

13TH

AOSM-



The Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous



Hong Kong



Improving Links with All Communities

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Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble

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

The only requirement of membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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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

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.

13TH AOSM AGENDA

11th July 2019 (Thursday)

- 3:00pm Registration & Coffee Reception
- Delegates' packs handed out on registration
- Money for registration collected by Host Committee (prepayment)
- 4:00-5:30pm Opening AOSM meeting (AOSM Chair)
- Open with moment of silence & serenity prayer
 - All recite AA's Responsibility Statement
 - Read AOSM statement of purpose
 - Welcome & housekeeping by Hong Kong Host Planning Committee (HPC)
 - AOSM participants introductions
 - Any apologies
- Orientation:** Meeting Procedure Review (AOSM Chair)
- Brief explanation of:
- Minority Voice
 - Third Legacy Proceedings for voting
 - Brief explanation of roles and responsibilities
 - Officers – Secretary, Treasurer, Chair
 - Delegates
 - Translators
 - Recording secretaries
 - Observers
- Over the next few days (AOSM Chair)**
- 5:30 - 6:00pm **Keynote Address** – Judy S

6:15pm Close with Declaration of Unity

6:30 - 7:30pm Red Ball Meeting for AOSM participants, with observers welcome to sit in.

7:30pm **Dinner (Own arrangements)**

12th July 2019 (Friday)

7:00 - 8:00am Daily Early Bird AA Meeting

9:00 - 10:40am

AOSM Delegate Roll Call

Chair's Report – Taken as read, *(3-mins highlights)*

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report (delivered by Roger S)

Introduction to each of the Committees including a brief update on their work since last AOSM
(5 minutes maximum)

- Policy, Admissions & Finance
- Website, Literature & Publishing
- Working with Others
- Agenda & Site Selection

10:40 - 11:00am

Coffee Break

11:00 - 1:00pm

Country Reports – will be taken as read but delegates will have three minutes to give highlights of their report, with an opportunity for questions.

1:00 – 2:00pm

Lunch

2.00 – 2.30pm **Round-table discussion on Japans proposed map changes - Chair**

2.30 – 3.40pm **Committee Meetings, Session I (of 3) Led by committee chairs**

- Review of scope & procedures
- Review of work completed since last AOSM
- Committees discuss their agendas

3:40 - 4:00pm **Coffee break**

4:00 - 6:00pm **WORKSHOP: Let us consider our AOSM: what is working? What can be improved upon? What is our purpose?**

Divided into 3 groups with chairs: Eva, David, & Doug

6:00 – 6:15 pm What's on your mind? Close with Responsibly Statement

6:30pm **Dinner at Hotel**

8:00pm Open AA Meeting – either at the hotel or attending a local meeting.

All welcome

13th July 2019 (Saturday)

7:00 - 8:00am Daily Early Bird Open AA meeting

9:00 - 9:15am Delegate Roll Call

9:15 - 9:45am World Service Meeting Report (taken as read)

Yashiki T(Japan) to present 15 minutes of highlights, followed by 15 minutes for discussion and questions.

9:45 – 10:40am **Presentation One** by Eva S. from GSO New York, on the role of the International Help Desk in Co-operating with the Professional Community and Public Information. (presentation 35 minutes, questions and discussion 20 minutes)

10:40 -11:00am **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30pm Committee meetings, Session 2 (of 3)

- Continue current work/agenda
- Formulate any motions to be presented

12:30-1:45pm **Lunch**

1:45 - 2:40pm **Presentation 2** by David Rosen representative (Publishing role in CPC/PI work)

Representative from GSO NY– 35 mins

Questions & discussion – 20 mins

2:40 – 3:00pm **Coffee break**

3.00 - 3.30pm Select a Delegate to present AOSM Zonal Report to WSM New York 2020
and the WSM report to AOSM 2021

3.30 - 4:45pm Final Committee meetings, Session 3 (of 3)

- Continue current work /agenda
- Complete motions to be presented tomorrow
- Complete and accept your committee report

5:30 – 5:45pm What's on your mind?

Close with the Toronto Declaration

7:00pm **Dinner**

Evening: Open AA meeting in hotel or local group

14th July 2019 (Sunday)

9:00- 9:15am Delegate Roll Call

9:15 –10:40am Workshops continued

10:40 –11:00am **Coffee break**

11:00 –12:30pm Discussion & Voting on Reports and Recommendations from Committees

- Policy, Admissions & Finance
- Website, Literature & Publishing
- Working with Others
- Site Selection & Agenda

12:30-1:30pm **Lunch**

1:30 – 3:30pm 13th AOSM General Business

- Workshop reports
- Review AOSM Guidelines

3:30-3:50pm **Coffee break**

3:50-4:30pm Elections:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

4:30-6pm

13th AOSM Closing Meeting

- Collection of AOSM Questionnaires
- Closing remarks by Host Committee
- Closing remarks by Delegates
- Closing remarks by incoming Chair
- Closing remarks by Chair

End of 14th AOSM, close with Serenity Prayer

7:30pm

13th AOSM Closing Dinner - hosted by Hong Kong Intergroup, with our thanks

DRAFT

Opening Session

James read the AOSM Statement of Purpose

Doug G. read: Just as the aim of each AA member is personal sobriety, so the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach to all who want it. If nobody did the groups chores, if the areas telephone rang unanswered, if we did not reply to our mail, then AA as we know it would stop. Our communication lines with those who need our help would be broken.

Page 120. Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age

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Roger spoke on the minority voice and the reasons of why we listen to it and how different to the world outside. How listening to the minority voice can sway thinking, end result is often much better because we can pause and consider the minority voice.

Eva Third Legacy Procedure, the third legacy procedure is used to choose AOSM Chair, It is a specialist 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.

Summary of roles

Heather spoke on the role of chairperson and that the role was to steer and not to star. She talked about the chair being informed and the need to keep things moving along, especially at the AOSM, where time is so limited. However, all sides of a discussion need to be heard, especially the minority voice.

James spoke on the role of secretary and how it was a link between delegates, the chair, committee chairs, organising committees, members and the still suffering alcoholic in our zone, who is seeking help. He spoke about the number of emails that came in between AOSM's from AA members travelling within the zone, looking for a meeting, the still suffering alcoholic looking for their first meeting, or first contact with an AA member and friends or potential friends of AA, looking for a meeting for a family member, friend, patient or client.

Tony, who is a past Australian World Service Delegate, who has attended two World Service Meetings and two AOSM's, spoke on the role of the delegate. He stressed that the important thing for delegated is that they are elected by their service structure, as they are a vital link between AOSM & their service structures. They need to be involved in Service and carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. They are responsible to come and learn, then report back to their countries on what is happening in the zone.

