

12th Asia Oceania Service Meeting 2017

Final Report

Thursday 6th July 2017 – Sunday 9th July 2017

**The Best Western Tuushin Hotel
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



Theme

“Preserving the Integrity of Carrying the Message”

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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.

Alcoholics Anonymous Responsibility Statement

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 to country financial sponsorship is sought to attend the AOSM the request is to be made to the AOSM secretary in the first instance and the secretary will then approach AOSM delegates on the requestor's behalf

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. The position concludes with the handing over of the final report of the 2nd meeting.
 8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.
 9. The Secretary, Chairperson and each delegate representing a country has one vote each.

Asia Oceania Service Meeting 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.

Orientation Sessions (Part A) – Meeting Procedure Review

The Minority Voice

Greg spoke on the minority voice and said that the minority voice is a concept and principle that we are familiar with in AA. At all levels of service, we should give consideration to the group or individual that has a different view to our own.

When a vote is taken, the chair should ask to hear the minority voice if the vote is not unanimous. It may change the thinking of one or more of those who voted in the majority. A member of the majority may ask for the matter to be reheard if they have been swayed by new information. Kunal gave an example of a whole decision being turned around by a single member in the minority.

The Third Legacy

Mary spoke on the Third Legacy which she said is used primarily for elections in AA and is exclusive to AA. From the outside, it can appear like leaving it to chance but in fact it can enable principles to be put before personalities. Mary went through the flow chart for the procedure and said that while it initially looks complicated, that like everything in AA it is quite simple if taken one step at a time. Kunal gave the example of how the Third Legacy resulted in him being elected Chairperson of the AOSM. *(See attachment 1)*

Roles within AOSM

Chairperson – Kunal spoke on his role which is to drive the agenda so that business can be conducted in the time available and to ensure that the committees function effectively.

Secretary – James said that his role as secretary had many aspects to it but the main one was to facilitate accurate communication between members of the AOSM and on behalf of the AOSM. He also was very involved with the organising committee and collected the information for travel arrangements, visa information and hotel registrations. He was the recorder of minutes for various meetings that the AOSM had via Skype which have been held since Dubai. His role also includes putting out the Newsletter, delegate information pre AOSM and answering queries which came in via the website or to the secretary's email address.

Treasurer – Kunal spoke of the role of the treasurer being the person who kept us up to date with the financial position of the AOSM, kept accurate financial records and streamlined our financial process.

Website – Steve our webmaster maintained our website based on the group conscience of the AOSM or the Website Literature and Publishing Committee. He also ensures that the cost of hosting etc is covered and advises us when there are good reasons not to carry out what is asked.

Delegates – Are always working between AOSM's sharing their experience, strength and hope with each other and their countries fellowships. They also take that experience to neighbouring countries. They promote the AOSM within their region, so that AA is aware of the importance and relevance of our zonal meeting. They are also busy at work within their committees.

Heather said that they are a conduit between two different bodies within the fellowship by listening and sharing the message. She gave the example of a New Zealand World Service Delegate sharing with Mexico on New Zealand prison meetings and how many prison meetings are in Mexico now. Tony said that they are a link to their home countries and have a responsibility to report back to their country on new ideas and ways to doing things, to better carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Interpreters – They are vital to us, as while we may all speak the language of the heart, that language must be converted into the spoken language which we understand.

Committee Recorders – They play a vital role in recording accurately any discussion or motions of the committee, which allows the delegates to solely focus on the business at hand.

Observers – They are there to observe for their and hopefully their fellowships benefit but may participate, at the discretion of the chairperson. A number of observers have gone on to become AOSM delegates or more involved in service in their AA community.

Roberts Rules – Kunal read out the important aspects of Robert's Rules and said that the purpose of the AOSM adopting the use of these was to allow the meeting to operate as effectively as possible. This in turn would also allow the spirit of the meeting to be expressed. *(See attachment 2)*

Orientation Session (Part B) – The importance of work between AOSM's

Heather said that there was a two-year plan of action formulated in Irkutsk and Dubai which was sort of followed. While there was a plan in place, no one was allocated roles or timeframes. One of the problems that the AOSM has, is that delegates often rotate off before their country has elected a replacement or advised the secretary, so that committee chairs can be advised and have the opportunity to bring new delegates up to speed and assign roles.

Kunal said that the role of a delegate does not finish until a replacement has been appointed and is guided into their new role. He said that there is definitely a moral responsibility on the outgoing delegate and that the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee may wish to talk about this.

The AOSM Newsletter was discussed with James saying that it varied in AOSM information on how often the newsletter was to be produced. It was decided that the relevant committee would discuss this. James also said that delegates did not have to wait until there was a call for information for the newsletter, they could send it in at any time to the secretary. He also advised that any conventions within our zone could be included in the newsletter and it was helpful if delegates sent him links as the ones he had included were what he could find while searching the net.

Country to country sponsorship was discussed and the unanimous in the vital place it has in the AOSM and it should be considered by all countries. The fact that financial sponsorship may be available for a country to get a delegate to the AOSM. This is applied for by contacting the AOSM secretary but is a one off and the expectation is that delegates who receive this sponsorship will report back on the benefits for their fellowship of attending and try to convince them to send delegates in the future.

Shaji shared on the benefits to both fellowships had experienced with India sponsoring Sri Lanka. Mary asked if any information on Country to Country sponsorship could be sent to her at the International Desk email address.

Orientations session (Part C)

Kunal gave the delegates an overview of what they could expect in the next three days and what would be expected of them during the AOSM.

AOSM Inventory

Kunal opened by explaining the process and asking second term delegates to raise topics and share their Experience, Strength and Hope on what is and isn't working well. The following are the secretary's notes from this opening session of the AOSM Inventory.

Tony from Australia opened the sharing. Dubai first AOSM reading information package prior to AOSM very helpful. After five or six months tried to get in touch with other members of his committee and started with Zoom meetings which proved difficult for people to connect to. Sent out drafts and some responded and some didn't. Has found Skype meetings very helpful, which Kunal started, especially seeing the face.

Even though some did not respond to emails he tried to get them involved. After a period of time he was not getting any emails from them he stopped sending them to them. He felt that he was doing everything but did not want to as it is a committee and all need to be involved.

Shaji from India, in two minds as to whether to discuss sub committees as a whole. However, feels that the AOSM needs to raise its profile in the AA community. Delegates do not get a big opportunity to report on AOSM in India, so feels that AOSM information to regional offices is vital. Does AOSM appeal to the regions for financial support, so how can India expect to be financially supported by them.

We need to have projects for the two years for each committee that the delegates can instigate and report on ie country to country sponsorship. AOSM delegate is backing up financially in India and feels that there should be a direction from AOSM that delegates should be financially supported by their fellowship.

Delegate from their region should be going to AOSM and reporting back to their region.

Ganbaa, I became delegate this January for the second-time due to AOSM being hosted by Mongolia which consumed all of my time and did not allow much for committee duties.

Nina, in last AOSM I was in the working with others committee, our committee had no recommendations for the next three years. I was very grateful for Bosco who communicated with us and posed questions for us to answer. For me a very important aspect was communicating with each other between AOSM's. I hope our committee will be more successful at this AOSM.

Bob, AOSM has been a great honour to represent Thailand and contacts made has been phenomenal but, there is always a but. I feel like I have cheated AA Thailand as I don't feel like I have done enough. I took over from a resigning delegate but there was no handover. I went to Dubai knowing nothing but worked extremely hard in Dubai and left full of enthusiasm and nothing happened. Committees did not be effective and we are not doing what we should be doing. I recognise that we are all volunteers and there is life outside of AA but we have a responsibility, as do countries to elect the right people. There is a lot to be done and we need the experience of Australia and New Zealand and they can learn from us. Despite all of the negativity I am very enthusiastic about the AOSM and we have massive challenges especially in the huge geographic region and cultures.

Morita, there is a lot of preparation in what goes into coming here, with regard to my personal experiences, as compared to the World Service Meeting, the information coming out was not nearly as comprehensive or quick as I was expecting. I had no idea of what time we should be arriving or leaving and this made travel arrangements very difficult. I am aware of the fact that it is organised

by a small group of people but more information more quickly would be very beneficial. Let me shift gears and speak of what we are doing between AOSM's but there was information which it was up to me to be prepared for and due to communication with Megan and Heather and meeting together at the WSM I was able to realise what was expected of me and took away a lot of apprehension. Because Heather was so diligent in advising what was on agenda and what I needed to prepare for, this was a great help.

Mary (AAWS), as coordinator of the WSM and veteran of planning many AA events, I am well aware of the challenges of communicating. Passing on delegate to delegate and planning tools are vital. A calendar of when communications need to be out are immensely helpful. If I am not hearing from someone, I will pick up the phone, especially as emails can end up in junk folders.

Greg (AAWS), this is my second AOSM first was in Irkutsk and four other zonal meetings and one WSM. Some differences and some commonality, this is the first time I have read background and heard discussions. Discussion on what should be happening between meetings is an ambitious but worthy topic to do some solid AA work. However, two years is a long time and enthusiasm wains. Ultimately it all comes down to communication, it could be one phone call, one Skype meeting. I am impressed that the body is willing to tackle this and the inventory process will always produce a result. It sounds like an honest appraisal and will only be beneficial.

Mary has heard reference to the AOSM proposing a WSD to represent countries not represented but WSM has its own admissions committee and has criteria for admission. I will email the secretary these guidelines and please study these before you go too far down that track.

Jay, thinks that Shaji's suggestion of contacting GSO's is a great idea on communicating with them. We should be speaking about what we have accomplished in the last two years rather than what we have been discussing. What is more important, to have the meeting every two years, or what we have accomplished?

I was treasurer of a meeting in Thailand and we made a payment to AOSM and I had no idea of what it was and it took two years before I finally knew what AOSM stood for.

How do we really apply the AOSM Statement of Purpose and what is the biggest thing that the AOSM accomplished in the last two years and I want to be able to answer that.

Masood, the former delegate contacted him and advised the most important thing is that we make contacts, where we can send problems and find answers.

Roger, fortunate that he observed at second AOSM and realised the amount of work that it took to get it off the ground. Has been disappointed in responses to emails etc and it is our responsibility to pick up the ball and run with it. We are experiencing maturity complacency and we have had the great experience of Mongolia doing the basics well and look at the members who have come to listen to us.

Bertie, feels it is his responsibility to educate his home fellowship on the AOSM.

Notes that he is taking he will be passing on to intergroup. The newsletter takes on more importance for the delegate.

Alex, from my personal limited perspective, I really enjoy this opportunity as in the last year in trying to serve the Chinese community I have run into so many questions and where else would I get the opportunity to get the answers. This forum may answer all of my questions.

Magdi, this is my first meeting of this kind and I may have a better perspective at the end.

Krishna, I had the advantage of a number of previous AOSM reports and a second term delegate but the member in the meeting must think he is getting bang for his buck or he will not support this.

Heather, presented the following report: In Dubai, two years ago, it was recommended that our AOSM workshops in 2017 be replaced with an inventory - the topic, *"Are 'we' fulfilling our primary purpose?"* I know AA is called a 'we' program but I've been thinking about the saying 'let it begin with me.' So, on that basis, I'd like to turn our question around and ask *"Am I fulfilling my primary purpose - in particular as a delegate to AOSM?"*

I admit, coming from a country with an older, and solid service structure is an advantage. I knew exactly when my World Service delegate role would start, and the date it would finish 4 years later. I also knew New Zealand members are committed to us being a responsible international member of both World Service and Asia Oceania service meetings: this means 'we' members use the 7th tradition basket at our home groups to ensure this happens. And, to all those groups and individual members, I thank them. Their actions meant I knew, when I was appointed World Service delegate, exactly what my commitments would be for the next 4 years – and it was not just to turn up to international meetings. And, AA New Zealand's commitment to delegates - from home group to conference and board - was to ensure 'we' have the funds to do so.

In **AA's Legacy of Service** Bill wrote *"concerning any given service, 'we therefore pose just one question: "is this service really needed?" If it is, to maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to help those who need and seek AA" (S1, USA- Canada AA Service Manual)*

At every international service meeting I've been reminded, *'the work happens between the meetings'* - not just in New York, Warsaw, Dubai -or now, here in Ulaanbaatar. So, how well am I doing that as a delegate to AOSM? Unfortunately, because of the 'we' part of our service, and 'work happening between meetings', I find it really difficult to fulfil my role when delegates do not respond to emails or requests – making my AOSM work difficult or even impossible.

It's also difficult when committees have only 2 members because people have left the zonal area, or left AA, and their Service Structure has not seen fit to immediately replace them. Or, when the delegate is replaced, the AOSM Secretary is not notified so the new delegate can be appointed to a committee and start work. It's hard when a chair of a committee gets no response to emails. I'm wondering if part of the issue of this non-communication within AOSM is with many newer AA service structures, or is it because our area is so huge - about 72 countries. Do 'we' not feel connected to each other? Do 'we' need smaller, MERCAA type groupings? Do 'we' need to split the AOSM map into 3?

Of course, this is nothing 'we' at AOSM can do - each country, and region, has to decide for itself how to connect with other AAs in the region and the world. But perhaps 'we' are just too unwieldy in size to be effective in 12 stepping our neighbours - or maybe our neighbours are just too far away, or don't want 'help' from other countries?

I think topics like these need to be discussed within countries structures and homegroups, and their thoughts brought back to the next AOSM meeting for a workshop with a title something like *"AOSM where to next?"* Or, *"AOSM what is our role and how should 'we' achieve it?"* or even *"Do we need AOSM?"*

In the meantime, I'm hopeful we current delegates start the discussions with this Inventory. I have no solutions - this is a 'we' program, and 'we' need to be part of the solution and help each other achieve AOSM's primary purpose.

Let me finish by challenging us, challenging me, to be the good leaders that Bill W spoke about in his article ["Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need"](#) 1959 Grapevine. *(S1, USA- Canada AA Service Manual)*

The most important word in my job title is SERVICE, reminding me it's not a title but a job description: As I said at the beginning, 'let it begin with me'. I can only change myself.

Delegates broke into four groups and answered the following questions

How do delegates in respective committees improve communication?

By sharing their experience, strength and hope. MERCAA uses What's App very successfully and as AA members usually have their phones on them, contact is instant. Whereas the problem with emails, is that they arrive among many others and are not always attended to in a timely manner. There is the advantage of setting up groups in What's App.

AAWS use a calendar, so specific dates are met so that any communication goes out and feedback is provided.

There should be protocols around emails, that when emails go out people respond even if it is sorry I cannot attend to this right now, then sender knows it has been received.

Be specific in what is required when sending an email. Especially with the last line of when a response is required by.

Phone calls to follow up are useful.

How do delegates improve communication with their own community and fellowship? Morita made the pertinent observation that we can write the most articulate reports but that is not as effective as showing your face to deliver that report, right down to group level. Ask for feedback. Morita would tailor report for board ie licencing and publishing but a group wants to hear experiences.

Communication between countries.

Around Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong there is an informal communication process between their GSOs regarding problems which arise. MERCAA again use What's App for this type of communication and they also use workshops by invitation. These are set up some time in advance and members then have them in their calendar. They have found that workshops where multiple countries attend are very successful. Mongolia has had very successful workshops where visitors from other fellowships have attended and presented or conducted the workshops

There is no magic answer but communication is a two-way street and need to start at the grass roots level.

Given the number of alcoholics within our community are we reaching enough people? This question was met with a resounding no. A lot of countries that were represented on in the group had big expat communities which are catered for but there is a lot of work to be done in carrying the message to the local population.

What has your country done to carry message to doctors, judiciary, hospitals etc?

Some countries are doing a very good job as is borne out in their country reports and there are still many opportunities in other countries for work in this area.

Are we getting a good cross section of our community?

There appears to be a general problem getting women and young people. In some countries, high bottoms and low bottoms will not mix. One country does not have mixed meetings of men and women.

How can we make fellowship more attractive for people to stay?

Making use of apps and electronic media is more attractive to the younger generation. The message must be more than not drinking but about sobriety. Thailand has an issue where there is a definite reluctance for members to become sponsors.

How do we know that AOSM is working?

What is the yardstick that we are measuring by, the basic purpose of AOSM is to provide a platform where member countries can come together to ask questions. An answer might be to compile a list of questions and see how many of those questions are answered affirmatively. An example of questions might be, did you find any solutions by coming to the AOSM? Did my country get value for money by my attendance at the AOSM? Did I put my time at the AOSM to good use?

What projects can AOSM Delegates take on at home between meetings?

Newsletters and reports to General Service Boards and Conferences. Delegates giving a ten-minute report at their conference on AOSM activities. Sponsorship to neighbouring countries (not financial) of neighbouring countries by helping to support their service activities. Communicating with other AOSM Delegates and WSM delegates with specific questions. Making use of AOSM as a resource.

How can the two-year action plan be implemented?

I as a delegate have a responsibility to fulfil any task assigned to me. Like the program we cannot rely on yesterday's actions. We can only commit to what we actually can do and must be realistic in what we hope to achieve.

If a task is assigned someone must be responsible to follow up and see that it is being completed in the required time

Delegates and secretary should request a response to your question by a certain date and use a read receipt request with your emails. We all need to reply promptly to any AOSM communications.

Committee Reports

Working with Others Committee

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Nina Matcepuro, 2nd Term Delegate (Russia), Ganbaa, 2nd Term Delegate (Mongolia), Jay Rabin, 1st Term Delegate (Thailand), Norman Leu, 1st Term Delegate (Taiwan)

The last committee did not leave us with a starting point and submitted no suggestions for moving forward so we are just beginning from step one.

We read the 'scope' of the Working with Other's as presented carefully and interpreted it differently than one may think.

Most AA's think 'Working with Other's refers to one alcoholic working with another alcoholic on a one and one basis we found the 'scope somewhat different. The 'scope' as presented is...

"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 to the AOSM"

We see this committee as helping AOSM communication within AOSM, helping to fulfill the goals of AOSM and providing recommendations where appropriate.

We have chosen a quite aggressive plan, thanks to our dedicated friends from Russia and Mongolia. We have three main initiatives of which we begin with two and hopefully be able to get to the third as well.

The three initiatives are:

Helping to grow and encourage AOSM participation throughout the AOSM universe.

Roundups across Borders- developing a format to help neighbouring countries help one another in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Compiling individual countries success stories of 'Working with Other's' and disseminating that information to all AOSM countries.

We have agreed to a quarterly Skype conference call to keep track of our progress and share questions and problems.

Roundup across Borders/Neighbours helping Neighbours. Ganbaa will head up a multi-country Roundup probably Russia, Mongolia and China. We would like to find a successful format for countries working together that we can share with all members and continue to improve upon.

Growing AOSM

We identify all AOSM countries

We list current participants, past participants and list potential members.

Potential members would be countries within our geographical area that have sufficient AA penetration to be applicable.

We will develop a letter to stimulate interest in AOSM and send it to all potential members.

We will also consider volunteers visiting some of the neighboring high potential countries to help stimulate participation.

Our hope is to begin this process and learn and adapt as we begin these efforts.

PS- and we railroaded a chairperson. I was appointed unanimously, declined numerous times and could not get anyone to listen. I will assume the role temporarily and we will revisit it when we get two new members on the committee who will replace those retiring.

Recommendations:

None

Chairperson; Jay Rabin (Thailand)

Website, Literature & Publishing Committee

Committee members:

Chairperson: Roger Soulsby, 1st Term Delegate (New Zealand), Magdi Osman, 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA), Masood Forooghi, 1st Term Delegate (Iran), Alex Li, 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong).

We reviewed the Scope and Procedure document

Under Procedure we highlighted:

#4 - that we will present recommendations of the committee to the entire committee for their amendment and approval.

