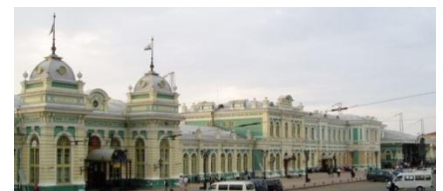
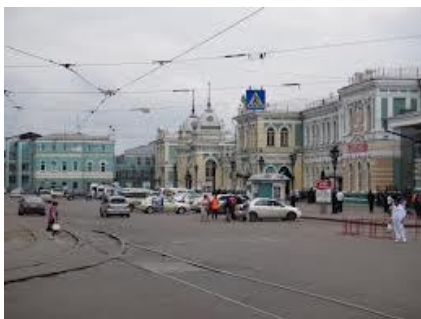


Final Report
Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)
Irkutsk Russia
19 July 2013 – 21 July 2013

Carrying the Message Beyond Borders

Hotel Pribaikalskaya, Irkutsk, Russia



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Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement of membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Statement of Responsibility

I am responsible

When anyone, anywhere

Reaches out for help

I want the hand of AA

Always to be there

And for that... I am responsible.

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Asia Oceania Service Meeting – Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting seeks ways to accomplish this goal by providing a forum for the delegates to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries they represent and who come together from all parts of Asia and Oceania.

It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be represented there.

Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables the message to be delivered more effectively. The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work.

The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself.

Guidelines for the Conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. The AOSM shall meet every two years, alternating with the World Service Meeting. The AOSM shall be held in July in each odd numbered year, commencing July 2003.
2. The meeting shall be at least four nights and three days duration. The Delegates Orientation Session shall be held on the Thursday evening prior to the commencement of the AOSM.
3. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two Delegates.
4. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall choose its own representatives. When country sponsorship is involved the following guideline shall apply:
 - 1) The candidate should be endorsed by at least two AA groups where there is not yet an established structure in that Delegate's country.
 - 2) The candidate should have a minimum of **three** years unbroken sobriety as an elected representative, with service beyond group level (5th AOSM Hong Kong).
5. Neither Delegate qualification nor country structure shall be considered relevant as the criteria to be applied when considering attendance at the AOSM.
6. The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting.
7. The Secretariat shall rotate after two AOSM meetings.
8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Finances

As per Tradition Seven, the AOSM is fully self supporting, and in accordance with a decision taken at the 4th AOSM, a prudent reserve of \$500 per annum should be maintained.

Those countries in the region, that can afford to do so, are asked to contribute to this fund. The finances are used chiefly for the administration of the AOSM.

These funds are used to pay the expenses for:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Maintenance of the AOSM Website
- Postage and stationary fees that may be incurred.

The finance of the Delegates shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional structure.

A delegate's contribution fee may apply to cover the out of pocket expenses for the Host Country, (meeting facilities, audio, printing etc).

These funds should not be used for Delegate sponsorship. Where a country is requesting sponsorship to send a Delegate to the AOSM, this should be done on a county-to-country basis via the AOSM Secretary.

Section 1 – Recommendations and Actions Arising from the 10th AOSM Irkutsk 2013

Literature & Publishing Committee

Committee Members:

- **Chair:** Donald Sequeira, 1st Term Delegate (India)
- John Loty, 2nd Term Delegate (Australia)
- Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger, 1st Term Delegate (Mongolia)
- Kunal Biswas, 2nd Term Delegate (MERCAA)

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2

2. Apologies: Nil

3. Minutes of last meeting:

4. Matters arising:

Mongolia requested a translation some years ago that has not yet been completed by NY GSO – Greg Tobin is following this up.

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. New Business

- We reviewed the Composition Scope & Procedure Document of the Literature Publishing committee and recommended a change to include an advisory role to assist AOSM countries if they require.
- The committee made a request to the AOSM that the responsibilities for the website move from the Agenda, Site Selection and Website Committee to the Literature and Publishing Committee.
- The committee requested that group emails from AOSM website be made available and that the AOSM Delegates utilise “drop box” until these are up and running.

7. Other Business:

- Request NY GSO considers producing an illustrated version of some literature to reach those potential AA members in AOSM countries who cannot read and write. ***

8. Date of next meeting

TBA 2015

9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson

Chair: Literature & Publishing Committee 2013 - 2015, Donald Sequeira (India)

Alternate Chair: Literature & Publishing Committee 2013 - 2015, Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger (Mongolia)

Literature/Publishing Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure

Composition

The Literature/Publishing Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong.

The Literature/Publishing Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote.

Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM

Scope

The purpose and function of this committee is to provide a forum for an exchange of experiences on the translations and publications of the member countries in the AOSM zone and to make recommendations (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM.

Procedure

1. The committee will meet during each AOSM
2. The meeting will be conducted by the chairperson of the committee
3. The present committee chairperson is to serve as chairperson throughout this AOSM. The committee will elect a new chairperson and alternate from the 1st term delegates, who will take over at the close of this AOSM
4. The current chairperson of the committee will present the recommendations of the committee to the entire AOSM for their amendment or approval
5. A majority, two-thirds vote or a sense of the meeting (whichever is chosen by the committee) can be used for committee recommendations
6. The Chair will maintain correspondence and communications with the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM, as well as with other members of the committee, throughout the interval between Asia Oceania Service Meetings

From the 6th AOSM in Australia the committee approved the following agenda:

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Date of next meeting
9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson

Working with Others Committee

Committee Members:

- **Chair:** Steve Smith, 1st Term Delegate (New Zealand)
- Valéry T, 2nd Term Delegate (Russia)
- Michael Alan Pence, 1st Term Delegate (Thailand)
- Ogshoon Ganbat, 1st Term Delegate (Mongolia)

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of last meeting

4. Matters arising

Nil

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. New Business

- We reviewed our Composition, Scope, and Procedure Document, and added the following:

In our procedures the Chair will maintain correspondence with the AOSM Secretary and the Chair of AOSM and the members of the Working with Others Committee.

- Each AOSM Delegate to the AOSM takes to his or her country the idea of identifying a country where AA is small or non-existent making contact, explaining AA and working with that country.
- Ensure that service structure sponsorship be given to all emerging countries as necessary and/or requested and noted that continuity is very important.
- The AOSM endorse the recommendation – that the service manual be translated into Mongolian.
This was discussed and not supported by the AOSM. The Committee was advised it was not the role of the AOSM and that the translation process will be followed as set out by AA World Service.
- We request that the AOSM look into/discuss the possibility of the "Women to India" initiative being duplicated in other countries. As large or smaller scale as desired.
- Noted that service structure support is very important and when we take on other countries we do not ignore the service structure.

7. Other Business

- Our Committee requests the AOSM to endorse our recommendation that the Service Manual be translate into Mongolian. Greg Tobin to follow this up.

- Each member made the commitment to keep up to date/current with what is happening in their respective countries and recommend the discussion on a web site facility for easy communication and posting amongst all delegates.

8. Date of next meeting

TBA 2015

9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson

Chair: Working with Others Committee 2013-2015, Steve Smith (New Zealand)

Alternate Chair: Working with Others Committee 2013-2015, Ogshoon Ganbat (Mongolia)

Working with Others Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure

Composition

The Working with Others Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong.

The Working with Others Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote.

Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM.

Scope

The purpose and function of this committee is to work with others to establish means of communication between AOSM countries and to further the goals of the AOSM between AOSM meetings and to make recommendations (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM.

Procedure

- a) The committee will meet during each AOSM
- b) The meeting will be conducted by the chairperson of the committee
- c) The present committee chairperson is to serve as chairperson throughout this AOSM. The committee will elect a new chairperson and alternate from the 1st term delegates, who will take over at the close of this AOSM
- d) The current chairperson of the committee will present the recommendations of the committee to the entire AOSM for their amendment or approval
- e) A majority, two-thirds vote or a sense of the meeting (whichever is chosen by the committee) can be used for committee recommendations
- f) The chairman will maintain correspondence and communications with the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM as well as with other members of the committee, throughout the interval between Asia Oceania Service Meetings.

From the 6th AOSM in Australia the committee approved the following agenda:

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Vote of next meeting
9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson

Site Selection, Website and Agenda Committee

Report presented by the Committee Chair, Yasuo Niimura, 2nd Term Delegate (Japan)

Committee Member:

- **Chair:** Yasuo Niimura, 2nd Term Delegate (Japan)
- Wayne Davis, 1st Term Delegate (Thailand)
- Joanne Schmitt, 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong)
- Elena Lavrova, 1st Term Delegate (Russia)

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2

Introduction of committee members, thanks for all of their hard work.

2. Apologies:

Velayuthams 1st Term delegate (Singapore)

3. Minutes of last meeting:

We reviewed the minutes from the 9th AOSM, and noted items outstanding from the 9th AOSM.

4. Matters arising:

This Committee started without a chairperson, so our first order of business was to choose a Chair. Yasuo Niimura (Japan) was selected as Chair and Joanne Schmitt (Hong Kong) as recording secretary.

This committee met three times during this 10th AOSM, until 11pm on Sat night. During our meetings we reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedures and took no action.

We discussed our three areas of focus and agreed recommendations for each of our three areas of focus (Site Selection, Agenda, and Website).

5. Correspondence:

Nil

6. New Business:

1) Site selection:

- a) The Committee met with and heard presentations from the four bidding countries: Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and Mongolia. We carefully considered the advantages of each.
- b) The Committee recommends that the 11th AOSM be held in Dubai in Sept or Oct 2015, with the exact date to be confirmed with the host committee to ensure it does not conflict with any local events.

Voting: Passed Unanimously

2) Agenda:

a) Theme

The Committee recommends that the theme of the 11th AOSM be “Carrying the Message through Public Information / Cooperating with Professional Community”.

Discussion - not passed refer General Business.

b) Workshop

The Committee recommends that one workshop be held, which would focus on issues that support the main theme.

Voting: Passed Unanimously

c) Communication

The Committee noted the lack of communication from the 9th AOSM regarding the agenda. This Committee is committed to maintaining close communication with the Chair and Secretary to guide the creation of the agenda for the 11th AOSM.

d) Timing

It is the intention of this Committee to have an agenda finalized well before the 11th AOSM to give delegates time to prepare.

3) Website:

a) Webmaster

The Committee recommends that Steve T continue as Webmaster, working closely with this Committee.

Voting: Passed Unanimously

b) Cost

The Committee recommends that the on going annual cost for hosting the website be paid by AOSM (note: present cost is AUD 120 / year).

In recognition that the Webmaster has in the past been paying for the cost of hosting this site, the Committee recommends that he be reimbursed for the hosting fees, not to exceed AUD 240 (Note: The Committee understands that he has paid for the past two years out of pocket).

Voting: Passed Unanimously

c) Website Content Updates

The Committee reviewed the website and based on the 9th AOSM recommendations, the Committee will work with Steve T to have the external website updated as soon as possible, and to make sure the content adheres to the 12 Traditions.

7. Other Business:

The Committee also made a commitment to have the password protected, delegate-only area of the website created and launched no later than 1 year from now. This portion will serve as a vehicle for communicating details in preparation for the 11th AOSM, as well as include information intended to help educate all incoming first-term delegates.

8. Date of next meeting:

TBA 2015

9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson:

Chair: Joanne Schmitt (Hong Kong)

Alternate Chair: Elena Lavrova (Russia)

Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure

Composition

The Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong.

The Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote.

Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chairman and Secretary of the AOSM

Scope

The purpose and function of this committee is the Selection of the site for each AOSM, wording on the agenda with the Chairman and Secretary between AOSM meetings and for the care of the Website with the Web Steward and Secretary and to review and initiate recommendations (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM.

Procedure

1. The committee will meet during each AOSM
2. The meeting will be conducted by the Chairperson of the committee
3. The present committee chairperson is to serve as chairperson throughout this AOSM. The committee will elect a new chairperson and alternate from the 1st term delegates, who will take over at the close of this AOSM
4. The current chairperson of the committee will present the recommendations of the committee to the entire AOSM for their amendment or approval
5. A majority, two thirds vote or a sense of the meeting (whichever is chosen by the committee) can be used for committee recommendations
6. The Chair will maintain correspondence and communications with the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM, as well as with other members of the committee throughout the interval between Asia Oceania Service Meetings.

From the 6th AOSM in Australia the committee approved the following agenda:

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Date of next meeting
9. Election of new chairperson and alternate chairperson

Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee

Committee Members:

- **Chair:** Francisco Aguiar, 2nd Term Delegate (India)
- Tony Ashton, 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA)
- David Gee, 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand)
- Sharon Rexter, 1st Term Delegate, (Australia)
- Megan Inglis-Davies, 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong)

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2

2. Apologies:

Nil

3. Minutes of last meeting:

Nil

4. Matters arising:

Nil

5. Correspondence:

Nil

6. New Business

The Committee asked for additional time and to be excused from the first workshop to facilitate the extra work the Committee foresaw as a result of many policy and finance decisions on the table.

This was granted by the meeting.

We reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedures. We found we needed clarification on the point regarding the Secretary “assigned to the committee does not have a vote”. This clarification was provided to the AOSM by Doug Grude (Past delegate/ translator). His recall was that the Host Committee shall provide a Secretary. This person will not vote in this Committee.

As no Host Committee Secretary was provided, the Recording Secretary participated in the voting procedure where required.

We reviewed minutes from the 9th AOSM and found that many policy recommendations had been agreed but not voted or adopted. We sought remedy to this, to allow the work of AOSM to be more effective by clarifying policies.

During our meeting we reviewed the AOSM Guidelines Document and found it needed revision to bring it up to date. The revised Guidelines follow including changes (in bold).

Guidelines

For the Conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. The AOSM shall meet every two years, alternating with the WSM.

2. **The meeting shall be of at least four nights and three days duration.**
3. Each country/AA regional structure shall choose its own representatives
4. Finance shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional structure.
5. The AOSM Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting
6. The Secretariat shall be rotated after two AOSMs
7. Each country/AA regional structure shall be eligible to send up to two delegates.
8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the chairperson.

Guideline 1 and 2

The AOSM shall be held during July in each odd-numbered year, commencing July 2003.

The meeting should commence on a Friday morning and conclude on Sunday afternoon until such time as delegates elect to extend the meeting dates.

Orientation shall be conducted on the Thursday evening

Voting: Passed unanimously

Guidelines 3 and 7

- Neither delegate qualification nor country structure shall be considered relevant as the criteria to be applied when considering attendance at the AOSM.
- The candidate should be endorsed by at least two AA Groups where there is not yet an established structure in the delegate's country.
- The candidate should have a minimum of **three** year's sobriety as an elected representative beyond group level. (5th AOSM Hong Kong) (Discussed but not voted or agreed 2013)

Other recommendations from 2011 and still outstanding:

- That the Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee to formulate an archivist job description and that this Committee describe policy and conditions; and look for suitable person/before the 2009 AOSM.

The Recommendation of the Committee that the Archivist job be combined in a web based solution was adopted – see point ** below

- That the AOSM 2009 looks at the eligibility for the position of chairperson and for the voting *procedure regarding this and other positions.*

The Recommendation of the Committee for eligibility for the position of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer was adopted – see point (Policy 1) below.

Policy

Many of the recommendations of the previous Policy committee, brought to the AOSM in 2011, *were agreed but not formally voted or adopted. Therefore we have attempted to clarify the points in our meetings, and bring to the AOSM for ratification.*

1) AOSM Positions

There are no existing job descriptions for key office holders per 9th AOSM recommendations. We recommend job descriptions together with the qualification criteria for those roles are adopted.

Note: World Service recommendations suggested as a basis.

a) AOSM Chair

i) Eligibility

Must have attended two previous consecutive AOSM meetings and be present at the AOSM at which the vote is held. Service must be consecutive.

(Voted 2013 Passed unanimously).

ii) Voting Procedure

Voting was conducted by the Third Legacy Procedure

iii) Primary responsibilities

- Chairs AOSM meeting.
- Works in coordination and consultation with Host Committee, being mindful of and working within the guidelines and traditions of AA.
- Receives and follows up on reports and communications from Committee Chairpersons, to encourage completion of action items required prior to next AOSM.
- Publishes bi-annual updates of committee Action progress reports.
- Encourages consistent implementation of AOSM guidelines and concepts.
- Calls for items for Agenda for AOSM meeting.
- Liaises with Agenda Committee and Secretary when preparing AOSM Agenda.
- Custodian of AOSM bank account password.

(Voting: Passed Unanimously)

b) AOSM Secretary

i) Eligibility

Secretary must have attended two international service meetings - AOSM and/or World Service Meeting (or one of each) as a delegate or alternate.

