Service Board by 30th June, unless otherwise specified.

The list of applicants is narrowed down by the Board Appointments Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will interview potential candidates. These interviews will take place as soon as possible after the application process. Interviews and preliminary selection process shall be completed by 31st August. After approval from the Board, the candidate is then presented to the Conference Nominating Committee and then to the General Service Conference. If there are no objections from Conference at that meeting, the new Board member is formally elected to the Board at the next Board AGM, which is usually March the following year.