#6 - Correspondence and communications are essential. All are responsible to stay in touch between the AOSM's

We reviewed the recommendations from Dubai AOSM. (recommendations truncated for reference purpose only, see Dubai minutes for full text)

Find recording secretaries - DONE

Create and show formal email for secretary on gmail. however, the treasurer and chair emails are not included - DONE

Links to member country GSO's be included - Not complete

Discontinue the password protected practice - DONE

Make AOSM site accessible to public DONE and create a member only area Not complete

Continuity of work, having past delegate participate

Progress chart - not complete yet. we need an action plan for this

*need some additional content for whether the portal is for public consumption or private, need to look into context of Dubai conversation

Items of Business the group decided to discuss:

Is a member only portal useful or needed?

Progress chart or Calendar for accountability.

Do we need an action plan? If so, create one.

Review the Scope of the committee and all parts of the Composition Scope and Procedure document. (inconsistent language, vague, not descriptive enough).

AOSM shared experience on Publishing, Translation, Printing, Distribution, Licensing ect. the big picture.

Business Discussion

Is a member only portal useful or needed?

We are all first term delegates. The group felt that if there was a need, then it is a no brainer that we should make an easily accessible portal. If there isn't a clear need we should focus on other things because these repositories get dated and not useful if not used.

NZ GSO has had a positive experience with this concept of a members only portal for minutes, calendar and other information. In a way it acts as a digital repository. Members can create a log in, which lessens barriers to people accessing and using the site.

Members were concerned about choosing the appropriate tool, with appropriate permissions so non-AA's aren't allowed to log in or add/delete content.

Additional Ideas / Problems which weren't addressed or didn't fit neatly into the business items

What is the status of simplified Chinese language big book?

MERCAA has a .com and a .org website. we need help simplifying the confusion.

Issues discussed, challenges and experience with licensing and translations. There was a perception that it takes a long time and there are several examples of countries where literature is printed without approvals.

People crave translations. Time is limiting factor. How does AOSM Facilitate this?

It helps by sharing experience between countries.

seeing GSO staff in person to answer questions and consult.

face to face meeting is vital to passing along the experience

Action Plan - do we need one? What would be in it. Should we commit to ourselves to reply to emails within 5 days?

Discussed updating the scope in the 1-page Composition Scope and Procedure document

We need to add the term website to the document. Do we need licensing within the title or in the body of the document? Agreement that inclusion in the body of the document was sufficient.

Proposed modification to the scope:

The purpose and function of this committee is to provide a forum for an exchange of experience and views related to the following:

AOSM website

Translations, Licensing and Publishing of AA approved literature of the AOSM member countries.

If necessary recommendations and/or motions may be forwarded to the AOSM delegates for further action.

The committee reviewed the current website and does not have any recommendations for updates or edits at this time. An email has been sent off to the webmaster for clarification around adding the following:

the positions of chairperson and treasurer email addresses

links to current member country GSO websites

clarification around protocols for any website updating and management of passwords

Under Procedure we highlighted:

#4 - that we will present recommendations of the committee to the entire committee for their amendment and approval

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Progress chart - not complete yet. we need an action plan for this

*need some additional content for whether the portal is for public consumption or private, need to consider context of Dubai conversation. *

Items of Business the group decided to discuss:

Is a member only portal useful or needed?

Progress chart or Calendar for accountability.

Do we need an action plan? If so, create one.

Review the Scope of the committee and all parts of the Composition Scope and Procedure document. (inconsistent language, vague, not descriptive enough).

AOSM shared experience on Publishing, Translation, Printing, Distribution, Licensing ect. the big picture.

Business Discussion

Is a member only portal useful or needed?

We are all first term delegates. The group felt that if there was a need, then it is a no brainer that we should make an easily accessible portal. If there isn't a clear need we should focus on other things because these repositories get dated and not useful if not used.

NZ GSO has had a positive experience with this concept of a members only portal for minutes, calendar and other information. In a way it acts as a digital repository. Members can create a log in, which lessens barriers to people accessing and using the site.

Members were concerned about choosing the appropriate tool, with appropriate permissions so non-AA's aren't allowed to log in or add/delete content.

Additional Ideas / Problems which weren't addressed or didn't fit neatly into the business items

What is the status of simplified Chinese language big book?

MERCAA has a .com and a .org website. we need help simplifying the confusion.

Discussed issues, challenges and experience with licensing and translations. There was a perception that it takes a long time and there are several examples of countries where literature is printed without approvals.

People crave translations. Time is limiting factor.

How does AOSM Facilitate this?

helps by sharing experience between countries

seeing GSO staff in person to answer questions and consult.

face to face meeting is vital to passing along the experience

Action Plan - do we need one? What would be in it. Should we commit to ourselves to reply to emails within 5 days?

Discussed updating the scope in the 1-page Composition Scope and Procedure document

We need to add the term website to the document. Do we need licensing within the title or in the body of the document. Agreement that inclusion in the body of the document was sufficient.

Proposed modification to the scope:

The purpose and function of this committee is to provide a forum for an exchange of experience and views related to the following:

AOSM website

Translations, Licensing and Publishing of AA approved literature of the AOSM member countries.

If necessary recommendations and/or motions may be forwarded to the AOSM delegates for further action.

Group reviewed the current website and does not have any recommendations for updates or edits at this time. An email has been sent off to the webmaster for clarification around adding the following:

the positions of chairperson and treasurer email addresses

links to current member country GSO websites

clarification around protocols for any website updating and management of passwords

Chairperson; Roger Soulsby (New Zealand)

Site Selection & Agenda Committee

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Tony Vallance, 2nd Term Delegate (Australia), Bob Morris, 2nd Term Delegate (Thailand), Nyamaa, 1st Term Delegate (Mongolia), Krishna Valdamani, 1st Term Delegate (India).

Review: Past scope, agenda & procedures. Accepted with the following changes.

Agenda was reviewed by the chair and accepted by the committee

Reviewed some of the communications over the past year. The committee had a Skype meeting which worked well and the chair recommended that they continue with Skype meetings in the future.

Discussed the procedures for the site bid presentations the costs, effects on local fellowships, travel costs and the registration costs.

Reviewed bids from New Zealand, India and Hong Kong. Discussed how committee wanted to hear the bids. Hong Kong hosted the AOSM in 2003, New Zealand in 1997 and Hong Kong in 2003.

Recommendation: Add to bid form - send this form to aosmsecretary@gmail.com. Secretary to forward to Site Selection & Agenda Committee Chairperson.

Recommendation: The committee recommended that, as per a past recommendation "a proposed agenda should be sent to the committee delegates at least six months in advance, to allow delegates to have input.

There was discussion on bids and an example of the World Service Meeting format. This has countries who are bidding, speak to the committee.

New Zealand had checked a "no" box on their bid form but this was in error and the intended answer was a "yes". Bid verified.

As the New Zealand delegates were in their committees, James was asked to come and answer a few questions on the New Zealand bid regarding hotels, tourist visas etc. No problems.

Reviewed past committee recommendation from website.

Alex Li presented the Hong Kong bid to the committee. Hong Kong has approximately 200 Hong Kong members, 10 – 20 Cantonese members and 1 Chinese Group as well as one intergroup. The venue will be the Hotel Icon which is in the TST (Tourist Area), however there are many other suitable areas apart from the TST Area.

Costs for the event would be delegates fees \$250. and a hotel room rate of \$239 per night. Alex gave some personal sharing regarding his involvement in carrying the message to all Chinese. The Chinese fellowship is slowly growing and started in Beijing Hospital, so China has "approved" AA to some degree with the medical community offering a very high level of support. Hosting the AOSM in Hong Kong would have a huge impact on AA in China.

It was noted that airfares to and from Hong Kong are reasonably inexpensive and Hong Kong last hosted an AOSM in 2003. **(See attachment 3)**

There was discussion on the hosting bids and it was unanimously decided that Hong Kong would host the 2019 AOSM. However, the committee would like the host committee to reduce the costs, especially in hotel accommodation.

Recommendation: That Hong Kong host the 2019 AOSM from July 11 – 14.

Recommendation: That the theme for the 2019 AOSM be "Improving our links to all communities".

Recommendation: That the orientation session for 1st term delegates be removed from future agendas.

Recommendation: That the Site Selection & Agenda Committee follow the same process as that which is used in the World Service Meeting for receiving and evaluating bids to host future AOSM's

Chairperson: Nyamaa (Mongolia)

Alternate Chairperson: Krishna (India)

Policy | Admissions | Finance Committee

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Heather Hapeta 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand), Shaji Scorp, 2nd Term Delegate (India), Yasuhiko Morita, 1st Term Delegate (Japan) & Bertie Sawhney 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA).

AGENDA ITEMS

PAF's scope and guidelines remain the same.

After research on other zones' selection process, NZ withdrew its motion to select AOSM chair from all past delegates.

Recommendation: Give AOSM NEW ZONE DRAFT PLAN to the agenda committee for placement on the 2019 AOSM's agenda for further discussion. (See attached draft plan from Japan.)

Recommendation: Clarify the 2009 recommendation to "encourage guests and observers as appropriate". PAF suggests a limit of 25 observers to attend future ASOM meetings.

Observers are defined as those who do not have an assigned service role in the conference.

Host countries may decide who the observers will be.

Underpinning this recommendation is the principle that the primary purpose of AOSM not be disrupted.

Observers' costs cannot impinge on delegates' fees.

Recommendation: Distribute the AOSM newsletter in March and October.

Appoint an editor to assist the secretary in creating newsletters.

Include national conventions, major events of AOSM countries (dates, contacts) and the theme for the next newsletter.

Ask AOSM chairs to provide input to the secretary, including reminders of action items that need to be implemented.

Recommendation: Add to the website, the "helpful flow chart" (see attached) to explain the bidding process for countries considering hosting AOSM.

PAF reminds future secretaries to include AOSM bids to minutes.

PAF reaffirms AOSM's policy guidelines defining who is a delegate.

See *Delegate Information for the 12th AOSM*, Guidelines for the Conduct of AOSM, #5, page 33, and the Scope for PAF committee, "purpose is to review requests for admissions".

PAF will create an archivist job description as recommended in 2007.

An archivist could preserve our history for ourselves and for future generations. PAF considers this a critical need.

Without an archivist, AOSM's history and continuity could be lost.

Issues to consider include what should be archived, how should the information be preserved, and how can we use resources from other countries, which may already have an archivist. (One member has a resource on how to archive, preserve, and catalog material.)

The committee elected Yasuhiko Morita (Japan) as the new PAF Chair, and Bertie Sawhney (MERCAA) as the alternate chair.

All AOSM committee recommendations were accepted by the AOSM.

The AOSM would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the amazing service provided by Ulyana, Wada, Doug, Baya and Tse who served as interpreters, and also our recording secretaries Judy, Cecily, George and Jim. They did not just selflessly serve the AOSM but many of them travelled around the globe to be with us. Their desire to be of service not only allowed the AOSM to function more smoothly and efficiently but their presence added so much to what was one of the great events that the Big Book says will come to pass for us and countless others.

Chairperson's Report

It is an honor and a privilege to be here with you today to share this experience. It is my pleasure to be given an opportunity to be of service as your chairperson for this 12th edition of the Asia Oceania Service Meet and for that I remain truly grateful and humble.

Gratitude towards the Host Committee

AOSM enters its 12th edition with this conference being held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Personally, I am very excited to be here in Mongolia and observing first-hand the message of AA in action. What a momentous occasion. Already we have seen the amount of preparation and service that has gone into making this event a reality. Let us take a moment to thank our host country, AA in Mongolia, for their hard work and commitment over the last 2 years to make this happen. Thank you, Mongolia.

I was privileged to chair the organizing committee of the 2015 AOSM in Dubai. As part of that band of committed members, I was overwhelmed by the work, preparation and attention to details that hosting such an event requires. A few weeks ago, AA that started in Akron, Ohio, USA, completed 82 years and today we are in Ulaan Bator, Mongolia. This is truly a miracle. Bill W would be ecstatic, and Dr Bob would probably smile gently and say, "Guys, Let's not louse this up. Keep it simple!"

I know from first-hand experience, how, in spite of all the planning and hard work, some chinks will appear and there may be some hitches, or we might be put to some personal discomfort. I request you to be tolerant and kind; and urge you to support the local host committee as best as you can. As guests, we should remember that all service is voluntary in nature, and we should be adaptive and accommodative in our expectations as we travel with our communities' mandate to do loving service. Some sacrifices may need to be made. May God help us where needed.

A Rich Heritage of Experience & Common Issues

I served and completed 2 terms as delegate for the MERCAA countries in 2011 (Chandigarh, India) and 2013 (Irkutsk, Russia) and was blessed with the experience of working with so many recovering alcoholics in service throughout Asia Pacific region. I was also part of the Working with Others/Carrying the Message sub-committees during those conferences; and was amazed by the learning I got from the shared thoughts of so many delegates from across the world. It was truly amazing to see how we can achieve so many miracles in the lives of ourselves and others, by trying our best to fulfil our primary purpose. It was also such an insight to discover that we are not unique – as individuals seeking recovery or groups carrying the message or even as countries working in different socio-cultural contexts and regulatory environments. We all have the same common challenges and issues, and we can all find working solutions through our collective unity and by the grace of a Higher Power. After all, His loving direction and guidance is unerringly expressed in our group conscience, and it is time and again demonstrated as we continue our work at in the AOSM conference level too.

Sub Committees and their Workings

This work that I saw develop during my earlier tenures; and have since witnessed growing in the years after – is an important part of our original charter within AOSM.

There are 4 subcommittees that constitute the main working body of AOSM. They do the work and they take the call on all matters that rest before us. Your 2nd term delegates (in most cases) have been chosen to lead as trusted chairpersons of these subcommittees. They were chosen at the last conference. You have also been assigned to these sub-committees. New leaders will be chosen at this conference.

James has done a stellar job to balance experience, country diversity and some administrative logic to make these assignments. Please work in the close groups and support your leaders. Past work done by AOSMs is available for reference. The previous AOSM meeting report is your immediate

reference point. Review the work and see how you can move forward. Look at ways we can make the functioning of the subcommittees and the fulfilment of their charter more meaningful.

I would personally like to acknowledge the amazing work done since 2015 in two sub-committees in particular. The 1st is the **Agenda and Site Selection** Committee, where, led by Tony, they have put together a very detailed program of action for us. The agenda that we will follow is the output of months of deliberation, soul searching and practical adjustments – that you are now seeing in final shape before you. There are some tweaks to the earlier formats, and I think they are brilliant, especially the one where we have tasked ourselves to take our own inventory as AOSM. With increasing scrutiny and questions from our member communities seeking to understand the purpose and goal of AOSM, there is no better time than now, to articulate it well and carry that back to your home service structures. I wish us luck on that critical piece of work and pray we find the answers that we need.

The other sub-committee that I want to thank is the **Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee**. Heather has helped us strip away some of the obscurity and confusion around our structure, policies, operational mechanics and financial workings. She had both the hard time and the easy time. The hard time, because she found herself the only surviving member of this sub-committee after a couple of previous members dropped off. Easy time? - because she had absolutely no problem in arriving at group conscience with no dissenters at all. Smooth decision making and even the minority voice was silent. 😊

While I say that in humor, I think she will be relying on the newly constituted PAF committee to help her validate her recommendations and thoughts, as you ratify the proposed work areas in your time together.

The **Working with Others** sub-committee was entrusted to the leadership of our proposed delegate from Singapore, Bosco. He did a great job in setting a rapid tempo and brought up lots of ideas, and consolidated them in a document he has sent for review. Unfortunately, Singapore AA could not send a delegate to join us this time, so he is unable to take this particular initiative forward. We look forward to the new chair and members to pick up the threads on that, and come up with their own masterpiece.

The one area, we as a body, have failed largely, is in the **Translations and Literature** sub-committee. Lack of service commitment and unavailability of leadership here, led to complete inaction and no progress. Let this be a lesson we can learn from. Service is a privilege, and we must try and do justice to it. Choose your leaders wisely and then also hold them accountable - our 12 concepts of world service imply and encourage that.

Heather will also be presenting the **Treasurer's report**. Our money man in New Zealand is a fine bloke called David G, and I danced with him in Irkutsk. He sends his regards and a plea that we are running out of money, we don't have enough to continue our way of working, there is a near crisis, and something must be done.

AOSM Finances

The AOSM financial report is now finalized and published. Feel free to share it with your communities. For me, what stands out is that the AOSM treasury is now left with no prudent reserves anymore. After budgeting for the 2017 event, we seem to be left with nothing in the basket. Efforts to regularize the website and the bank accounts for AOSM have been made and completed. Hopefully resolution of some of these issues will allow "prosperous" communities to pass on some of their 7th tradition collections to the cause of AOSM also. Without this vital support, it is possible that AOSM, which is now in its 25th year, will unfortunately wither and dry up. There is

however some news that Australia and MERCAA funds are on their way and we should have some breathing space.

All the work to date, to carry the message of recovery to so many countries, will be severely limited and could even stop if the money stops. Country to country sponsorship of delegates to AOSM conferences is important. Community and group donations to AOSM treasury are critical for the conference to be held. And self-supporting communities who can send delegates to AOSM to share their experience and provide the much-needed learning, is of utmost value. This is another place where money and spirituality mix – so please carry this appeal for funds back to your groups and communities.

Unity & Member Country Issues

We, as delegates, have been trusted by our communities to share our experience and issues with each other - and seek solutions that work for all at the AOSM conference. Within the AOSM map of near 72 countries, we are lucky to have some well-developed fellowships and countries with their own GSOs that have a strong service structure. At the same time, we are also blessed with the opportunity to carry the message and service experience to young, fledgling and new AA countries in the region, where it is still a struggle to even send a delegate and be self-supporting.

Previously, we have seen the larger fellowships come forward and help younger member countries find their footing in service and grow their capacity to more effectively carry the message. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, India have all played their part in this great demonstration of Unity and Fellowship Development. The results cannot be better exemplified than Mongolia itself, where the work that started in 2013 is now seeing amazing results with hundreds of recovering alcoholics in action; and multiple meetings and groups well established. They even get to host the AOSM and have WSO members here to help them with their vital CPC work. This is truly an inspiring example of what we can achieve within AOSM. Yet there is still so much to do and so many countries to cover.

And there are worrying signals too. This year, and since my association with 4 AOSMs over 8 years, we see no country to country sponsorship for the 1st time. This year we see that India delegates come self-funded. This year we see that Australia, a giant within AOSM, decided to send only 1 delegate, as did Hong Kong. Singapore fell off and we are missing Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka too – these are all communities that had a delegate at one time or another, and today don't!

However, there is a silver lining. We have Taiwan here and we nearly had South Korea and China here. We have our first Chinese origin Hong Kong delegate here and we have our first ever Arab member from Bahrain representing the Middle East, where previously it was always expatriate members.

Some Thoughts from the Chair

1. Reviewing the Footprint and Creating Smaller Zones

I belong to the MERCAA Region. We consist of 9 countries of which UAE is the most active, largest. We represent most of the Middle Eastern countries with an Arab ethnicity. We send only 2 delegates and while small in members, do seem under represented. I am also India and sobered up there. I see the South Asian continent as another large land mass with many cultural commonalities and needs. Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh are logical members of this region with India as the largest community. A similar logic may apply across Asia Pac with Australia, NZ and the Pacific Islands. South East Asia with Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Bali, etc. can also logically aggregate.

The reason I bring this up is because my observations of the past discussions, normal attendance and trending topics leads me believe that one large AOSM with 72 countries across half the land mass of this planet may not be the best model to carry the message in parts of the region where there is no AA or few isolated members. We are losing focus. We have barely 10 countries represented here.

My question and suggestion to the sub-committees is as follows.

Is it time that we review the AOSM map and see if there is a need to disaggregate this body?

(See attachment 5)

With current fiscal and participation issues and a greater need to spread wider with stronger penetration, we must find a model that facilitates that.