Translator, Takashi job to help delegate to understand the discussions taking place and to allow the delegate share, their experience strength and hope. They try to not only convey the words but the feeling behind the words. They are also involved in translating outside of the scheduled agenda.

Recording secretaries, record motions and decisions for AOSM Committees and keep accurate notes

Heather said that observers, play a role in helping to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic through good structures.

Heather thanked the host planning committee for the amazing work that they have done on the AOSM's behalf. She asked everyone to please be respectful of the planning committee and bring questions to her, as they have still have enough on their plate. Please respect fellow delegates and come prepared having read their reports. We will get tired so please use breaks wisely, and don't get over tired. Please put common welfare first and be seated on time. Remember that we are here representing our country with their views, but please keep an open mind and let us put AA first by using our steps, traditions and concepts.

Keynote Address

Improving Links with All our Communities

I'm Judy S., and I'm an alcoholic. I live in California, but I have both American and New Zealand citizenship, so I definitely feel a part of the Asia-Oceanic community. I am honoured to be with you today in Hong Kong.

In reflecting on our theme, "Improving Links with ALL our Communities," the word, "inclusive" came to my mind. I scrambled to various Internet sources for definitions and descriptions. Here is what resonated with me:

At its best, an inclusive community respects all members, gives them full access to resources, promotes equal treatment and opportunity, works to eliminate all forms of discrimination, values diversity, promotes flexible attitudes and practices, accepts individual and group differences, and engages all its members in decision-making processes. An inclusive group allows every individual to feel accepted, valued, and safe. An inclusive group consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members.¹

What I just read, in my view, are descriptions of *you* – fellow alcoholics at your best carrying the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering.

Some will say this description of inclusiveness is too idealistic; I don't know anyone, especially myself, who practices it perfectly or easily. And yet, I felt this spirit of inclusivity the first moment I walked through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous. At a time in my life when my colleagues, family, and friends wanted nothing to do with me, I received smiles, applause, and was told by countless people to "Keep Coming Back."

The question I'd like to explore today is this: How do I put into action what I've learned in AA so I can become someone who fosters – maybe even champions – inclusiveness in Alcoholics Anonymous?

I have a special coin in my possession. The coin is a treasure to me because it belonged to Frank P., the AA member who 12-stepped me in 1977 when we were working together in an aerospace company.

It was Frank who introduced me to the notion of inclusiveness. It seemed that whenever I was telling him about my latest crisis, someone would come up and interrupt us. To my great annoyance, Frank would draw them into our circle and include them in our discussion. My self-centeredness prevented me from seeing his inclusiveness as a virtue. Frank earned 45 years of sobriety, and after his death, his son gave me his 45-year chip.

¹ <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/search/node/inclusion>

On one side, this coin has the Serenity Prayer and on the other side it has the words, “Honesty, Open-mindedness, and Willingness – HOW.”

These three attributes point me toward exploring this question of how I can put inclusiveness into action.

First, let’s look at honesty. At the end of my drinking, my definition of the truth was “whatever I could get you to believe.” At my first AA meeting, I was shocked to hear men and women honestly share their feelings. It was the honesty I heard in the meetings kept me coming back.

One of the hardest actions I took in my first year was my 4th step inventory. Through writing, I was able to get a glimpse of how other AAs achieved self-honesty.

After more meetings, I heard another shocking statement, “It doesn’t matter what you think or how you feel, it matters how you act.”

After hearing my inventory, my sponsor suggested I go back to every person I had lied to – and “get back the lie.” If any of you have ever done this, you will know how humiliating it is – and what a deterrent it is to future lying.

Back to the question of how honesty relates to inclusiveness, I think it’s in part about peeling away the onionskin that insulates me from connection with my fellow human beings. I was attracted to the program by hearing other alcoholics share their stories candidly. In A.A, I found I didn’t need to impress you with my achievements – real or imagined. My actions in working the steps help me to be more transparent and to connect through honesty.

My home group is the 6:45 AM Fresh Air Meeting in Hermosa Beach, California. I was sober when the meeting started many years ago. We used to have 8-10 members and often had to pass the basket twice to make the rent. We never formed a steering committee. We were all just dropping in for an hour before going to work. Old-timers, such as my mentor, Frank, could be counted on to let us know if we were breaking any of the traditions.

In the last few years, this same meeting has grown rapidly. We now have 50-65 people attending daily.

After attending the AOSM in Mongolia in 2017, my thoughts of AA (which had been mostly focused on my home group) expanded to encompass the dimensions of a much broader AA highway. I learned group representation is key to connecting with the ever-growing and changing pulse of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is where open-mindedness, the second attribute of HOW, comes into play.

I returned from Mongolia in 2017 with renewed fervor. In my home group, I came to attention when our treasurer suggested we give a donation to the clubhouse where we held meetings. I searched the room for a long-timer who would point out which tradition that violated. I noticed I was one of the only long-timers in the room. I could no longer ignore the fact that my group had officers who had served in the same role for years, and we didn't have a General Service Representative (GSR) or Hospitals & Institutions (H. & I.) representative. My home group was doing a minimum toward improving links with all communities.

After much painful controversy, some raised voices, and a few people stomping out of the meeting, my home group agreed to form a steering committee.

As a long-timer in the meeting, I expected the other members to go along with all my ideas. My mind was set on the right way to proceed.

I've always considered best personality traits to be my decisiveness, my persuasiveness, and my "make it happen" actions. These traits helped me succeed in my career. My fellow AA members were not impressed.

I needed to open my mind to a new way of behaving in a group. I sent an emergency email to Heather H. in New Zealand, who had lots of experience in World Service. She explained to me what an "informed group conscience" was – and she pointed me to some pamphlets, such as *The AA Group*, which offers much AA experience about forming AA meetings and conducting group inventories.

Finally, I put my new information to use. During steering committee meetings, I learned to pause when agitated, to practice restraint of pen and tongue, and to reduce my expectations of the timeline that things could be accomplished. I learned I had to be patient when listening to minority opinions.

After five meetings, held over a year's time, our steering committee and our members agreed it wouldn't hurt to take a group inventory. We honestly looked at our strengths and weaknesses – and framing all discussion was our group's primary purpose – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In the end, our steering committee was discussing how we might look at ourselves as role models and behave accordingly. We talked about mentoring new group officers by giving them more information about AA's experience regarding their roles. Rotation of leadership was mentioned. Someone suggested conducting a workshop on the Traditions and Concepts of Service. We spoke about how we could make our physical meeting space more accessible to people who have disabilities. Many people brought up suggestions which foster inclusiveness. We now have an intention to extend our focus to a greater community of alcoholics through H. & I. and by electing a GSR. We have two AA panels, which go outside of our community – one panel goes to a women's shelter in Watts. The other one goes to what we call "skid row" in Los Angeles – a hub where there is a large population of homeless people, many of whom have problems with alcohol.