(Voting: 17 for 1 abstention)

ii) Voting Procedure

Voting was conducted by a show of hands

iii) Primary Responsibilities

- Is responsible for the administration and safekeeping all AOSM documents, including Treasurer's reports.
- At completion of service period ensures that all documentation is saved in AOSM archives.**
- Acts as liaison between Delegates, host committee, AOSM chairman, ensuring correct communication channels are followed at all times, including information sent to web master.
- During AOSM, records motions made and minutes agreements reached.
- Collates minutes of meetings and circulates draft report to all delegates for review.
- Obtains prior email approval for expenditure from AOSM Chair and Finance Committee Chair.
- Coordinates changes, addendums, writes up and circulates final report of meeting.

- Maintains list of country delegates.
- Updates contact information.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

c) AOSM Treasurer

i) Eligibility

Must have attended one AOSM and/or WSM as a delegate or alternate but does not have to be present at the AOSM in the role.

(Voting: 17 for, 1 abstention)

ii) Voting Procedure:

Voting was conducted by a show of hands

iii) Primary Responsibilities

- Guardianship of AOSM funds.
- Receives and administers said funds.
- Sets up bank accounts.
- Sends password of bank account to AOSM Chair.
- Advises the account pin number to Finance Chair.
- Maintains electronic and hard copy of any transactions made whether incoming or outgoing expenditure.
- Publishes finance reports bi-annually.
- Sends report for inclusion in AOSM Final report.
- Confers with Secretary on any transaction required.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

d) Alternate Chair/ Secretary/ Treasurer

Recommendation that alternates be adopted and voted in to 'shadow' positions but not to attend AOSM.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

2) Organizational aspects of AOSM

It was previously agreed (8th AOSM) that the use of a professional conference checklist (similar to that in use for WSM) be adopted for organizing every AOSM.

a) We recommend that a checklist be provided and implemented in the next two months and be put to use for the next AOSM. This checklist is intended for use by Secretary, AOSM Chair and host country and is intended to be a shared document.

b) It was recommended that the Hong Kong Delegate and Australian Delegate work on a checklist for approval.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

Website

a) We recommend that the website responsibility be merged with the Literature and Publications Committee and removed as a responsibility of the Agenda/Site Selection Committee.

(Voting: 17 for, 1 abstention)

b) We recommend that AOSM approve a webmaster be appointed and approve a budget (Agreed per SSAW Committee report item 3.b)

c) We recommend that the present format of the directory on the AOSM website is outdated. We recommend that it shall be replaced with, and held under 'contacts' in the AOSM country/area web links, or country contacts, where link being unavailable.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

d) We recommend that the website shall have public and private access pages. All information explaining what, who and how AOSM functions is public. All reports, programs, minutes, etc. are on the member's side.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

World Service Meeting

a) It was noted that no delegate from AOSM attends WSM on behalf of AOSM. Out of a pool of first term delegates, someone must be selected to WRITE the report and the report is presented at the WSM.

We recommend an amendment to the agenda wording:

‘The person must be agreed at the current AOSM and the name and email sent to the international desk of World Services’.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

Policies for conduct at AOSM meetings

a) We recommend that the host country will display banners - 12 Steps/12 Traditions/12 Concepts at a significant location at each AOSM.

b) Roberts Rules as they pertain to AOSM procedures should be included on the website.

c) We recommend that Country reports to be taken as read - however we recommend that three (3) minutes be allocated to each country to present country service highlights. Extra time may be allocated for third party translations or multi country reports.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

d) According to Point 7 of the 2011 guidelines (now Point 2) -" meeting should be of two days duration"

This was already recommended, agreed but not voted on at 2011 AOSM.

e) The previous committee recommended that policy of four nights / three days be adopted.

We recommend the adoption of this new guideline.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

Delegates Pack

a) We recommend that the business matters in the packs should precede reports. Minutes should precede all reports.

b) Orientation should be Thursday night as per minutes 2011.

Secretaries for the Committees

a) It is noted that it was agreed (2011) that every committee be allocated / given a secretary (Volunteers from the host country). We are aware of the challenge of this and this has not been done in Russia. Discussion took place as to whether this should be done for the next AOSM.

We recommended that this topic be held over for discussion at the 11th AOSM. Background given by Doug Grude was very helpful.

Finance

a) Bank account

Pursuant to Tradition 6 we recommend that the AOSM Bank account will not include or reference AA or Alcoholics Anonymous in its name.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

b) Chair reimbursement

It is policy that the Chair will be reimbursed in AOSM for their expenses.

We endorse the reimbursement and we also recommend that in future the Chair is given a per diem cash allowance based on a Finance Committee recommended budget.

(Voting: 15 for 2 against 1 abstention)

AOSM Area map

As MERCAA is a region in the AOSM and the host of AOSM 2015, we recommend MERCAA is included in the Regional Map.

(Voting: Passed unanimously)

7. Additional Business:

We are asking the web committee to create a service structure flow chart to be displayed on the website.

8. Date of next meeting:

TBA 2015

9. Election of new Chairperson and alternate Chairperson:

The committee elected the following officers to serve on the Policy, Finance and Admissions Committee at the 11th AOSM.

- Tony Ashton (MERCAA) elected as Chair
- Sharon Rexter (Australia) elected as Alternate Chair
- Megan Inglis-Davies (Hong Kong) elected as Recording Secretary.

Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure

Composition

The Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 9th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong.

The Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote.

Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM.

Scope

The purpose and function of this committee is to review and initiate recommendations involving policies, finances and requests for admissions (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM

Procedure

1. The committee will meet during each AOSM
2. The meeting will be conducted by the Chairperson of the committee
3. The present committee chairperson is to serve as chairperson throughout this AOSM. The committee will elect a new chairperson and alternate from the 1st term delegates who will take over at the close of this AOSM
4. The current chairperson of the committee will present the recommendations of the committee to the entire AOSM for their amendment or approval
5. A majority, two thirds vote or a sense of the meeting (whichever is chosen by the committee) can be used for committee recommendations
6. The Chair will maintain correspondence and communications with the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM, as well as with other members of the committee, throughout the interval between Asia Oceania Service Meetings.

From the 6th AOSM in Australia the committee approved the following agenda:

1. Open with A the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Date of next meeting
9. Election of new Chairperson and alternate Chairperson

General Business

Secretary's report accepted

Treasurer's report accepted

Country Reports – Taken as already read. Countries provide verbal 3 minute summary of reports –

Passed

1. Review AOSM Guidelines. It was agreed that the Policy/Admissions and Finance Committee will review the guidelines in line with the recent policy decisions and circulate to delegates within the next six months.
2. Sharon Rexter (Australia) was selected as the Delegate to write and forward to the International desk at NY GSO a report on the 10th AOSM.
3. Next six months confirmation of venue, date and theme of the 11th AOSM.
4. John Loty (Australia) was elected AOSM Chair for 2015 and Francisco Aguiar (India) was elected alternate AOSM Chair.
5. Anne de Villiers (United Arab Emirates) was elected alternate AOSM secretary.
6. David Gee (New Zealand) was elected AOSM Treasurer.

Other matters:

- AOSM does not sponsor countries. It is up to the particular country to do so.
- AOSM does not publish literature.

Section 2 – Addresses and General Reports

Welcome Address and AOSM Chairperson's Report

Good morning, fellowship! I am Shrikanth. A very warm welcome to all of you present here today at the 10th Asia Oceanic Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in this beautiful city of Irkutsk! I would like to thank the host committee for their hard work and efforts in coordinating with the Secretariat, organizing the venue and accommodation, generating invites for the delegates ... and a thousand other tasks which go into putting together an event of this large a scale.

I would also like to thank Brenda for her boundless energy and enthusiasm over the last 2 years in keeping all of us on a tight leash and pushing us to deliver on our commitments to this event. This meeting would not have been possible without her consistent efforts and hard work. Also my thanks to the co-trustees of the General Service Board of India for having sent me as 1st term Delegate to the 8th AOSM held in Bangkok (Thailand) in 2009. It has been a very interesting journey since then leading to the 9th AOSM hosted by India at Chandigarh in 2011 and now it is my pleasure & privilege to be here in Irkutsk on my last AOSM.

Thanks to AOSM, we had 70 women delegates from Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA visiting India for 2 weeks and this visit helped the Indian Fellowship to reach out and work with women alcoholics. I earnestly feel AOSM should be the platform for more such events to take the message out to more countries across the globe. I strongly feel for those countries which have not able to participate in this AOSM due to various reasons and I am of the opinion that we should look into aspects of Country-to-Country sponsorship so that more countries can be a part of this wonderful, enriching experience that is AOSM.

Here it'd be apt to mention that India on its part had tried to reach out to Sri Lanka and their representative had even attended our own General Service Conference last but oneth. We're extending our hand now to other neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh...

We are in the process of resubmitting our proposal as a matter of policy n finance for such participation & sponsorships to our fellowship through this ensuing GSC.

I think this will strengthen and convert the theme of this AOSM i.e. 'Carrying the message beyond borders...' into action.

All this finally boils down to reaching out to the suffering alcoholic irrespective of his or her geographical location. In this 10th AOSM, let us make the most of our experiences and strengths - with a fair assessment of our shortcomings too - to reach out with hope to each and every suffering alcoholic without losing sight of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of World Service.

I'm sure all of you will enjoy this 3-day AOSM and the hospitality so generously laid out by the Host Committee. Keep coming back... It works!

Thank you.
Shrikanth

Carrying the Message Beyond Borders – An Overview

The 10th AOSM was held at the Hotel Pribaikalskaya, Irkutsk, Russia from Friday the 19th July until Sunday the 22nd of July, 2013. There were 17 Delegates present from around the Asia/Oceania Zone. Apologies from those unable to attend include Bhutan, Singapore and Nepal.

Also in attendance were Mary Clare Lynch and Greg Tobin from GSO New York along with a number of observers from both within Russia and other countries.

The AOSM sessions began on the Friday morning and took the form of a Delegates Orientation introduction to the AOSM way of doing things. This session was welcomed by members as a way of bringing everyone up to speed and being as a means of “breaking the ice” especially for new members.

Throughout the three days delegates worked diligently using a number of mechanisms. Workshops were held in which all delegates participated fully adding informative and enlightening each other on common issues. Key note presentations added to the information base and committee work enabled a number of specific works to be fulfilled. All this work by the attending delegates was further enhanced by the many opportunities to share in small groups and on one-on-one throughout the whole weekend. An opportunity many delegates took full advantage of. This AOSM also saw attending delegates’ progress a number of initiatives started but not completed by earlier AOSMs. As a consequence a number of new processes for the administration of AOSM were clarified, plans for implementation of new processes were undertaken, and a number of new roles elected. There was a shifting of responsibilities between committees to better share the workloads. It was agreed the literature and publishing committee would take on the responsibilities of the website. The AOSM now has a webmaster, a treasurer and alternate secretary. None of these roles are attending the AOSM and adding to the cost of AOSM but will aid to assist in the smooth functioning of the AOSM the work of which has been growing over the years. In particular, the appointment of a webmaster will allow the area of the website to grow.

This AOSM was particularly fortunate to have Greg Tobin’s information address on Our A.A. Literature in Many Languages - An Overview of Translations, Copyrights and Licensing. Greg is the publishing director at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York, serving the A.A, groups in U.S. and Canada. Greg’s very informative address was further complemented by the attendance of Mary Clare Lynch also from the NY GSO who attends the International desk. Both Greg and Mary-Clare were able to assist individual delegates with advancing some of the challenges they have with translations of literature.

It was heartening to see the number of contenders bidding for the privilege of hosting the 2015 AOSM. Mongolia, New Zealand, Australia and MERCAA all put in bids. After a robust analysis of the bids and pros and cons of each MERCAA was the successful bid. The 2015 AOSM will be held in Dubai. It was noted that due to the World Convention being held in Atlanta in July 2015 and that the heat in Dubai would be more comfortable in the later months of the year that in 2015 the AOSM would be held later in the year. The exact date at this point is unknown and will be confirmed in the next six months.

Our thanks must also go to those who assisted with the running of the conference which was a large number of volunteers and undertaken by the Host Committee lead by Sergei and his group of able and willing workers. Language barriers, culture differences and long distances to travel and communicate across did not deter this band of willing volunteers from providing the best service

possible to the AOSM. The final banquet dinner hosted by the Host Committee was livened by the energetic dancing of the local membership, joined by AOSM delegates.

The locale, on the banks of the lake Baikal in Siberia, was a very beautiful site and one I am sure many of the delegates and observers alike will remember for a long time to come and the friendships forged there and the work undertaken.

Brenda Hamblyn
Secretary AOSM 2011 - 2015
NEW ZEALAND
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Cell: 0274075807
E mail: Brenda.h@xtra.co.nz

Keynote Address – Carrying the Message Beyond Borders

John Loty 2nd term Delegate, Australia

My name is John Loty and I am a recovering alcoholic. When we arrived in Australia in 1949 my name was Valentin Tschistjakow. My mother is Russian.

In 1955 my stepfather purchased a corner shop (business) in Bondi Sydney and shortened his name to Loty – so I took the opportunity to change my first name to John and adopted this surname and so became John Loty.

There are many ways that the message has been carried and in the ever-expanding world, especially, the world of technology, I suspect there will be many more ways of carrying the message.

One on one

In the beginning it was very much one alcoholic to another. And of course this continues.

Friends of friends

In 1941 The Saturday Evening Post (US) published an article by Jack Alexander (a non-alcoholic) that passed on AA's message of hope to its readers, about 6000 of whom responded by making contact with what was then a fledgling AA. That carrying of the message helped 'put AA on the map' in those early years.

It is very helpful when we have these kind of "Jack Alexander types" of messages to the wider public. Recently in India there was a stunning friend of friends "message" that involved a movie star and a TV show and resulted in 300,000 telephone enquiries.

Public Relations

Tradition 11 speaks of AA preference for friends' recommendation. Something we in the Fellowship could, in my view, do more of.

A recent magnificent example of that was in India with a famous (in India) TV host that resulted in many enquiries.

Public Information Meetings

These PI meetings can be very helpful in carrying the message. I understand we will be attending one here in Irkutsk next week.

Other literature and the actual AA meetings

Now I received and finally accepted AA's message of hope, on July 1st 1988.

The way I got the message was firstly I read a book – not on the AA approved literature list – that contained a story by one of Bing Crosby's sons that opened up my mind to the possibility that AA could help me come to grips with significant and seemingly irresolvable difficulties in my life that were either caused by my alcoholic drinking or exacerbated by it. The gift of Desperation made the possibility a reality.

In the same year that I got the message, 1988, a women came to one of our meetings and asked for permission to attend the AA meeting. She said that she was an over-eater. She attended AA meetings on a regular basis as an "observer" and some 10 years later identified as an alcoholic. She became a member of AA after 10 years of attending meetings.

Internet

In 2001 one of our new members informed us that a person she had "met" on the Internet had introduced her to AA. He was actually in the USA and she in Australia. These days it is not

uncommon for newcomers to come to their first meeting after making a search on the Internet. So our AA websites are carrying the message,

Country to country - informally

Last year I met a Serbian lady who told us that her attempts (whilst in Serbia) at getting literature had not met with success. Serbia is not in the AOSM region so some of us organized some fund raising activities to purchase copies of the Big Book (in Croatian) which our GSO had in stock and shipped the BB plus other literature to Serbian AA contacts.

Your experience

These are just some of the many ways that the AA message of hope has been carried. I am sure that there are many other examples of different ways of carrying the message. So lets share with each other – right now – some of those examples and then I will return to this presentation. In sharing these stories /experiences I ask that you include illustrations of the practical working of the “principle of attraction”.

However to make this experience really interesting I want delegates and observers to choose someone they don't know to share with.

Delegates (and observers) will share their experiences of some of the different ways of carrying or delivering the AA message of hope with focus on “high points” of experience with: - “Carrying” – “the Message” - “beyond” – “borders” ... (Highpoints – success stories – what worked) This sharing in pairs or small groups will be followed by a sharing with the whole group of what was shared in pairs or small groups.

It is possible to share our experience in different ways – as will be experienced.

Delegates shared 1 on 1 for approx. 10 minutes.

Alcoholism is, we all know, now... “cunning, baffling and powerful” but do you know how really serious it is? Yes we, who have been to our own individual alcoholic hell, know how personally serious alcoholism is but did you know that according to the latest WHO (World Health Organization) report:

- “Every year the harmful use of alcohol kills 2.5 million people (including 320,000 young people between 15 and 29 years of age)
- harmful use of alcohol was responsible for almost 4% of all deaths in the world, according to the estimates for 2004.”

I make mention of these statistics to simply underline the importance of this task of carrying the message.

Before I get too carried away with the enormity of the “problem” I must remind delegates and myself that AAs all over the world are successfully carrying the message in all the ways we have just been discussing and I (and I am sure all of you present here today) are deeply grateful to the co-founders , early pioneers and friends of AA that collectively have done such a magnificent job dealing with this cunning, baffling and powerful condition that we call alcoholism.

