

ACO TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK 2023



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@ACOBenevolence

INTRODUCTION



The Association of Charitable Organisations was founded in 1946 – celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2021 - and is the national UK umbrella body for charities that provide financial and wellbeing support to individuals and families in need.

With a diverse membership of over one hundred benevolent and grant-making charities, we encourage collaboration and best practice in the charity sector through the sharing of knowledge and resources to meet shared challenges.

ACO members have continued to benefit from our commitment to the sector – through campaigning, resource sharing and ensuring that our colleagues have a common platform to come together and leverage the collective expertise of our extensive network of charities.

Whilst we retain a small secretariat (Chief Executive, Communications & Engagement Officer and Bookkeeper) we have been able to maintain and - in fact - widen our service delivery over the last year by leveraging the benefits of virtual engagement with our members.

We are now looking to extend our existing Board of Trustees, bringing in additional skillsets and expertise in order to support and guide the charity through the next exciting chapter in its development.



Covid-19 had a significant impact on the charity sector, particularly amongst benevolent and grant-making charities, which affected not only the capacity of the sector to deliver vital services, but for many charities their continuing financial viability.

In spite of this, ACO has been able to adapt – embracing digitalisation– to arguably provide greater engagement with our members over the last two years and continue to provide value to ACO members in five key strands:

Knowledge sharing

Through a broad virtual event programme, we look to address specific issues/themes common to the sector. In addition to our regular Grant Makers Forum, during 2022-23 bespoke events have included:

- Tackling Appliance Poverty
- Financial Impact of Household Giving
- Anti-Fraud
- Gambling Awareness training
- Crisis Management
- Finding Stability in Unstable Times

At the same time, we have looked to broaden our range of regular special interest group meetings to now include:

- CEO Forum
- Marcomms
- Income Generation & Fundraising
- EDI
- Impact & Evaluation
- International beneficiaries
- "Under fives" (small charities)



Digital Solutions

Over the last year we have been working on two major technology projects that will potentially deliver significant benefits to the grant-making sector:

- Development and launch of an online grants portal in conjunction with Lightning Social Ventures (a tech-for-good start-up)
- Implementation of a project for grant-makers to individuals to publish grants data to the 360Giving platform

Building peer-to-peer relations

Providing a platform through the events programme to bring professionals together throughout the sector to network, building connections and identifying collaborative opportunities.

Campaigning and lobbying

Despite limited resources, we continue to act as a strong advocate for issues impacting our members.

In 2022 we launched our campaign in response to the cost of living crisis “Support During the Squeeze” which is targeting key referral agencies to ensure that the financial and well-being support resources from benevolents/grant-makers is understood by organisations working with service users and clients in need.

In addition, we continue to sit on the Civil Society Group comprising national umbrella bodies in the charity sector, including NCVO, ACEVO, NACVA, which has lobbied on behalf of the sector to press for continued Government support.

Providing Support & Assistance



One of our fundamental roles remains as a hub of information and support to member charities, acting as a signpost to key resources, ensuring continuing engagement between charities and promoting member activity, campaigns, and fundraising initiatives.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

We will be looking to develop and launch our new Strategy during the course of 2023, in the short term our operational priorities remain:

Extending membership

– building our reach in targeted segments such as Regional charities, Trade Unions, Healthcare, Public Sector and Sports Body charities;

Financial sustainability

– maintaining our current cost base, maximising membership retention, and exploring additional income streams;

Service delivery

– continuing to deliver a diverse events programme and re-integrating physical events where viable;

Campaigning/lobbying

– providing an effective voice for the sector and raising our profile particularly amongst key referral agencies/organisations.

TRUSTEE OPPORTUNITIES



The current ACO Board comprises:

Chair: D'Arcy Myers

Chair, Smallwood Trust and Director, consultdarcy

Treasurer: John Brown

John Brown PR

Jodie Gill

Chief Operating Officer, CABA

Caroline Aldred

Former Manager, CIMA Benevolent Fund

Liam Evans

Senior Digital and Media Officer, IPPR

Juliet Smithson

Head of Operations, LionHeart

Caroline Gee

Investment Management sector

Victoria Crawford

Senior manager investment partnerships, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Although we are looking to recruit Trustees with a broad background in the charity sector, we are particularly interested in speaking to candidates with skillsets/experience in the following key areas:

- Financial management
- Strategy

Commitment



The Trustee positions are unremunerated (although reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed e.g. travel). The Board will typically meet four times per year with an additional (physical) strategy away day. Board meetings are currently virtual (via zoom) but we will review the viability of potentially reverting (some) of these meetings back to a face-face format, usually in London, later in the year.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We wish to increase the diversity of our Board and welcome applications from all sections of the community, particularly with respect to representation from black and minority ethnic groups. We are also open to applicants seeking their first Trustee role as well as experienced Trustees.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please forward a supporting statement and a copy of your CV to Donal Watkin (Chief Executive) donal@aco.uk.net

A panel will review applications and invite shortlisted candidates to interview on a rolling basis until the Trustee roles are filled.