I think our little group has an experience of “an informed group conscience.” We started out with a lot of strife and we ended up practicing something like the definition of inclusiveness I read at the beginning of this talk.

And this brings me to the “W” in HOW – willingness. Of course, it’s easy for me to be inclusive toward people I like a lot – especially other alcoholics. The challenge for me is ask my Higher Power for the willingness to extend myself the same way to those outside my comfort zone.

Bill Wilson was constantly giving credit to the many professionals outside the fellowship, who have helped carry the message – doctors, judges, educators, therapists, social workers, community leaders, and religious leaders. I saw as these professionals as authority figures – and I had an excessive fear of them.

With help from my sponsor and other long-time members, I served as a volunteer for our company’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP). In those days, the company sent problem drinkers to hospitals to dry out. After that, I took them to AA meetings. Cooperating with professionals – in spite of my fear of almost all people outside AA – led me to be more useful. It also produced a positive side effect – it reduced my fear of people.

In the 1990s, I spent almost 10 years living and working in New Zealand. One of the men I worked with was married to a judge. In the course of a conversation, I casually mentioned to her that judges in California frequently “sentenced” people to attend a certain number of AA meetings if their crime had anything to do with alcohol. Some time later, she asked me if I could take her to a meeting. I was highly concerned about what she would think of us. While driving her home, she was full of praise for the honesty and for what she called “uncommon wisdom.” She started sending her “clients” to AA meetings. (By the way, years later she became a high court judge and after retirement served as a judge in the United Nations.) It is a credit to AA that this woman was so positively affected by attending one meeting.

I need to continue to be willing to communicate and cooperate with non-alcoholics who might just carry the AA message to more people than I could ever hope to reach.

On a personal level, I have to be willing to keep pace with the rapid changes in communication brought about by technology – No friend of mine. And yet, today I am sponsoring a Bhutanese woman through What’sApp – a little piece of technology I never heard of before my Bhutan trip. I guess the saying, “We have to let go of our old ideas,” is not just a one-time thing.

I can’t imagine how difficult it must have been for my Bhutanese AA friend to grasp the AA message and stay sober when the Big Book and other AA materials have not been translated in the Bhutanese native language, Dzongkha.

I am so grateful for the thousands of times I’ve heard in meetings the first part of Chapter Five, “How It Works.” It’s become an imprint in my mind. Something in those words calms me every time I hear it. I wonder how long I would have stayed sober without the Big Book, *The Twelve and Twelve, As Bill Sees It*, and the many pamphlets that had answers for my immediate questions as they came up for me in my journey of recovery.

I am in awe of the translators here today and of those who have helped translate AA literature into the languages spoken in so many countries. Without you, we couldn't be here together sharing our experience, strength and hope. We would have no chance to improve our links with communities.

Related to willingness and translation is the last experience I want to share with you.

During the AOSM in Mongolia, I celebrated my AA birthday. The meeting was kind enough to present me with a 40-year chip. After that moment, I went from a volunteer sitting on the sidelines to someone who felt for a few moments like a rock star. Then someone had an idea that I should share my story with the Mongolian women AA observers present.

And so, while the delegates were working away in their committees, I spent a few hours in the hotel storeroom with 18 or so Mongolian women. Here's the kicker. I went into the situation with the idea that I would be doing the talking. I was a little nervous and hoped I could keep them interested in my story.

But then, the words of my first AA sponsor came to my mind. "Forget yourself. Go into the room and ask your Higher Power to go before you and give you the words. This is not about you. This is about them."

The result was this: After speaking for about 10 minutes, I felt intuitively that I should stop and listen to *their* stories. I spent several precious hours – through the words of a gifted woman interpreter – listening. I heard stories of pain, struggles, hard work, and gratitude from women who suffered from the same disease that threatened to take me down. I felt so much love for these remarkable and sober women – and again it was the result of the gift of willingness that I was somehow given.

For me, being the most useful happens when I am living in the moment – in the now. In the moments when I am willing to put aside my self-centeredness, I am free. I understand the concept of inclusiveness and trust I can continue to make progress in practicing it. The simple H.O.W. on the coin I carry with me is a touchstone reminding me of my primary purpose. In my hand, and my heart, I hold the messages that hundreds of AAs have passed onto me through the decades.

Chair's report

Kia ora koutou katoa (greetings to you all).

Bill W. said in 1951, "By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified and through our Third Legacy – Service – we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this, I am happily confident." (Bill W. Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., November 1951.)

Our Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is all about service, and service is a spiritual gift.

However, I did not come to Alcoholics Anonymous to be of service – in fact I did not come here for sobriety either. I came for the troubles in my life to stop.

Luckily, in my early days I was told, "You can't sit on a 2-legged stool." I had to embrace the 3 sides of our AA triangle if I wanted to be sober. I was also told that being sober was not the same as being 'dry' and just going to meetings would not make me sober either.

I later learned the 3 sides of our triangle represented the 3 legacies of recovery, unity, and service, and these were vital to me if I wanted to be happy, joyous and free – which our Big Book promises us. Being a selfish, self-centred alkie of course I wanted that – I've always wanted more, and being happy sounded pretty good.

So, in those early days I just did as I was told: I emptied ashtrays, I stacked chairs, I hung up the banners, and I washed or dried the cups. No one told me this was the beginning of receiving spiritual gifts. I just did it as I was told it would keep me sober – if I was sober my troubles would stop.

At times, in those early days, service and the steps didn't seem a good deal. As I've already said, that was not what I wanted. What I wanted was for the trouble in my life to stop. Being sober did not seem to be a solution, for me drinking was my solution – not my problem. In early sobriety, I wasn't ready to hear these words:

"To serve AA is to live. We gladly accept our 3rd Legacy and may we guard it well and use it wisely. God grant that the Legacy of Service remain ever safe in our keep." (*The Language of the Heart*, Page 129.)

As I continued to work the steps and understand my primary purpose, I was ready to hear more: Bill W. said, in 1948, ". . .and may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at best, except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of AA that is carrying its message to the alcoholics who still suffer alcoholism." (*The Language of the Heart*, Tradition 5.)

AOSM is a forum for our countries to share our experience, strength, and hope about service. A solid service structure enables us to develop and offer our services more effectively, so many more suffering alcoholics, in more communities, can get 12-stepped into Alcoholics Anonymous. It's been my observation, when traveling, that AA in countries without good service structures, or those that have not embraced the indigenous people or languages, do not seem to grow.