More to do

I am also sure that everyone in this gathering will also agree there is a lot more to do if we are to be successful in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

WSM and AOSM

It is of course the PRIMARY PURPOSE of the AOSM – to carry the message – that is why we have these meetings - and our Statement of Purpose also makes the observation that a sound service structure enables the message to be carried more effectively.

Relationships (Emotional Sobriety)

Our 12th step makes it plain that the challenges and learning are lifelong and the “suggestion” is made ... “to practice these principles in ALL our affairs.”

I close this presentation with this reference to the 12th step because, in my view, and according to many studies of “change” programs generally – the behaviour of ‘leaders’ is a very important factor.

Now what I mean by ‘leaders’ in this context is anyone who accepts responsibility and does something about it. Which of course includes all of us.

One of our AA sayings captures this very well. I was very impressed in Mexico when at the end of a magnificent closing night to the 21st WSM, candles were lit to celebrate a newcomer’s milestone and then, as one, 100 or so members present recited this Statement of Responsibility from memory. I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

I will close by giving thanks to those responsible – that carried the message to us.

John Loty
2nd term Delegate
Australia

Carrying the Message Around the World

Presentation by Greg Tobin, GSO Publishing Director Asia-Oceania Service Meeting - Irkutsk, Russia - July 21, 2013

Our A.A. Literature in Many Languages. An Overview of Translations, Copyrights and Licensing

My name is Greg Tobin, an alcoholic who is grateful to have found sobriety in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am deeply honored to be the publishing director at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York, serving the A.A. groups in U.S. and Canada.

As members and representatives of AA in your countries, you inspire me and others to participate in sharing A.A.'s solution for the malady of alcoholism and to extend the hand of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Members of our General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards, as well as Staff and employees of G.S.O. and the Grapevine office extend deep gratitude to each of you for service dedicated to A.A.'s primary purpose—carrying our message to each alcoholic who seeks our help. Your service is given freely without expectation of personal recognition, a principle by which Alcoholics Anonymous has spread across the world as a beacon of hope for despairing alcoholics. I've been asked to share on a subject vital to each of us— A.A. literature and translations of books and pamphlets that contain the fundamentals of how A.A. works to lead people like you and me to sobriety and the importance of copyrights and proper licensing.

A.A.'s beloved co-founder, Bill W., who often called the influence of A.A. literature incalculable," wrote the following in May 1964:

"Suppose, for instance, that during the last twenty-five years A.A. had never published any basic literature...no books, no pamphlets. We need little imagination to see that by now our message would be hopelessly garbled. Our relations with medicine and religion would have become a shamble. To alcoholics...we would today be a joke and the public would have thought us a riddle. Without its literature, A.A. would certainly have bogged down in a welter of controversy and disunity."

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, as it is in the present, the A.A. message of recovery from alcoholism was carried by one alcoholic talking to another – one human being to another. However, since 1939 and the publication of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, our literature has played an important role in spreading A.A.'s message worldwide.

By imparting information about A.A. and its Twelve Steps, A.A. literature truly helps to widen the door of hope and recovery from alcoholism – a new or potential member walking into an A.A. meeting for the first time or an alcoholic reaching out for help may be given some basic A.A. literature along with local A.A. meeting information.

Today, our Big Book is available in 62 languages and there is an assortment of other A.A. books and pamphlets that have been translated or are in progress. A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) holds more than 700 copyrights on A.A. literature, including the Big Book—copyrights held in trust for A.A. as a whole.

Translations of A.A. literature are an essential service facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the International Literature Assistance Fund established by the World Service Meeting.

Translations come about in two ways: (1) Occasionally, professionals or A.A. groups in countries where A.A. is new ask that we translate a basic book or pamphlet for their use, and (2) More frequently, bilingual local members where A.A. has taken root begin translating A.A. materials such as the Preamble, The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and other recovery literature. Eventually, local A.A. groups and/or boards move on to larger projects, such as the Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Before anyone—A.A. group, board or member—begins translating A.A.'s copyrighted literature, they must first request permission to translate by contacting the publishing department in G.S.O., New York.

On receipt of a request for permission to translate an A.A. title, our publishing department usually asks that a translation of the pamphlet or a few chapters of the book be submitted for review. The proposed new translation is checked by professionals to assure clarity and adherence to the sense and spirit of the original English work. It is always best to follow this method before applying effort to a translation which may not be acceptable in the long run.

If the translation does not adequately reflect the original material or is of uneven quality, the A.A.W.S. Board will consider authorizing that the work be done through our professional translators. Accuracy and integrity are especially important for translations of Bill W.'s writings such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as well as other works by Bill W. Each translation should reflect the tone and spirit of Bill's original work.

At times, it's difficult for A.A. members who read a translation in another language to accept some of the terms or words written that may seem outdated or irrelevant. Our General Service Conference, which represents the group conscience of A.A. in U.S. and Canada established the policy that the basic text of the Big Book, as well as the text of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions remain as written by Bill W. The policy governs our approach to each translation of Bill's works—we strive for each translation to reflect the original text as closely as possible.

Now, concerning the publishing of A.A. literature, I wish to convey the importance placed on licensing and copyright protection of A.A. literature. As you may be aware, A.A. World Services, Inc. has been assigned the operational responsibility for preserving and protecting literature, a valuable Fellowship resource. A.A. literature conveys the A.A. message – a message always freely given. Infringement or misuse of our literature, even within the Fellowship, might lead to a great deal of confusion particularly with our friends outside the Fellowship and more importantly with the newcomer; our copyright interest might be diluted and the precious A.A. message of recovery might be distorted. For these reasons, A.A.W.S. through the G.S.O. has established procedures for licensing and copyright protection of A.A. literature

Before an approved translation is published, a license to publish the A.A. book or pamphlet is granted, and we furnish the licensee with the Copyright Notice to be printed in the new publication. This assures that all necessary permission requirements are in place and prevents problems with the Copyright protection afforded the translated A.A. book, pamphlet or other material.

We understand that translations are more an art than a science. Several translators may choose different words or terminology to express the original concept, and each translator is convinced that his or her interpretation is most accurate. The final decision rests with the group conscience of A.A. in each country, often delegated to a Translations Committee. A.A.W.S. grants only one license per country or structure, and always abides by the group conscience.

Copyrights

A.A.W.S. is the owner of the copyrights in most of the world on Bill W.'s writings, as well as copyrights on literature approved by the General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada. The A.A.W.S. Board is responsible for licensing service structures outside of the U.S. and Canada, and for reviewing and/or granting permission to translate and publish copyrighted material.

Earlier I mentioned that A.A.W.S. currently holds more than 700 copyrights on A.A. literature, including literature published by other General Service Offices and license holders who assign copyrights to A.A.W.S. Each copyright is held in trust by A.A.W.S. for the worldwide A.A. Fellowship.

Over the years, A.A.W.S. has safeguarded A.A.'s copyrighted material to protect the integrity of the A.A. message. Since the time that service structures outside of Canada/U.S. were first licensed to publish copyrighted literature, the policy has been to grant exclusive license(s) to one established service entity per country or service structure. The policy is based on the need to insure accuracy of approved translations, and to assist newer General Service Structures to achieve unity and provide services to A.A. groups in their respective lands.

The policy of granting an exclusive license to one service entity/board/committee (the licensee) per structure or country authorizes the licensee to protect the copyright and license in their country. Prior to 1986 the licensing policy was less formal and occasionally inconsistent. Since that time our General Service Conference and the World Service Meeting have affirmed the policy on several occasions. It is critical that any board/office/committee intending to translate a copyrighted work provide completed forms to A.A.W.S., Inc. in care of our publishing department.

A license agreement is good for ten years, after which a new agreement needs to be executed. Additionally, a license agreement needs to be renewed each time an approved translation is updated, revised or reprinted. The copyright notice contained in reprints or revised translations should contain the date of the original copyright rather than the date of reprint or revision. Assuring that these agreements are in order is critical to protect the integrity of the A.A. message, and to the development of A.A. structures in unity.

We are available to assist you with these procedures, and encourage everyone contemplating or working on translations of A.A. literature to contact our publishing department, the agent for A.A.W.S. We ask current license holders to appraise us of all changes and/or reprints as each change needs to be filed on our behalf. Updated registrations also need to be filed in your country. Recently, A.A.W.S. began granting permission to General Service Offices and other A.A. Service entities the opportunity to post translated literature on their Web sites, with the exception of English, French and Spanish titles, which we post. The license agreement now includes a section that may be used to request permission to post a translation on the Web site.

For licenses granted prior to 2004, the A.A. entity/license holder can write to our publishing director indicating their wish to post translated literature on the Web. An amendment to the original license will be prepared unless the subject translation is already available on the Web. Each translation must be licensed for posting on the World Wide Web; we cannot grant broad or unlimited permission.

I trust that we agree on the immense importance of translations to our primary purpose. I am confident that you will join in making certain that the process is carried out as described today. Thus we come together in the spirit of love and service to protect the integrity of A.A.'s message in print and to preserve the unity of our beloved Fellowship.

With gratitude,
Greg Tobin, Publishing Director, GSO New York

Requesting Literature Translations — An Overview

To begin translation of literature copyrighted by A.A.W.S., first complete in duplicate the form, Request for License to Translate and/or Reproduce and Distribute Copyrighted Work, and send original and duplicate to our publishing department, at the address shown below.

When the request has been approved, the A.A. entity (board/office/committee) will be notified and asked to proceed as described in the following steps.

A few translated chapters of the A.A. book or pamphlet must be submitted to our publishing department along with the completed form, Assignment of Copyright. We will have the translated manuscript checked for accuracy and integrity.

The professional assessment of the proposed translation will be returned, along with any suggestions for improvement. If necessary, the corrected manuscript will be reviewed again.

Once an acceptable version of the translation is received by our publishing department, an executed license agreement will be issued.

On behalf of A.A.W.S., we provide a copyright notice page exactly as it is to be printed in the translation approved for publication, and described in the license agreement.

As soon as an approved translation is published, A.A.W.S., Inc., in care of our publishing department, should be sent three (3) copies of the licensed work, as well as the date translation was completed and the publication date, as described in the license agreement.

For translation information, permission to translate, renew licenses, web postings, please contact:

Greg Tobin, Publishing Director
General Service Office
475 Riverside Drive, 11th floor
New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-3052
Email: Pubdir@aa.org

World Service Meeting 2012

Report to 10th AOSM held in Irkutsk Russia 19-21 July, David Gee, 2nd Term Delegate, New Zealand

As World Service Delegates, along with the alternate's primary purpose is to help the fellowship in our respective parts of the world, to meet its 12th Step responsibilities internationally. To contribute to and vote on AA's affairs worldwide. To share our experience strength and hope with other countries and strengthen our world fellowship as a whole."

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively. The World Serviced Meeting encourages the planning of sound service structures suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries and the exploration of expanding AA services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions work.

It was amazing to visit the GSO NY office in Upper Manhattan. Many of the offices overlook the beautiful Hudson river. All of the staff there were fabulous. The offices took up an entire floor of the Rockefeller building, nick name "The God Box". It is a real class operation, one we can all be proud of. It would match any other world Corporate head office. The GSO Archive is outstanding. I got a real sense of the history of our AA fellowship. Our visit to Stepping Stones in Bedford Hills, New York. "The home of AA" which was built in 1920, was 'moving' to say the least. Sitting where Bill had natted out much of the history of AA, his cigarette marks still showing on the table... My sincere thanks to Claire and her team for organising the tours.

It was gratifying to hear the experiences, strengths, hope and struggles of many of the countries involved. I felt very proud of the way NZ has grown, keeping very close to the Traditions and Concepts. Some countries are finding it hard to reach agreement on what these all meant. One country has two GSO's, each claiming that they are the official representation of their country. It appears that only one of them has the copyright grant from New York, so for the rest of us, that was the marker...

I was surprise to see not all countries structures were the same. I had to remind myself that we have needed to tailor ours to suit NZ AA and NZ laws. Europe for instance was not split into countries, but the three separate languages English, French, Spanish.

One of the requirements to be part of the WSM was that your Country/area had a GSO. So when a new country applies to join they have usually incurred the costs involved with setting a GSO office up.

Not all countries are as developed as others, for example, having a board made up of separate members and Class A trustees working with the elected delegates. Some class A trustees were there representing their country / Area, instead of an elected World delegate.

There were four countries that were newly accepted into the WSM. They were; Chile and Slovenia with Hungary and Ecuador

Of concern to most of us on the finance committee was the fact that the USA and Canada fellowship subsidised the WSM to the tune of \$194,800 or 68% of the cost. This has risen from 42% 6 years ago. Figures are attached on the back pages. It was basically agreed that this needed to be split more

fairly among the countries attending. We should always strive to be self-supporting at every level of AA.

The country reports told of the great love and service that this fellowship has throughout the world. They spoke of trials and tribulations and their persistent efforts to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

It was so great to hear of the work that Mexico has done in the most, if not all, the Spanish speaking countries around. It seems that they had a helping hand in most of these nations set up and help to get AA going.

In some cities AA groups were dominated by NA's who, because they didn't drink, felt it alright to be in the meetings. Quoting "Remember we deal with alcohol" [pg 58 last line] They then talk only of their drug use [yes current]. They don't want to go to NA because they don't want to stop taking drugs. This is clearly not the AA message we want newcomers to hear. And any NA looking for help would not hear an appropriate message either.

It was clear to see that we were among men and women who had served their respective fellowships well. Friendship were made, with the help of skilful interrupters, we were able to talk about our common concerns, experiences and joys. I now have a translator on my Iphone and computer. One day, maybe the "fish in the ear" used in "Hitch hikers Guide to the Galaxy" will exist and language will no longer be a barrier.

I was able to share about the cost of literature relating to the expenses of running New Zealand office in AA. Our Service Centre and our GSO rely only on 16 - 18% of surplus sales to cover expenses. For many countries the % was much much higher.

I noted that Auckland AA's were happy to pay more for literature to have their own Service Centre office and that if money was the issues, they could buy directly from GSO cheaper. This was my experience relating to the cost of literature. It was not so important in the big scheme of things, noting that most AA's I know, spend far more on "John Barleycorn" and as part of our program we must become self-supported and not rely on others for these simple things. This flowed through into the 'Finance committee' which I was pleased to be a part of.

The before mentioned 'subsidy of the WSM' was the focus of our discussions. For my part, I suggested that like a normal AA meeting that the NEWCOMERS are not expected to pay the bills and those of us who reaping the rewards of Sobriety can cover the costs. For the first WSM meeting that is. After that we should have 50% of the total cost of running the WSM directly paid by those countries attaining. The US and Canada were quite happy to pay whatever was needed. But after some discussion it was "Recommend that" The powers that be, look at costs and apportion in this better light.

One suggestion from GSO New York was to hold the WSM once every three years instead of every two years. This was briefly discussed but not accepted. Unanimously we felt it better to pay our way. Even the few newer countries believed that they could come up with the fees.

Steven, New Zealand's 1st year delegate was assigned to sit on the "Working with Others" committee. The purpose and function of this committee is to further A.A.'s purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about A.A., by cooperating (while not affiliating) with professional groups and individuals who work with alcoholics, and by taking the A.A. program to those who are confined in institutions (correctional and treatment facilities). He forwarded an agenda item to this committee, and presented a report on the NZ "Police

initiative " This was discussed at length and well received with many country's sharing their experience in this area . We are very lucky to have this relationship/ cooperation with Police. Among many topics discussed were drug courts, something NZ is trialling in the Auckland area at present. It was shared that in Trinidad first time drunk drivers are sent to rehab and that police regularly ask AA to Health fairs around the country. Peru through their PI work were approached by their local Police and asked to speak to all police officers over a two day period, From this Two police officers came to AA .This is now repeated regularly and a domino effect seems to have started Italy shared about the importance of guidelines and sponsorship when visiting prisons as a lack of these in the past has led to the denial of access to many at present South Africa adopted 2012 as the year of the Doctor.

We also discussed Anonymity, At the level of Press ,Radio ,Films and social media-mass media. Mexico stated that they have twitter and Facebook accounts that belong to the fellowship and that anonymity is regularly broken

In some Spanish countries if it is discovered that a member of the military is in AA they will not be considered for promotion. Several countries run regular workshops around this topic Great Britain have decided they can do nothing re AA meetings online but have produced a guideline card that cover this. Only one country present said they officially recognise an online group and that they contribute to the local service structure. A lot of feeling at the meeting was that we should not officially recognise social media meetings and therefore have no opinion on them. It was stated that 60% of communication is body language.