2. Sending a formal “un-represented areas” delegate to WSM

India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Thailand have formal GSOs in place. They all have a seat at the World Service Meet. They get a chance to voice their needs and take the global service experience back to their communities via their WSM delegates and well organized service structures.

For the rest of us, the best we got was the AOSM summary report that was kindly read on our behalf at the WSM by the NZ delegate last time.

My other question and suggestion to the sub-committees is as follows.

Is it feasible and realistic for AOSM to send a direct elected delegate to the WSM who will represent the “un-seated” countries of AOSM?

MERCAA countries, South Asian countries other than India, some South East Asian countries could thus get a chance to have a seat at the WSM and be heard and share back their experience at the AOSM and thus increase the overall relevance of AOSM.

I understand both these propositions are not possible at the same time. In fact, 2 could be the staging initiative for a longer-term disaggregation of the 1. As chairperson, I do not have a say in your proceedings, however do have the advantage of observing 3 previous AOSMs. It is only a humble suggestion for your consideration that I make with the input of some like-minded members from my community and friends.

Our GSO – World Services Guests

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from AA World Services. Mary and Greg, thank you taking the time and making the journey across many time zones. Your presence here is much appreciated. Neither of you are strangers to AOSM and bring not only your job functional experience to our conference, but also the wisdom of having worked with us in our previous events. You will be a great asset to the Mongolia AA local community as they line up CPC interactions for you in the next few days. Take back news of our work and progress to WSO and share our issues; guide us and assist us as we resolutely seek to fulfil our primary purpose.

As Chairperson

I have but 1 primary role to play. I believe I have been tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that the agenda that you, through your elected representation, have set for yourself for this conference, is adhered to and completed in all respects to the best of our ability. I shall nudge you along, push you at times and sometimes even intervene in the interest of time, agenda and priorities. You will have to trust me to use my judgement on that, and I assure you I will be spending many a minute in prayer to seek guidance from God in all matters. 😊

Hurrah for the Secretariat

Thank you, James, for all that you did and are doing. My job will be over in 4 days, his will continue for another year. Please continue to extend your support and cooperation to him in this sometimes-thankless job of Secretary of AOSM.

This report would be incomplete without mentioning the hard work, commitment, awesome innovativeness and dedicated follow up of our Secretariat. The prime driver of all the work behind the arrangements, logistics, plans and your registrations here has been James. He has tirelessly

worked to bring it all together and compiled everything into the delegate pack that you have in front of you. It even includes your country reports and is the living document you will use and rely upon to make this conference meaningful.

I would be remiss if I do not mention the amazing support and assistance we got from Megan, past delegate from HK and Alt Secretary to AOSM. She has been the soul behind understanding Mongolia and its many mysteries. Her multiple visits here, strong personal relationships with local members, and invaluable tips and hints on how to get here and get around, have been responsible for allaying many a fluttering heart. She could not get onto the bus, and that is truly unfortunate. She will be missed and she is thanked very much.

There is a man in this room who knows more about AOSM than any other man in this world. As the trusted translator/interpreter of the Japanese delegates for many years, he has attended 8 (?) of the last 12 conferences. His knowledge and understanding of the history of this body is unparalleled and invaluable. It is good to have you here again, Doug, and we hope we can tap into your wisdom without taking anything away from your primary duties.

In Conclusion

I once again invite and encourage the standing subcommittees and their incumbent members to bring together shared service and recovery experiences across geographies and cultures, to find what has worked and what can be learnt – in order to grow in effectiveness with the way we can fulfill our primary purpose: To Carry the Message of Recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

The collective budget that is being spent on this conference over the next 4 days is significant. A quick estimate I made was upward of US\$ 85,000. That money is coming from our collective 7th tradition funds that our home group members have put into the basket. This money is very precious and we are accountable for its prudent spending and the weight of responsibility it carries.

I urge you to keep this moral responsibility clearly visible on your radars as you deliberate and confer on various issues and subjects over the next few days. Your country communities have bestowed on you the awesome privilege of representing their collective voices and group conscience at this table.

The schedule is packed and the agenda is heavy. You will be working for long hours and intensely. There is much work to be done. Open your AOSM Dubai final reports, look at the work that you tasked yourselves with, and pick up the threads or find the momentum in the remaining days (and months after that), work in your small groups, and report back to the conference with your recommendations and action plans.

You will be tired at times. Use the breaks wisely. You will even see that you are being asked to work beyond the hours on the agenda. You will at times feel restless and frustrated. Don't give up. Persevere. Refresh yourself, rest well in nights. Come back for the meetings when they reconvene, on time. Start the day, on time. Be respectful of each other's time and efforts in service - and you will achieve a lot and go back from here with an amazing shared experience and a renewed commitment to our 3 legacies of the program – Recovery, Unity and Service.

May God guide you and give you the wisdom you need to proceed.

In loving service
Kunal B
Dubai, UAE (MERCAA)

Keynote address – “Preserving the Integrity of Carrying the Message”

My name is Doug G., and I’m alcoholic. I bring you greetings from my home group, “Young at Heart” in Los Gatos, California. I service the AA Japan GSO on the International Cooperation Committee, and interpreter for this meeting. I would like to sincerely thank the Chair, the Secretariat, and host committee for this true honor and privilege. I’m here at this 12th AOSM not as a delegate or committee member, but as what our Eighth Traditions refers to as a “Special Worker”, so this loving invitation came as quite a surprise and it fills my heart with gratitude and humility to have this rare opportunity of giving the keynote address. In fact, I felt it would be much more appropriate to have a delegate or GSO staff member to give this address, but the committee insisted, so I will do my best.

The theme of this 12th AOSM is “Preserving the Integrity of Carrying the Message”. It is important to have a theme. It brings us together with a common idea, a purpose, and a focal point for discussion and sharing at what might otherwise just be a celebratory occasion and renewal of friendships. Sometimes a theme can be reflective, a look back to our history or our accomplishments, much of which we can take little credit for. Other times, a theme is a rallying cry, a point which needs some renewed focus and encourages us to turn our hearts and efforts toward our primary purpose. This theme is just that. It calls for us to look to the future, to inventory how well we have been upholding our obligation and our only purpose for existence, and to seek out ways to improve upon it.

This theme was decided upon two years at the 11th AOSM in Dubai. I must admit, the theme of “Preserving the Integrity of Carrying the Message” threw me for a bit. We all know what the phrase “Carrying the Message” means. But when I think of HOW we carry the message, does it have integrity? I had to look up the word “integrity” in the dictionary; there are several definitions, of course,

1 the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness: he is known to be a man of integrity

2 the state of being whole and undivided: territorial integrity and national sovereignty

A person with integrity is thought to be honest and having strong moral principles. Certainly, our message of hope does as well. One of the most basic moral principles of our Twelve Steps is honesty. We become honest about our powerlessness and that we cannot solve our own problems without the help of something or someone greater than ourselves; we take a searching, moral inventory of ourselves and honestly share it with someone else. We honestly move out from ourselves and towards our family, friends, and society to clean up our past. We then honestly seek to improve our contact with that Power and have awoken to a new way of living that is indescribably wonderful as time passes.

Bill W. wrote in the August 1961 A.A. Grapevine, “How truth makes us free is something that we AAs can well understand. It cut the shackles that once bound us to alcohol. It continues to release us from conflicts and miseries beyond reckoning; it banishes fear and isolation. The unity of our Fellowship, the love we cherish for each other, the esteem in which the world holds us— all of these are products of such integrity as, under God, we have been privileged to achieve. May we therefore quicken our search for still more genuine honesty, and deepen its practice in all our affairs.” 1

So, our message, indeed, has integrity, is tried and true, and has not changed since that fateful date on June 10th, 1935. Our message starts with alcoholism being a problem and a malady, and that I have to stop drinking. Stopping drinking along wasn’t an answer. It starts with putting down the drink, but then I had to take Steps to change my life. The “action” started when I took the third step.

I took inventory of what caused my failures, shared them honestly with another alcoholic, expressed a sincere desire to change, cleaned up the wreckage of my past, Then in Step 11, I asking my HP what my next steps are to be, and ask for the courage to carry out whatever that is. As a result of that action, my spirit has awoken. I don't have to be tasked to carry this message, a natural desire to help save others' lives is born naturally, and you can hardly hold back someone who has had this spiritual experience or spiritual awakening. Today, I'm in a room in Ulaanbaatar with a big group of people who have had such experiences and the energy and love is palpable.

But what about HOW we carry this life saving, vital message? Do WE, as members, have integrity? While we are not perfect, we certainly do our utmost to uphold and live by those principles which saves our lives. Tradition Five tells me that in AA, I have no other purpose. There is no need to be dishonest about our Program or our experience. Our literature contains the collective experience of our fellowship, whether in our Big Book, or in pamphlets and other literature which has been produced since. While our membership has grown and changed, new technologies have enabled us to reach fellow sufferers around the planet in amazing and innovative ways that our founders could have never imagined, the reach to more women, younger members and others continues to grow, our move from a print-based society, then audio, visual, and now digital, our basic Program has remained unchanged since the publication of our Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in 1939. We have translated our Big Book into most of the the languages in the AOSM zone: English, Japanese, Korean, two forms of Chinese, Russian, Mongolian, Tagalog, Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Bengali, and most of the Indian languages. I'm sure that list is not complete. Our most recent translation is Cook Islands Māori (or controversially known as "Rarotongan"). We do our utmost to try to make our message available in as many formats and languages as

1 Wilson, Bill (2011-11-21). *The Language Of The Heart - Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings* (Kindle Locations 5386-5390). AA Grapevine, Inc. Kindle Edition.

possible. There is a thirst for our message, truly exemplified this weekend by the local Mongolian fellowship--as we heard in the country reports, their entire program is based on the study of a handful of pamphlets and only two translated books, the Big Book and the 12&12, and have requested permission to publish the translation of four more titles.

The question of preserving then arises. The integrity of our message should certainly be preserved, and I believe that the service structures of our various countries strive to do this. We ensure our translations are the best possible, and as fellowships develop, it's seen that a revised translation is needed. This is natural because as more and more bilingual members get sober, they see where some of the initial translations may have been accurate enough to start, as we frequently say, "the good is often the enemy of the best." The more deeply the message is understood, and the more we strive for the best. We heard great examples of this here. India works tirelessly to translate literature into their 15 languages, and ensure that those translations accurately convey the integrity of our message. Thailand just completed a retranslation of the Big Book to ensure that it will be more accessible to more Thai speaking alcoholics.

The main impetus for selecting this theme was because sometimes it is said that we've left the carrying of our message over to the treatment centers, that WE are no longer doing our own Twelfth Step work ourselves. We let them do the "dirty work". I have nothing negative to say about treatment centers. They have a very valuable place in our society, but if we aren't carrying the message, those facilities will try to do it for us, to fill that void that we ourselves have created. I can give you one example: in 2005, I traveled to Australia with my sponsor. He happened to be a very respected name in the treatment field, and a past delegate. He was invited to give a talk to a local facility about the difference between AA and Treatment, what AA does and does not do. This was because the treatment center had made it a part of their work to require their counselors to

“sponsor” the patients, walk them through the first five steps, and having finished one’s Fifth Step with the counselor was a requirement for being released. As you might imagine, sponsorship was not very strong in that area.

In many countries, especially in the AOSM Zone, there has been a difficulty in reaching out and carrying the message to the local population. As we have heard in the country highlights this weekend, AA communities in remote areas are frequently made up of Expats, non-locals who are typically in the country for a finite period and don’t speak the language. If there are local bilingual members available, they can get burned out feeling over used. Translations are available, but people to do the 12th Step work aren’t.

I look back at our history. From the time Bill and Bob met, it took four years for us to get just our first 100 or so members. It was enough to demonstrate that a new light had shone on the devastation of alcoholism. However, the growth was slow. We're not it for a couple of turning points between 1939 and 1941, we would have not see the explosive growth that we did. They were things like the Liberty Magazine article written by Fulton Ousler, the dinner that John D. Rockefeller Jr. held for us, and that famous article in the Saturday Evening Post by Jack Alexander that painted such a beautiful picture of AA to the public that inquiries came in from all over and our membership mushroomed to over 8,000. The key point here is that these growth spurts were certainly helped by the alcoholics, but they were mostly due to the efforts of our friends of AA, these non-alcoholics who believed in us so much that they gave of their time and efforts to assist us. They were our biggest champions. In fact, you may not be aware, the article by Jack Alexander was originally intended to be an exposé of our relationship with the Rockefeller organization, but he fell in love with us so much that he went on to serve on the GSB of US/Canada as a non-alcoholic trustee. God bless our Class A trustees.

This bring up the extremely valuable services of our CPC committees. Mary gave a much better overview than I can cover here. At the rest of repeating what she covered, Cooperation with the Professional Community work has delayed gratification because it involves developing relationships with those professionals who come in contact with alcoholics before we have a chance to. They may or may not know about AA, or if they have heard about us, they may not have a correct awareness of what we do and do not do. We share with them about our AA program, some basic on our traditions of non-affiliation but full cooperation, our singleness of purpose, etc. When they come across problem drinkers, they can use us as an additional resource to help their patient, employee or client. Professionals include clergy, Human Resources, police, doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, psychiatrists, therapists, case workers, counselors, teachers, principals, and the list goes on. We need to continually educate them too, because just like AA, often times they have “rotation” where people move in and out of their positions, so regular contact is helpful. It can be done through one-on-one contact, holding workshops or seminars, public “model meetings”, or even as individuals, we can “sponsor our doctors”. We have so many tools that have been created for us by our respective service structures, but nothing takes the place of face-to-face contact. We cooperate, but never criticize. Recently, I shared with my doctor about AA, and how we can be helpful. She knows little about us, so I purchased a bundle of literature--literature written for the professional, but also literature she can pass on to patients. I also offered to take her to a local open AA meeting. In this way, if she has patients who are problem drinkers and are not ready to commit to entering treatment in her hospital, she has an alternative option to offer them, and she can speak from experience.

In A.A.’s Legacy of Service by Bill W., he opens with the following text: “Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of

alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die. Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer— ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship."

We stress service, but service is not an end in itself. It is the continued responsibility that each and every one of us carries. There's nothing more exciting when you see the lights turn on in the eyes of a desperate alcoholic who has no solution or hope, and then they in turn have a spiritual awakening and begin to help others. I was moved to tears last night. In this room, there were over 90 members at the meeting last night, mostly from this beautiful Mongolian AA fellowship. At one point, a member sharing in Russian, being translated into Mongolian, then translated into English, and then into Japanese. That's dedication to carrying our life-saving message--our Language of the Heart in action. The best quote from the meeting was, "Carrying the message to 300 alcoholics is better than taking 30 people to meetings."

Since the First International Convention in 1950, that fateful date the fellowship was turned over to our care, it is now our responsibility to carry this on. We carry a message of hope to those who suffer in a way that no non-alcoholic can. We keep AA healthy and vibrant. As it was said by one of our past trustees, in effect, "if AA were to fail, it would be from inside, not from outside forces. It will be because maybe we weren't humble enough or couldn't control our egos. Maybe it was because we thought too much of ourselves, and not enough of others...But our future is very bright." Thankfully AA is self-correcting. If we are willing to continue to take our inventory, we will need the humility make every effort to find new and better ways to carry our loving message of hope.

There are two quotes I would like to end with. At the 1995 US/Canada General Service Conference, the Western Canada Regional Trustee made the following statement: "None of us is given a torch big enough to lead the drunks of the world out of the darkness and into the light. Instead, each one of us is given a small candle that burns for a short while with a flickering flame. If we hold our small candles together, it can outshine even the brightest torch. But if each one of us guards our flame, and blow at each other's candles, then the drunks of the world will continue to suffer in darkness, and so will we."

And the other quote came to my mind throughout this wonder AOSM, especially after seeing the energized, loving, dedicated group of AA members here from every corner of Mongolia, is from the end of Bill's Story in our Big Book:

"Most of feel we need look no further for utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and goodwill to men."

Thank you again for this very memorable opportunity that will always be one of the highlights of my service life and I will remember for ever. You have rocketed me into the Four Dimension.

Doug G. International Cooperation Committee AA Japan GSO

The G.S.O. International Desk as a Resource for Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information and Treatment

Good morning, my name is Mary and I am a grateful alcoholic who found sobriety, freedom from alcohol, in A.A. I have the privilege of being the staff member on the International desk. Thanks to you for allowing Greg and I to be here from the General Service Office for the United States and Canada, it is a privilege to be among such fine servants of Alcoholics Anonymous. I also want to thank the host committee for their hard work and the wonderful hospitality.

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.

Each of you is a leader in A.A.; 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.

We may be separated by country, culture or distance but alcoholism finds us regardless, and we, the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, are and should be unified in our message of recovery.

I have been asked to share how the G.S.O. United States and Canada and the International desk can be a resource to you in your Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Treatment related Twelfth Step efforts. On a personal note, like many A.A. members I owe a debt of gratitude to the A.A. member who carried the message of A.A. to the psychologist who referred me to A.A., coming to A.A. certainly wouldn't have occurred to me!

References throughout our A.A. literature emphasize the importance of our relationships and interaction with these professionals. Our Fellowship might not exist were it not for the support of our professional friends. When the founding members put together the very first Public Information project, the Big Book, the opening section was The Doctor's Opinion. The second edition of the Big Book added the Appendices, "The Medical View on A.A.", "The Lasker Award" and "The Religious View on A.A." that show how we have learned much from each other and how these professionals have sent many members to us, giving us the opportunity to fulfil our primary purpose, to carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Sales of the Big Book languished until the publication of the Jack Alexander article in the Saturday Evening Post in 1941 and many thousands of inquires arrived at the tiny A.A. office and A.A. began a period of rapid growth. Early in my sobriety, I met one of the members instrumental in founding A.A. in Los Angeles. Sybil shared how the G.S.O. sent the members stacks of inquiries that they then divided amongst the few members who then followed up on each one and thus A.A. grew in Los Angeles. As I listened to the country reports yesterday, I felt the same dedication to A.A. and carrying the message.

As A.A. grew, our structure developed and in 1956, the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board was formed and established a clear policy for A.A. Public Information. Fourteen years later the General Service Board spun off a separate Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee. While these committees are separate at the Board and Conference level in our structure, at the district and area levels they are often combined.

In the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, our co-founder Bill W. speaks of how our A.A. Traditions "were beaten out on the anvils of group experience." Much of this experience was related to interaction with professionals. Lending the A.A. name to outside enterprises, judging the

sincerity of an individual's desire to stop drinking, getting involved with problems other than alcohol or breaking our anonymity at the public level are still common temptations we often face when interacting with professionals. We are fortunate to have our A.A. Traditions to guide us in our work and must always be mindful of them, as they are vital to our survival. Whenever possible, we must also educate our friends about our Traditions and why they are necessary and so important to us. Strong recovery through the Twelve Steps coupled with an understanding of the Twelve Traditions safeguards our integrity in our work with the public and professionals

Over the years, our Conference has developed many pieces of literature that have proven to be useful in helping professionals understand our program. We have also developed literature that helps members understand A.A. Traditions and that offers practical suggestions on how they can cooperate and inform professionals about A.A. We have collated this in a C.P.C. Kit that also includes a workbook, which provides a wide array of details to help C.P.C. Committees, and individual A.A.'s carry out this most important work. We also have Kits for Public Information, Corrections, Treatment and Accessibilities.

Today www.aa.org is a major P.I. and C.P.C. tool as well as a resource for A.A. members. Almost all A.A. literature, audio and video P.S.A.s, videos, and service material published by A.A.W.S., is available on www.aa.org. "Information on A.A.," "What Is A.A.," and "For Professionals," are featured links on the home page with video Public Service Announcements on the right-hand side of the page.