Bill W. said, "Dear friends, since 1938, the greatest part of my AA life has been spent in helping to create, design, manage, and insure the solvency and effectiveness of AA's world services - the office of which has enabled our fellowship to function all over the globe, and as a unified whole.

It is no exaggeration to say that, under their trustees, these all-important services have accounted for much of our present size and over-all effectiveness.

This is the legacy of World Service responsibility that we vanishing old-timers are leaving to you and the AAs of today and tomorrow. We know that you will guard, support, and cherish this world legacy as the greatest collective responsibility in AA has or ever can have." (*As Bill sees it*, "I am responsible" Page 332.)

In Dubai we considered how best to work together. The number one thing that came through from delegates was to respond to emails promptly. Nevertheless, we can say things like this again and again, but what we need is to pass this -and other such ideas or decisions - onto future delegates. At every AOSM about half the delegates are there for the first time – how do they get to know previous delegates’ recommendations, experience, strength and hope? Some countries attend very few of our meetings. I’m sure good service structures will help ensure that they’re kept in the loop – not just when one person encourages them to attend. All members need to be informed about AA outside their homegroup – or language.

Four years ago, delegates recommended that our 2017 AOSM workshops be replaced with an inventory - the topic, “Are ‘we’ fulfilling our primary purpose?” while last year (2018) delegates considered a questionnaire about AOSM, and at this meeting we are continuing with a similar theme – is anything wrong? If so, how can we fix it?

How best can we pass on our ideas about how we should act as trusted servants of both our country and AOSM? Topics like this will be addressed in our workshop. We won’t solve all our issues here in Hong Kong, but AOSM will need to ensure these conversations are continued at the 14th AOSM. As our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, says, we aim for progress not perfection – for me that’s in my personal life, my country’s service structure and here at AOSM. That’s not always easy for an impatient person like me – I want it done now, if not yesterday, but our AA wheels turn slowly. This ensures we are less likely to make mistakes and more likely to create structures, services, roles and literature that help us carry this message.

At every international service meeting I’ve been reminded that the work happens between the meetings - not just in New York, Dubai, Ulaanbaatar or Hong Kong – and for me, the ‘work’ is what I do within my country’s service structure and in my home group, taking what I’ve learnt in this service meeting and putting it into practice. AOSM of course cannot commit a country, or delegate, to take a particular action. I’m so lucky to come from a country with a strong service structure and good examples of how to be a good General Service Representative (GSR), or delegate. For an example I well remember, in my early sobriety, hearing a GSR (who later became a World Service Delegate) reading his report to his homegroup. It was so clear and helpful I took a copy home and thought, “If I ever become one of them, I will write a report too.” And I have.

For me the most important word in our title is SERVICE, reminding us all 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 by serving. The results are up to my Higher Power. In sobriety I’ve always had to act my way well – I suspect that’s why our textbook has a chapter entitled, “Into Action,” and not “Into Thinking.”

More from Bill W: “Let us make our services respectable; let us rank them in importance with the Twelve Steps of Recovery and the Twelve Principles of AA Tradition. Let us forget our fear of over organization; let us remember that AA as a whole cannot be organized; but that we must so organize and support our special services that AA can function. Let us forget our early fears of professionalism, of the accumulation of wealth, of government. Experience, now fortified by our Tradition, has already assured us none of these evils are likely to descend upon us.

Above all, let’s change our old attitudes about money. Collectively, AA members earn an enormous income because of their sobriety, it’s a one half a billion-dollar bonanza each year. Can we not wisely, gratefully and humbly reinvest a tiny fraction of this vast sum in those vital services

that make AA tick? I think we can, and I think we shall. For in our own lives we have seen sobriety produce money, and in our AA services we have seen a little money produce incalculable spiritual dividends. Let's think this all through again.” (Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., November 1951. Reprinted with permission.)

In Atlanta (2015), during the International World Convention Atlanta, I heard a discussion about the group conscience. The question raised was - “Is your group, are each of you, well-informed, un-informed, or mis-informed?” It struck a chord with me and this is why our AA wheels at AOSM grind slowly – we need time to not only get well-informed, but to ensure we are all on the same page, that we have a substantial majority in any group conscience.

Finally, thanks to the Hong Kong host planning committee (HPC) for their hard work. Let’s all support them as best we can. If you have suggestions, concerns or issues, it may be wise to run them by James or me. The committee has enough on its plate!

Over these next few days we are blessed with the opportunity to carry the message and our service structures/experience to fellow member-countries. For many, just getting here has been a struggle for the country, and even some larger countries are not yet self-supporting. I’m sure your experience will help them, and others, as we try, continuously, to improve our structures and so enable 12-step work to happen.

Remember, my role as the Chair is, to be an ‘active guardian’, not to star, but to steer this AOSM ship through these next few days, making sure we keep to time and ensure our agenda items are attended to.

Thank you for the privilege of asking me to serve as Chair of AOSM 2017-2019.

Heather Hapeta, AOSM Chair 2017/19

Secretary's Report

Greetings friends

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final report as AOSM secretary, emotions that I have felt with all of the service positions that I have held above group level. There is a sadness that this is coming to an end for me and the fact that I will not get to attend any future AOSM's. However, the future work that the AOSM will undertake on behalf of the still suffering alcoholic, in our zone, can involve any and every member of the fellowship, provided we plan well and communicate effectively.

There is also a sense of, for want of a better word, relief. Relief that my time as secretary is coming to an end, as four years is a long haul and it is time for new enthusiasm and passion to come into the role. Bill and Dr Bob were certainly visionary regarding the need for rotation in our service positions. My ego tells me, that, given one more AOSM I could really make a difference, but my program tells me, that given one more AOSM and you would never get me out of the position, as I would think it was mine for life.

I would like to thank Heather for her support and encouragement since being elected as chair, in Mongolia. She has always been there for whatever difficulty has arisen along the way and there are quite a number of them for the secretary.

I would also like to thank the delegates that have really taken their roles as AOSM Delegates, seriously. It makes the secretaries role so much easier, when emails are answered promptly and feedback or information is sent in, when it is asked for. Please remember this for the incoming secretary, as it is a much more difficult and time-consuming role than I had imagined and you delegates, who will be attending the 2021 AOSM, can really make the new secretaries' role so much easier.

Communication seems to be a major issue for the AOSM, so many emails go unanswered by a significant number of delegates and timelines are also not adhered to by many. The newsletter is a good example of this. Hopefully some of you noticed that I did not put this out a few months back, this was due to no content being sent to me by delegates. In discussion with Heather, it was felt that it was best not to send one out, rather than us search for content to fill it up, when this is not our role.