America do not list online meetings as by their nature they are international groups. They are also looking into producing guidelines to cover this subject

The delegate from Finland stated "nothing in this world is free and ALL social networking sites etc, WILL use your identity for financial gain if possible

I spent an hour one night talking with the Japan delegate, Yasuo, thanks to Doug G from San Francisco the interpreter, about AA in Japan and how it worked there

The theme for our international celebration of A.A.'s 80th Anniversary, July 2-5, 2015, in Atlanta, Georgia is to be "80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free" Big meetings will be held in the Georgia Dome, and other meetings will take place in the Georgia World Congress Centre and at local hotels

Strange as it turned out the Hurricane Sandy gave us several extra days to bond, share and communicate with each other as we gathered in the lobby often in dull emergency lighting. In one AA meeting we held where no light was available, we used a large pool light that I had brought only two days before. We placed it on the floor upside down and 'shared' in its glow as it lit the room up. As I looked around the room I could see everyone's silhouette on the walls of the room. I smiled as I thought of each and everyone's anonymity represented by those shadows.

I was told a story in my early years that has far greater meaning to me after attending the WSM in New York. It goes like this..

One day a man working from home had his young son of 4 come up to him and ask to be taken out to play. The father had about an hour's work to complete, but no wishing to say no, his simply said Yes but after you complete a puzzle I will give you. The boy was ok with this idea, what fun. The father ripped up a map of the world from a magazine and ask the boy to put it back together feeling

confident that it would take him a long time. To his surprise the boy came to him and say "can we go now" The looked at the map on the floor and asked "How did you do that so fast?".

The boy replied. On the back of the map was a picture of a man, I put the man back together and the world just fell into place....."

I sincerely believe that AA through all of you, have helped me and countless others put the person back together, and the rest is ongoing life, love and laughter.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role, I actually wish now, that I had longer to serve.

God bless

David Gee
2nd term World Service delegate

Secretary's Report - To the 10th AOSM Irkutsk Russia July 2013

Thank you for those who have provided assistance to me on this journey in service as your AOSM secretary. There have been big shoes to fill with Shirley Chaplin handing over the reins with much for me to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shirley for her assistance over the last year as I have endeavoured to fine my feet in this role. She has been a great help over this period. For this meeting I have replicated what she has previously produced as I could find no way of improving on it. They say imitation is greatest form of flattery.

The decision was made (9th AOSM) to produce the directory only in soft form. However, even a directory in soft form has become problematic as no sooner would I send out a version than I would receive new updates. Some of the countries providing updates also wanted quite a lot of detail on meetings in their country, one country sending me a link to their website for me to copy all the meetings. At this point I realised there was no real clarity about the purpose of the directory and it as decided by email to stop reproducing it in the form we were. I would appreciate if we could have a discussion at this meeting to provide direction on the directory.

There is a new AOSM website currently under development. I was provided a link to the site and some administration information to support the site. The AOSM should decide what it wants to do with a website. While the draft site does look very nice but I wonder given the cost of maintaining a site (annual fee) and the limited amount of information – due to anonymity issues – being able to be posted – is this the correct media for AOSM? It would be good if the Committee responsible could look at how (if it is to be) progressed. My experience is that we often have enthusiastic volunteers willing to look after a site but eventually those volunteers move on and the website becomes out of date very easily. There are a number of other forums available for use (which are free; Facebook etc) and a discussion should be had on the appropriateness (or just continued use of) email. Although I also note with emails I am not sure I am getting through to everyone all the time as email addresses seem to get out of date quite easily as well.

There have been no news type items received appropriate to form an AOSM newsletter. I have received a number of notices – primarily through email – which I have forwarded around as it seemed appropriate.

There were no requests for sponsorship to the AOSM from any countries in the last period. Although there was one inquiry (from an intergroup representative of Jakarta and Indonesia) which did not result in any further interest.

Lastly, the organisation of this meeting presented a number of unexpected challenges – which I think we overcame pretty well as attested by the fact that a number of us are here. I would really like to thank Sergei for his wonderful patience and assistance with arranging invitations for delegates, updating them as required, arranging payment vouchers and communicating so openly and willingly with me to ensure delegates managed to get to Irkutsk at the same time for the same purpose.

I look forward to meeting you all and working closely with you over the coming years. Brenda AOSM Secretary 2012 – 2015.

Treasurers Report - AOSM Financial Report 1/07/2011-30/6/2013

Transferred to NZ AOSM Secretariat from Australian AOSM Secretariat 21/09/2011

\$8,231.57

Income	\$	Expenses	\$
Chang Mai Group	180.00	W/holding tax (29/02/12)	12.05
NZ GSO	1,000.00	W/holding tax (31/08/12)	15.54
Steve Iffert	390.19	Sec Air travel - Irkutsk 2013	3,931.00
General Service Board (Aust)	2,427.20		
Interest (31/08/12)	47.09		
Interest (29/02/12)	36.53		
Japan GSO	532.88		
Hong Kong	3,465.28		
MERCAA	97.52		
MERCAA	486.63		
General Service Board Australia	2,390.60		
Interest (26/02/2013)	53.54		

Period Income 11,107.46 Period Expenses 3,958.59

Total Income 11,107.46

Less Expenses (3,958.59)

Sub Total 7,148.87

+ transferred balance 8,231.57

Total 15,380.44

Bank Statement as at 12/07/2013.

\$15,380.44

Expenses to pay Irkutsk 2013 (conversion rates indicative only)

Balance carried F/WD	\$15,380.44
Chairman's exp (airfares, visa, accommodation, food, misc)	(\$4,735.83)
Secretary's balance of expenses (visa, accommodation, food, misc)	(\$815.84)
Reimbursement Irkutsk Hosting Committee (audio, printing, misc equip)	
• Conference room 3 days 45000 roubles	
• Small conference rooms 3 days (11,000 roubles ¹)	
• Coffee breaks (32 people @ 100 roubles each 6x) 19200	
• Misc (e.g. printing, water, invites 2 @ 700 each = 1400 roubles)	
Total - 76600 roubles = \$US2,374.60 = NZ\$2,987.40 = US\$139.68 per delegate NZ\$175.72 per delegate	(2,987.40)
Total expenses Irkutsk	(\$6,841.37)
Balance	\$8,539.07
Delegate's contribution ² : 76600 roubles = \$US2,374.60 = NZ\$2,987.40 = US\$139.68 per delegate NZ\$175.72 per delegate	\$2,987.40
Less Prudent Reserve ³	(\$3,500.00)
Russian Donation received 19/07/2013 US50.00 cash = NZ63.01	63.01
Total Balance available 2014/15	\$8,089.48

¹ Original quote for 3 rooms - 16000 roubles – reduced after discussion with the hotel management due to inability to use rooms

² Received from Mongolian delegates \$US200.00 cash (20/07/2013) for delegates fees.

³ In accordance with the decision taken at the 4th AOSM; the prudent reserve is \$500.00 per annum.

Section 3 – Workshops

Secretary's note: Report backs from the workshops are based on written notes received from delegates.

It was moved and agreed that those committees who feel they have an excessive workload may proceed with their meetings if they wish – those members of those committees who feel they don't need the time will proceed with the workshop.

Workshop 1 – Carrying the Message Beyond Borders

How is AOSM contributing to carrying the message beyond borders?

As the World Service Meeting matured, the concept of a zonal meeting was introduced. The zonal meetings are like mini-World Service Meetings, opportunities for countries from the same geographical areas to meet. And A.A. representatives who have participated in the World Service Meetings can then share that experience with those who have not.

The primary purpose of the 'AOSM is the same as that of all A.A. activity; to carry the message to 'the alcoholic who still suffers wherever in the world he may be, whatever the language he speaks. The AOSM seeks ways and means of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of Delegates who come together every two years from all corners of the Asia Oceania Zone. It can also represent an expression of the group conscience on an Asia Oceania basis.

Experience teaches us that organizing ourselves into a sound structure enables us to develop and deliver our services more effectively. The AOSM encourages the planning of sound service structures, suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries; and the explorations of expanding A.A. services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions' work. Questions for delegates:

What is the AOSM achieving at present?

What is it expected to achieve in the future?

Does the AOSM contribute to the decision making process in AA? If not why not? If so how?

What does 'success' for AOSM look like? More countries in the Asia Oceania region attending, greater attendance by Asia Oceania countries at world service meetings? More countries with an AA presence?

Has AOSM recovered from its growing pains or is it still suffering from them? How as a delegate am I contributing to this growth?

Is the importance of AOSM understood in my country?

What have I done to communicate the work of AOSM in my country ?

Am I dedicated enough? Am I truly committed? Have I done as much as I should have done?

Report back from workshop 1

Chair – Dave Gee, 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand)

Secretary – Megan Inglis-Davies, 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong)

Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger, 1st Term Delegate (Mongolia)

Elena Lavrova, 1st Term Delegate (Russia)

Sharon Rexter, 1st Term Delegate (Australia)

1. What is AOSM achieving at present?

New Zealand and Australia have sent literature to Sri Lanka. A Twelve Step trip to India was organised by Australia to pass the message of hope to the women in India. Australia has also set up an initiative at the request of the Solomon Islands to start AA in that country. Russia's approach to the AOSM is very positive with the delegates and many observers keen to participate and learn.

It was felt there are some countries in the Asia Oceania region that are not fully aware of AOSM or its value. Mongolia is keenly participating with East Siberia in country to country sponsorship which has been made easy because the visa access between Russia and Mongolia is quite relaxed.

2. What is expected to be achieved in future?

Our key method of communicating with the AOSM members would be via our enhanced web site. This would include using standardized email addresses which are positional rather than personal. We envisage that there would be more communication between countries and delegates through friendships formed and working on committees for the AOSM.

The goal is to see the AOSM including and being brought to more countries in the region.

At the AOSM meeting itself we hope to be able to build a framework for AOSM meetings irrespective of the hosting country. We hope to be able to clarify our workshop objectives, and formalise our reporting and have active website management.

3. Does AOSM contribute to the decision making process of AA.

To make decisions AA needs a collective conscience which can only be made through the Fellowship as a whole. It can and does however make decisions which affect the process of the AOSM. Delegates share about how we can better pass the AA message and can carry the feelings of AOSM back to their individual countries.

The combination of new and older members serves as it does in AA - helping each other, learn I Ng from each other and learning how to apply the principle of Tradition 12 in service work.

4. Is the importance of AOSM understood in my country?

Most of the participants felt that at group level the importance of the AOSM is not understood & that some groups may not even know of its existence or importance. Those countries which have a service structure are probably more informed about the AOSM.

The countries with an emerging service structure felt the AOSM was vitally important to them.

Workshop 2 – Country to Country Sponsorship

One question that comes up regarding country-to-country sponsorship is how exactly to proceed. Experience indicates that it is important to find out precisely what a country being sponsored requires. Challenges include the many different cultures in the world of A.A. and different stages of development of A.A. There may also be a lack of coordination among sponsoring countries, resulting in duplication of efforts in one country while another is neglected.

Questions for delegates:

Do you understand the needs of the country you are looking to sponsor?

Do you understand where they are developmentally, what influences of culture do you need to take into account.

How does this differ from your countries culture developmental phase?

Share examples of successful country to country sponsorship

What does success look like? Growth in fellowship? Financial self support? Attendance at forums – AOSM, WSM?

What learnings can you take back and apply to your own experiences? What actions can you take to improve your countries sponsorship of other countries?

Do you have a plan for going forward?

What help do you need to carry out that plan – from your country. Other countries, the AOSM? What does that assistance look like?

Report back from workshop 2

Mike Pence, Thailand reported back - Country to country sponsorship

In attendance:

- Kunal Biswas, 2nd Term Delegate (MERCAA)
- Steve Smith, 1st Term Delegate (New Zealand)
- Valera T, 2nd Term Delegate (Russia)
- Mike Pence, 2nd Term Delegate (Thailand)
- John Loty, 2nd Term Delegate (Australia)
- Donald Sequeira, 1st Term Delegate (India)

New Zealand - Adopt a country initiative. Encouraged groups to sponsor country. 16 different islands in the pacific.

- Australia supported Solomon islands with translations, communicated with Fiji via Skype PI type work.
- Other country support includes India working with Sri Lanka on service structure to help reconcile differences.
- A lot of the things brought up were about countries sponsoring – funding – it was noted that a lot of the funding was done with individuals – half was funded by area or district the rest was funded by individuals
- Poland sponsorship with Russia and Siberia working with Mongolia, Australia working with Bhutan New Zealand/Fiji
- Donald Sequeira (India) discussed a number of initiatives for carrying the message across the border using email ---- sending messages not spam but letting the message go viral

Points raised from the workshops for further discussion.

- Set up and expand the website to assist with communication – to website committee
- Standardise emails – website meeting
- Framework for meetings – policy committee
- Set up the AOSM website
- Clash between literature and website committees.

Section 4 - Country Reports

Australia

Carrying the Message - Australia

Structure

The Conference Structure of AA in Australia is based upon the US/Canada model, reflecting our close association with AA's roots when the local fellowship started 68 years ago.

There are about 1900 AA groups in Australia. Active membership is between 15,000 and 18,000.

We have a General Service Board comprising of thirteen Trustees. There are six regional trustees, and two general service trustees who serve for a term of four years. Four non-alcoholic trustees serve for a term of five years. This can be extended by one year on an annual basis with a maximum three-year extension.

We also have a trustee emeritus. The position is for life, or until the Trustee Emeritus wishes to resign. Our chairman can be either Class A or Class B Trustees.

We have six Regions with 21 active Areas represented by the Area Delegates. The Delegates meet with the Board for the annual General Service Conference every November. Delegates serve for a maximum of three years. Their terms are staggered so that approximately one-third of Delegates to the Conference are elected by their Area's each year.

Australia has two World Service Meeting Delegates who attend both the World Service Meeting and the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting. They serve four-year terms. They attend our General Service Conference every year as voting members of Conference. Conference elects one International Delegate every two years as one rotates out of the position. Australia has attended every World Service Meeting since its inception.

Our GSO publishes a newsletter for Professionals twice a year as well as a National newsletter for members four times a year.

AA seems to go in and out of favour with the professional community in Australia.

At the present time we seem to be gaining popularity. ...One view being... " That this may be due to the world wide economic downturn and the fact that AA is free. "

Carrying the Message within Australia

Remote Communities: A new committee has just been established called the “Remote Communities Committee”. The aim of this committee is to reach out to those who are isolated by geography, language, or physical impairment.

The population in Australia is concentrated in the coastal areas of the East Coast as well as the south west of the country. The rest of the population is scattered very sparsely throughout Australia. Meetings can be hundreds of kilometres apart. In some areas there may only be one member. The challenge for us is to ensure that the hand of AA will be there, no matter where the call may come from.

We have a greater challenge with our own indigenous communities, where alcohol abuse is a major concern. In these communities there are approximately 27 different languages spoken with as many as 150 dialects. We need to ascertain the best way to reach our isolated & remote communities whilst embracing our cultural differences.

National Phone Number: In 2011 Australia launched its National Helpline Number This makes AA very contactable no matter where you are in Australia. Dialling **1300 AAAAAA (1300 22 22 22)** will put you in contact with nearest Intergroup or member, regardless of which town you are calling from. This was introduced initially for a trial period of one year. It has proved to be a popular and cost effective, means to make sure that AA is available.

Public Information: The “AA Radio Campaign” in Australia has just taken out the top radio campaign of the year category at the leading industry award show -The National Siren Awards. – These awards are run by Commercial Radio Australia and are designed to recognize the best radio advertising in the country.

We were privileged to win the “Silver Siren” for the campaign category.

The ads are very confronting about the effects of alcohol on everyday situations. The producer commented, "At the end of the day, alcoholics don't just hurt themselves. And this spot empathises with that fact in an impactful way."

This campaign won two bronze awards at the London International awards in November last year, in the Radio - Public Service/Social Welfare section. The Radio Campaign was shortlisted for the May Clio Awards in New York, one of the two big North American award shows.

The ads are titled “Mummy” “Sister” and “Co-worker”

International Sponsorship



**International
Stand**

**National
Convention**

**Twin Waters
Queensland,**

April 2013

We have an International booth or stand every year at our National Convention. Many of the 1000 or so members who attend are able to visit the stand. We raise awareness and funds through the annual Brown Paper Bag collection. This occurs each year in the Week of Founders Day by collections in a bottle-sized brown paper bag (to remind us what it used to be like). One quarter of the money collected goes to the International Literature Fund in New York and the rest goes to the Australian International Sponsorship Fund.

Reaching Out

India: The major event for the fellowship in Australia in 2013 was the twelfth step call that women of Australia, New Zealand & other countries from around the globe paid to India. “**Team India**”, came to fruition after the last AOSM meeting in Chandigarh in 2011. The delegate for India made a plea for help for women to carry the AA message to women in India. Alcoholism amongst women in India is a serious and growing problem. The fellowship in Australia was aware that India had been asking for help for women in India since 2005. The office manager for our GSO, the World Service Meeting Delegate, and the then secretary of the AOSM made a trip to India to discuss the problem and to see if women in Australia could be of assistance. And so the idea for “Team India” was born. The project was fully supported by the Australian General

Service Conference, the Australian General Service Board and National Office and the Indian General Service Board and General Service Office.