Also on the home page is a link "For A.A. Members", click on that link to open a page that has a plethora of resources; but the one I want to mention today is "A.A. Service Committees." Click on "A.A. Service Committees" and you will be able to select a service committee page. Each service committee page includes almost all of the resources we have developed to aid committees in their work. Resources include lists of Kit contents with the resources hyperlinked as well as links to Workbooks, pamphlets, guidelines, audio and video.

We are delighted to share resources and experience, strength, and hope from the United States and Canada, but please note that these have been developed for use in the U.S. and Canada and may not be appropriate for your country, language, culture. Often these are best used as inspiration to develop materials suited for your country's needs.

In the late 30s and early 40s, new A.A. groups and members had little guidance and so they turned to the address published in the Big Book for help. By mail, the office relayed the experience of the older A.A. centers, and this service is still a major portion of the work of the staff members. Today most correspondence is received via email. We respond to each email in the language it is written, using professional translators. Typically, email is answered in the order it is received and we try to respond within ten business days, but the need for translation, research or consultation may add additional time. With A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, the International desk receives hundreds of emails each month as well as phone calls and even the occasional letter.

The International desk is happy to respond to questions from around the world on virtually any topic but it is especially gratifying to correspond with A.A. members who are actively engaged in sharing information about A.A. with professional and the public. All of the service desks maintain files of "shared experience" that we can access if you are looking for sample presentations, press releases, or information on a wide variety of projects.

Unless you are corresponding directly with Greg or our Publishing Department, we ask that you send your questions to the International desk at international@aa.org. If appropriate, we may forward your email to another colleague who will be better able to provide the information requested.

We are often in contact with lone members who are looking for support and sharing on how to start an A.A. meeting in their location as well as A.A. in countries where groups are developing and needs for a service structure and literature are also emerging.

The International Desk maintains the International Directory, but we need your help to keep this information accurate and up to date. The assignment also keeps country files with listings of confidential A.A. contacts; most often these are A.A. members however occasionally they include non-alcoholic friends of A.A. who are working to start A.A. in their city or village. We also include pertinent correspondence in these files. Files are also maintained on every international trip as well as Zonal Meetings.

Our General Service Office receives requests from to share information about A.A. at the International level. We have sent representatives to international organizations such as the World Health Organization to share about A.A. and we frequently assist with C.P.C. and P.I. efforts when visiting other countries such as the press conference the local P.I. Committee in Dubai arranged prior to the last A.O.S.M. Occasionally entire international trips have been focused on assisting with P.I. and C.P.C. efforts. One such trip included twenty separate presentations given by our General Manager and the staff member on the International desk. The chair of our General Service Board as well as our trustees, both Class A and alcoholic, also participate in these efforts in addition to our two trustees-at-large who are our delegates to the W.S.M. and to our zonal meeting, the Meeting of the Americas/REDELA. If you want to invite representatives from the U.S./Canada to attend an event in your country, assist with P.I. and C.P.C. efforts, observe your General Service Conference and so on please plan ahead. We suggest you send invitations a year or more in advance. We have a group conscience process that reviews international invitations and we respond as quickly as possible.

The International desk is also responsible for organizing the World Service Meeting every two years that serves as a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of delegates who come from all parts of the world. It seeks ways and means of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers, in any nation, in any language. It encourages the planning of sound service structures and exploration of expanding A.A. services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions work. Planning has already begun for the 25th World Service Meeting, which will take place October 7-11, 2018 in Durban, South Africa.

Another aspect of “passing it on” through P.I and C.P.C. is the practice of sharing experience both in writing as well as face-to-face with your successor so that important contacts and information about relationships with professionals, media etc. are not lost. At the G.S.O. we do this not only through the country files I told you about but also by preparing rotation notebooks that contain detailed information for our successor. Many A.A.’s in service in the U.S. and Canada also follow this practice of “passing it on” to the next trusted servant.

Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message - is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who have not been given the truth may die.

In your Treatment, P.I and C.P.C. efforts you are following in the footsteps of our co-founders, as Bill describes in “A Vision For You:”

Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination. To some extent this is already true. Some of us are salesmen and go about. Little clusters of twos and threes and fives of us have sprung up in other communities, through contact with our two larger centers. Those of us who travel drop in as often as we can. This practice enables us to lend a hand, at the same time avoiding certain alluring distractions of the road, about which any traveling man can inform you.

Thus we grow. And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin.

We know what you are thinking. You are saying to yourself: "I'm jittery and alone. I couldn't do that." But you can. You forget that you have just now tapped a source of power much greater than yourself. To duplicate, with such backing, what we have accomplished is only a matter of willingness, patience and labour.

(Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 163)

Each of us is responsible for A.A.'s future. We represent those who have gone before, who so masterfully communicated their vision of recovery, unity and service. Let us have the humility and courage to enthusiastically communicate that vision in our ever expanding and complex world of today. Let us "pass it on." Thank you for your love and service.

Mary Cumings,
International Desk, G.S.O US/Canada

Publishing's role in CPC | PI Work

A Brief Overview of A.A. Literature Translation and Licensing

Good afternoon, my name is Greg Tobin. I am a very grateful alcoholic, and I have the privilege of working for the United States and Canada General Service Office in New York City as general manager. My home group is the South Orange Group. We meet in South Orange New Jersey on Sundays at 7:15 p.m. You are all welcome! What an honour and experience it is to be with you for this AOSM in Ulaanbaatar. I have tremendous gratitude for your service to A.A. and am grateful for your leadership in your respective countries and this vast zone – and have enjoyed the warmest of warm welcomes and hospitality of the members and trusted servants of A.A. in Mongolia.

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share on a subject vital to the work of A.A. around the world: Cooperation With the Professional Community and Public Information. Mary covered many of the specifics already in her excellent presentation, and I am going to focus now on more general issues of publishing, licensing, translation and distribution of our literature, including C.P.C. and P.I. literature and publications.

The best part of my presentation will be when I stop. Then it will give us an opportunity to share questions and, I hope, some cogent answers to your questions and concerns. I'll do my best, with Mary's help – and the backing of the publishing and licensing team back in the office – to address all of your issues. If we don't have specific answers for you today, we will be sure to communicate with you when we get back.

Chapter Two of our Big Book, "There Is a Solution" says, "The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action." There we see Bill making a direct link between unity of purpose and service. The cooperation of international A.A. boards, committees and offices is essential to preserve the integrity of our message in print.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) holds more than 1,300 copyrights for Bill W.'s writings and for the literature approved by the General Service Conference of the U.S./Canada.

These copyrights are held in trust for the Fellowship of A.A., and so A.A.W.S. has the responsibility for licensing service structures outside of the United States and Canada to translate, reproduce (print), and distribute this copyrighted material.

Our New York City-based Publishing Department includes a division that shepherds projects and their necessary licenses, authorizations and other attendant agreements to meet the Fellowship's needs. Our International Licensing Administrator Rosa Rodriguez, who has been in the office nearly five years now, manages this process and she reports to our Publishing Director David Rosen, who has decades of publishing and licensing experience. The A.A.W.S., Inc. charter directs us on these matters, accordingly.

As you may know, most recently A.A.W.S., Inc. was delighted to grant Mongolia licenses to print and distribute the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve in Mongolia. And we have learned that the retranslation of the Thai Big Book came off press just yesterday, after many years of dedicated work by local A.A.'s, translators, and our colleagues in the New York office.

Translation Process

A.A.W.S. has evolved a rigorous and often painstaking process to insure accurate translations of its copyrighted material. This process protects the integrity of the A.A. message as expressed in this literature. In turn, our licensing agreements enable established A.A. service structures to manage the publication and distribution in their own countries. The long-established A.A.W.S. policy has been to grant **non-exclusive** ten-year licenses to one established service entity per country. 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.

Each item of literature may originate as an “expressed need,” a request communicated to our office – which may be voiced from a local A.A. member or a group, or from a Literature Committee, or a service centre or General Service Office. From these humble beginnings to an ultimate end result of reaching the finish line, as a translated book, booklet, pamphlet, workbook, flyer, or Video being distributed via the hand of A.A. to a country’s Fellowship, these projects may take months and months and sometimes, often in the case of the Big Book, years of working together to complete. From Afrikaans, Arabic and Assamese to Bengali, Burmese Karin, Croatian, and Hungarian, to Inuktitut, Lithuanian, Mongolian Navajo-spoken language, Polish, and Punjabi, to Rarotongan, Russian, Sinhala, Ukrainian, Telugu and Thai – dozens and dozens of ongoing projects are now in progress and moving forward around the world today.

Note on posting material on websites

A.A.W.S. is actively granting permission to General Service Offices and other A.A. Service entities to post translated literature on their web sites. These rights for posting copyrighted material on web sites are issued separately from the print-version agreements.

Today, scanners, home printers and cell phones and the internet make it easier than ever for A.A. literature to be altered or shared improperly. By preventing unauthorized use, The A.A.W.S. office, with its board approval, has worked diligently over the past two years to clarify this process, what is acceptable and what is not – and make it available on aa.org. It appears there under “Terms of Use” in the sections devoted to “Content Use Policy” and “Intellectual Property Policies.”

Note on excerpts:

Excerpts (as opposed to complete works) are handled by Permission letter. Permissions for excerpts of A.A.-copyrighted material are administered by our seasoned intellectual property professional Darlene Smith.

A.A. Translations by the Numbers

The translation of our A.A. literature is a vital service, which is facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the International Literature Fund.

We understand that translations as much an art as 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 or Literature Committee.

Our recent reissue of the little booklet Brief History of the Big Book, now in a new trilingual English, French and Spanish edition, recounts how emphatic Bill W. was keen on translations, as he specifically addressed this topic in *A.A. Comes of Age* [which was published in 1957]. Bill W. writes in one succinct declaration:

As we work together, we the Able Helpers of today ... with all our various teams, our committees, we come together in the spirit of love and service to protect the integrity of A.A.'s message in print. We work together to preserve the Unity of our beloved Fellowship and to share the profound message of hope that Alcoholics Anonymous brings to the sick and suffering.

Our sacred global publishing partnership is ongoing.

Greg Tobin,
General Manager General Service Office of AA

(See attachment 4)

Secretary's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Asia Oceania Service Meeting placed in me by electing me secretary and I would like to also thank you all for your help and support in my first two years in the role. It really has been a huge learning curve for me and extremely challenging at times. However, I am a great believer that God rewards us for what is inconvenient and not what is convenient.

I would also like to acknowledge Kunal, the organising committee and the AOSM committee chairs for all they have done, individually and collectively to allow this event to happen. I know how challenging all of the emails have been along with the many Skype meetings, visa and travel arrangements.

I am pleased to report that we have reached out to a number of countries regarding participating in the AOSM and while many are very interested to learn more, none will be in attendance this time around. However, a number have expressed interest in being represented at the AOSM in the future and have asked to be kept up to date with what is happening within the zone and with the AOSM. As many of you are aware our website has been bringing in a lot of enquires from the travelling alcoholic within our region, along with some requests for help from the still suffering alcoholic. I am so thankful to all of you who have supplied me with information on meetings and intergroups as a point of contact for those who have reached out for help. Not only were they grateful but as I understand it, quite a number of meetings were grateful to have had visitors that they may not have had otherwise.

When I was first elected secretary and looked at the geographical size of our zone, I really thought "what an order, I can't go through with it," as not only do we have the largest geographical area of any of the zonal meetings, stretching from Turkey in the east to French Polynesia in the west but we have around half of the earth's population in the zone.

What I have since found from working with you all, is what I encountered when attending my first AOSM in 2009, and that is what we find in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous around the world, members who are so full of gratitude for being relieved of their alcoholism, that they are so focused on trying to carry the message, they are blind to the supposed odds.

Like any of our efforts in trying to carry the message, I do not know what the results will be but what I do believe is that those in attendance from all around our zone will go home feeling connected rather than isolated, with new contacts, renewed resolve and enthusiasm as well as a sense, that we really are being guided by a loving God no matter what the odds.

I look forward to meeting you all and serving the AOSM with you.

James Neylon
AOSM Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasure's report covering July 2015 ~ July 2017

Financial Statement Summary			
July 1st 2015 ~ July 1st 2017			
From	Sum	Payments	Sum
Carroll Duff Hughes [Thailand]	85.33	B E Hamblyn	(1,652.00)
Credit Interest Paid	58.55	Bank Charge	(173.32)
GSO New Zealand	2,985.00	IMT Fee	(36.00)
GSO New Zealand [sponser]	500.00	John Loty	(1,212.51)
Mr Mark William Sale [Dubai]	1,445.00	Santanu Biswas	(3,070.29)
Npo Aa Japan General	1,747.97	Total It Solutions P	(700.48)
Grand Total	6,821.85	Printing	(313.00)
		James Neylon	(2,400.00)
		Grand Total	(9,557.60)

Financial Statement details					
July 1st 2015 ~ July 1st 2017					
INCOME			EXPENSES		
	NZ	USA		NZ	USA
Details	Amount	Amount	Details	Amount	Amount
Credit Interest Paid	12.82	9.16	Total It Solutions P	(119.03)	(85.02)
GSO New Zealand	1,985.00	1,417.86	Bank Charge	(25.91)	(18.51)
Npo Aa Japan General	576.44	411.74	IMT Fee	(18.00)	(12.86)
GSO New Zealand	500.00	357.14	John Loty	(1212.51)	(866.08)
Credit Interest Paid	37.35	26.68	Bank Charge	(26.75)	(19.11)
Credit Interest Paid	4.18	2.99	IMT Fee	(18.00)	(12.86)
GSO New Zealand	500.00	357.14	B E Hamblyn	(495.00)	(353.57)
Carroll Duff Hughes [Thailand]	85.33	60.95	Printing	(313.00)	(223.57)
Mr Mark William Sale [Dubai]	1,445.00	1,032.14	B E Hamblyn	(1157.00)	(826.43)
Npo Aa Japan General	1,171.53	836.81	Total It Solutions P	(207.74)	(148.39)
GSO New Zealand [sponser]	500.00	357.14	Bank Charge	(25.32)	(18.09)
Credit Interest Paid	4.20	3.00	Bank Charge	(9.00)	(6.43)
			Total It Solutions P	(116.22)	(83.01)
			Bank Charge	(25.30)	(18.07)
			Bank Charge	(9.00)	(6.43)
			Total It Solutions P	(257.49)	(183.92)
			Bank Charge	(25.04)	(17.89)
			Bank Charge	(9.00)	(6.43)
			Santanu Biswas	(3070.29)	(2193.06)
			Bank Charge	(18.00)	(12.86)
			James Neylon	(2400.00)	(1714.29)
TOTAL INCOME	6,821.85	4,872.75	TOTAL EXPENSES	(9557.60)	(6826.86)

The AOSM Bank Reconciliation

OPENING BANK BALANCE	8,575.49
TOTAL INCOME	6,821.85
	15,397.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	(9,557.60)
Account Balance	\$ 5,839.74
Statement as at 29/5/2017	\$ 5,839.74

While the account seems health, it shows a \$2,735 drop in the Income to expenses. Dubai travel was twice the expenses of Mongolia. Working on increased fight costs even with closer areas considered, the basic forecast for the next two years is below. There has been a noticeable lack of donations from some counties with established GSO's. This should be addressed.

Possible Budget for 2017 – 2019

Actual costs will be determined by the choices made at your next hosting committee selection. Who the then Chairperson and Secretary are and where they are living will have a huge effect on these numbers.

BUDGET FORECAST 2017-2019		
	NZ	USA
	Amount	Amount
Accomadation	800.00	\$571.43
Meals	600.00	\$428.57
Travel including stop over	3,500.00	\$2,500.00
Accomadation	800.00	\$571.43
Meals	600.00	\$428.57
Travel including stop over	3,500.00	\$2,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET COST	\$9,800.00	\$3,500.00
Npo Aa Japan General	1,700.00	\$1,214.29
GSO New Zealand	2,000.00	\$1,428.57
Thailand	100.00	\$71.43
Dubai	1,500.00	\$1,071.43
sub total	\$5,300.00	\$3,785.71

FORECAST account	
Opening Balance	\$5,839.74
Budget forecast income	5,300.00
Budget forecast expenses	9,800.00
Shortfall	-4,500.00
Forecast Balance for 2019	\$ 1,340

David Gee
AOSM Treasurer

Countries & delegates in attendance at the 12th AOSM 2017

Australia –Tony Vallance (2nd Term)

Hong Kong – Alex Li (1st Term)

India – Shaji Scorp (2nd term), Krishna Valdamani (1st Term)

Iran – Masood Forooghi (1st Term)

Japan – Yasuhiko Morita (1st term)

MERCAA – Bertie Sawhney (1st term), Magdi Osman (1st term)

Mongolia – Nyamaa (1st Term), Ganbat (2nd term)

New Zealand –Heather Hapeta (2nd term), Roger Soulsby (1st Term)

Russia – Nina Matcepuro (2nd term),

Thailand – Bob Morris (2nd term), Jay Rabin (1st Term)

Taiwan – Norman Leu (1st Term)

Committees for the 12th AOSM 2017

Site Selection | Agenda

Chairperson: Tony Vallance, 2nd Term Delegate (Australia)
Bob Morris, 2nd Term Delegate (Thailand)
Krishna Valdamani 1st Term Delegate (India)
Nyamaa 1st Term Delegate (Mongolia)

Policy | Admissions | Finance

Chairperson: Heather Hapeta, 2nd Term Delegate (New Zealand)
Shaji Scorp 2nd Term Delegate (India)
Bertie Sawhany, 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA)
Yasuhiko Morita 1st Term Delegate (Japan)

Website | Literature | Publishing

Chairperson: Roger Soulsby, 1st Term Delegate (New Zealand)
Alex Li 1st Term Delegate (Hong Kong)
Masood Forooghi, 1st Term Delegate (Iran)
Magdi Osman, 1st Term Delegate (MERCAA)

Working With Others

Chairperson: Nina Matcepuro 2nd Term Delegate (Russia)
Ganbaa, 2nd Term Delegate (Mongolia)
Jay Rabin 1st Term Delegate (Thailand)
Norman Leu 1st Term Delegate (Taiwan)

COUNTRY REPORTS

Australia

Structure

The Conference Structure of AA in Australia is based on the US/Canada format.

Australia was the second country outside the North American continent to accept AA. This was in 1945.

We have a General Service Board with 13 Trustees. This is made up of 6 Regional Trustees, 2 General Service Trustees, 4 non-alcoholic Trustees and a Trustee Emeritus. The Class B Trustees serve a term of 4 years and the non-alcoholic Class A Trustees serve a term of 5 years.

There are 6 Regions in Australia and 21 Areas served by the Area Delegates., and 2 World Service Delegates. These meet with the Board each November at our General Service Conference. Delegates serve for a term of 3 years, & World Service Delegates serve for 4 years.

Our 2 World Service Delegates, attend the World Service Meetings and the Asia Oceania Service Meetings. A new Delegate is elected each 2 years and this provides an opportunity for the current Delegate to mentor the incoming Delegate.

Australia also has State Coordinators for Public Information, Remote Communities, Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities. They serve a 4-year term to offer continuity with the Professional Community. When the respective terms expire, it is hoped that these peoples will then go on to become National Coordinators.

We hold a biennial Public Information Forum and a biennial Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum.

Australia also has many CSO's and Intergroups to look after 12 step calls and the distribution of literature. These centres use our National 1300 number for local 12-step work

Literature

Australia sells copies of the Australian Big Book, also a new publication called One to Another. This is about the history of AA here.

Copies of the Fourth Edition of the US Big Book are also available.

The General Service Office publishes a Newsletter for Professionals twice yearly and a general newsletter for members called AA Around Australia.

Remote Communities

The aim of this committee is to reach out to the people who are isolated by geography, language or physical impairment.