Unfortunately, no one has appeared to notice that the newsletter was not sent out, which was very disappointing. I think we always need to remember what Bill said in the pamphlet, AA's Legacy of Service, *"Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A."*

Having said that, there has been much good work going on in the zone, regarding carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We receive many requests from around the region via our website, not only from the still suffering alcoholic but also the member who is travelling or relocating and potential friends of AA. We also receive a significant number of requests for information from groups, as well as individuals.

Whenever I have sent a request out asking for help with one of these requests, the response has always been very rapid. It seems that when we can actually see that the work is on behalf of an individual who needs assistance, we really are a society of alcoholics in action.

Through these requests and the efforts of the Working With Others Committee, we now have, what I believe to be the most comprehensive list of countries where AA activity is taking place within the zone that the AOSM has had. Whether that activity be a loner on an isolated island or a small group trying to gain a foot hold in a local community.

From my vantage point, I can see that there is still much work to be done by and within the AOSM, but I believe that this is a very exciting and still a pioneering time for this service entity, and I am not sure any of us fully realise, how privileged we are to be a part of these times.

Those of us from established fellowships, I think, owe those fledgling fellowships, in much the same way the families who have been relieved owes something to those who have not, as Bill described in "The Family Afterwards." We owe them all the help that we can offer, in much the same way, I am sure, that our respective countries founders were offered help by those on a more solid footing.

Again, like Bill said in the Chapter to Wives, *"we may have seemed to lecture. If that is so we are sorry, for we ourselves don't always care for people who lecture us."* I hope that this secretaries report does not come across as severe criticism or a lecture. I just know that we are all very passionate about carrying the message to those who do not yet know that there is a way out and I have seen that passion at every AOSM that I have attended, as a delegate and as secretary. Yet somehow, all of us seem to let that immense spiritual energy that we experience, wane, between AOSM's.

I see many things which in hindsight, I could have done better as your secretary and wish I had. However, as Bill also said, *"we did not always come closer to wisdom by reason of our virtues; our better understanding is often rooted in the pains of our former follies. Because this has been the essence of our individual experience, it is also the essence of our experience as a fellowship."*

We have been entrusted by God with a monumental task, especially when you consider that our zone encompasses a third of the globe and a third of the world's population, with six of the world's ten most populous countries within its borders. However, it is no more monumental than any founder or early member faced in their own countries. Let alone the language and cultural barriers that we face.

I think our desire and ability to communicate between AOSM's is vital to our effectiveness and as Bill said many decades ago, *"Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we used this colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination."*

I would sincerely like to wish you all well in your service within and outside of the AOSM and also on our road to happy destiny, it has been a great privilege and honour to serve alongside you and for you.

James Neylon

AOSM Secretary

Treasure's report covering August 2017 ~ June 2019

Details

Transaction Date	Details	Particulars	Code	Reference	in	out	Balance
09 Apr 2019	James Neylon	Secretary	Hk	James Neylon		- \$1,870.00	\$9,885.37
08 Apr 2019	James Neylon	Accomodation	Hk July 2019	James Neylon		- \$1,199.00	\$11,755.37
08 Apr 2019	Accommodatio	Heather	Hk July 2019			- \$1,061.00	\$12,954.37
28 Feb 2019	Credit Interest Paid				\$6.79		\$14,015.37
13 Feb 2019	Refer: 19021	30045321179	Ph0800863863		\$177.63		\$14,008.58
04 Feb 2019	Nzgso	Refund	Sponser Don			- \$500.00	\$13,830.95
20 Dec 2018	Gen Serv Office	Nzgso Of Aa	Donation 500	Del Don 1000	\$1,500.00		\$14,330.95
19 Dec 2018	Npo Aa Japan General	Refer: 18121	90137921179	Ph0800863863	\$1,249.24		\$12,830.95
06 Dec 2018	Heather Y Hapeta	Heather	Flights			- \$1,922.70	\$11,581.71
19 Nov 2018	Pip Total It Solutio	Im0001304003	lb lmt	Aud		- \$119.26	\$13,504.41
19 Nov 2018	Bank Charge	IM0001304003	IB IMT	001600		- \$9.00	\$13,623.67
31 Aug 2018	Credit Interest Paid				\$5.30		\$13,632.67
18 Jul 2018	Mr Mark William Sale	Refer: 18071	80031711179	Ph0800863863	\$4,130.00		\$13,627.37
28 Feb 2018	Credit Interest Paid				\$4.60		\$9,497.37
12 Dec 2017	Pip Total It Solutio	Im0000986127	lb lmt	Aud		- \$121.97	\$9,492.77
12 Dec 2017	Bank Charge	IM0000986127	IB IMT	001600		- \$26.56	\$9,614.74
12 Dec 2017	Bank Charge	IM0000986127	IB IMT	001650		- \$9.00	\$9,641.30
17 Oct 2017	Npo Aa Japan General	Refer: 17101	70020871179	Ph0800863863	\$1,189.97		\$9,650.30
31 Aug 2017	Credit Interest Paid				\$3.64		\$8,460.33
15 Aug 2017	General Service Boar	Refer: 17081	50067941179	Ph0800863863	\$2,063.60		\$8,456.69
09 Aug 2017	Vj & Js Neylon	Donations		James Neylon	\$572.00		\$6,393.09
21 Jul 2017	Santanu Biswas	Im0000874011	lb lmt	Aed		- \$665.15	\$5,821.09
21 Jul 2017	Bank Charge	IM0000874011	IB IMT	001650		- \$18.00	\$6,486.24
07 Jul 2017	Mrs Ann De Villiers	Refer: 17070	70098091179	Ph0800863863	\$2,213.50		\$6,504.24
01 Jul 2017	Js & Vj Neylon	James Neylon	Secretary	Mongolia		- \$1,549.00	\$4,290.74
						Opening Balance	5,839.74
					totals	\$13,116.27	-\$9,070.64