We arrived in Delhi quite late at night and were wholeheartedly welcomed by members of the Fellowship as well as the Chairman of the General Service Board in India. Organizing 70 or so women to attend four or five different institutions from 3 different hotels was a logistical nightmare, however with the help of the Fellowship in India we managed to get to where we were meant to go.

We are extremely grateful to the Fellowship & the General Service Board in India for their hospitality and hard work at making this event possible. Our only hope is that it will make recovery possible for women or at least open the door for the future.

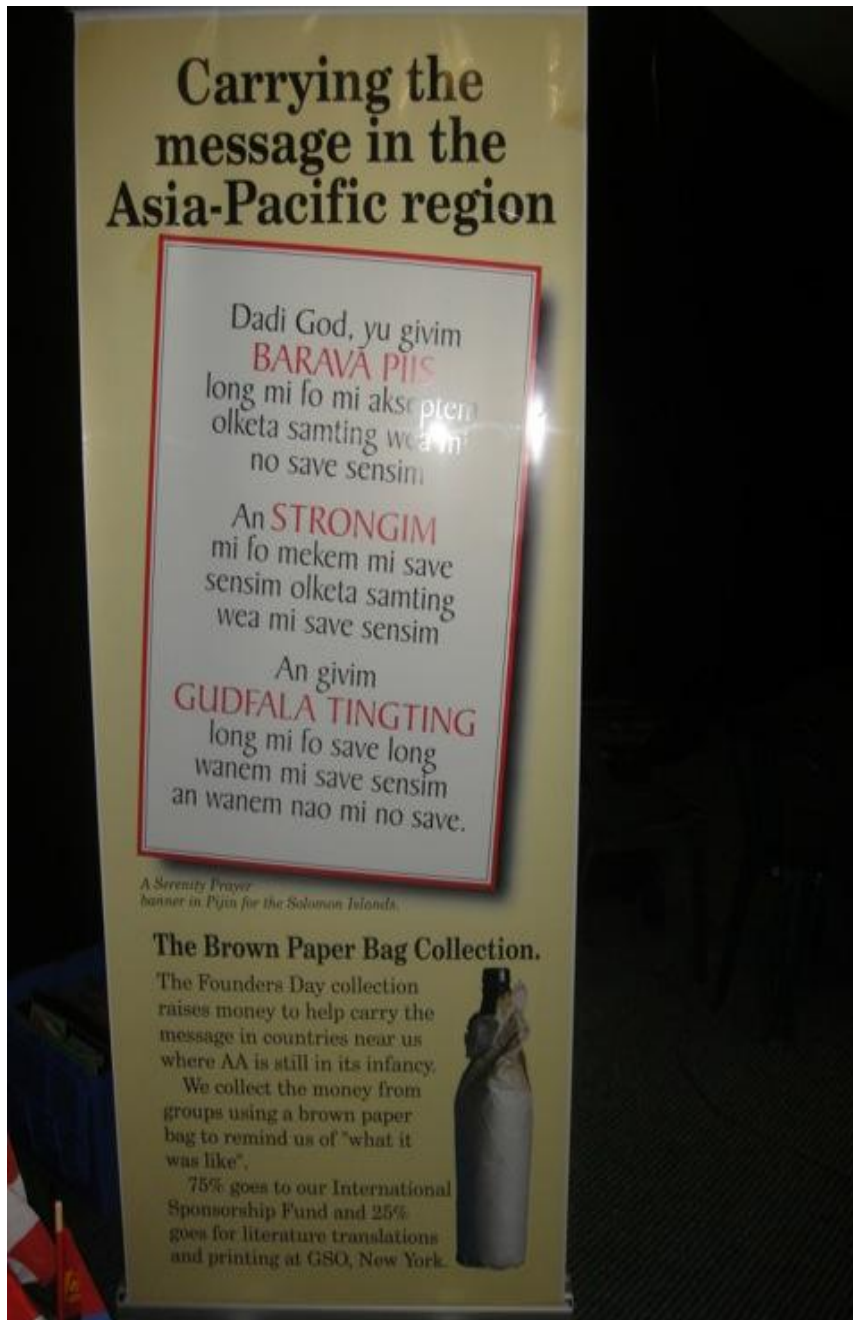
Our Class A Trustee & Trustee Emeritus worked very hard whilst we were in India and at one point our Class A trustee, Louise, who was so tired announced "I've lost the will to live "

One of the important things this trip highlighted for us in Australia, was how well the Indians do their Public Information and how much we can learn from them.

We sincerely thank them for the patience, time and fellowship they afforded us whilst we were in their country. The last report I had from India is that the women in India were preparing to have a women's AA weekend get together.

Solomon Islands have once again asked for help with their alcohol problem. After our initial visit to the Solomon's in 2007, we found that the meetings could not be maintained locally and they needed a constant AA presence. We received another call from the Solomon Islands last October 2012 and have sent two members to attend some local Public Information meetings, as well as to find out how we can be helpful in their situation. The challenge is how best to sustain AA within in the Solomon's. A committee has been formed & we have asked the members in New Zealand to help with this project. A young member, from New Zealand, is stationed on the Solomon's for 2 years. He has set up n AA helpline. Ideally, we would like to have 2or3 members

each month visit the Solomon Islands to assist him and pass the AA message.



**Serenity
 Prayer in
 Solomon
 Pidgin**

Fiji and the Pacific Islands: This year the International Sponsorship fund has paid for the AA helpline in Fiji as well as Public Information advertisements in their local newspaper. Fiji has a meeting in Suva and also Nandi.

Past World Service Meeting Delegate, Steve T, set up the website for the Fellowship in Samoa. This June Samoa is celebrating AA in Samoa with their second Convention.

Of Interest; Literature has which has been translated for the Solomon Islands and Fiji, has also proved useful for inmates in our Correctional facilities within Australia.

Philippines

Whilst there are a number of strong groups in the Philippines and they have been having successful conventions for 31 years, there is no general service structure. The GSO in Sydney received a request for information on setting up a General Service Structure. The Philippines Convention was held directly after our trip to India and I was able to divert to the Philippine's on my return journey. I was invited to give a presentation on the Friday evening, and over the course of the weekend we devised a simple plan to start setting up their structure. The Philippines consists of over 700 small islands, however it has three distinct Areas, North, Central and South. My last report from the Philippines advised that the South were forming an Area and groups were electing GSR's.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a city of approx. 7.5 million – 95 % of the population is Chinese with the balance a mix of different nationalities. Of note there are roughly 42 million visitors to Hong Kong per year. Hong Kong AA plays host to a growing segment of sober travellers.

Cantonese is the local dialect; English is the main language of the expatriate community.

Groups (in alphabetical order)

The Hong Kong/Kowloon Group runs 10 meetings at the Borret Road facility as well as the Chinese speaking meetings in Kowloon and the New Territories, Discovery Bay, Sai Kung and Cheung Chau. Hong Kong/Kowloon Group maintains website (www.aa-hk.org) for the AA as a whole for AA Hong Kong. Hong Kong and Kowloon Group has also supported new groups/meeting forming in Myanmar.

Chinese AA Meetings maintains regular contacts with Hospitals and Social Works Organizations. Regular talks were conducted for doctors and nurses (including student nurses) in two hospitals specializing in mental healthcare. Meetings with social workers, medical social workers were made in due course in the last 2 years.

Hong Kong Chinese AA celebrated 20 years anniversary last year (based on Hong Kong Chinese AA No. 2's AA Birthday 20 years ago.). All Chinese AA members (2 Chinese Group) and the family members joint together to celebrate with gratitude

Sponsorship was active among Chinese AA members and their families. Progress could be seen in members' sober lives.

Discovery Bay Meeting is in a leading expatriate enclave has grown to 3 meetings a week and is part of Hong Kong and Kowloon.

Sai Kung continues to support those in the fellowship within their neighbourhood.

Chung Chau meetings continue and are supported by visitors from all the other groups.

The Lamma Island Group Sunday morning meeting has been going for over 17 years. It has a relatively small number of regulars, but enjoys frequent visitors, who come over to enjoy the idyllic island setting. The after meeting lunch is always well attended and the meeting is the focal point of strong fellowship on the island. There is also a new Tuesday evening meditation meeting that has enjoyed a good response.

The Lunch Bunch Group meetings continue to grow in attendance. With a one hour meetings 5 days a week at St Joseph's Church (which is close to the Central Business District) the meeting works well for those with a busy business schedule.

The Morning Group has recently adopted a new format to reinforce the home group concept by initiating a "Hell or High Water" home group meeting on Wednesday. The remaining weekday meetings are currently service meetings. Being the first meeting of the day during the week, The Morning Group historically was well attended by newcomers and visiting fellows from other countries.

The Tsim Sha Tsui Group founded on the 14th July 2010 with a meeting on Thursday evenings has grown to include meetings on Tuesday evenings, Saturday mornings, and Sunday evenings. Meeting formats vary and include a rotating step meeting, a topic meeting and Daily Reflections

Meeting. The TST Group was founded at and continues to meet at The Mariner's Club, a site that is historic to Hong Kong AA founding years. Situated on Middle Road in Tsim Sha Tsui, the meetings at Mariner's Club are accessible to fellows working on the Kowloon peninsula as well as tourists and visitors to Hong Kong staying at nearby hotels.

Stanley Group

The Stanley Group meets on Saturday mornings at 9am Hail rain or shine on the first floor of St Anne's Catholic Church in Stanley on the Southside of Hong Kong. Its affectionately known as the flip flops meeting but that is literally due to its location near the beach and its relaxed weekend discussion format. The meeting has a regular attendance of around 20 people consisting of old timers and new comers and a good 50% go on for fellowship breakfast and coffee. A wonderful way to start the weekend!

Star Street Women's Group (group will select its name later this month) has recently formed and meets at 6.30 pm on a Friday in the heart of Wan Chai. It has been especially successful in reaching out to newly sober women who really need support and fellowship on a Friday night!

Step Sisters Women's Group Meets on Monday lunch time and continues to grow with the addition of a bi monthly fellowship lunch. The success of this Group is attributed to emphasis on structure and service. The temporary sponsorship initiative has seen newcomers gain a one on one relationship with a more established member of the Group quickly.

Intergroup

The Hong Kong AA Intergroup Committee (formed in 2005)

There was a hand over from Shaun B. to Marie T in the service position of Chair (Nov 2012) with a 2 year commitment and Andrew N continues as the Intergroup Manager role as a paid position. This is Andrew's 3rd year as a paid Intergroup Manager.

Groups continue to grow and at this date three new groups and /or meetings of registered groups are forming. Since the last AOSM in 2011, AA in Hong Kong has grown with the formation and registration of the Tsim Sha Tsui Group (serving the central Kowloon peninsula while the Friday Women's meeting at Star Street is becoming autonomous and registering with New York.

Also, in the works yet not registered with New York are 2 new meetings/group which at this writing are only under 3 months old. With one of them being in the Western District of Hong Kong and one being an Agnostic/Atheist meeting. AOSM reps may have this news at the meeting in Russia if they have formed and blossomed.

Support

Groups that are able, use a portion of their 7th Tradition to support the Hong Kong Intergroup Committee.

Intergroup Representatives

Every group has a choice to vote for a representative to represent their group at the Intergroup monthly meeting. Representing at this time of this writing are:

- The Lunch Bunch
- The Morning Group
- Stanley Group
- The Step Sisters Group
- Lamma Group

- Hong Kong/Kowloon Group
- Tsim Sha Tsui Group.

Intergroup AA HK is hoping at one time all groups would contribute not only monetarily but also their experience to help AA grow in HK. It is not mandatory for a group to contribute part of their 7th tradition to Intergroup or to send an Intergroup Rep. Intergroup is here for the whole of AA Hong Kong regardless.

Intergroup

Stocks literature, pamphlets and chips for ALL groups who elect to purchase from Intergroup. Most groups in Hong Kong support this literature service and Hong Kong Intergroup literature support has assisted other meetings in China as well as attendees at a convention held in Hong Kong.

Maintains and manages the 24 hour AA hotline and coordinates 12 step volunteer services.

Events which include

Unity Day an traditional event on the last Sunday of May where all 12 step programs in Hong Kong come together and host an hour in between normal meeting of AA. Unity Day was well attended in 2011/12. Food, Fellowship and Open meeting secretaries by volunteers from all 12 step groups.

Christmas Open House has traditionally kept the Borrett Road facility open on this potentially stressful day. Those without family and those who may need a respite are free to drop by for fellowship/meetings or to find someone with whom they might share. Intergroup has traditionally catered this event.

New Year's Eve Midnight Meeting traditionally the last meeting of the year. The NYE 2011/12 - 2012/3 meeting was attended by over twenty fellows, many with less than a year's sobriety.

OPEN HOUSE: From time to time Intergroup organizes Open House Topic Hours with discussions:

- Sponsorship
- Home Groups
- 5th Tradition

Workshops, which are planned to continue on a monthly basis to promote fellowship and discussion amongst the groups. It has at times been very well received.

PI/HI Committee.

- Established a PI/HI committee of volunteers from all groups on 22nd Feb 2011 that is currently implementing initiatives:
- to broaden coverage of advertisements from traditionally used publications to include free service placements on targeted lifestyle websites and targeted residential community social platforms.
- Providing literature packets for health care professionals and the clergy
- Exploration of bringing the message to the still suffering in correctional institutions
- Coordinating and providing speakers to schools through cooperation with the KELY Support Group (covering some 20 school visits addressing approximately 1,600 students. More importantly literature targeting teenagers and alcoholics in your life/workplace were placed at all schools with cards printed with contact details of HK AA and Chinese AA.)
- Outreach to the College of Psychiatry and Hospital Authority Drug Assessment Unit, and to Radio 3 for an open discussion on addictions and alcoholism.

Intergroup is excited to grow. We are in the formation of an Events Committee as well as Updating our Hot Line phonebook.

India

We sincerely thank AOSM for giving us the opportunity to serve the fellowship in Asia/ Oceania After exposure, we were able to improve communications with various constituents.

After the 9th AOSM held at Chandigarh, we were able to invite and actualize a Women's Delegation to India in January 2013. It helped us with the public information activities throughout the country. And also helped in awareness among women alcoholics and friends of AA

We have been able to bring along Sri Lanka and we also earnestly wish to attract nearby fellowships from Bangla Desh, Nepal etc. for AOSM in future.

We would like to be of continued service to AOSM and will be happy with any other responsibilities.

Ganesh I

Japan

10th AOSM Country Report Japan

Japan AA is in its 38th year. It was decided at our 17th General Service Conference in 2012 that we will hold our 40th Anniversary Convention in Tokyo in 2015. A planning committee was formed and they are well into their preparations. We decided to take a different approach and sent a questionnaire to all groups in the country seeking their input. It was decided that rather than charging a registration fee, the cost of the convention would be covered by group contributions instead. The reason was that they felt it better to allow the participants to come freely into the venue. If it goes well, it would be a wonderful experience, however, we are still left with some concerns. It will also allow newcomers to participate easily, as well as any professionals or others with interest in our Program.

There has not been too much change in the fellowship in Japan since the last country report that was given two years ago at the AOSM, but I can report that the number of groups registered with our GSO has increased to 580 groups. The number of members is estimated to be approximately 6,000. For the past three years, four staff members have managed GSO, but it will be reduced to three staff in September of this year. Group contributions remain flat, and sales of AA literature have decreased, so our finances remain in a position of instability.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of six Class B trustees, two Class A trustees, four JSO (GSO) staff members, and only one World Service Meeting Delegate this year. We hold five or six board meetings annually. The country has seven Areas represented by 20 delegates. However, two delegates did not attend this year, but we still maintained a Delegate/Trustee 2-to-1 ratio. The 18th General Service Conference was held in February this year in Tokyo with a 3-day/2-night schedule. The theme was “For the New Member.”

The Fifth Annual National Corrections and Treatment Facilities Forum will be held in August in the Tohoku Region of Japan. This Forum is primarily intended for staff of the local corrections and treatment facilities in the region, but it is also attended by trustees and AA members, totaling approximately 100–150 people. Each area forms a working committee and handles the coordination. The Tohoku Region suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami two years ago, but there’s proof that AA has recovered there. We are grateful to our Higher Powers!

It seems that AA in Japan efforts in Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community lags far behind other countries. Since the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami two years ago, there has been a significant increase of people with alcohol drinking problems, but there are so many in the medical profession who have never heard of AA, efforts to help them have been slow. Due to the cooperation of two of our Class A trustees, AA is gradually becoming better known. Furthermore, the trustees’ Public Information Committee supports national public information activities, and will be providing special support for PI activities in the Tohoku region. At the trustees’ meeting following the General Service Conference, with the cooperation of the Tohoku Area, it was decided to create a radio public service announcement (PSA), the contents of which are being created now, and is planned to broadcasting in October.