Various "Tag Alongs" with groups of enthusiastic travellers with their cars packed with literature have occurred in remote Australian Communities around Queensland and Victoria and Western Australia. The members distribute literature to local organisations; hold Public Information meetings and AA meetings. Some of the locations are more than 10 hours from a capital city.

We have a greater challenge with our Indigenous communities, where alcohol abuse is a major concern. There are approximately 27 different languages spoken and 150 dialects. We need to ascertain the best way to reach our isolated and remote communities whilst being mindful of cultural differences.

There were two Indigenous conventions about 8 years ago, however sadly the member who was the enthusiastic force behind these passed away and they did not continue.

We would like to thank Eva Sanchez from World Services.

This year at the International Convention in Atlanta at the opening meeting, Roy an indigenous member from Australia was invited to share. As a result of that invitation and event in his life Roy

has said that he is going to try to revive the convention and work closely with his brothers. Roy's attendance has resulted in positive consequences for Australia. We are so glad that you found him!

Deaf Community:

Some years ago, our then Delegate Kevin H attended the World service meeting and heard about the work being done with the deaf community. He brought that idea back to Australia. At that time it was felt the need wasn't there, but as time progressed, we discovered there was a need.

Kevin was instrumental in getting approval from New York for the translation and went on to produce a DVD in Auslan.(Australian Sign Language) However passing the message to the deaf community presented its own challenges - one being denial and the other that we wanted something from them. This was slowly overcome with the help of our previous National P I Coordinator and a counsellor with the deaf community who had problems with alcohol.

It was explained what AA was and what it wasn't. They asked if Alcoholics Anonymous could be of assistance. How can we help you? A secret AA Facebook page was setup for this purpose so they could communicate. A group in Melbourne offered to sponsor any member from the deaf community as they were situated around the corner from the deaf society. As they gained trust and the walls of denial came away, they decided to take a member to this meeting with a translator. Nothing was said to anyone at the meeting and the deaf member was able to sit and enjoy without feeling different. The seed has been planted and is continuing to grow.

Reaching Out

Solomon Islands

Australia has been working with members in the Solomon Islands to help sustain AA in that country. This current phase of A A in the Solomon's has been going for 4 years now.

It has had its ups and downs, but hopefully with the arrival in Honiara of a long standing member, and a new "" recruit"" from the Island of Malaita, it will continue to grow visit, there is now a separate meeting for the AA members and one for the AI-Anon members. This is very appropriate and was also necessary for future growth there.

One of the challenges and practicalities with a new fellowship is sustaining the momentum:

An Area in Queensland has been actively involved in helping the Solomon Islands.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, is very important.

As a fellowship, they learn how to do this whilst maintaining anonymity at the level of press radio and TV, - also passing the AA message- not their own.

Each member has a copy of the Big Book and the 12x12

The banners have been translated into Pidgin

Some members from Australia hope to go to the Solomon's in September to assist in this important action of passing it on. Progress is slow, but steady.

Fiji

AA in Fiji is progressing slowly.

This was helped by a very successful P I information over the weekend of Easter last year.

Some new members have come in to the Fellowship. This has included some family members of a new member who was at that weekend.

Members of the Education Department, Health and the medical profession were very impressed with the information that was provided to them at the P I day that was held on the Thursday.

In love and Service

Tony Vallance

Hong Kong

Hong Kong has a culturally diverse population, and this is reflected in the membership of the AA fellowship. Hong Kong group structure hasn't grown in the last two years but it has diversified, and meetings report more new members. Groups conduct 40+ meetings a week across all parts of the territory. Groups include two autonomous women's groups. Three meetings are conducted weekly in Cantonese. A fourteenth group has established officially with a local hospital. This meeting is significant as it was established by the HI/PI team working with the official channels with The Hospital Authority. The HA is a statutory body managing all hospitals in Hong Kong. One larger group sponsors another women's meeting and an LGBT meeting. The original Chinese meetings remain a part of a large English-speaking group, supported financially and with literature, and participating in Intergroup.

Committees are taking more of a role in our primary purpose in Hong Kong, as a part of the Intergroup structure. These include the Public Information Committee, Website Committee, and Literature. All committees are made up of AA members from various Hong Kong groups.

As a result of representation at the World Service Meeting, and greater understanding of service structures, we disbanded the International Service Committee and vested in Intergroup, the responsibility for selection and funding of International delegates to WSM and AOSM guided by experienced, and rotated delegates. Hong Kong has always been represented at the A.O.S.M. The experience of A.O.S.M. continues to strengthen Hong Kong's connections around the region and increases our knowledge of service structures in developing countries around us. Hong Kong has difficulty retaining and/or funding service delegates but with the return of the responsibility for delegate selection and funding to Intergroup we hope to raise awareness of service at an international level and encourage participation in various fundraising activities. Hong Kong had a group conscience to always select a Chinese speaking delegate as one of our international delegates to A.O.S.M. and as our primary delegate for WSM. We expect this to support the outreach into the Chinese community by sharing experience. Getting members involved is a constant challenge.

Our HI and PI committee began outreach into the asylum-seeking communities of Hong Kong and we have gained permission to place English Big Books in all Public Libraries. Chinese Big Books are under review. After three years of delay, we have recently established a Literature Committee reporting to Intergroup which will review pricing, ordering procedures and stock distribution. There is a plan for an online Literature store. We hope that our Literature will become more of a focus at the annual Convention and income generated will be used for our 5th Tradition initiatives. Our new website is up and running and we are seeing significant increase in unique visits and a corresponding increase in contact with hotline phone numbers.

Hong Kong's annual Convention continues to be a significant source of finance for Intergroup. We always attract international guests and speakers.

Our relations with Chinese Mainland groups continues to strengthen and we act as a Literature distribution centre to groups in Southern China. 2016 was the first time to have simultaneous Chinese translation and Chinese meetings at our Convention. Zài fúwù – In Service

India

India has the largest fellowship in our Asia – Oceania region & has a great potential to contribute not only to this region but also to the worldwide fellowships because we have literature in 15 languages, well established service structure, seasoned, knowledgeable & well-staffed GSO and there are large numbers of Indians living all over the world. We can be a reckonable resource in reaching the still suffering brethren's.

Fellowship of AA in India is in its 60th year. It has been a long way with vivid culture, different languages and uneven growth of AA nationally. Out of approximately 1,500 groups West and South India has about 1,200 groups and North and East has about 300 groups (mentioned only registered groups).

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by four Working Trustees: Chairman, Chairman-Public Information, Treasurer and Secretary. A Coordinator and three assistants manage the services of the office.

A A India's General Service Board has 08 Class A Non-Alcoholic Trustees and 16 class B Trustees. Out of those trustees 04 trustees serve as Working trustees namely; Chairman (either Class A or B), Chairman – Public Information, Treasurer and General Secretary (all these 3 by Class B only). They shoulder responsibility of General Service Office.

Our General Service Conference comprises of 62 Area Delegates from all parts of country, 24 Trustees, GSO staff representative and the Editor of Twelfth Step Magazine. We have had 47 Conferences so far. We still do not have that much of District Committees and Area Assemblies functioning in most of the parts even though adopted by the Conference in 2004; however, Kerala state region has implemented it fully and the stars of Tamilnadu and Karnataka partially. Group services are largely provided through 75 Service entities including Inter-Groups, District Committees and Area Committees across the country.

We publish and distribute A. A. books and pamphlets in 15 languages. 'The Twelfth Step' magazine is published monthly. Apart from National magazine periodicals are published in regionally by regional fellowships. Newsletter is published periodically from GSO India.

By the result of AOSM , in a move to support the Fellowship of neighboring countries, our Fellowship had sent A A Literature in Tamil language (50 books each of BB, 12x12 & DR and 50 booklets each in the 7 of the Tamil booklets) to Sri Lanka. This is a combined contribution of Tamilnadu & Kerala State fellowships.

Trustee Committee for Charter & Reports has undertaken an uphill task of making a General Service Manual and is in the completion stage.

We had a National Convention done at Bhopal- central India, in September 2016 and have plans to conduct a Convention exclusively for women alcoholics in the forth coming year.

Various Government departments have extended permissions for pasting stickers, offered place to conduct AA meetings, promised to give slots to speak in their department sponsored public functions, etc and started viewing AA seriously. We are witnessing an evolutionary and phenomenal period of growth. Across the length and breadth of the country, A A as a resource is becoming known and accepted at various public and private levels.

My self and 1st term delegate Mr. Krishnamoorthy attending AOSM 2017.

Hope more developments in future as per the service plans of AA India.

Your in AA service

Shaji. M.M

Iran

Iran is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the AOSM in Mongolia (2017) . The message of A.A. arrived in Iran near 46 years ago, more or less during May 1971, yet there was no active group to be known. After years, in 1994 the first meeting was started in the house of some fellow Iranian who used to live in U.S.

Today, AA program is very active in Iran. Over 300 autonomous groups in 10 area structure are connected to the general service office of Iran alcoholics anonymous which is named: "Iran nameless sobers". We estimate our membership to be over 18000 members. Groups include men stags and women stags, some of which are both men and women together meetings. The meetings are held in different formats and times. . The community's efforts to build service structure have had positive outcomes – we now have a well-established Public Information Committee, Committee, translation and Website committee, hospital & institutions committee, treasure, literature, workshop and an International Service Committee as part of the Iran service structure. In this framework, We have 9 trustees seven of which are alcoholic members plus 2 none-alcoholics.in some areas we hold meetings in prisons, clinics and rehabs.

Also, Some of AA approved literatures other than the Big Book and 12 & 12, are translated into Persian and emailed to get the license for publishing as follows: **A-** As Bill Sees **B-** Came to believe **C-** The best of Bill from the Grapevine

Iran A.A. continues to foster friendship and welcome members from all around the world. Our first English speaking AA meeting started on 3/21/2017 in Kerman, a southern historical city in Iran. It holds its meetings every Tuesday from 5 PM until 6 PM. A service number from AAWS , records department, allocated to the above mentioned group, named Kerman AA. Expanding this structured AA, is a big challenge in our country. we need more inter-communications with AAWS or AOSM providing a healthy atmosphere to carry AA message to those who still suffer. For instance, a somehow false structure has established in Mashhad city of khorasan province, which is not connected to international service structures, nor do believe in a united structure that serves AA as a whole. Some negative outcomes of this approach are as follows: 1.A great deal of money is gained by publishing and selling AA literatures without asking for any license for the translation and publishing permission from anywhere!! 2.This noticeable amount of money in addition to the Treasury gathered out of group's seventh tradition basket, has become a pride and arrogance motivator: Do as we do, think the way we believe!! And so on. Therefore, in our previous contacts they failed to cooperate. 3. Numerous groups has been started in cities (for example approximately over 250 groups only in Mashhad). It seems very good at first glance, and of course many of those groups are beneficial for newcomers and AA as a whole, but many flaws have occurred e.g : unclear destination of members contribution through AA seventh tradition. developing and publishing irrelevant literature and selling them to members in the name of AA approved literatures with arbitrary names like: "how to work AA's 12 steps!" Etc.

All in all, our knowledge and connection with the greater AA community needs to be reinforced, strengthen and grow, to as much greater extend as we better comprehend the 12 steps, traditions and concepts of AA and transfer it to others. With best Hopes Masood Forooghi & Akbar Zamani Iran AA general service office (Iran nameless sobers).

Japan

Structure

As of 2017, A.A. in Japan has more than 600 groups in seven areas and approximately 5,700 members. Although many of the groups have less than 10 people, 20 people in urban areas, there are also a group with 30 people or more.

Area committee meetings and area assemblies are held in each area, they elect delegates; currently, there are 18 delegates total. There are district committees in each prefecture of Japan of the administrative units, and in urban areas of Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa, Saitama, there are multiple districts. On the other hand, in the small prefectures which have only a few groups, they don't have a district committee, or for example in Shikoku, they have a district committee combining the four prefectures.

Amongst the seven areas, there are also disparities in the number of groups. The Area Committee in more rural areas has about 20 groups, but the huge area including Tokyo, has over 260 groups. The Area Committee is presently studying whether to divide up the Area.

The configuration of the General Service Board is now as follows: 8 trustees (Two class A, and six Class B), one WSM delegate, and three Japan General Service Office staff. 9 people out of the general service board members have the right to vote in the annual General Service Conference. The General Service Conference is held for three days every year in February. In 2017, we held our 22nd Conference.

Japan GSO has legally been registered as a non-profit organization since 2004. Ten people serve as corporate directors of the GSB, and one person serves as corporate auditors.

Services

In 1981 the Japan General Service Office, known as JSO, was established in Tokyo. At first it was the only A.A. office, so it also functioned as the central office for the Kanto - Koshinetsu Area (Tokyo and nearby prefectures).

In 1993 a Central Office for the Kanto area was established. Now, all seven areas of Japan have their own central offices. JSO mainly serves our general service needs, while the local central offices take care of the local needs. All the JSO staffs are paid; we have three full-time workers. Of the full-time employees, one is the general manager, one is in charge of accountant and group services, and the third handles publications and international affairs.

Finance

The 2016 annual income was \$ 331,000, annual expenditures was \$ 337,000. Labor costs involved, such as for paid staff of Japan GSO, is about 30% of all expenditures. Year-end net assets were \$ 192,000, and the working capital was about \$ 150,000.

More than 60% of the income comes from literature sales and our monthly magazine subscriptions. Contributions account for less than 40% of the organization's income. The organization is actively seeking new contributions through its forum. We are also attempting to reduce expenses.

Literature/Publishing

The sales of literature are our main source of income. Every year, about 60% of income is derived from the sales of literature and our monthly magazine, whereas only 40 % comes from contributions.

Formerly, it was the policy of JSO's Literature Department to translate and publish every item of US/Canada Conference-approved A.A. literature; however, we have realized that there are some

publications that are not necessarily compatible with AA Japan. At our General Service Conference, we changed our policy to a more selective one, so that some of the literature will not be translated.

Our monthly magazine, *Box 916*, is a "meeting-in-print" magazine, just like the *A.A. Grapevine*. Of the 3,400 copies printed, 2,600 copies go to members and the others are distributed to friends of A.A. About 25% of our annual income comes from the sale of this magazine.

Some 2,700 copies of our newsletter from JSO and the General Service Board are issued every other month. One copy per group is free of charge and we charge 70 yen for any additional copies ordered. 2,300 copies are distributed for members individually and 400 copies to friends of A.A.

This year, we published a new book entitled *Alcoholics Anonymous Personal Stories vol.4*. We have published some personal stories of Alcoholics Anonymous 4th edition of US/Canada as a separate volume translated in Japan. Since we published the first volume of stories in 2010, we have continued publishing, and published the 4th volume in 2016.

At the 2015 A.A. Japan 40th Anniversary Convention, we published a commemorative page-a-day desk top version of "Daily Reflections", and it was sold out.

Electronic Meetings

The Skype meetings are held in Japan individually, but they are not officially informed by area central office or JSO

Development of Web sites

Japan GSO web site is www.aajapan.org. We updated the overall design in 2015.

The Public Relations and Treatment Facilities Committee of the General Service Board is responsible for the Japanese version of our web site. This includes updating the website, and also links to the website of English-speaking groups in Japan: aatokyo.org. An English-language version of the website will be created for the foreign residents in Japan and/or tourists. To date, more than 900,000 people have accessed the website, and at present, it seems that there are hundreds hits per day.

Many newcomers find out about A.A. via the Internet. All of seven central offices have their own web sites and provide such valuable information as meetings lists and a calendar of events.

We sell the books of A.A. through Amazon.co.jp. Monthly average sales number of books of 2016 (in descending order), is "Living Sober" 88 volumes, "Alcoholics Anonymous" 18 books, and "12 Steps and 12 Traditions" 13 books.

That is all

Japan

Yasuhiko Morita

Middle East Region Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA)

Jordan

Meetings in Amman

Prior to 2005, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in Amman were held on a sporadic basis, and were difficult for newcomers to find. Meetings were held in Jebel Hussein, but there were no specific days or times, often due to the schedule of the primary contact.

In 2005, an AA member from Moscow frequently found himself in Amman on business, or passing through to other destinations in the Middle East. He recognized the need for regular, scheduled AA meetings, and along with several other members of the haphazard meeting group, sought to organize and add a more permanent nature to a meeting schedule.

Meetings were held once a week during the early years, but they did operate regularly and on schedule. Membership remained limited, but additional efforts were made to introduce ourselves to psychiatrists and psychologists in the area, and convince them that AA could complement their treatment modalities, and need not be perceived as competition to their practices. This brought us several new members from the Jordanian community, and from there, word of mouth began to bring additional members.

At this point, we set up a website with meeting details and contact information, and we soon found ourselves welcoming businesspeople, tourists and students passing through Amman who needed a meeting.

Contact was made with the two hospitals in the Amman area which deal with alcohol and drug addiction issues, but these hospitals required staff members to sit in on meetings and take notes on patients, which was an issue we felt was not conducive to the spirit of AA. We have been unable to convince them of the need for meeting members to be able to speak freely in the presence of other recovering alcoholics.

Meetings

Meetings were first “open discussion,” but we realized the need to add a Big Book Study/12 Step meeting, which prompted us to set up and run a second meeting during the week. Additional meetings are wanted, but we have had problems getting the meeting space and the people to commit to an additional meeting during the week. At this time, we continue to operate just the two weekly meetings.

However, our small size has meant that we are probably closer to each other than you might find among other AA groups around the world as we must rely on each other more for any additional support. Fortunately, in this modern internet age, the need for additional meetings has been met by online meetings held in the US and UK, and by podcasts from different AA groups around the world.

Organization and Alliances

In 2017, with the prospect of holding the MERCAA conference in Jordan, our group was forced to enter into a limited partnership with the Forearms of Change Center to Enable the Community, which is an NGO primarily working with drug addicts and the HIV+ community in Amman. This NGO is a legal entity in Jordan, and becoming aligned with them will allow us to book the conference under their aegis to fulfil the necessary government security requirements. We chose this avenue rather than registering ourselves as an NGO or non-profit organization because of government registration issues and the need to maintain individual anonymity and group autonomy; under their umbrella, we, as an AA group are still able to retain complete autonomy.

This alliance will also open up new ways of attracting members from the Jordanian community with referrals from Forearms for Change. Since some of our AA members are dual AA/NA members, this will also offer Forearms for Change the possibility of setting up an active NA group in Jordan, which is something that the National Center for Recovering Addicts wants, but has yet to set up due to lack of members who can lead.

Toward the Future

Right now, we remain a small group, but we are seeing more and more members coming through our doors, even if they don't stay; this shows us that word is getting around as to our existence. The website has brought us the most members and visitors, and we frequently find ourselves receiving enquiries from the public, including school students who want to know more about alcoholism. We recognize the need for Arabic-speaking meetings, but at the present time, the demand isn't great enough to pursue this in any depth. When we encounter Arabic-only speakers at our meetings, one of our members will translate as we go along. There have been occasions when meeting content

has been conducted in Arabic, with translation into English. This is far from ideal, but for now, it meets our needs.

Bahrain

Meetings

AA in Bahrain still holds one meeting for every evening, alternatively between the American Mission Hospital and the Sacred Heart Church, and one on Saturday mornings at the hospital. On average, 20 to 25 members are expected to attend, this with a constant flow of newcomers and visitors to the Island. A new meeting in the relatively far but less congested area of Amwaj Island is still on its trial stage and hopefully, with enough persistence, will pick up.

Online meetings

Another project in its infancy, which we hope will give a good opportunity to group members to meet online if for any reason, could not attend a meeting.

Public Information Meetings

AA Bahrain has started PI monthly meetings where various ways to spread the AA message are put into practice. Earlier this year, a journalist from a prominent local English newspaper was invited to attend which resulted in having a full page enlightening AA and its meetings in Bahrain. More efforts are being done to attract professionals in the medical and legal fields.

2016 MERCAA Annual Convention

Another successful and most important 3 full days event, which took place last December and where 80 members from all AA groups in the Middle East region attended.