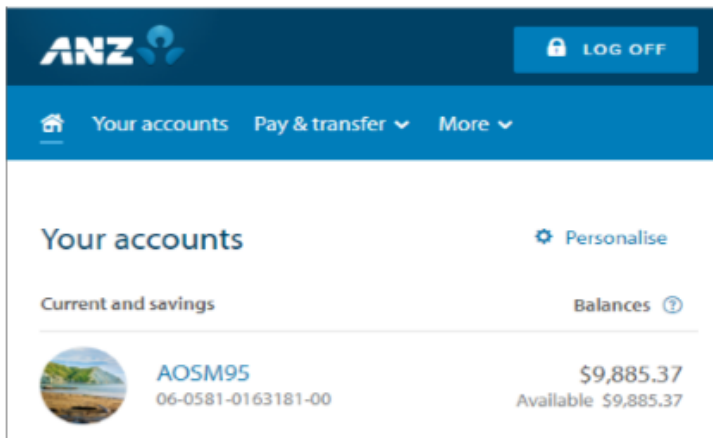
DRAFT

New Zealand & US summary by Items

Treasurer's Report					
Financial Statement Summary					
Treasurer's Report covering August 2017 - June 2019					
7th June 2019	Exchange rate at the time of writing this report			0.6895	
		New Zealand \$\$		USA \$\$	
		SUM of in	SUM of out	Income	Expenses
Accommodation			-1,061.00		-731.56
Bank Charge			-62.56		-43.14
Credit Interest Paid	20.33			14.02	
Gen Serv Office	1,500.00			1,034.25	
General Service Boar	2,063.60			1,422.85	
Heather Y Hapeta			-1,922.70		-1,325.70
James Neylon			-3,069.00		-2,116.08
Js & Vj Neylon			-1,549.00		-1,068.04
Mr Mark William Sale	4,130.00			2,847.64	
Mrs Ann De Villiers	2,213.50			1,526.21	
Npo Aa Japan General	2,439.21			1,681.84	
Nzgsa			-500.00		-344.75
Pip Total It Solutio			-241.23		-166.33
Refer: 19021	177.63			122.48	
Santanu Biswas			-665.15		-458.62
Vj & Js Neylon	572.00			394.39	0.00
Grand Total	13,116.27		-9,070.64	9,043.67	-6,254.21

New Zealand \$\$	
Opening balance	\$5,839.74
Plus Income	\$13,116.27
Sub Total =	\$18,956.01
Less Expenses	-\$9,070.64
Current Balance =	\$9,885.37
Bank Statement	\$9,885.37 attached

Bank Screen Shot



Regards

David Gee
AOSM Treasurer

**The G.S.O. International Desk – The Role of the International Desk
and Cooperating with the Professional Community/Public Information.**

Eva Sanchez, International, G.S.O. U.S./Canada

Good morning, my name is Eva and I am an alcoholic. On behalf of our General Service Office U.S./Canada and our Boards, we wish to extend our deepest appreciation for your service. This includes my staff colleagues at G.S.O. in New York who also join in sending their A.A. love and gratitude for all that you do in service helping others find our message of hope and recovery from alcoholism. While what we do at G.S.O. is not Twelve Step service – hopefully something we do helps facilitate Twelve Step opportunities for you and your groups.

Thank you for inviting David Rosen and I to be here for your 13th Asia-Oceania Zonal Meeting. Wherever we land, it is always a privilege and pleasure to be amongst A.A.'s trusted servants. We learn and we grow through your experience. I know it takes several volunteers and hard work behind the scenes to organize a zonal meeting. I commend Heather and James for their gentle manner and for their shining example of organization and gracious hospitality. Thank you.

In the forward to the Third Edition of our Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* it reads: "In spite of the great increase in the size and the span of this Fellowship, at its core it remains simple and personal. Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when on alcoholic talks with another alcoholic; sharing experience, strength and hope." I am grateful that we are a Fellowship that is "into action." Had it not been for another alcoholic and the altruistic spirit of a local C.P.C. committee and local central office in the community where I got Twelve-stepped, it is unlikely that I would be here today.

It has been said that each of you is a leader in Alcoholics Anonymous. This is true. Although at the moment, I prefer to describe you as the "giants" of A.A. Today I am truly living in the "land of giants!" Regardless of how many groups, members, years, with or without a structure or emerging structure - the sacrifices you make in service are many, and the challenges and circumstances you face at times can be overwhelming and discouraging. We may be separated by country, language, culture or distance but we all have something in common – alcoholism and a way to live sober with love and understanding. When we begin our journey in service eventually we become open. Open to the opportunities to hear and share with each other the challenges, disappointments, solutions, successes, and miracles we experience. Whether on the mountain top or in the valley - that "sense of purpose" in us preserves and keeps lighting the way. The principles have not changed and each of us remains a small part of a greater whole.

I was recently in South Africa for the sub-Saharan zonal meeting – and I was awestruck of the multi-faceted challenges faced in some of the countries. Once again, I am reminded that A.A. worldwide is extraordinary, unbelievably persistent, and abundant with kind, generous, caring gestures to help others. The doors of A.A. are so very wide and the commitment to make A.A. accessible to all is truly inspiring and humbling.

Some of us alcoholics have had the propensity to compare ourselves to others and here is what my first sponsor would say, "Snap out of it!" Regardless of how many hundreds or few groups, members, years, solid structure or no structure, having a wobbly structure in your country - you

are not alone. A.A. is all encompassing, and you are very much an equal part of the greater whole. Being the pioneers in A.A. is a good thing and it is A.A. history in the making!

I have been asked to share on the role of our International Assignment at G.S.O., Cooperation with the Professional Community and Public Information. Some of you are very familiar with our General Service Office in New York, its history and role. However, I thought I would take a moment to share a little about G.S.O. for those who may not be familiar. Consider this an “internal” P.I. effort to clarify what G.S.O. New York is and some of what G.S.O. is not.

G.S.O. in New York dates back many decades to the late 1930's. As our history reflects, the modest office first opened with just two employees, Bill and his secretary non-alcoholic Ruth Hock. Those first years as described in our literature were filled with “lessons learned, problems solved, principles slowly formulated – all forged in the heat of actual experience, all beaten out of the anvil of pain, discouragement, dissension, and sometimes despair.” Eventually these “learned lessons” were distilled and codified into what we know today as our Twelve Traditions.

We are sometimes referred to as the “headquarters of A.A.” or better yet, “the mother ship,” but nothing could be further the truth. G.S.O. is not a central authority or a governing body. We house the repository of A.A. history, which includes an extensive pool of A.A. experience that we can share with members and groups that write to us for guidance with local problems, challenges and concerns. We have learned some hard-won lessons regarding local matters and we avoid taking sides or expressing personal opinions. As a matter of fact, in the 1980's the group conscience of A.A. for the U.S. and Canada was very wise, and recommended that local matters be referred to the areas – the area delegate. Today there are many countries that have long-established national G.S.O./Service Offices and more often, the International desk refers members/groups/committees to their national office. The link that gets established and your collective country A.A. experience is a treasure and a gift to share with others. It becomes your country's history and A.A.'s as a whole.