Regarding the distribution (sales) of AA literature on Amazon.com Japan’s website, it was initially discussed at the 2008 General Service Conference, then investigated for two more years, and after lively debate at the 2010 Conference, it was not approved. However, at the 2012 Conference last year, there was a pressing motion presented to sell literature on Japan’s amazon.co.jp website. Selling literature on Amazon’s website was approved, which will enable alcoholics, their families, and professionals to become aware of the AA fellowship and our recovery program who may be

otherwise unaware. Initially, Amazon was contracted to sell the hard cover of the Big Book “Alcoholics Anonymous.” In the first eight months, 51 Big Books were shipped. Next, “Living Sober” was made available, and sold 36 copies in three months. I am very confident that this will provide a message of hope to many alcoholics in the long run. Which book will be the third to be released is something we can look forward to.

Japan 2nd term delegate—Yasuo Niimura

Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA)

Salaam alaikum from the Middle East.

It is the combined privilege of the member countries from the Middle East to include this consolidated country report in the 2013 AOSM conference.

The member countries of the region have come together to form the Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA) and represent the following countries.

- United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- Sultanate of Oman
- Kingdom of Bahrain
- State of Qatar
- State of Kuwait
- Egypt
- Lebanon
- Islamic Republic of Iran

Each of these member countries function as an Area like entity unto themselves, some with multiple groups and across cities/states/emirates and some remain single city, single groups. AA has been in some of these countries for many years now, UAE claiming to have started its first AA meeting 36 years ago. The spread and growth of AA in these countries has been encouraging and continues to carry the message in new areas and support a predominantly Western and Asian expatriate population, as well as a large transient/traveller member base.

In most of the countries, typical AA functions like Intergroup/Central office and Public Information are relatively low key. A common observation across the member countries is that the local Arab & National population is poorly represented. Due to a variety of factors including language barriers, cultural sensitivities, reluctant and minimal government/institutional support, and lack of approved AA literature - the effectiveness of carrying the message and supporting suffering local alcoholics has been very limited.

MERCAA was established in 2005 at the Bahrain Middle East AA Convention and over the next few years, set itself a charter of objectives. These include the following.

Conducting AA 12 Step workshops - These are led by the Oasis group of Saudi Arabia. Since 2009 these workshops have been held in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait & Bahrain.

The MERCAA AA Arabia website www.aa-mercaa.me – this is a valuable resource and contact portal for all travellers and newcomers and all those who want to know more about AA.

The Labour Camp push - an initiative started in UAE and having relevance across the region. The objective is to carry the message into the low-income Asian labour camps where there is a high prevalence of alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Translation of the Big Book into Arabic. This has been in progress for the past 12 months in co-operation with AA GSO in NYC. Hopefully, the finished product will be launched at the next MERCAA convention to be held in Qatar in November 2013.



The AA Convention of the Middle East - an annual celebration of sobriety and carrying the message. It is held in rotation between member countries and is in its 12th year and the next one will be hosted by Doha, Qatar.

Fund the printing of Meeting in a Pocket. A pocket sized publication with common AA readings and Steps/Traditions/Preamble/Prayers and all local meetings and contacts. This has been completed in UAE using local funds.

MERCAA has also taken a group conscience to use some of the 7th tradition funds collected through the groups and member countries, to support AOSM and GSO activities, and will be making contributions accordingly.

The 2013 AOSM will be the third instance when the Middle East region will be represented at an international AA conference. The first observer participation was held in 2007 at the Tokyo AOSM and Ann D of Kuwait was invited and presented the first MERCAA report.

The 2013 AOSM will be the second time when MERCAA will be formally represented through two delegates with full voting rights. MERCAA meets physically once a year during the annual Middle East convention and online periodically through emails, to discuss and monitor progress and share information.

MERCAA has been electing regular trusted servants since inception and has the following elected positions, and all voting rights are given to member country delegates into MERCAA.

- Chairpersons: 2 Co-Chairpersons for a two-year term each and elected separately in alternate years. Every year 1 co-chair is newly elected, while the 2nd co-chair retains office and thus ensures continuity of leadership.
- Treasurer – 2 years terms
- Secretary – 2 year terms
- Translation Committee Chairperson – voluntary
- Webmaster - voluntary

Individual MERCAA Member Country Reports

United Arab Emirates

We are pleased to provide the following information about the size, health and growth of the AA program in the UAE.

The fellowship here continues to grow in strength and numbers. We currently have 40 meetings per week, hosted by fourteen different groups in five cities: Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Sharjah and most recently Ras Al Khaimah. The fact that meetings have spread is testimonies to the commitment members have to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholics throughout the region. Our official website is www.aainuae.net and we have successfully established a more accessible, user-friendly site with a regularly updated printable PDF meetings list. This has ensured that anyone looking for a meeting or a contact in the UAE can easily find the help they need. Our total strength is estimated to be 250 sober members.

Our fellowship is a diverse mix of nationalities from all over the world and visitors to the UAE frequent our meetings often. Continuing on with past efforts, in the last year there has been a significant drive within our PI group to carry the message to both schools and medical establishments. This has been a success and has resulted in strengthening links with the medical

community. This has hopefully helped to enlighten medical and education professionals as to the nature of alcoholism and where those who still suffer can seek help.

In keeping with our third legacy, some of our groups have held great workshops this year. In November the Abu Dhabi group held a two-day 12 Traditions workshop. This was a really fulfilling and interesting two days and was attended by members from all over the GCC. Dubai recently hosted a women’s two-day 12 Steps workshop also. This too was very successful and it is hoped that these two events will become regular annual occurrences in our events calendar.

In addition to the workshops, there have been several significant events in the last year that have enriched our fellowship. The enchanting Desert Full Moon BBQ, the entertaining Halloween Dhow Cruise down the Dubai Creek and the peaceful Dhow Trip to the Musandam were particularly well attended and brought our members together. These events have helped to strengthen the connection between the various groups in the region and have encouraged the spirit of the fellowship to thrive.

As for the future, there is much to be excited about. We are charter members of the Middle Eastern Regional Committee of AA and delegates from the UAE will be attending the Asia Oceanic Conference in Russia in July 2013. This is an interesting time for the fellowship in the UAE and we are happy to be moving forward in all areas of our service to those who may need our help.

UAE Public Information

The UAE Intergroup has an active PI Committee which has been conducting segment based activities successfully and has led to increased awareness and new comers coming into AA. This model of proactive work with different community stakeholders is very encouraging.

PI Activity Examples

Description	Location	Category
PI Talk to Students	Arabian Ranches JESS	Education
Introduction meeting	Tristar Energy FZE	Labour camps
Article on addiction	Elle Arabia Magazine	Media
PI Stand at Family Fiesta	St Mary's Church	Clergy
PI Talk to Years 9 & 10 Students	Arabian Ranches JESS	Education
Article about drinking in Dubai	Gulf News Xpress	Media
Presentation to School Nurses Union	Arabian Ranches JESS	Education
Introduction meeting	Dept of Tourism & Commerce Mktg	Hospitality
Introduction meeting	Welcare Hospital	Medical
PI Talk to Year 10 Students	Dubai American Academy	Education
PI Talk to Nursing Management	Welcare Hospital	Medical
Meeting with Councillor and Principal	Dubai American Academy	Education
PI Talk to Year 10 Students	Dubai American Academy	Education
Meeting with Management team	Tristar Energy FZE	Labour camps
PI Talk to Year 12 Students	GEMS Wellington	Education
PI Talk to Year 11 Students	GEMS Wellington	Education
Introduction meeting	Heriot Watt University	Medical
PI Talk to Year 10 Students	GEMS Wellington	Education
PI Talk to Year 13 Students	GEMS Wellington	Education

PI Talk to Parents	GEMS Wellington	Education
Article - Combating Alcoholism	Time Out Dubai	Media
Labour camp AA meeting	Tristar Energy FZE	Labour camps
PI Talk to Students	Dubai American Academy	Education
PI Talk to Students	Dubai American Academy	Education
PI Open Meeting for Professionals	AA Convention, Dhow Palace	All
PI Talk to Year 8 Students	Arabian Ranches JESS	Education
Safety Awareness meeting	Tristar Energy FZE	Labour camps
PI Stand at Family Fiesta	St Mary's Church	Clergy

Sultanate of Oman

The Oasis Group meets in Muscat every Sunday and Wednesday evening. Since 2004, we had six meetings a week split between Al Azaiba (Top Medical) and SQ (Medident). In those days there were a good number of alcoholic's and the rooms often saw number in double figures. However as is the way with meetings founded by, and mainly supported by expats, people come and more often people leave and are not always replaced by fellows of the rooms.

This of course is not only applicable to the Middle East, but it is more common with areas where the labour force is transient. As a result of this we have seen meeting numbers drop to that which have not allowed us to support more than one group.

The meetings have attracted some Omani members, but we only have in our ranks a handful who have grasped the program and shown the type of commitment that results in long term sobriety. One of these Omani members after going to study in Australia has returned and started a second new comers open meeting. Hussain has now completed 10 years in the program and his sobriety has shown others that it can work no matter what the culture.

Carrying the message of recovery can be difficult and I know that many of our more committed members have tried hard to get the principals of AA across. However those of us who have been around some time know that we cannot do more that try, the final effort has to come from the newcomer themselves.

This year we in Oman did put our names forward to hold the annual convention but due to matters outside of our control we had to relinquish this and hand over to Qatar. Oman has held conventions in the past and we are sure one day in the future will do again.

There are within Oman professional medical people who champion our tireless efforts and only recently an expat man was referred by his doctor to us as a way of addressing his obvious drink problem. To date this man is doing well and hopefully will form the basis of the next generation as some of the more established members leave for other pastures. The group is also represented whenever there are AA members visiting or new established members coming into Oman. As it states the "hand of AA is always there".

We would like to make it clear that we do not believe the size of our groups is anything to do with the lack of commitment of our core membership but we do have not have the luxury in Oman at present of a large western expat community. Another problem that Oman does have, which is not shared by others in the area, is the logistics. Muscat is Oman key centre and 80% of the working population either commute there or live there. Our expat community is a very small percentage of the population and is not spread across all of Oman, which graphically is a large country. This means

that we often get requests from loners in the more remote areas. Because of the distances involved servicing these remote places is not possible so some do not get the benefit of “F2F” meetings. We thank MERCAA for all its efforts and the support it has shown given Oman over the years. The bottom line is that there are members of the fellowship here in Oman to help suffering alcoholics in need and we pray there always will be.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

It is our pleasure to provide the following information about the size, growth and well-being of the AA Program in Saudi Arabia. All groups support our official website www.mercaa.com

We have ten meetings per week hosted by six different groups in five cities and towns. All meetings are English speaking. The current breakdown of meetings and activities is as follows:

- Eastern Province (Central) , Approximately twenty regular members, plus a couple of visiting members passing through each week
- Oasis AA group (Dhahran)–four meetings per week
- Al Khobar Fellowship Group (Al Dana Compound)– three meetings per week
- Eastern Province (District) Ras Tanura – one meeting per week (Monday evening)
- Central Province (Riyadh) AA in Riyadh Group reports membership is small but solid these days with approximately 20 regular members plus transitioning members.
- AA in Riyadh 3 meetings a week:
 - Friday morning Main Group
 - Monday evening
 - Wednesday evening Women’s Group. The ban on driving really affects the mobility of the ladies here because of the sheer size of the city and the nightmare traffic. Riyadh members write: “We don't get many visitors at our meetings so any publicity you can give if your members are travelling to our lovely capital will be much appreciated. Oh to hear a new story!! Visitors may contact Imad for directions to the meetings and painless access.”
- Western Province (Jeddah) Approximately twelve regular members
- AA Red Sea Group Two meetings per week. Jeddah reports that as a group they sometimes go out together and that the group needs help with literature (Obtaining Big Books). Al Anon Family Meetings
- Dhahran (Eastern Province) – one meeting per week



Public Information

Connection to hospitals, counselling services and faith centers, which in turn act as referral services to AA members available for 12th Step work, and to introduction to meetings.

Active in Arabic translation of AA Big Book and Arabic translations of AA approved pamphlets. Literature representatives ensure current supply of AA approved literature in English and Arabic.

Participation in Twelve Step Workshop in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and A Women’s PI tour of India (Team India)

Kingdom of Bahrain

History of AA in Bahrain

AA meetings in English first started in Bahrain in the early sixties at the American Mission Hospital. Meetings at the time were irregular and scarce until came John Peter, a non-alcoholic well-wisher working as a chemist at the hospital who put his name at the GSO as a contact for alcoholics who needed help in Bahrain. With one meeting per week at John's apartment, attendance was more regular and eventually got back to the hospital in the early seventies.

It is not until the mid-eighties that an Arabic speaking meeting was formed with live translations of the readings. Later, the short version of the third edition of the Big Book in Arabic was available to order along with other Arabic leaflets.

Finally, in 1988, a second AA group was formed and meetings in English started at the Sacred Heart Church.

AA in Bahrain today

Currently, there are eight meetings a week being held alternatively between the American Mission Hospital and the Sacred Heart Church in Manama, the capital.

A detailed timetable of these meetings can be found at: <http://aa-mercaa.me/>

The meetings format is generic, varied only by the topic of each meeting. Topics include a speaker meeting, Big Book study, 12 X 12 and AA Approved Literature Readings.

Our business meetings are held once per month.

The first ever AA Gulf Convention was held in Bahrain in the mid-nineties followed by another one about ten years later. Numerous workshops have taken place in between.

Keeping a low profile is what we seem to have commonly and anonymously agreed upon for the time being. We enjoy a regular influx of newcomers and our main concern is to make them interested in the program and see them come back.

We do not have any plans to hold inter-Gulf activities for the near future; instead, we focus on working with new-comers through mini workshops, and group sponsoring.

We keep an open mind and are ready to listen to any suggestions you may want to convey.

State of Qatar

Executive Summary

This report sets out the current status of AA meetings in Qatar. Currently, at the time of writing April 2013, Qatar has 8 meetings based in either the Psychiatric Ward of the Hamad Hospital or the Al Ahli Hospital and around 35-40 members (a mixture of transient and home based). Qatar is hosting the MERCAA 2013 Convention www.mercaa2013doha.com.

The format of the regular groups is generic varied only by the topic of each meeting. The topics include a speaker meeting, Big Book study, 12*12, As Bill Sees, Open, Video and Joe/Charlie tape meeting.

We regularly donate money to MERCA and GSO in New York and have innovations such as donating the 100 AA big books to the Arabic meetings.

Our business meetings are held once per month and are usually lively discussions. We have regular DRG social get together such as bowling nights and other events.

Our new website aaqatar.org is a great success and is high up on the list of Google searches. Newcomers and visitor regularly report that they used the website to locate our meetings; also http://www.aa_mercaa.me is also used by these newcomers and visitors.

We are making tentative steps to re-establish a Jail meeting previously started on a Monday night in 2004. This meeting was in Arabic but English speaking members attended in a "supporting role". Our PI officer is also looking at other means of carrying the message.

Brief history of meetings in Qatar

An Indian member John L from Goa started AA in Qatar in 1988. In the initial stages the new members were ex-pat workers who had already found the message in their home countries. Ian C and Laurie together with Edwin and Lorraine (our 1st woman member) were all sober when they landed in Doha. Pacific and Freddie were the first residents of Doha to get the message here. Soon after Marie began attending meetings and later Ian S and Bill. Malcolm W arrived from the UK at about the same time.

In the beginning we had two meetings per week - Tuesday and Friday. The first meetings were held in the homes of the membership and it was not until 1989 that the Doha College kindly gave us a meeting room. We met there until 1995. At that time we went back to hosting the meetings in the homes of the members. In the beginning we had two meetings per week - Tuesday and Friday. The first meetings were held in the homes of the membership and it was not until 1989 that the Doha College kindly gave us a meeting room. We met there until 1995. At that time we went back to hosting the meetings in the homes of the members. Norman came from the UK, three years sober, in 1992 and stayed until '94 and was back in late '95. During '94-'95 he was in Abu Dhabi & Dubai and ended up running the step meeting in Dubai for most of his time there. Marie entered the scene after Ian S around '96 and Bill joined us just after Marie.

Although a small group back then, we were rock solid due to Ian C, whose sharing was deep and spiritual and Laurie, who, in true Glaswegian manner could cut to the essence and dispel incorrect and woolly thinking with a pithy phrase. Sadly in 1997 Laurie was our first member to pass away. Laurie had undergone heart surgery in the Hamad Hospital but died as a result of complications. He died sober. In 2002 Fr John, the parish priest in Qatar, and a great friend of AA was generous enough to give us a meeting room in the Parish Centre. We met there every Friday for several years. When a two Qatari members Khalid and Abdulla started attending meetings we were obliged to find alternative accommodation because of political/religious reasons.