Bob Darrel, a popular keynote speaker in AA was amongst the 14 AA members who shared their experiences, strengths and hope.

Arabic Translations

Suggested corrections of the Arabic translation of "Living Sober" were sent back from the GSO and a final revision of the book is being done to be resubmitted final approval and publishing.

12 Steps weekly mini workshops

Open to all newcomers and taking place at the American Mission Hospital meeting room every Friday from 18:00 to 19:00 hours.

Board Report:

The development, growth and progress for Alcoholics Anonymous in Lebanon

1. Meetings

There are three regular meetings per week in Beirut, in the Hamra area, in English. There are also two "on-demand" meetings per week one in the Beirut area of Achrafieh, one in the area of Jbeil.

2. Natalia Ritchie, who has been living in Beirut for the past two years, participated and was a speaker at MERCAA in Bahrain in December of 2016

3. Natalia Ritchie brought back Conference information, and AA literature (still being formally approved) in Arabic that has been translated by the Bahrain Group. These will be distributed on a need to need basis.

4. We have an updated website stating our mission, contact numbers and our meeting schedule. The url is <https://aa-beirut-lebanon.org/>
5. Discussion was held concerning acquiring more AA literature translated in Arabic.
6. Our Lebanon AA group will do its best to have at least one of our Fellowship attend the MERCAA in Amman, Jordan, in 2017.
7. Fellowship participation fluctuates seasonally, with greater participation during the summertime from local members and visitors from abroad. Fellowship size has remained more or less the same over the last three years. Our Group is in the process of doing 12th Step work. Some of the ways we have researched and are discussing in our monthly business meeting include:
 - a. Online text ads linking to our AA site,
 - b. posters and/or leaflets distribution.
8. The current accounting for our cash contributions, minus our expenses is substantial. Our group reserve is currently around \$900. Although we have some upcoming expenses related to the above mentioned 12 Step work and a Fellowship lunch planed in July, we will also raise the issue of contributing to MERCAA during the next business meeting.
9. We will also consider helping with the expense of continuing to translate the Literature into Arabic, for members who do not read English
10. It was decided that it is a worthy commitment for Lebanon to continue its affiliation with MERCAA and also the larger geographic areas represented. Our wish is to help spread the AA message to everyone in Lebanon and the world.

Respectfully submitted,
 Natalia Ritchie
 AA Lebanon

Saudi Arabia, Eastern Region

The fellowship in this area is in two parts, Aramco and Khobar, along with some independents in outlying towns.

Aramco

It meets at a member's house, awaiting final approval for meetings at the psychiatric unit, with which it has a good relationship. A number of prospects are referred through this channel. The bi-weekly meeting is long-term established with a mixture of new and experienced members. Attendance on a Thursday evening averages 8 people. Most service positions are filled and Tradition 7 is irregularly passed along to GSO and MERCAA.

Kohbar

The fellowship is 20 or so years old and 10-15 strong, also meets in the homes of members with solid sobriety. However, a couple who have been stalwarts are likely to be leaving along with the bulk of other members, threatening the demise of the group. Newer members tend to be short stay. Alternatives venues, especially in the highly conservative culture of KSA, could be an issue for remaining AAs.

A webpage is posted but needs updating. Other PI is not undertaken.

Workshops, conventions and events are not organized although we enjoy attendance at ones in neighbouring regions.

AOSM participation is not an area of interest.

Literature, including Big Books in Arabic, is well stocked, usually brought in by members from the US. There are also fellowships in Riyadh and Jeddah but little contact is made with them.

Shortcomings aside, a welcome is extended to people considering moving to the area and at the moment 5 meetings a week are within easy reach.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Most groups in Abu Dhabi hold regular "informed group conscience" business meetings and observe the principle of regular rotation of trusted servant positions.

As a result of a periodic contraction of expatriate employment in a number of sectors of the local economy, attendance at meetings in Abu Dhabi has plateaued or slightly declined over the past 12-18 months.

Although many established members have returned to their home countries, the number of new and returning members have all but offset this reduction in active membership. In fact, after the addition of a new group that sponsors a Sunday evening meeting, Abu Dhabi AA now offers nine meetings per week and at least one meeting each day of the week.

Abu Dhabi Intergroup: while roughly half of Abu Dhabi's seven groups have selected GSRs, so far those GSRs have not chosen to meet as an Abu Dhabi Intergroup during 2017 and the second half of 2016. However, most of Abu Dhabi's GSRs have participated at the national UAE service level through the Dubai Intergroup.

Mongolia

Brief History of AA in Mongolia

1993: According to the project implementation of the GCS, "Minnesota" sample therapy treatment started. This was the first condition to start AA in Mongolia. Doctor Erdenebayar made a great role for this movement.

1998: There were many attempts to organize AA.

26th November 1998: AA in Mongolia was registered officially.

1999: A member went to Moscow, Russia and tried to have a relation with AA in Russia. It was the first step for the foreign relation.

2000: A "Big Book" was published in Mongolian.

2001: At the end of the "GSC" project implementation, AA idea spread over 10 aimags /administrative provision of Mongolia/. Mongolian AA General Service office opened.

2004: First National AA convention was held in Mongolia under the poster of "Unity" and participated general manager of World GSO and many official members from Japanese and Canadian GSO.

2006: The second National convention was held with the theme of "Recovery" with the participation of 24 groups, over 80 members. Therefore, delegates from America, Japan and Russia came to the convention and shared the experience.

2007: The first Conference was organized under the poster "Service", unfortunately finished unsuccessfully cause of lack of experience. 10 members participated in the Far East Forum, Russia and shared experience.

2008: 10th anniversary of Mongolian AA and the 3rd National convention was held with the poster "Open door". American, Japanese and Korean members came to these events.

2009: The General Service committee was organized at first time.

2010: 12th anniversary of Mongolian AA, 4th National convention with the poster of "Unity" and participated over 200 members from 22 local groups and delegates from Russia, Japan and Canada.

Number of the Groups

Today, there are 92 AA groups with Over 3000 members. /18 AI - Anon groups with about 180 members.

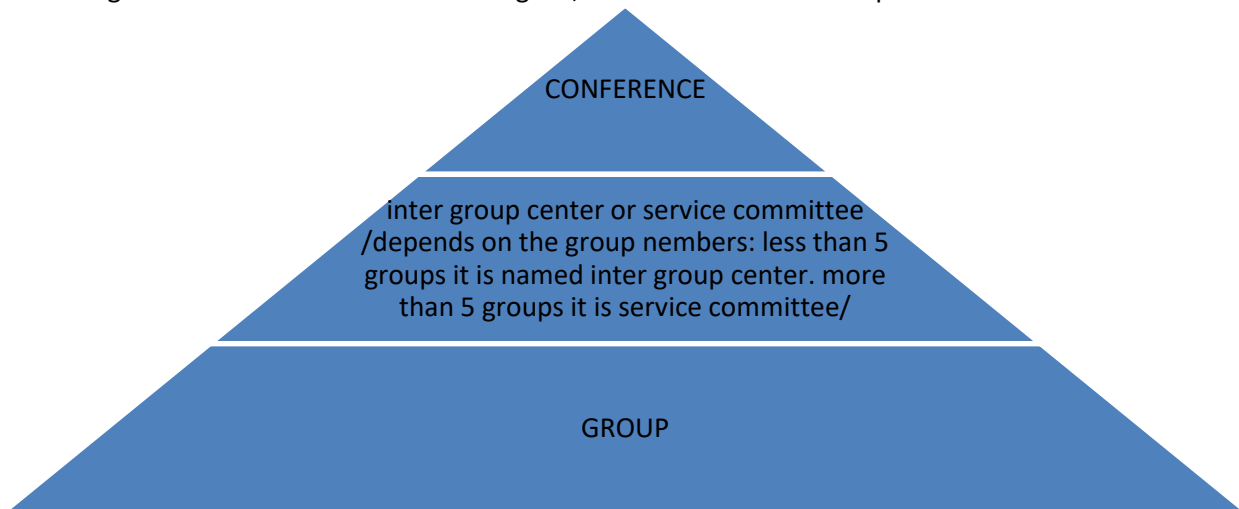
LITERATURE

2 books (BIG BOOK, 12&12) are published in Mongolian language and 7 brochures are being published.

In the 12th AOSM, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia we are planning to bring to your attention some additional literature such as 12 concepts, Live Sober, As Bill Sees it, Daily reflection.

STRUCTURE

According to the VII Conference of AA Mongolia, new service structure is presented:



The conference members are: delegates from intergroup centre or service committees and members of the service.

In June 2016 Mongolian GSO AA received the right to publish and spread AA's literature in MONGOLIA.

Today, AA Mongolia is gaining experiences to work professional people and organizations.

Medical institutions

We have close contact with medical institutions and with medical doctor specializing in substance abuse; members share their sober history to the patients. AA meetings are taking place in the clinics.

Correctional institutions

The local service structure committees are providing the 12th step possibility for AA members in correctional facilities, as well as providing books, brochures and pamphlets.

Social institutions

Lately we have increased the interaction with the representatives of social services – 'round table' discussions are being held with the representatives of those organizations, as a result of which, more AA meetings are being held on the premises of such organizations and AA information being made available there.

Respectfully submitted,
Nyamaa, 1st term AOSM delegate Mongolia

New Zealand

Kia ora koutou katoa which is a Maori greeting or Hello to you all.....

Background

A.A. has been in New Zealand since 1946, when our founder, Ian McEwan, then convalescing in a "psychiatric hospital" read an article ("Maybe you can do it too" by Edward McGoldrick) 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 NZ General Service Conference meets biannually and is composed of nine elected Area Delegates, (3 Delegates each from Northern, Central & Southern Area that NZ uses for AA representation purposes) eight Board members (two Class A, Non-Alcoholic and six Class B Trustees), the two World Service Delegates, the General Service Executive Officer (office manager), the Conference Chairperson and the Conference Secretary. The only Conference members with voting rights are the nine Area Delegates, the two Class A Trustees and the Chairperson of the General Service Board. All members of Conference do have speaking rights.

Service Committees

Conference currently has four subcommittees: Public Information, Treatment & Correctional Facilities (TCF), Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC), 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 General Service Board Chairperson, the Conference Chairperson, and the Conference Secretary. The Committee is chaired by the 2nd term World Service Delegate and the objective of the committee is to ensure that New Zealand participates in international AA affairs in an efficient, practical and ongoing manner.

General Service Board

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, since 2007 the Board has been re-vitalised with Class A & Class B Trustees, carrying 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 eight men and women Trustees with six AA (Class B) and two Non AA (Class A) members. Members of the Board are approved by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous after receiving appointment recommendations from the Board.

The General Service Board has six working committees: Archives, Communication, External Relations, Finance & Admin, Governance and Membership. 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 formed and dissolved as Conventions are rotated throughout New Zealand.

Financial; The Board is responsible for the Fellowship's finances with the Treasurer reporting to Conference on the state of the accounts including trends in contributions / expenditure. A Prudent Reserve policy is maintained.

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 as well as the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting during their 4-year term. Delegates are elected every 2 years which ensures continuity. The next AOSM being held in Mongolia in 2017 will be attended by Heather H (2nd year Delegate) & Roger S (1st year Delegate). The AOSM Secretary James N, is also a previous Delegate from NZ. We continue with our Country-to-Country Sponsorship project, whereby local groups can 'adopt' a nation in our zonal area (but mainly the Pacific Islands) where A.A. is in its infancy or non-existent and assist with donations of literature and any other information required. Several AA members from the Northern Area regularly attend the Samoan Round Up each year.

General Service Office

Our GSO is located in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, and is staffed by one paid employee, who is assisted by voluntary A.A. members, and one part-time paid assistant. The office services a New Zealand Fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members and approximately 500 registered groups. Note total NZ population is 4.6million.

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

Literature

Our GSO carries most books and literature published by A.A. World Services, Inc. and the AA Grapevine Inc., New York. No licence is held (or necessary) with all literature imported direct from New York. A bi-monthly meeting in print entitled *Mainstay* is published & widely available throughout the country. An occasional newsletter is also sent out to the Fellowship, advising of any decisions made by Conference and any other general information.

The General Service Board is also in the process of compiling a NZ Service Manual that initially will be in "soft copy" booklet form with relevant "hyperlinks" to various Guidelines, protocols and other documents that may be updated seamlessly once authorised. A re-print and update of the Treasures Notebook for AA Groups is also underway.

Public Information

New Zealand has Public Information Committees (PIC) at all levels, Conference, Area and District. These groups organize and conduct public awareness campaigns, which include public A.A. meetings, radio and TV announcements and ongoing speaking commitments in medical schools, at hospitals, schools, service clubs and other interested groups. Major Public Information projects are usually undertaken during Founders' Week in June and during Public Awareness Week in October.

The Board assists by allocating funds and coordinating at the national level along with significant mailings of information, media kits, etc.

Since 2012 an “AA Police Initiative” project has been running whereby some Groups specifically support / liaise with an assigned Police Station. They ensure material is replenished in permanent brochure holders affixed to the wall at these Police Stations containing A.A. pamphlets and contact details, and ensuring that personnel are fully informed about A.A. Also A.A. members have held ‘demonstration’ meetings for staff and at training seminars, a practice that has been successful with over 1000 Police attending since inception.

AA Survey

The Board made available (Aug 2016) a web based survey form completed by approx. 700 Fellowship members. Interestingly most respondents were over 40years, had 5years or more sobriety, belonged to a Home Group and had a Sponsor. Women respondents - 52%, outnumbered men - 47%. Information gathered from this survey will be useful for liaising with various professional communities.

Service Commitment

NZ has a long history (since the 1960’s) of a sound democratic AA structure with representation by Delegates from each of the three Areas that hold regular Assemblies every year. However, a concerning trend is the difficulty of filling service positions even at Group Level. It is also evident at local Committee level. These are often “stepping stone” service commitments for suitable Area Assembly and Delegate positions. Recently a Workshop on Service was held in Auckland city with speakers covering the importance of service, number of positions locally (literally dozens) and their experience of personal growth in sobriety from service.

Website

New Zealand has a comprehensive website (www.aa.org.nz) which has recently been “re-launched” improving functionality and using a “doc store” for all relevant Guidelines and a myriad of information. It also has Podcasts of “Meetings on Air”. There is also a “*members only*” section accessible by password that contains information just for members such as area minutes, application details for service structure positions when they become vacant, upcoming events, etc. The main web site also includes a NZ national meeting directory showing locations, date & time which can be downloaded. Coupled with this is a mobile phone app available at this stage on Android phones called “Findameeting NZ” that has received wide support & use.

Contributions

Mobile phones (over 90% of 18 to 34yr olds in NZ now have one) are also widely used for banking transactions in NZ. To combat spasmodic “pass the basket” cash contributions, Groups are now providing account details so Members can make contributions at any time to a Group of their choice on their mobile phone. Some Members also set up Direct Credit auto payments to their Home Group.

Russia



Number of Groups

The activity of AA Fellowship in Russia has been started in the late 80ths. The first Moscow group of AA has been registered at GSO in 1987. Today there are more than 500 The activity of AA Fellowship in Russia has been started in the late 80ths. The first Moscow group of AA has been registered at GSO in 1987. Today there are more than 500 groups in 120 local areas of Russia. The groups are mostly concentrated in large cities. Some of them organize meetings several times a week. There are about 100 groups in 30 settlements in Asian part of our Country to check. For the last several years we see a clear growth in AA groups' county in this part of our Country in 120 local areas of Russia. The groups are mostly concentrated in large cities. Some of them organize meetings several times a week. There are about 100 groups in 30 settlements in Asian part of our Country to check. For the last several years we see a clear growth in AA groups' county in this part of our Country.

Structure

The conferences targeting servicing AA Russia are held in Moscow on yearly basis in the beginning of April, for 4 (four) days at a time.

The conference members are: delegates of AA meetings that do not yet have local servicing boards, delegates of local AA Service Committees, members of Board for AA Service Russia, delegates representing AA Russia at international congresses for AA Servicing, head of AA service office. Lately the number of Conference members with a voting right does not exceed 40 people. The Conference forms Committees for establishing recommendations for the main issues of service of AA in Russia, appoints members of Board. The Conference relies on the «Guide for Servicing the AA Fellowship in Russia.

In 2012, several members of Russian GSB with the support of the FO AA started to hold a meeting for the representatives of 50 different AA meetings from various parts of the country. This meeting is also called a Conference, despite the GSO AA's recommendation to not use that title, since this

event is not an expression of the collective conscience of the Russian AA. This alternative meeting is still being held with a small number of representation of Russian AA groups.

On the 1th of December 2015 Russian GSO AA received the right to publish and spread AA's literature in Russia.

A key issue to be agreed upon was the subject of the delegates at the conference – either we will comply with the Guide for AA Service for Russia and will elect the delegates from local service structures or from a local community AA meeting, in case such a structure is nonexistent, or we will, as the supporters of the meetings in May suggest (FOAA Russia), elect the delegates from the meetings separately, even if a local service structure is present.

FINANCE

Charitable contributions **2014** – 700 000 Rubles, **2015** – 962 537 Rubles, **2016** - 811 013 Rubles.

Literature

10 books are published in Russia in the Russian language in the time period of 2015 – 2016: Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Live Sober, We Have Come to a Conclusion, AA Comes of Age, As Bill Sees it, Doctor Bob and the Good Oldtimers, the Service Guide (for the US and Canada). The Big Book «Alcoholics Anonymous» is being published in full, i.e. with stories, and there is a smaller version (without stories), the Language of the Heart.

Besides the above, about 40 titles of leaflets and brochures are being published.

Efforts to improve the Russian translation of the Big Book in order to make it more accurate are being made since the year 2008. Several chapters were revised and prepared to be published. The translators are working closely with the GSO to ensure that the translation is accurate.

The Russian GSB supplies AA literature to individual AA meetings through the regional service structures (committees on literature, intergroups). The local service structures establish the cost of literatures depending on the local conditions, but not exceeding 20% above the cost established by the General Service Board.

In addition, we must bring to your attention that, besides the lack of a license to publish AA Literature, the FO AA is carrying on the publishing and selling of AA Literature, selling the basic literature at dumping prices (the Big Book, 12x12, Living Sober, Daily Reflections). Even though the conditions of the agreement with the GSO, the FO AA can only sell the AA Literature that has been bought from the license holder (the Russian GSO). The FO AA is also publishing and distributing literature that has not been approved by AA International, such as the pamphlet by the title of: Traditions Workbook.

Russian AA Fellowship (Asian part of Russia)

Since the time of the 11th AOSM meeting devoted to servicing in Asia and Oceania the problems we have owing to the life hood of two structures are stable. In spite of this we've managed to save the RA of Eastern Siberia and the Far East as a whole, and continue to carry our message to whose alcoholics, who is still suffering, and to continue AA' developing in Eastern Siberia and the Far East. The number of groups has engaged. 100 groups are checked today in ES and the Far East. So, there are 4 cities in Primorskiy region now that have AA groups. They are Vladivostok, Artem, Ussuriysk, Nakhodka. Chukotka also has groups now.

Once in two weeks the RC of WS and the FE is gathered where the representatives from regions share the news, experiences, founded on the 5th tradition. They help to develop the AA's movement in our region all together. So, in 2014 three packages with AA literature based on the resources of RC were sent to Chukotka, the visit to Ust - Ul'timsk in Irkutskiy region based on the 5th tradition was funded, and there is a decision to allocate funds to organize trip to Nikolaevsk - on - Amure according to the 5th tradition.

International relations are strengthening. In June 2016 in Regional convention AA Far East and Eastern Siberia we had a seminar on traditions AA . This seminar was held AA member from Hong

Kong. Same seminar was held in Irkutsk in July 2016

Observers from Mongolia, South Korea, Poland and Finland were present on the Assembly of ES and the FE.