While the workload at our G.S.O. has greatly increased, so too have the number of “special workers” in our office to provide uninterrupted services. Today we have over seven departments and 95 employees. Eleven of our employees are known as “Staff Members” and must be A.A. members to fill these positions. I am one of these. Staff members coordinate the work of the service assignments and interface *directly* with the Fellowship. The service assignments are Corrections, C.P.C./Treatment, Public Information, General Service Conference, Group Services, Literature, Communications Services, International, Regional Forums, International Convention, Nominating, and our newest, which is Accessibilities. Staff are assigned to one of eight regions in the U.S./Canada and respond to correspondence received from groups, members, committees in the region assigned. Staff members are a valuable resource and can draw from the extensive pool of A.A. experience spanning over many decades. The exposure to A.A. experience near and far, current and past, that the staff members has is extraordinary.

This leads me to my current “G.S.O. Staff member” role on the International assignment. Inquiries from outside the U.S. and Canada, whether by phone, email, postal mail, or visitors to the office are welcomed by the staff member on the International desk. Naturally many of the communications directed to the International desk pertain to translations of A.A.W.S. publications and those are referred to our publishing director, David Rosen who shared with you earlier today.

Now a little more about the International assignment. Aside from coordinating the World Service Meeting that takes place every two years, I also serve as the secretary to the trustees' International

Committee that meets quarterly. The International assignment also has a role in maintaining the International Directory. Your assistance in providing current information for our records is important and always welcome. The staff member on the International desk is also the point person for other country G.S.O.s. The International staff member attends the existing four zonal meetings and with the other staff is a voting member of the General Service Conference, U.S./Canada.

Today most of the correspondence we receive is via email. The international desk responds to each email in the language it is written, using professional translators. Typically, email is answered in the order it is received and we strive 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 monthly about a thousand emails, calls and the occasional postal letter.

I am often in contact with lone members who are looking for support and sharing on how to start an A.A. meeting at their location as well as members in countries where groups are developing and the need for organizing services and literature is also emerging.

My 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 help A.A. get started at their location in a country. We also file pertinent correspondence in these files. Files are also maintained on zonal meetings, and international trips for events that staff and board members attend upon invitation.

References throughout our A.A. literature emphasizes the importance of our relationships and interaction with professionals. Our Fellowship might not exist were it not for the support of our professional friends.

As A.A. grew, our structure developed and in the mid-1950's. The Public Information Committee (P.I.) of our 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 committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.). While these committees are separate at the Board and Conference level in our structure, at the district and area levels sometimes they are combined.

We are fortunate to have our A.A. Traditions to guide us in C.P.C. and P.I. work as they are vital to our future. Whenever possible, we help educate our "friends of A.A." about our Traditions and why they are necessary and important to us. Understanding the principles embedded in our Twelve Traditions and Concepts safeguards our integrity in our work with the public and professionals. And most important is sharing information about A.A. – what A.A. is and what it is not. This is ongoing.

Over the years, our Conference has developed literature that has proven to be useful in helping professionals understand A.A. We have also developed literature that helps members learn about our spiritual guideposts - A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, which offer practical suggestions on how we can cooperate and inform professionals about A.A. We have collated this into services kits that includes a workbook, which provides a wide array of details to help C.P.C. and P.I. committees to carry out this most important work.

Today our website www.aa.org is a major resource for A.A. members involved in C.P.C. and P.I. service.

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 our site.

We are delighted to share resources and experience, strength, and hope from the U.S./Canada. However, *please note* that our service materials were developed for use in the U.S. and Canada and reflect the A.A. experience collected from groups, members and committee in the U.S. and Canada. Some of it may not be applicable or appropriate for your country, language, culture. Often these are best used as inspiration to develop materials suited for your country's needs.

Our General Service Office receives requests from professionals to share 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. 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). About two years ago we welcomed two visitors from the medical community in Siberia to provide information about A.A. This visit was in response to our U.S. State Department who contacted us because the doctors had requested it. This is not unusual and we always welcome these opportunities to cooperate and provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous – what it is and what it is not.

Another aspect of C.P.C./P.I. is rotation and “passing it on to others.” We have the practice of sharing experience both in writing as well as face-to-face with our staff successors at G.S.O. so that important contacts and information about relationships with professionals, media etc. are not lost. Staff prepare rotation notebooks that contain detailed information for their 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.

In our A.A. literature, Bill often mentions our “Friends of A.A.” and our publications are a great resource to learn about these individuals: Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignacia, Dr. Tiebot, Sam Shoemaker, Bernard Smith, to name a few.

Twenty years ago, a letter landed in the inbox on the International desk at our G.S.O. In those days we would get dozens of requests from individuals (not alcoholics) requesting, pencils, notebooks, t-shirts, etc. It was quite clear that we had been placed on a list of charitable organizations that had been widely circulated in many countries. One of the letters we received was not the ordinary letter, it was from a German doctor working in Ghana who was planning a trip to the U.S. and wanted to visit G.S.O. in New York to learn more about A.A. She explained that many of her patients were critically ill because of their alcoholism. She visited G.S.O. and we spent time with her sharing A.A. information and answering many questions. She also shared on the need for Twi language literature especially the Big Book. We stayed in contact and provided literature.

It is now 2019 and a sober alcoholic attends the Sub-Saharan Africa zonal meeting in Johannesburg representing Ghana as the delegate. During the meeting he shares that because of this specific doctor, he found our life-saving message of hope and recovery several years ago in Ghana!

Today there are many “Dr. Silkworth’s” in the world and stories such as this. I hope you will find many Dr. Silkworths in your country as you and your committees’ journey in service. We owe a debt of gratitude to them, our dear “friends of A.A.”

In closing I want to share something that our co-founder Bill W. wrote in 1964 in a letter to a member who appeared to be somewhat rigid and dogmatic. While it may not be related to the topic of this presentation, I thought it to be one of many A.A. gems:

“Most of us alcoholics are apt to be ‘all or nothing’ people. We go to extremes. Either we want ‘perfection by Thursday next’ or else we want only the barest bit of A.A. that will keep us sober. Experience seems to show that we can go broke on spiritual pride or on unreasonable rebellion, or just plain apathy. A plain, every day desire to make some progress is usually the best and safest bet.

Bill closes his letter by saying,

“However, don’t take what I say as the gospel. You – and everybody – have the right to practice A.A. as you wish. This is spiritual freedom.”

Thank you for all that your home groups, committees, local offices and you do in service – helping others and for keeping the doors wide open and accessible to all alcoholics.

Publishing's role in CPC & PI work

(David Rosen AAWS to be added)

DRAFT

Working With Others Committee

Working With Others Committee: Jay (2nd Term Delegate Thailand), Dane (1st Term Delegate Singapore), Ali (First Term Delegate Iran), Brian (First Term Delegate Australia) and Pip (First Term Delegate Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Notes Secretary: Barrett (Observer China)

Apologies: None

Opened with Serenity Prayer

Review of scope & procedures:

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

- Scope: So that we can concentrate on working outward rather than inward, we agreed to work with the scope as it is but would think about how it fits as we progress,
- Procedures: We talked about meeting in between AOSMs using WhatsApp.