As the population and country expanded so too did our membership. In 2003 we started meeting number three - a Steps Meeting. We are extremely grateful for all the members who opened up their homes for the meetings over the years - Freddie, Pacific, Laurie, Bill, Ian S, Marie, Wendy and her husband Kevin, Barbara, Debbie, Malcolm, Abdulla, Khalid, Knut and Steve.

However it became clear that we needed to find a new home for our group. Due to the hard work of Bob T we were soon able to meet at the Sofitel Hotel (2002) and not long after the Qatar Red Crescent Society (2003). Later on we moved to the Psychiatric Ward of the Hamad Hospital (2004) where our meetings now take place. Drs A/.Aziz and Shaltoot have to be commended for their warm hospitality there.

Jihad our Bahraini member was also instrumental in finding this venue. Bob T was also responsible for getting a 24-hour AA hotline number and having the number printed daily in the Gulf Times. Of course we are grateful to that newspaper for their generosity and understanding.

Egypt

Membership

We have an approximate total of 40 AA members across Egypt (20% of our members are expats). 3 members are located in El-Gouna. We have a loner in Dahab & another one in Alexandria. The rest of the members are in Cairo.

Meeting details

We have a total of 11 AA meetings per week across Egypt. [9 in Cairo + 2 in El-Gouna] [5 open meetings, 6 closed meetings]

In Cairo: we have 8 regularly scheduled meetings + 1 women only meeting per week.

In El-Gouna: we have 2 regularly scheduled meetings per week. We conduct our meetings in three venues in Cairo, one in a hospital in Maadi, the other in a Church in Zamalek, the third is a Nile Boat serenity cruise every Tuesday.

Due to having a considerable large number of expats in AA Egypt, we conduct all our

meetings in English. We have an average of 5 members attendance in Cairo per meeting. Usually the Friday meetings have a huge number of members attending [due to that it's a holiday and we also usually go out for coffee after the meeting]. This way the newcomer can have the option of doing 90 meetings in 90 days, also the availability of the women only meeting plays a good role for our female members. We are "trying" to have an intergroup business meeting every 60 days.

Observations

We do have new comers showing up at our meetings every now and then, most of them are from a well known hospital in Egypt which sends their patients to our meetings on a regular basis, but unfortunately very few of them do stay for long, also most of them are addicts.

In the past 1-year we have had 3 members whom have joined by looking up AA Egypt on the internet and they contacted us accordingly through www.aaegypt.org

Intergroup business meetings are not conducted regularly. Last time we met was in November 2012!! Yet we just asked for another meeting to be held by the end of June 2013.

Not all but most our members are alcoholics whom also happen to have other accompanied addictions, also we have addicts from NA whom attend the meetings, also they do service. Attendance is considerably low comparing to the times before the revolution of Jan-2011, a lot of members left the country since then.



Figure 1 Cairo Maadi Group Rooftop Meeting

Activities

Lately we have written an article to the Church in which we conduct our meetings at, about AA and we offered them to give out a presentation to anyone whom is having a problem with alcohol that they may know of.

We tried to approach the same hospital which sends us their patients to conduct a meeting inside their facility as a way to carry the message for the patients whom are unable to leave the hospital premises, yet they refused.

Almost a year ago we did a small advertisement in a magazine, but it happened to be ineffective.

Issues & challenges

There are not enough women available for sponsorship, also as it happens that though the women only meeting is useful for our female members, yet it's a double edged sword because our female members whom are in recovery and whom can help the new comer very seldom that they show up in the mixed meetings during all week long, thus the new female members cannot find a female sponsor easily.

We have a huge problem in acquiring AA literature in a conventional manner, one reason is that USD are very hard to get these days in Egypt, also if I order the books from the US and have them shipped, the courier fees are terribly expensive thus we cannot sell the books at an affordable price for the members.

In the past if we used to order literature and have it shipped, it never passed through customs, yet we recently found out that the only way to pass it through customs is to label the package as "a gift", I tried it recently and it I was able to pass it through customs.

What we do to get the literature is that we ask any member who is going abroad to get us a few books on the way back, also we put a disclaimer on www.aaegypt.org that we are in need of books so that anyone who is visiting Egypt and is willing to help can bring us books, and this has been working just fine

History

Below are our First AA loners and formed groups in a chronological order:

- 1957 - First AA loner to contact GSO (Abu Suweir)
- 1968 - A loner from Alexandria contacted GSO
- 1969 - A loner from Egypt contacted GSO
- 1970 - A loner from Alexandria contacted
- 1972 - A loner from Cairo contacted GSO
- 1973 - January 10th (Oasis Group, the first AA group in Egypt)
- 1978 - Cairo Maadi Group (Cairo, Egypt)
- 1982 - Alexandria Group (Alexandria, Egypt)
- 1984 - Sober in the Sun Group (location unclear)
- 1984 - South Sinai Serenity Group (Sinai, Egypt)
- 1988 - Cairo Home Group (Cairo, Egypt)
- 1989 - Heliopolis Group (Heliopolis, Egypt)
- 1994 - Garden City Group (Garden City, Egypt)
- 2002 - Multinational Force and Observers A..A. Group (Sharm El Sheik, Egypt)
- 2002 - Sharm El Sheikh Group (Sharm El Sheik, Egypt)
- 2006 - Downtown Cairo Old Time A.A. Group (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2006 - Imbaba Kit Kat Group (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2011 - Zamalek Saint Joseph Group (Cairo, Egypt)

Lebanon

Membership.

We currently have six permanent members with several more who visit from time to time while on holiday from Nigeria (2), France (2), Germany (1), the U.S. or elsewhere. The membership is a majority Lebanese (4 permanent members, 3 visiting are Lebanese).

Meetings

We have three meetings per week, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

Hospital work

We have shut down the Friday evening meeting at St. George's Orthodox Hospital, which ran for a few years, because the cost of a detox at the hospital is very high. We have identified another hospital as a more reasonable alternative (\$3000 for 10 days versus \$2000 per day at St. George), and are working out a collaborative relationship with the chief physician in the detox unit. The main purpose of this is to be able to arrange a reasonable detox for newcomers at a facility that allows us to run meetings (satisfied by the new place). We may soon begin regular meetings at the new hospital.

Registration

Last year Bob G. and Manolo drafted the necessary documents to submit to the Ministry of Interior so that AA could be registered as an NGO in Lebanon. This is necessary in order for AA to be able to enter the prison and conduct meetings there. In order to forward on this, five Lebanese members have to step forward as founding members and submit their Lebanese IDs and Nashra to the attorney. We have been stuck at this point since last September 2012, and as a result, have not been able to conduct any prison work.

Sociology

The majority of Lebanese newcomers to AA over the past six years since its founding have been drug addicts. Our experience is that although there are tens of thousands of alcoholics in Lebanon, only a few seek help. Consequently, for many, AA serves as an introduction to a 12-step program for addicts who subsequently join NA and reduce their participation in AA. But some addicts prefer to remain in AA.

MERCAA Workshop.

At the MERCAA convention last November, MERCAA offered to bring a workshop to Lebanon, but wisely required Lebanon AA to formulate the workshop program. The members have not yet planned the workshop. On the bright side, two Lebanese members are making plans to attend the next MERCAA convention.

History.

The present AA organization was formed in Spring 2007 when a group organized by Bob G. in Hamra merged with the group organized by Farid I. in Badaro (two districts of Beirut). Originally, there was one meeting a week (Saturday at Eglise de Saint François). Then the Tuesday and Thursday meetings and Friday hospital meeting were added. A few members separated themselves and formed NA. Last fall, the then-treasurer called a business meeting and invited NA members, but not all AA members. The meeting voted to stop funding of the AA hotline and to list two NA officers on the AA Lebanon webpage on the Kuwait AA site. Subsequently, NA members stopped attending AA meetings entirely, and the member who had called the business meeting disappeared while retaining the treasury. Bob G continued the hotline at his own expense.

State of Kuwait

Kuwait AA Group is celebrating its 31st anniversary in 2013. Since our last AOSM report in 2011 our AA membership has grown to approximately 35 members.

Our 5 weekly meetings remain fairly well attended and the Saturday Beach meeting has grown from 3 to 10 members. During the summer months when it is too hot to host the meeting on the beach, we use a member's house so as to ensure continuity of the meeting during the year. This meeting is often turned into a video / discussion which has stimulated some lively discussions.

Two groups are in the early stages of forming meetings in the Hindi and Malayalam languages. This will be started as an outreach program by the Ray of Hope Group in specific areas in Kuwait where the requirement is greatest.

Kuwait has hosted two 12 step workshops during this period. These were both conducted by Steve G. of the Oasis Group in Saudi. Since then a Kuwait member has hosted mini workshops in his home for newcomers.

"Woman in the Gulf" was established in 2012 by woman from Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. They have committed to conducting 4 step workshops annually. The purpose of this group is not only to spread AA's message but to encourage other woman to become more involved in conducting workshops themselves. Thus far, two workshops have been conducted.

Kuwait was honoured to host the 2012 MERCAA regional convention. We had 82 participants, panels of excellent speakers from MERCAA and also two representatives from GSO, USA & Canada, viz: , Mary C. and Don M. who conveyed inspirational messages and provided support to our growth in the region

Iran

AA Lebanon has contacted Abbas E. of AA in Iran. He writes: "Dear Bob. Thank you for invitation. I definitely remember you and also I have a good memory about you, your group, meetings and Turkish coffee! ;) I don't have enough information about AA in Iran but I will try to get and report it. I really like to attend the conference if it be possible."

They have responded to Abbas by asking him if his group would like to be affiliated with MERCAA. They will also contact the main group in Tehran. One issue will be getting Iranian visitors visas to visit a GCC country.

Mongolia

No report provided.

New Zealand

Background

A.A. has been in New Zealand since 1946, when our founder, Ian McEwan read an article in the Readers Digest, and wrote to GSO New York, seeking help. The A.A. Service Structure was initially established in 1964 at a National Conference in Palmerston North.

General Service Conference

The General Service Conference meets biannually and is composed of 9 alcoholic delegates, elected by the Fellowship, the General Service Board consisting of two Class A Trustees and 6 Class B Trustees, the two World Service delegates Conference Chair, Conference Secretary and the Executive Officer (a total of 22 but only the 9 delegates, the two Class A Trustees and the Chair of the Board have a vote (12 votes). The Conference Chair has a casting vote only. All non-voting members of Conference have speaking rights and their experience provides a valuable contribution to Conference.

Service Committees

Conference currently has four sub-committees: Treatment and Correctional Facilities, Public Information, Co-operating with Professionals, and International. Conference also has the power to establish other committees, if required.

The International Committee is made up of the two World Service Delegates, the Chairperson of the General Service Board, the Chairperson of Conference, a Class A Trustee and the Conference Secretary. The committee is chaired by the 2nd term World Service Delegate and the objective of the committee is to ensure New Zealand participates in international affairs in an efficient, practical and ongoing manner.

General Service Office

Our GSO is located in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, and is staffed by the Executive Officer, who is assisted by voluntary A.A. members as required. The office services a New Zealand fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members, within 425 registered groups.

The office is open daily from Monday to Friday: outside these hours, a telephone answering service operates.

General Service Board and Office

The New Zealand General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Inc, was incorporated on October 7, 1991. This Incorporation provides a legal safety net under NZ law that protects individual office bearers from punitive action. The early days of the Board were largely procedural, merely adopting Financial Statements and the like. However, over the last few years, the Board has been re-vitalised and now carries out all the "material work" as per Conference Advisory Action recommendations. The sole objective and purpose of the Board is to aid and assist the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Board consists of 8 men and women trustees: six Alcoholics (Class B) and two Non- Alcoholics (Class A).

Members of the Board are approved by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous after receiving recommendations from the Board.

The General Service Board has 7 working committees:

- Communications

- Finance and Administration
- Governance
- Membership
- External Relations
- Archives
- Convention

An IT Development Committee is a subcommittee of the Communications Committee and the Mainstay, our national magazine also comes under the communications committee.

The Board also has the power to establish committees, as required. For example, the annual Convention Committee, which is set up for each convention and is a separate committee and is formed and dissolved each year.

Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)

New Zealand's involvement with the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting is a major commitment with New Zealand pledging an annual financial contribution as well as, at times, sponsoring countries to attend. The World Service Delegates are appointed by the New Zealand General Service Conference and have the dual role of delegates to the World Service Meeting and to the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting.

Convention

A national convention is held in January each year. It rotates around the three areas and attracts around three hundred AA and AI anon members, with many overseas visitors.

Literature

Our General Service Office carries stocks of Conference-approved literature. New Zealand also publishes a bi-monthly meeting in print, titled Mainstay. A regular newsletter is sent out to the fellowship, advising of any decisions made by Conference and any other general information.

Public Information

New Zealand has Public Information Committees at all levels, Conference, Area and district. These groups organise and conduct public awareness campaigns, which include Public A.A. Meetings, radio and TV advertising and ongoing speaking in schools, service clubs and other interested groups. The Board assists by allocating funding and co-ordinating at a National level along with significant mail outs of information, media kits etc.

Website

New Zealand has a web site (www.aa.org.nz) that has been adapted for local conditions, and includes a NZ meeting directory along with a members site.

Currently

As a fellowship we are experiencing a number of problems, which do not seem to be unique to New Zealand. We are facing declining contributions and a general apathy towards service. We are also in a state of transition with regard to the establishment of the relationship between our General Service Board and General Service Conference. I believe we are experiencing the growing pains associated with the establishment of our board, where they learn to function under the collective group conscience, which is our Conference. Also, Conference is learning to let go of some of its old functions in order to allow the board the autonomy to function.

Russia

Number of the Groups

Activity of the AA Fellowship in Russia has been initiated since the late 1980s. The first Moscow group of AA has been registered at GSO in 1987. Presently, there are near 350 groups in Russia, which reside in 120 cities and settlements. These groups are mainly concentrated in large cities. Some of these groups organize their meetings several times a week.

Unfortunately, during the recent several years, we do not have any information, which could prove any plausible changes showing to the growth in the number of AA members in Russia.

Structure

The General Service Conferences related to the maintenance (service) of the Russian AA Fellowship are held in Moscow annually, in early April, each normally lasting for 3 days. GSCs are represented by: (i) delegates of the groups from the places, where there are still no local service committees ; (ii) delegates from the local committees, which render service AA; (iii) members of the GSB involved in rendering service for Russian AA; (iv) delegates of the Russian AA Fellowship elected for the WSM, ESM and AOSM. Every GSCs forms Committees for development of recommendations related to the main directions of maintenance and service of the Russian AA Fellowship. The conference also elects the GSB members. In its activity the GSC is governed by the "Service Manual of the Russian AA Fellowship". Recently, the number of voting Conference participants did not exceed 40 persons.

Finance

During the recent year (2012 to 2013) donations were rare. The total sum of donations was about 70 thousand roubles.

Literature

At this time 9 books in Russian have been published in our country. These are: "Alcoholics Anonymous", "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", "Living Sober", "Came to Believe", "Daily Reflections", "AA Came To Age", "As Bill Sees It", "Doctor Bob and Good Old Timers", "Service Manual" (USA and Canada). Furthermore, 40 booklets have been published.

The book "Alcoholics Anonymous" (4th edn.) has been published in its complete form, i.e. with a collection of histories. A preliminary variant (without histories) and a pocket size variant have also been published. The 25th Russian conference of the Russian AA Fellowship has approved the process of publication for this 4th edition . Furthermore, since 2008, the work bound up with refining the translation of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" has been conducted. In 2013, the preparatory work related to publishing some of the chapters with improved translation has been initiated.

Supply of the Russian AA Fellowship with literature is organized and maintained by the GSB via the area and district service committees (literary committees, intergroups). These committees fix the final prices for the books depending on the local living standards, but with an excess not larger than 20 per cent of the prices fixed by the Russian GSB.

Some of the groups are supplied with literature by the Service Foundation. This legal body is a noncommercial organization, which during the period of establishing of the service structure for the Russian AA Fellowship, also has a right of publishing and distribution of AA literature in Russian.

About Russian AA Fellowship on the territory of the Asian part of Russia

Since the 9th AOSM, AA Fellowship groups of the Asian part of Russia encountered numerous problems bound up with the loss of unity between them. These problems arose rather long ago, but they didn't touch the groups in Asian part of Russia. The point is that in recent years, the growth of Siberian and Far East groups of the Russian AA Fellowship has become more obvious, and this has

influenced the representation (number) of Siberian members in Russian GSB. Since 2007, GSB included 2 representatives (from the western and the eastern regions) from Asian part of Russia, from 2010 – 4 representatives, and later, from 2011 to 2012 – 3 of 9 members of the GSB. Unfortunately, when in 2012 disagreement in the viewpoints of the GSB members became quite obvious (the ratio of the members being 3 to 6), the Asian members separated into two independent parts. The root of this problem was that the Board of Administration of our legal body (i.e. the Service Foundation for the Russian AA Fellowship) by that time included not all the members of the GSB, as it was earlier foreseen by the Russian Service Manual, but only 3 members from the Board. As a result, the minority (including the Service Foundation, which possessed the licenses for publishing) refused to participate at the 24th GSC'2012, while the rest of the GSB members could not legally influence the Service Foundation because they were not official included in the Service Foundation.