Strict structures in service were found in Western Siberia. One belongs to Altai (where there are 20 groups), another one belongs to Omsk (three are 9 groups where).

The structure of service in Irkutsk is checked in Eastern Siberia, which the groups of Krasnoyarsk have joined to. The link level between groups and structures is becoming more extensive. Groups of Khakassia, Tuva and Krasnoyarsk (though it sounds strange) are sponsored by AA groups of Zheleznogorsk (one closed nuclear city, it's population is about 100000 persons). Groups in Irkutskiy region especially in Bodaiboo (a city of gold diggers, situated in deep taiga) are supported by using Internet and plane flight. Bodaiboo is 1000 kilometers away from Irkutsk.

In different cities, towns and villages AA members regularly hold outreach activities, consisted of open meetings in Enisei District and Altai. The majority of local Conventions are annually held. The exchange of experiences between the cities does a great deal in growth of AA movement.

Interaction with Nonprofit Organizations

Medical institutions

The Russian GSB Committee for interaction with medical institutions is in close contact with the chief Russian medical doctor specializing in substance abuse and, along with the representatives of local structures, takes part in various events related to carrying the message – such as the 'round table' conferences with doctors, participating in events related to the sobriety holiday celebrations, as well as taking part in the conference of medical doctors specializing in substance abuse in Russia.

Exhibition stands with AA information are being mounted in hospitals and smaller scale local medical centers. A large amount of AA meetings in Russia are taking place in substance abuse clinics.

Correctional institutions

The local service structure committees are providing the 12th step possibility for AA members in correctional facilities, as well as providing books, brochures and pamphlets.

Religious institutions

Traditionally, the most contact we have is with the Russian Orthodox Church, then the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church.

The representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church take part in 'round table' discussions, as a result of which we have AA meetings opening in church halls and AA information being made available there.

Social institutions

Lately we have increased the interaction with the representatives of social services – 'round table' discussions are being held with the representatives of those organizations, as a result of which, more AA meetings are being held on the premises of such organizations and AA information being made available there.

An example of such an interaction is the cooperation with the Moscow Social Organizations that provides space to carry out local assembly's and intergroup meetings.

Police

AA group meetings together with the local structures comitees are holding round table discussions with police representatives, as a result of which we are opening more AA meetings on the premises of local police stations and the AA information is being put on display there.

An essential part in starting AA meetings on the territory of police stations is a close cooperation with the local authorities.

We have to add, that unfortunately, there are occasional sideway slips of several AA groups or separate AA members, when carrying out this rather complicated, yet highly valuable service, and then the Service Board for informing the public contacts those individuals with a demand to act in accordance with AA Traditions. A large portion of the complications related to increasing the public knowledge of AA and the various forms of such information (cards, pamphlets, posters, etc.) This is not surprising, since Russia unites a lot of people of various nationalities, religions, and ethnicities, etc., but the 2016

Conference of Russian GSO on Informing the Public has formed a goal to uniform the graphic information media for the AA Fellowship

AA Meetings

Besides the usual 'real life' AA meetings, there has been an online AA meeting named Vestvalo, and Vnezavisimosti that hold AA meetings in Russian by Skype and Paltalk. There is also «Radio AA» that operates through a website called RADIOAA.RU and is broadcasting AA information 24h with AA speakers, shows like Bill and Bob, as an online radio station and also has real life meetings.

AA Events

Traditionally, the AA groups hold annual large celebrations dedicated to the birthdays of AA in their local area; in Moscow there are the «August meetings» , Saint Petersburg has «White Nights», where friends of AA are also invited – priests, doctors, social workers, etc. Besides the large celebrations, the AA community carries out-of-town meetings, rallies, etc. With the purpose of carrying the message and stopping in areas that do not have access to AA.

The local service structures hold various local congresses for AA servicing – intergroups, comitees, assemblies, etc. Sharing experience with other cities helps the AA movement's growth.

Relations with other countries

The Russian GSB is in contact with the AA of Moldova, Belarus, Khazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and the UK. The Russian GSO also provides service for Russian-speaking meetings in Kishenev (Moldova), Pavlograd (Khazakhstan), Ulan-Bator (Mongolia), Mogilev (Belarus), Haifa (Israel), Stokholm, Helsinki, New York, London (Great Britain). We constantly stay in contact with the GSO in New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M, 2nd term AOSM delegate Russian Federation

Taiwan

There has been an A.A. group in Taiwan since 1980, and the last 10 years the message has reached increasing members of Taiwanese alcoholics. Thanks to the efforts of A.A. members and the help of doctors, social workers and a small scale of media, there are Chinese meetings on a consistent basis in Taipei, Taoyan, Tainan, Kaohsiung. The message has also spread to other cities, but so far it has been difficult to establish stable groups.

Our lack of numbers in A.A., general misunderstanding of the disease and treatment alcoholism, A.A. is relative unknown in Taiwan are all the factors regarding the growth of A.A. in Taiwan. There are plenty of alcoholics who need help. The problem is not finding alcoholics, but finding a way to increase A.A.'s level of recognition and acceptance.

Still, we have reached many alcoholics. Some are currently in recovery. There are also many professionals in the medical field who enthusiastically offer us help and welcome A.A.'s participation

1980 Begin an aa meeting

1988 January 29 register Taipei group

1995 March request AAWS for "Chinese 12x12" translation

1997 Taiwan A.A. 1st Conference

1999 March 29 – 30 AOSM

2000 June Print Chinese 12 x 12 A.A. Taiwan website

2010 Request AAWS for Chinese translation of "Living Sober" and "Daily Reflection"

2011 Printing "Chinese Living Sober"

2015 Printing "Chinese Daily Reflection"

*There were aa meetings going back in Taiwan before the 1980s. In the 1970s Fr. Lou Quinn was heavily involved in Taiwan AA. The oldest meeting that can't be verified was with an ex-soldier in 1957 who was forced to go to an aa meeting at the Chung-Shan NCO club.

Thailand

The groundwork for AA in Thailand arrived in 1956 when Harry the Horse, a.k.a Father Harry Thiel, a Redemptorist priest arrived in Bangkok. The Redemptorists are an order of Catholic priests who provide rescue services for young people. Boys Town in Nebraska was one such enterprise. You may remember the movie starring Spencer Tracy as Father Flanagan. Mickey Rooney was the boy carrying his brother, and the line "He ain't heavy Father, he's my brother" became etched into the public consciousness.

Reporting on Alcoholics Anonymous in Thailand requires looking at Thailand in at least two different ways; AA for foreigners and AA by region. AA is much more successful in Thailand for foreigners but even that is heavily influenced by region.

The 4 major metropolises in Thailand are Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket and Chiang Mai and each have a lot of meetings for foreigners. Bangkok has about 35 meetings per week, Pattaya has 39, Phuket has 37 and Chiang Mai 37. As a big retirement destination Thailand has a large number of older foreigners with many years in the program. Outside of these 4 major cities AA's penetration is sporadic with fair participation in some places and little to none in others. There is a large scattering of Loners.

Spreading the message AA for foreigners outside the major population hubs and getting members involved in service are big challenges for the fellowship. As we have a lot of retirees with lots of 'time' in the program many of our members are here with a 'retired' attitude feeling that they did their service when they were young in the program or were never really interested in service. This is

an ongoing challenge for Area. Thailand has five designated Districts, we currently only have two Districts up and functioning (the very north and very south) and keeping them functioning is a challenge.

AA for Thai speakers continues to be an uphill struggle. We have made some inroads but they are limited to just certain areas and with few actual members. A new more readable Thai language Big Book, being published in Thailand in June, we believe will help but it is an ongoing issue and even attendance at meetings is not the priority that it is with foreigners.

We have some H&I work, PIC/CPC committees, Roundups, Founders Day, New Year's Alcathon events as well as some Open Houses but they are all on a limited regional basis as we have not been able to get Area to take on some of these tasks. Interestingly at our Area meeting every October there is a lot of interest to do more but no one who wants to take up the responsibility of heading up the effort.

Area has done a very good job with literature both retranslating the Big Book so that it can be understood by the average Thai, getting started with other AA literature translations like the 12 and 12 and keeping an inventory of AA literature for the various groups and districts.

Spreading the AA message to Thai's in Thailand remains the biggest challenge for our fellowship here in Thailand

World Service Meeting (Oct 2016) Report to AOSM July 2017

Firstly, I'd like to say it's been an absolute privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as NZ's World Service Delegate and to present an AOSM report to the WSM – a privilege and responsibility. And now, to report back to our region, a report about the WSM, (NY 2016)

I need to start with an apology. It was brought to my notice that in my list of the 13 countries attending our AOSM in Dubai, I inadvertently I left two countries off - Sri Lanka and Thailand and, to both countries, and this meeting, I whole-heartily apologise.

In his welcome, Terry Bedient, Chair of the USA Canada General Service Board said, *'The World Service meeting has been described as 'a living and growing exchange of experience, responding to the needs of AA worldwide'*.

One major area of concern expressed at this past World Service Meeting was that there was only one first term woman delegate attending.

It was suggested that countries aim at having a gender balance with their Delegates so the World Service meeting is more representative of AA. The 12 women WSDs attending have been charged with sponsoring more women into general service, then to encourage those women to serve at world level too.

Committees (summary only – I have the final report with me for you want to read more)

Agenda recommended these presentations and discussion topics be included in the 25th World Service meeting 2018

Old values for a modern AA (is anonymity is still relevant; attraction versus promotion in an Internet world; Traditions in the mass media)

Service: investing in AAs future (service don't tell me - show me; the seventh Tradition – supporting our services)

Attracting members into service (Service Sponsorship; service beyond the group; the rewards of doing service)

Special-purpose meetings (the value of women's meetings; special-purpose meetings and the 3rd Tradition; meetings or groups?)

Workshop topics for the 25th WSM will include - how to use the Internet wisely; country to country sponsorship; leadership in AA.

Literature/publishing discussed the extent that literature is available in formats other than print – some countries are concerned that e-book sales will reduce their income.

Working with Others: One country was creating a short film about AA to be shown in medical centre waiting rooms. Others have video, and PowerPoint presentations, on their webpages.

Policy/Admissions/Finance recommends that the whole Fellowship be informed of the International Literature Fund, its function, and encourage everyone to contribute through their structure; the Meeting of the Americas (REDELA) plan sending (to all structures in the Americas) their final report to encourage participation by countries not present. (*Maybe AOSM could consider this*).

WORKSHOPS (all Delegates attend these, we're divided into four groups for each session and afterwards, short, amalgamated summaries are put together of each workshop topic – once again these are in the final report).

Workshop 1. Resentment: what does it mean for individual recovery and group survival?
Types of resentments members spoke about included; sexual harassment, lack of tolerance, not accepting how people work the program, old-timers not practising the 12 steps, young people and drugs – but deciding at the end, that “booze usually sorts it out”; Group conscience decisions helps sort out issues; principles not personalities; substantial unanimity.

Workshop two. Communication between the generations: are we succeeding in carrying the message?

A free-flowing discussion about how we keep AA accessible to all seeking help with a drinking problem? (this included free phone numbers, prisons, treatment centres, accessible meetings, meetings on air, podcasts, back of bus adverts, Big Book in all libraries, etc)

How do we ensure ‘the message’ being carried in your group, in your country, is the universal message of AA? (sponsorship, AA literature, Trad 4/5, some counties make sure PI /CPC committees are educated about ‘carrying the message – most have guidelines for members as they are the face of AA).

Workshop 3. The spirituality of our financial contributions

12% to 85% of budgets are covered by group contributions - so many rely on literature sales.

Instead of discussing ‘money’ we should frequently use the term ‘AA money’ and its place in fulfilling our primary purpose at every level of service - reminding members ‘your money is 12th step work.’

Other questions included, how important is AA to me? Do I spend more in the coffee shop or for shoes than in AA? Am I focused on my comfort or on helping others as well?

Other information/items of interest:

Three new countries were seated at the 2016 WSM Paraguay, Slovakia, and Russia

Argentina, Brazil and German Speaking Europe have completed or updated their Service Manuals

Worldwide it seems most WSDs are considered trustees and attend their Board meetings as well as Conference, and continue to be used as a resource long after their term is over.

Czech Republic: with 600 members have published a revised translation of the Big Book with 15 Czech stories in it

Denmark: Website has a PowerPoint presentation on it for schools to use.

Finland: 2018 they celebrate 70th anniversary; Country of 5 million - has 10,000 members. Have an independent Youth Committee with the aim of making AA attractive to young people. Monthly

one-hour AA radio programme – on website too

German Speaking Europe: have formed a group to create a proposal about 'AA on the Internet' for their 2017 Conference to consider.

Great Britain: have an 'online response team' to answer queries via website. Their Young Persons committee have developed an animated video for the website.

Iceland: having issues about a group wanting to register a group as "Freethinkers"

Discussion topic: 'how I will report back' included delegates reporting back to all members via website, groups, areas, conference and in their magazines. Two Delegates were feeding snippets of information about the meeting, during the meeting,

India: 35 languages; 30,000 members; 9 translations of the Big Book

Ireland: turned 70 in 2016. 15,000 members, has 85% of its funds from "table-top" (7th Tradition) contributions. Their meetings are mostly 'closed' and are encouraged to 'have one meeting open annually'

Some countries dedicate their annual gratitude fund specifically for the international literature fund or other such specific project

Norway: has some 2000 members, and with a low population density, Skype meetings are common.

In South Africa, the Board moves its meeting around the country, and at each venue they attend a local AA meeting so people get to know the Board. Their intergroups also have an old-timer, who has done general service, read the long form of a Tradition and then share about it for five or 10 minutes.

Most countries still observe November as 'Traditions month'.

Some Class A trustees use Facebook and/or Instagram to talk about Alcoholics Anonymous. Romania has a Facebook page for their magazine. Holland is finding it very hard to find class A trustees, most approached demand to be paid for the role. One Class A, surgeon/teacher uses cadavers to talk about alcoholism - his father was sober in AA for 40 years and had asked his son to be helpful to AA.

Japan has Concepts Meetings with past Delegates sharing their experience about the Concepts - so it's not a study meeting but a sharing session as '*that's what attracts people to attend.*'

QR codes are often put on AA business cards linked to 'find a meeting' or AA website and are given to ambulances and the police.

The term "Special needs" on USA /Canada AA literature has been changed to 'accessibility' in 2014 (CPC)

It was reported there are about 200 Chinese- language online meetings

Finland structure was formed in the 1960s and they have neither Conferences or a Board. However, they have an annual meeting for all AA groups.

The Arabic translation of the Big Book includes local personal stories (*I was surprised, that some members were surprised, that the Arabic BB is for sale in Israel*)

Sweden has a 'meeting before the meeting' and encourages members to arrive at least 15 or 20 minutes early so they can talk to newcomers or visitors before the meeting starts. This of course continues at the 'meeting after the meeting'

A Delegate from the Czech Republic - when talking on social media in AA - reminded us that '**anonymity is so important, it's half of our name.**' He also recalled the slogan from Atlanta 2015 '**anonymity is so fragile, you can break it with one finger.**'

The 25th World Service meeting (2018) will be held in Durban, South Africa:
the theme '**Our Twelve Traditions, AAs future in the Modern World**'

Heather Hapeta

2nd term WSD

New Zealand

Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Dear Delegates, GSO Colleagues Mary & Greg, the Mongolia Host Committee Team members, Volunteers, Interpreters and All Observers. It is my sad yet proud privilege to bring this 12th edition of Asia Oceania Service Meet to a close now.

Proud, humbled and grateful because I have been witness to the awesome demonstration of all the legacies of our beloved fellowship over the last 4 days. Through your own examples of personal recovery and all the spiritual principles it embodies, you have shown me how to seek unity in our work together and demonstrated your passion to carry the message of recovery across geographies and cultures, through selfless service and the willingness to go to any length to preserve its integrity.

As I watched you come together as delegate body of 16 recovering alcoholics representing the interests of 20 countries across our zone, I was struck by the truth once again, of how we are people who would not normally mix, but can learn to accept, respect and even love each other as brothers and sisters with a common purpose. This by itself is a miracle of no mean magnitude – we alcoholics are chaotic in nature, we must discipline ourselves. Personally, I have often failed at that with painful consequences, but you all continue to inspire me.

More than half of you walked into this room to serve as a delegate to the AOSM - for the first time. If you are anything like me, you would have been a curious mix of proud excitement, enthusiastic to leave your imprint behind, unsure of what and why AOSM, and maybe even a little nervous tension on how to fit in, start well and make a contribution. You might have been slightly overwhelmed by the formality of the meeting and the scope of work ahead., At the same time, some of you are returning familiar faces who overcame all that early doubt at the last conference, did leave your mark, and came back as leaders and determined to make this one count. All of you have done yourselves and your AA communities proud, and I congratulate you on a job well begun, well conducted, and well finished.

The sub-committees and the inventory sessions were highlights for me. Having been part of 2 AOSMs, I did at times want to jump in, and add my 2 cents worth, but thankfully refrained and watched it smoothly unfold as a loving God would have wanted it, expressed in the group conscience of your deliberations and final recommendations.

I am pleased to observe that from the time I joined the AOSM bandwagon in 2009 in Chandigarh, India to now, we have come a long way. The path before and time in between has been sometimes frustrating, but mostly rewarding. As we stand here, looking forward to what's ahead, I am filled with optimism and hope that one day AOSM and its constituent regions will be the best example of unity and service in carrying the messages. More than a 3rd of Earth's landmass and 2/3rds of the planet's population is relying on you to work towards the admirable goals you have set for yourselves. May god bless you in all your endeavors.

You have chosen a relevant theme for yourself. The inventory sessions clearly identified the need for communications in all forms and layers to be vastly improved, and zonal ties to be deeply strengthened. Improving the Links between Communities as a theme, could not be more meaningful at this stage of your journey via the honest self-appraisal you did.

You have chosen a chairperson of great wisdom and immense experience. I cannot think of a better person to lead you at your next conference. Heather has been a guiding light and elder stateswoman throughout the last two years as PAF chair, and this transition into driving the freshly set agenda, is a

logical and spiritual extension of that role. I personally want to thank you, Heather, for your support throughout.

Which leads me to once again thank the Mongolian Host Committee, GSO and all members who made the actual staging of the event possible. Possible? That's probably the understatement of the century. It was a spectacular display of teamwork, planning, hospitality and AA love that we enjoyed and it has enriched my life manifold.

The unbridled enthusiasm of the multitude of observers who patiently sat with translation units glued to their ears through the sometimes seemingly arduous, and definitely not thrilling, proceedings of this conference; and then exploding into a frenzy of hugs, selfies and excited chatter, has been something I am going to treasure forever. As I expressed yesterday, we thought we came to show Mongolia something, and they certainly showed us a thing or two. So well done and thank you for everything, AA Mongolia.

The volunteers, recording secretaries and the always present AA Mongolia GSO team that manned the desk outside, have been the silent wheels on whose well-greased and selfless effort this conference was able to reach its objectives. All of you have my heart felt gratitude and admiration for the way you helped and supported us in our time of need.

For a bumbling, over eager 1st time delegate in 2009, a mere neophyte in the grand order of AA Service Jedi's, you have lovingly, patiently nurtured me, and helped me grow and gave me this huge honor to chair your meeting this year. Over that time, I could share the learning and experience with my home region, MERCAA and there too, we grow in effectiveness and understanding.

I remain grateful and now my AOSM journey ends. I return back to my home group and when I asked my sponsor, what service can I now aspire to after such heady heights? He thought and gently suggested - maybe I should try the group tea maker position awhile. I am sure he has his reasons to make that recommendation, must have seen something in me... motion moved, seconded and unanimously approved. There is work, more work, to be done on that vital side of our AA triangle – a base of personal recovery.

That's all I have for now. You are used to my wordy reports, and are probably surprised this is ending here. There is little to be said anymore, other than seek your apologies for any mistakes or oversights I may have made during the course of this conference. I am acutely aware of the times I bumbled, fumbled and stumbled my way around – but you guys are really cool. You told me it was ok and it would get better. I hope it did.

I wish you all best of luck in your work ahead, pray that God blesses you all with happy, contented and joyous sobriety, one day at a time; and that our paths may cross again, one day, somewhere. I have made deep and lifelong friendships here that I treasure and will always cherish. I am available anytime if I can be of any service to this august body, in any capacity.

With that - and your kind permission, let's bring this 12th edition of the AOSM to a close; and I thank you all for your service commitments and continued guidance.

AOSM Background & Reference

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

1997 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. In Attendance; 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. In Attendance; 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. In Attendance; 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. In Attendance; 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. In Attendance; 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. In Attendance; 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 9th 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 10th 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".

2015 11th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Dubai. In Attendance; Australia; Bangladesh; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; MERCAA; Mongolia; New Zealand; Russia; Sri Lanka; Thailand. Theme: “Carrying the Message through Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community” (PI & CPC)”

Attachment 1

Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

What Is Parliamentary Procedure? It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion. Why is Parliamentary Procedure Important? Because it's a time-tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Today, Robert's Rules of Order newly revised is the basic handbook of operation for most clubs, organizations and other groups. So it's important that everyone know these basic rules! Organizations using parliamentary procedure usually follow a fixed order of business.

Below is a typical example:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call of members present.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Officer's reports.
5. Committee reports.
6. Special orders --- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

The method used by members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue. Individual members can:

1. Call to order.
2. Second motions.
3. Debate motions.
4. Vote on motions.
- 2.

There are four Basic Types of Motions:

1. Main Motions: The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.
2. Subsidiary Motions: Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.
3. Privileged Motions: Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.

4. Incidental Motions: Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

How are Motions Presented?

1. Obtaining the floor a. Wait until the last speaker has finished. b. Rise and address the Chairman by saying, "Mr. Chairman, or Mr. President." c. Wait until the Chairman recognizes you.
2. Make Your Motion a. Speak in a clear and concise manner. b. Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ..." c. Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.
3. Wait for Someone to Second Your Motion
4. Another member will second your motion or the Chairman will call for a second.
5. If there is no second to your motion it is lost.
6. The Chairman States Your Motion a. The Chairman will say, "it has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action. b. The membership then either debates your motion, or may move directly to a vote. c. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the chairman it becomes "assembly property", and cannot be changed by you without the consent of the members.
7. Expanding on Your Motion a. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it. b. The mover is always allowed to speak first. c. All comments and debate must be directed to the chairman. d. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established. e. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Chairman.
8. Putting the Question to the Membership a. The Chairman asks, "Are you ready to vote on the question?" b. If there is no more discussion, a vote is taken. c. On a motion to move the previous question may be adapted.

Voting on a Motion:

The method of vote on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws of policy of your organization. There are five methods used to vote by most organizations, they are:

1. By Voice -- The Chairman asks those in favor to say, "aye", those opposed to say "no". Any member may move for a exact count.
2. By Roll Call -- Each member answers "yes" or "no" as his name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.
3. By General Consent -- When a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chairman says, "if there is no objection ..." The membership shows agreement by their silence, however if one member says, "I object," the

item must be put to a vote. 4. By Division -- This is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a count unless the chairman so desires. Members raise their hands or stand. 5. By Ballot -- Members write their vote on a slip of paper, this method is used when secrecy is desired.

There are two other motions that are commonly used that relate to voting.

1. Motion to Table -- This motion is often used in the attempt to "kill" a motion. The option is always present, however, to "take from the table", for reconsideration by the membership. 2. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely -- This is often used as a means of parliamentary strategy and allows opponents of motion to test their strength without an actual vote being taken. Also, debate is once again open on the main motion.

Parliamentary Procedure is the best way to get things done at your meetings. But, it will only work if you use it properly.

1. Allow motions that are in order.
2. Have members obtain the floor properly.
3. Speak clearly and concisely.
4. Obey the rules of debate.

Most importantly, BE COURTEOUS.

For Fair and Orderly Meetings & Conventions

Provides common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership - the right of the deliberate majority to decide. Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate - to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved. Robert's Rules provides for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembly. Under no circumstances should "undue strictness" be allowed to intimidate members or limit full participation.

The fundamental right of deliberative assemblies requires all questions to be thoroughly discussed before taking action!

The assembly rules - they have the final say on everything!

Silence means consent!

Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to stand when the person speaking has finished; state Mr/Madam Chairman. Raising your hand means nothing, and standing while another has the floor is out of order! Must be recognized by the Chair before speaking!

Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked, "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote!

Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.

The "immediately pending question" is the last question stated by the Chair! Motion/Resolution - Amendment - Motion to Postpone

The member moving the "immediately pending question" is entitled to preference to the floor!

No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once!

All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives!

Attachment 2

The Third Legacy Procedure

AA's *Third Legacy Procedure* is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of Area Delegates, Regional and other Trustees and International Delegates, where more than one candidate is nominated.

It is considered to be unique to AA, and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgement of the majority. In practice, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties. A second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified, but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

IT MUST FIRST BE ESTABLISHED

- That the candidates are eligible and willing to stand.
- That the right to vote has been established.
- If the election involves appointing an Alternate position, it should be decided in advance whether the runner-up will be that Alternate or whether this will be by a separate election.

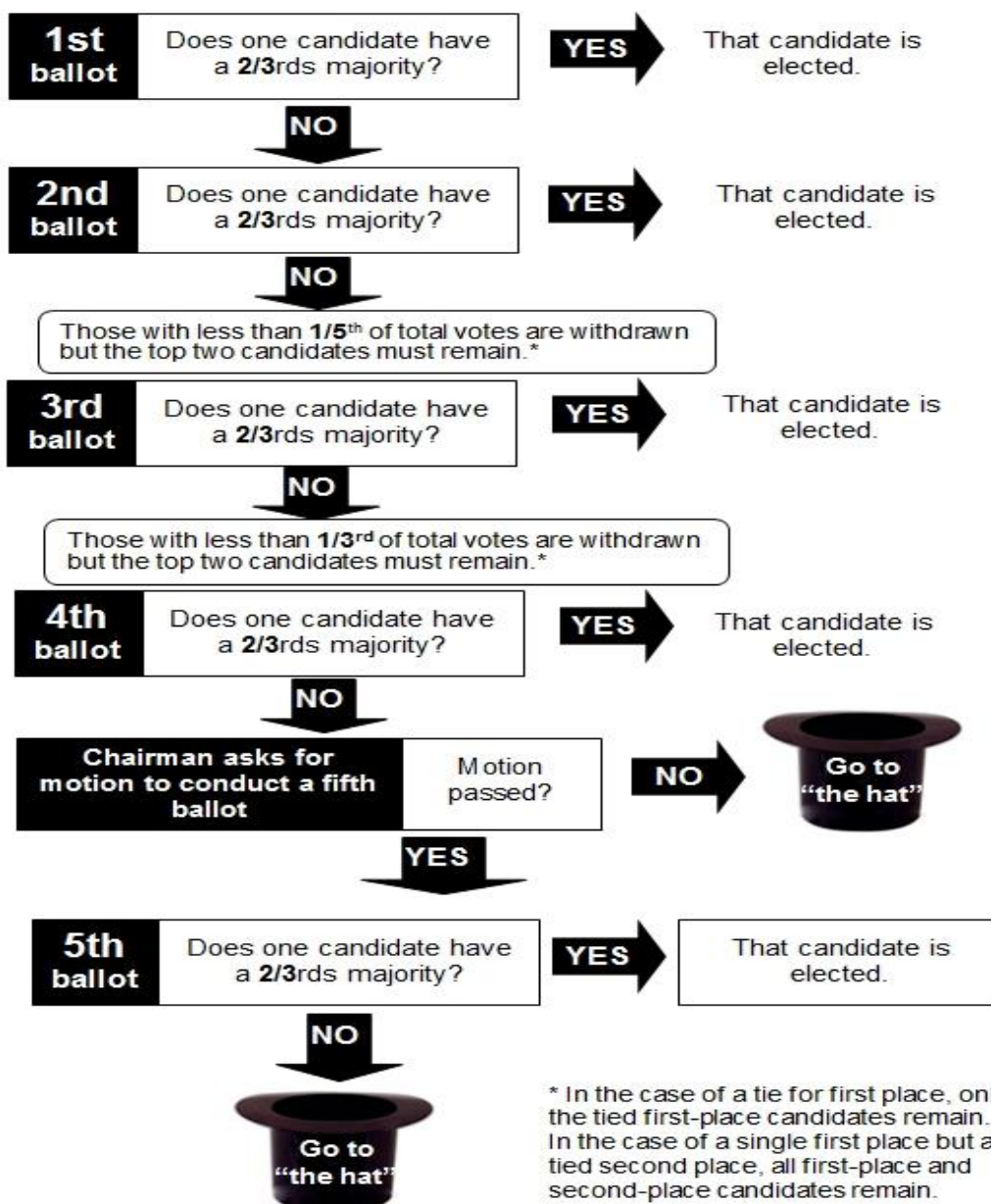
PROCEDURE

(Note that there is an illustrated version of this below which you might find easier to follow.)

1. The Chairman of the meeting will take charge of the proceedings.
2. Two scrutineers are appointed, preferably from among those not eligible to vote.
3. The names of candidates are written on a black/whiteboard or similar.
4. The vote will be written on the board against the names of candidates.
5. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
6. All ballots are secret, so blank papers (and sometimes pencils) are distributed.
7. Written ballots are cast in the traditional way (one choice to a ballot), collected and given to the scrutineers to count; the tallies are then posted on the Board.
8. If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote at the first ballot, a second ballot is held, duplicating the first.
9. If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote at the second ballot, any candidate having less than one-fifth of the total vote is withdrawn automatically except that the two top candidates must remain. In the case of a tie for first place, only the tied first-place candidates remain. In the case of a single first place but a tied second place, all first-place and second-place candidates remain.
10. A third ballot is then held with the remaining candidates. If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote at the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except that the two top candidates must remain. In the case of a tie for first place, only the tied first-place candidates remain. In the case of a single first place but a tied second place, all first-place and second-place candidates remain.
11. A fourth ballot is then conducted as for the second and third above.
12. If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote, the Chairman establishes by formal motion (with seconder) on a majority show of hands, whether to hold a fifth ballot or

- go straight to the “hat” and be decided by lot. That is, candidates names are written on slips of paper and put into a receptacle. Whichever is drawn out by the Chairperson, is elected.
13. If no candidate receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote in the fifth ballot, or if the meeting has decided to drop the fifth ballot, the choice will be made by lot (by the “hat”).
 14. In the final round, the names of the remaining candidates will be placed in a hat, box or other suitable container, and a person nominated by the Chairman will draw one candidate’s name from the hat.
 15. That candidate is then the Delegate, Trustee or officer.

The Third Legacy Procedure



Attachment 3

Bid to host the 13th AOSM in 2019

[Please have the facility's function manager read the specifications on page 3 and carefully explain any variations before you fill in this form]

City Hong Kong Country Hong Kong SAR

AOSM country delegates Alex Li

Delegates' email address alexli09@gmail.com

Host country support

Approximately how many AA members are there in your country? ~200

Approximately how many AA members are there in the proposed city? ~200

Is your bid supported by your Fellowship? YES NO

Which of the following bodies in your country have said they will provide support?

General Service Board General Service Conference General Service Office
Intergroup Committee Intergroup Office Area/District Committee

Other (please describe)

How many local members would be available to serve on the host committee and provide help with things like: drivers, clerical help, photocopying and collating, setting up literature displays, looking after delegates' spouses, liaising with hotel staff, etc? 10+

Transportation

How far is the conference venue from an international airport? 35 km

Airport's name? Hong Kong International Airport

Which major airlines service the airport? United, Cathay, Emirates, Delta, Air China, Singapore, ANA, JAL, Korean Air, Asiana, Philippines, Qantas, Jet, Air India, Thai, Malaysia, EVA, China Eastern, etc.

What transportation (airport to venue) is available? Public (Airport Express train) and complimentary hotel shuttle

Cost of airport shuttle, per person US\$ 11.53

Is the accommodation within easy walking distance of the conference facilities? YES NO

What facilities are at the hotel or conference centre?

Name of hotel Hotel ICON.....

How many rooms does the hotel have? 262 rooms. https://www.hotel-icon.com/

Does it provide all the required facilities listed in the specifications? Yes No

If no, where will the meetings be? Please give full details and a website if possible.....

Name..... website.....

Any variations from the list of specifications? Sound system with microphones for during meetings must be rented from outside company.

How much will it cost?

What will be the **total cost** of accommodation, meals, refreshments, and hire of function rooms for the three days of the meeting and for four nights accommodation:

-
- (a) if 25 people attend US\$ 532..... (US\$..... per person)
- (b) if 30 people attend US\$ 512..... (US\$..... per person)
- (c) if 35 people attend US\$ 488..... (US\$..... per person)

If some attendees want to arrive earlier than the Thursday night or stay longer than the Monday morning how much will the hotel charge for each person's extra accommodation per night?

Single room US\$ 7.....
Double room US\$ 23.8.....

What methods are available for payment credit card cash in US\$ cash in local currency

Comments.....

Attachment 4

Alcoholics
Anonymous

Licensing and Translation Process

- Our process takes much care. It is essential that we follow our long-established, thorough procedure of licensing and translation, which includes our obtaining independent reviews of every translation, to ensure the accuracy of all translations. This is of foremost importance, as Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) hold the copyrights for our literature in trust for the worldwide A.A. Fellowship.
- We encourage and uphold the principles of Group Conscience and Unity as we set about our translation and licensing endeavors.
- A.A.W.S. has a legal, moral, and spiritual responsibility to maintain the integrity of the A.A. message in all translations of A.A. literature.

Alcoholics
Anonymous

Translation and Licensing Process Overview

continued...

- License to Reproduce and Distribute Translated Copyrighted Work
 - For countries without a G.S.B.
 - An “Authorization to Print” letter agreement will be issued to a local designated printer for one-time-only printing of a specified number of copies.
- License to Post Translated Copyright Work on a Single Website
- Final Step: Copies of final master digital print files and copies of reproduced items must be sent to the A.A.W.S., Inc.

Alcoholics
Anonymous

A.A. Literature by the Numbers

- 69 translations of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- 15 new translations pending, including the first-ever spoken-word First Nations’ Navajo language.
- The most recent new Big Books printed and in circulation are now in the Arabic, Twi (Ghana) and Rarotongan (Cook Islands) languages.
- A.A.W.S. prints the Big Book in 33 languages, with 37 printed by local service structures.
- A.A.W.S. has published literature across 298 publications in a total of 91 languages.



***“Good translations of A.A. literature
are ever more urgently needed.
But able helpers have always turned
up to meet the need.”***

– Bill W., *A.A. Comes of Age*, page 200

Attachment 5

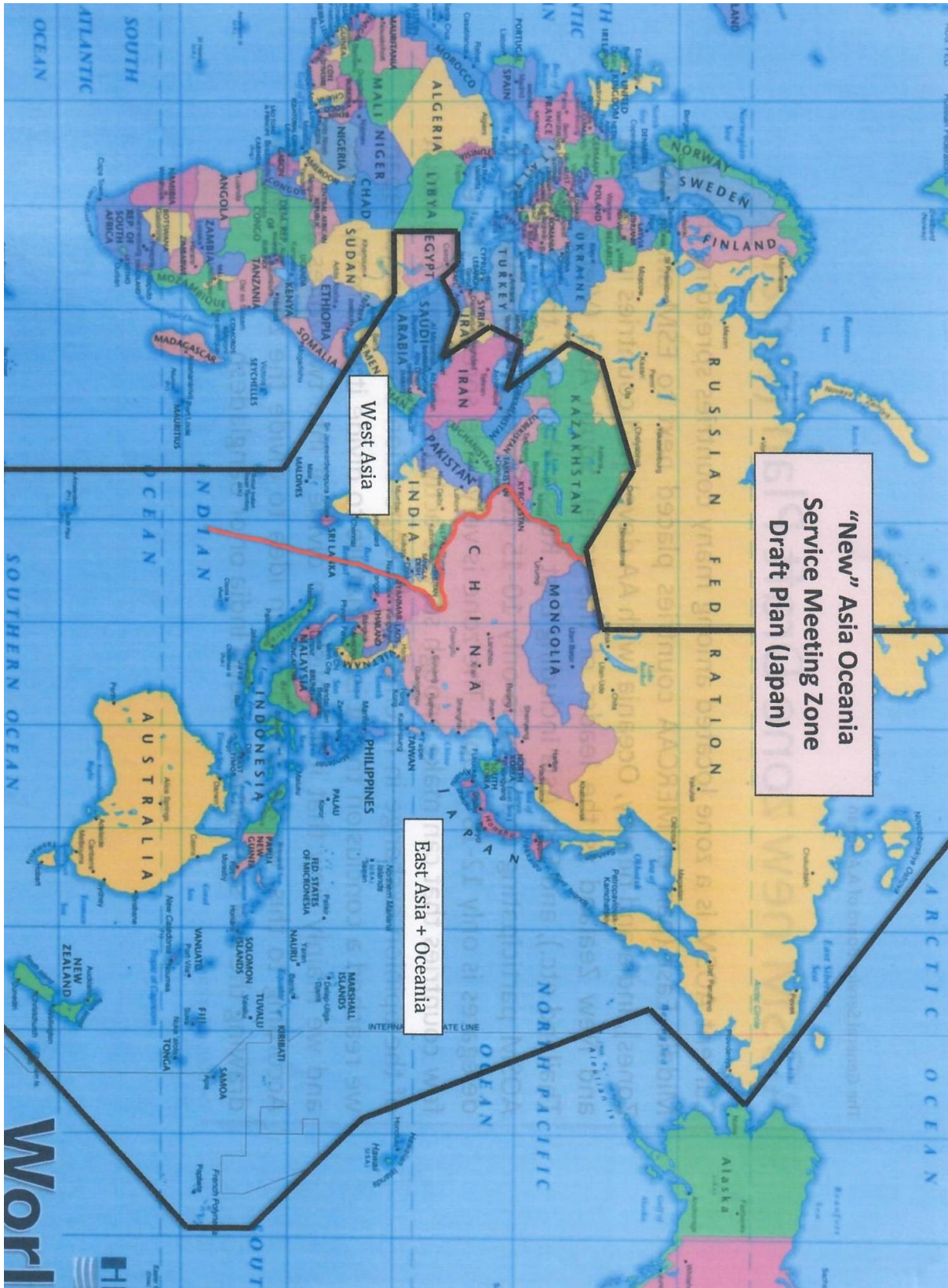
AOSM new zone Draft Plan (Japan)

The General Service Board of A.A. Japan

AOSM new zone Draft Plan (Japan)

Current AOSM is a zone located among many countries spreading through Middle East (part of MERCAA countries placed next to ESM and SSASM Zones), India and nearby, Oceania (with AA developed countries in Australia and New Zealand as the leader of this zone), South Asia (Vietnam and Thailand etc.), and East Asia Including East Russia. However, the number of AOSM participating countries is only 10-15 countries and the number of delegates is only 12-18 people. The zone is very wide spread but there are few countries that can make enough service activities in action. As a result of the opinion exchange in International Cooperation Committee of Japan, we reached a conclusion that it is premature to divide it in to many zones, and we mainly view that it is realistic to divide it into two zones at most. According to this, we are proposing an idea to divide the zone in two by drawing the line somewhere around India or or Bangladesh.

Yasuhiko Morita
2017/07/02



GOD grant me the
Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
Courage
to change the things I can and
Wisdom
to know the difference.