Two of three Russian GSB members (representing Asian part of Russia: West Siberia and Vladivostok) took part in the 24th General Service Conference in 2012. But one of the three members from Asian part, together with the two other GSB members elected by the 23rd Conference in 2011, organized a separate meeting in May of 2012 (with a small number of representatives of AA groups), which they called a Conference.

As employees of Service Foundation rejected to participate in the 24th GSC, its delegates decided to register a new GSB's legal body to serve Russian AA. It was set up in 2012 and it was called The Foundation of Support of AA "Unity" and it is controlled by the Russian AA trusted servants- Russian GSB.

In April of 2013, the 25th anniversary GSC was held in Moscow, which brought together 39 regional structures and groups represented by the delegates and GSB members, who represented 256 AA groups of the total 350 groups. A delegate to AOSM and a new GSB were elected and many other problems were solved during this GSC.

Unfortunately, all the attempts to unite both parts of Russian AA were not successful. The former AA Service Foundation and three former GSB members held in May' 2013 their own separate meeting. 53 AA groups participated in this meeting.

Because of long distances between the Siberian cities, AA groups experience shortage in the information exchange, and so, they support the leaders, which they know. As a result, in particular, in West Siberia, strong regional groups of Altay and Omsk, all the groups of East Siberia (Irkutsk area, Krasnoyarsk, Hakassiya, Tuva groups), some Khabarovsk and Vladivostok groups sent their delegates to the 25th Conference. Meanwhile, Chita groups and the rest of Khabarovsk and Vladivostok groups sent their representatives to the meeting held in May of 2013. So, the regional structure of the Russian East Siberia and the Russian Far East AA Fellowship includes groups, which not all belong to Russian AA service structure. All this adversely affects the joint actions on carrying the Message of AA in the Asian part of Russia.

Regional service structures are presently being formed in West Siberia. Altay (20 groups) and Omsk (9 groups) AA groups are presently under formation. Fortunately, there appeared an AA group in Novosibirsk, one of the largest cities of Siberia with 1,5 million population.

The time has come to form (set up) areas of AA Fellowship in East Siberia and the Russian Far East for more efficient activity of the groups. The 25th Conference registered 3 service areas: those of Omsk, Altay and Irkutsk regions. Krasnoyarsk region, Hakassiya and Tuva are ready to set up an area.

Presently, relationships between groups is wise. As far as Krasnoyarsk region is concerned, sponsorship of its groups is realized by AA groups of the city of Zheleznogorsk. In Irkutsk region, sponsorship for the Bodaibo group located some 1000 km from Irkutsk has been organized by Irkutsk groups.

There appeared AA groups in the Chukotka national region and the second group – in Yakutiya. So, there is the need of translating the AA literature into Yakut and Tuva languages. In the Altay and in the Yenisseysk areas AA members regularly organize guest sessions of AA members, who hold series of open meetings in cities and villages.

Alcoholics Anonymous of Siberia maintain friendly relations with Alcoholics anonymous of Mongolia. Exchange visits are organized on a regular basis. Recently, there was a joint meeting at the boundary city of Kyakhta. Its goal was to pass the Message to the population of Buryat Republik. It is noteworthy, that many local AA conventions are held annually in this area. And immediately after AOSM the regular Baikal Convention organized by the Irkutsk area committee will be held in 20 km from the AOSM venue.

As far as Irkutsk is concerned, there a regional office of AA, which functioned from 2011. The office has been rented from the regional authorities, and the repair works in it have been organized on the donations. This office has started its activity as the AA center for Asian part of Russia involved in distribution of the literature.

In 2011, the AA Fellowship in Irkutsk celebrated its 20th jubilee. Guests from Australia, Canada, Korea and Mongolia visited this anniversary. Some of the guests continued their visit and undertook a trip to Hakassiya and Tuva.

Irkutsk was the first city of the Asian part of Russia, where the flame of AA movement was lit. And it is very symbolic that the 10th jubilee AOSM is held here.

Thailand

Thailand Country Report 2013 for AOSM Irkutsk

Area

Since the 9th A.O.S.M. held in India there has been a strengthening in the A.A. service structure in Thailand. In October of 2012 the third annual Area Assembly was held in Bangkok. There were 18 G.S.R.'s (General Service Representatives) from all over the country present, including English, German and Thai language meetings.

There were D.C.M.'s (District Committee Members) from three districts. The Central Thailand District which includes Bangkok and surrounding areas the Northern District which includes Chiang Mai and surrounding areas and the E-Saan District which includes all of Northeastern Thailand. There were visitors from both English and Scandinavian languages groups and a Thai national.

The Committees consist of a Webmaster where our meeting lists and happenings are located, Helpline with a phone answering and call back, Translation working with GSO to have more Thai language literature, Literature to provide the groups with A.A. approved material and AOSM delegates to connect us to the greater A.A. family. A new position of Area Archivist was voted on and approved. Minor changes were made to the By-laws and Charter.

There are 100+ meetings every week throughout Thailand in English, German Scandinavian and Thai Languages and now more than 15 Thai language meetings held throughout the country.

Central District

On Dec 15, 2012 the newly re-organized Central District held its first meeting. The District will be comprised of groups from Bangkok and Hua Hin. Officers were elected and a previously existing all inclusive committee was revitalized. We are calling this committee CPCHPI and our first committee meeting will be held on Feb 2, 2012.

In the Central District, Bangkok has 13 groups and 32 meetings in Thai and English each week. 9 of the 13 groups have elected GSRs. In Hua Hin there are 2 groups with 9 weekly meetings in English and Finnish.

Eastern Seaboard District

The Eastern Seaboard District was formed in October 2012. The Eastern Seaboard consists of Pattaya/Jomtien, Chonburi, Rayong, Kho Chang and Kho Kood. There are 11 groups and more than 38 meetings a week in the Eastern Seaboard District. Meetings are held in English, German, Scandinavian, and Finnish.

Currently, we are having monthly District meetings, the last Saturday of the month, 2:00 pm at the Jomtien Plaza Condotel, Jomtien Beach. We have formed an H Committee. One of the projects of the H Committee will be to distribute A.A. literature and group lists to jails and prisons in the area. We are planning a Founder's Day event for June.

E-Saan District

The first recorded 7th Tradition of the Khorat Group was in December 2010 although 2 members had been meeting for a few months on a regular basis before that. The group has 2 meetings per week – one on Wednesday at 5:30 pm in Pak Chong and one on Saturday at 10 am in Nakhonratchasima. The venues are approximately 100 kms. apart but currently the membership is small so we have had a group conscience to keep it as one group.

Like most Thailand groups, we have a core of regular members but also have members who return to their home country periodically and/or move to better teaching jobs elsewhere so membership fluctuates up and down.

We have been relatively active in service. We have been assisting the local Thai language meeting (at Pak Thong Chai Hospital) understand the program and how to work the Steps and also donating literature and Big Books. Recently, in conjunction with the Thai language group, we sponsored a 2 day workshop in Thai to explain and familiarize the Thai speaking AA community with the Traditions, how the Thailand AA service structure operates, and the importance of a Home Group and also the concept of self-support. It was well received and further workshops are planned in other locations around Thailand. We would like to thank Khun Ross and also AA Chair Khun Jerry for attending and offering invaluable assistance.

The group also recently sponsored a one day “meeting” in Phi Mai to try and draw the far flung E-Saan farang community together to meet each other and try and discover ways for us to better service ourselves and the Thai community. We did not get the level of E-Saan support we anticipated but some very valuable contacts were made and have blossomed into further collaboration. The group has not finalized it yet but the general feeling was that the meeting should be repeated at a later date perhaps annually at least.

Northern District

The Northern District consists of six Groups; five are located in Chiang Mai, and one in Chiang Rai. In a week, there are 26 separate meetings held in the North. Five of the six Groups have active GSRs and as such, participate in District Meetings and District planning. One Group is currently seeking a GSR and it is hoped that they will soon become active participants in the District. District Meetings are held quarterly, alternating between Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai.

The District Committee has been focusing its attention on carrying the A.A. message to both the Thai and Western communities. A.A. members regularly attend Thai speaking meetings in the North, and have donated a number of Thai-written A.A. authorized materials to these meetings. In addition, notices regarding the times and places of Meetings have been placed in a number of English language magazines distributed in the North. Further, members of the District have made presentations at Rotary Club meetings as well as meetings of Lanna Care Net, an outreach organization helping ageing westerners in the North.

The CMIG Group has a website, www.chiangmaiinternationalgroupofaa.org, which receives 12 Step inquiries on meeting locations, times and directions. They periodical have ads in four different English language publications announcing how and where they be contacted. Members of their group attend eight of the Thai language Groups in the area to offer support strength and hope.

Phuket District

There has been an active A.A. presence on Phuket for approximately 20 years. We have 13 meetings a week in English and one meeting in Thai. The District has a webpage at Google “aaphuket”. There is general A.A. information, meeting schedules with maps, contact numbers, etc. at the website.

We have an ad running in two English newspapers. These ads are the most expensive item of our yearly budget. We run A.A. approved radio ads on two radio stations. These are “public service” messages and are free.

We have a committee working with health professionals in which we give pamphlets on recovery both in English and Thai and make ourselves available should anyone wishes for us to give a talk. This committee has also met with the Tourist Police to explain who we are. Through this, we have had

people who get in trouble with police because of drinking to being brought to a meeting by the Tourist Police.

The A.A. Phuket District meets once every 3 months in a rented hotel conference room and usually has around 20 members in attendance. This meeting lasts about 2 hours. Every A.A. member is welcome to attend and contribute but only those with service commitments GSR's, DCM, Committee Chairpersons and Officers of the Phuket District may vote.

A.A. In the Thai Community

There are regularly scheduled meetings in 12 different locations around Thailand. Some locations hold meetings a few times a week others only once a month. There has been tremendous growth in A.A. membership within the Thai national community. There are one and two day workshops held in Bangkok, Khon Kaen, and Chiang Mai throughout the year. The Khon Kaen Roundup will be held for the 7th consecutive year and Bangkok had its first Roundup this year. The Medical community along with Thai Health Promotion Foundation has greatly assisted in getting A.A. known in Thailand. (Thai Health was established in 2001 under the Health Promotion Foundation Act, the first organization of its kind in Asia. It is an autonomous state agency outside the formal structure of government.) The first Service Workshop conducted in the Thai language took place at the Mahidol University Bldg. at Sung Noen in Nakhonratchasima Province on December 14th and 15th, 2012. It was sponsored by the Khorat Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. The idea for the workshop came from Khun Fon, the G.S.R. from the Pak Thong Chai hospital group of AA. It was extremely valuable to gather ideas and information on A.A. Service.

Thailand Round Up

2013 was the 18th gathering of Thailand A.A. members and our friends from around the world. For most of those years there has been a steady increase in attendees. The Thai members really started to increase five years ago. The overall number seems to be leveling off.

The last few years have seen a Thai speaker and simultaneously translation into Thai of the main speakers. The Thai A.A. community hold meetings and workshops concurrently and there is a mingling of both Thai and non-Thai A.A. members throughout the Roundup.

Reaching Out

The Thailand A.A. web page list meeting and happenings from around the world. The website has links to A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine, Arabia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

There have been efforts by various A.A. members in Thailand to give support to meetings in Myanmar and Laos. New Life House in Laos has sent sober members (now staff) to Khon Kaen to attend A.A. meetings at the treatment center. The E-Saan fellowship has been at the ready to help get the seeds of A.A. planted in Laos. There has been a three year connection along with USA based Jeff H. of Impact Laos to encourage A.A. participation in Laos. The fellowship in Thailand is strong and mobile and has a desire to assist neighboring countries wherever possible. Individual A.A. members have traveled to Myanmar to bring A.A. meetings and literature. The Myanmar members join the Thailand members at the hotels of the visitors for A.A. meetings.

Submitted by:
John Murphy

Section 5 – AOSM Background & Reference

Background

1978-1993 First proposed at 1978 Helsinki WSM, discussed in Australia 1982. Again proposed 1985 New York with some discussion in New Zealand. 1992 New York WSM informal discussions among Delegates

1993-1994 Conference New Zealand approved the go ahead, followed by research, discussions and planning with GSO Japan.

1994 Informal meeting held in Tokyo between members of both Japanese and New Zealand Fellowships to discuss Pan Pacific Zonal Meeting.

1995 1st Asian-Oceania Service Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. Attended by Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Korea, Japan and New Zealand, with GSO New York. Theme: “Twelve Stepping your Neighbour Country”.

1997 2nd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand. Attended by Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan with GSO New York. Theme: “Friends we have not Met”.

1999 3rd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Sydney, Australia. Attended by Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Indonesia with GSO New York. Theme: “Our Primary Purpose”.

2001 4th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Seoul, Korea. Attended by Japan, Korea, Russian Federation, Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, East Timor, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia with GSO New York. Theme: “The Growing AA Family”.

2003 5th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Hong Kong. Attended by Hong Kong, Japan, People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: “The Three Legacies-Recovery, Unity, Service”.

2005 6th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Surfers Paradise, Australia. Attended by Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand with GSO New York. Theme: “Sponsorship — Unity In Ever Widening Circles”

2007 7th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Saitama Japan. Attended by Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mercaa, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and New York. Theme: “Global Growth through Structured Groups”.

2009 8th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. In Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: “Reaching Out”.

2011 Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in India, in Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: “Singleness of Purpose”.

2013 Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Irkutsk, Russia, in Attendance; Australia, Hong Kong; India; Japan; MERCAA, Mongolia, New Zealand; Russia; Thailand. Theme: “Carrying the Message Beyond Borders”.

Delegates in Attendance at the 10th AOSM Irkutsk 2013

Australia – John Loty, (2nd term), Sharon Rexter (1st term)
Hong Kong – Joanne Schmitt (1st term), Megan Inglis-Davies (1st term)
India – Donald Sequeira (1st term), Francisco Aguiar (2nd term)
Japan – Yasuo Niimura (2nd term)
MERCAA – Tony Ashton (1st term), Kunal Biswas (2nd term)
Mongolia – Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger (1st term), Ogshoon Ganbat (1st term)
New Zealand – David Gee (2nd term), Steven Smith (1st term)
Thailand – Charles Wayne Davis (1st term), Micheal Alan Pence (2nd term)
Russia – Elena Lavrova (1st term), Valera T (2nd term)

Committee membership for the 10th AOSM Irkutsk 2013

Site Selection/Agenda/Website

Yasuo Niimura, 2nd Term Delegate, Japan
Charles Davis, 1st Term Delegate, Thailand
Joanne Schmitt, 1st Term Delegate, Hong Kong
Elena Lavrova, 1st Term Delegate, Russia

Policy/Admissions/Finance

Chairperson Francisco Aguiar, 2nd Term Delegate, India
Tony Ashton, 1st Term Delegate, Dubai
Dave Gee, 2nd Term Delegate, New Zealand
Megan Inglis-Davies, 1st Term Delegate, Hong Kong
Sharon Rexter, 1st Term Delegate, Australia

Literature and Publishing

John Loty, 2nd Term Delegate, Australia
Munkhtuvshin Oyundelger, 1st Term Delegate, Mongolia
Kunal Biswas, 2nd Term Delegate, MERCAA
Donald Sequeira, 1st Term Delegate, India

Working with Others

Valeriy T, 2nd Term Delegate, Russia
Steve Smith, 1st Term Delegate, New Zealand
Micheal Alan Pence, 1st Term Delegate, Thailand
Ogshoon Ganbat, 1st Term Delegate, Mongolia

2015 AOSM Bids Presented

Australia AOSM Bid
Dubai AOSM Bid
Mongolia AOSM Bid
New Zealand AOSM Bid

Delegates review – Irkutsk Russia 2013

QUESTION 1. Which Agenda item did you find most helpful and why?

QUESTION 2. Which Agenda Items did you find the least helpful and why?

QUESTION 3. Is there any other topic you would like to see on the Agenda, next time?

QUESTION 4. Have you any comments regarding the meeting room facilities or accommodation?

QUESTION 5. Any other comments?

If you need to, please use a separate sheet of paper for your replies and give them to Secretary Brenda before you return home. There is no need for your name to be included.

Review 2013 – Irkutsk Russia

AOSM Zone Map



The Serenity Prayer

GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE
COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN
AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.