Review of work completed since last AOSM:

- Jay's report gave an excellent overview of these
- We discussed maintaining and perhaps developing the list of countries developed since the last AOSM.

Election of new chair and alternate

- Jay is rotating off as Chair of the Working With Others Committee - we thank him for his service
- Pip was elected Chair, Dane as Co-Chair. (Dane is Alternate Chair)

Agenda items

1. Should we be doing projects in between AOSM's?

We decided that instead of trying to work on big projects we would take a more agile approach. Each Delegate took responsibility for small projects in their area:

- Aotearoa and Australia will reach out to Pacific
- Singapore will reach out to Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia/Bali and Philippines
- Iran will stay in touch with committee with questions from their Board

A WhatsApp group was formed to stay in touch.

We will meet in two months to see how everyone is going and check to see if any new work is needed. Meetings after this will be every four months.

2. Can we find out the process for 'asking for help' from the Boards

Delegate from Australia suggested we get a sense of processes different Boards have for asking for Country-to-Country and Financial Sponsorship. How do countries 'ask for help'?

- Pip will take responsibility for finding this out how and who to contact if a country is wanting help, in consultation with Brian.

3. List of contacts for countries in AOSM zone

- We will work to maintain and develop the contact list produced since the last AOSM
- We will work with the AOSM Secretary and Chair and ask them to send an email of invitation as they did this year
- We will look at other uses for the list, possibly as outreach.

4. What we can do for the groups that are here asking for help

We became aware that there were several countries asking for help and spend some time speaking with the Delegate from Iran about what they might need.

Delegate from Iran was asked what Working With Others Committee could do to help Iran

Delegate said because of the AOSM he has hope and now feels like he has someone to ask.

There was a discussion about Conventions Delegates shared how they used Conventions as outreach to Professionals. Guidelines and links to GSO material were shared over WhatsApp.

- Out of this conversation we decided it might be good to contact Germany, Mexico and Colombia and talk to them about Country-to-Country and Financial Sponsorship
- We discussed possibly recording these conversations (audio or video) and building a collection of recordings that could perhaps be used as resources for members of the AOSM.

5. Tangible outcomes from AOSM

In light of the importance of taking back tangible outcomes from AOSM, we discussed some of the outcomes of this AOSM.

- One example of this is that three countries with similar challenges were hoping to meet to discuss ways of attracting women, young, people and locals to AA.

6. Format for committee meeting at next AOSM

We will discuss this throughout the year but one suggestion was to trial dedicating at least some of the time of the meeting to a 'workshop' type format, where shared experience strength and hope in response to questions raised by the AOSM - similar to the workshops we had today. We would record some of this and return this session as part of our report.

7. The Pacific

In the past responsibility for support in the Pacific was divided between Australia and Aotearoa. We decided to go back to this division. James is looking for the original split in the AOSM minutes.

Obviously, countries are free to contact whoever they want for help but it seemed like a good idea to have a general idea so there was no crossover.

8. Contact with AOSM between meetings

Delegate from Singapore has set up a AOSM WhatsApp group. We will use this between meetings to keep members of AOSM engaged and to ensure there is a forum for anyone needing support or wanting to ask questions.

9. Next meeting

The AOSM Working With Others Committee will next meet:

- Sunday September 15th - 3pm Singapore time in our WhatsApp group
-

A reminder will be sent out for the meeting.

10. General Discussion

The final half hour of the meeting was spent in general discussion in response to questions raised by Delegates concerning challenges in their countries. Topics included:

- Conventions, Roundups and PI events
- Success stories and experience in reaching prisons administrators, pastors, lawyers, therapists, doctors and dentist

Closed with Responsibility Declaration

Appendix

From 'AOSM Committees Composition, Scope and Procedures'

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

PROCEDURE:

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

From the 2005 AOSM in Australia the committee approved the following agenda:

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

Website, Literature, and Publishing Committee

Attendees:

Roger S.

Rogers.wsd@gmail.com Chair; 2nd Term Delegate New Zealand

Uliana M.

Umayorova72@mail.ru 1st Term Delegate Russia

Ganzorig B.

Zo.misheel@yahoo.com 1st Term Delegate Mongolia

Alex L.

Alexli09@gmail.com 2nd Term Delegate Hong Kong

Gain understanding of what the Committee does for the benefit of 1st Term Delegates.

To provide a forum to discuss literature, translations, etc., (Chair read Statement of Committee's purpose)

This Committee at the 2017 AOSM reviewed scope and procedures and made some minor changes.

The Scope of the Committee is endorsed at this meeting as follows;

The purpose and function of this Committee is to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and views related to the following; the AOSM website (<http://www.aosm-aa.org/>), 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.

Work completed since last AOSM. Apart from seeking feedback from the last AOSM Committee Members & the Webmaster, no action taken.

Website - <http://www.aosm-aa.org/>

Make up of website — have a member's only section?

Include all GSO's links — also recommended from last AOSM.

Create a link to New York website; www.aa.org.

Link to access all country reports or always have the last ones up.

General service addresses and contact info in each member country ie where permanent addresses exist.

Where possible Event details available e.g. Conventions/Forums/Round Ups etc within AOSM.

Website should facilitate Delegates sharing information among themselves. Webmaster's feedback noted this last intention was an original goal of setting up the website. He also noted that the actual use/activity on the AOSM website is very low although our AOSM Secretary does report that his Email link there does get used. Noted that at the last AOSM we resolved to remove the password protection to "improve access/use". Although this was implemented site visits are negligible.

He emphasised that the real work of AOSM should be done in the 2 years between meetings rather than just at AOSM's.

General discussion;

It's good to have a convenient single place to have relevant info. However, the AOSM website is static. There's value in having more updates. This would keep site relevant as a "go to place".

Dated content, such as past country reports, could be archived. The cost of keeping this information archived should be very low.

Some website information was different than printed material. As an example, the guidelines for AOSM Delegates and registration form are not consistent.

<http://www.aa.org/> New York website presents too much information ie overload to be helpful to AOSM delegates. ie some licensing info was sought but buried in a picture form

While the Webmaster questioned whether we need an AOSM website at all because of its lack of use we consider it's up to us to put a protocol in place that ensures the site is useful, used & a repository of material that can be freely looked up. This would assist in more timely info requested by the Webmaster as well.

Recommendations to AOSM;
Website Priorities:

Create a protocol or process to implement updates that results in giving the Webmaster timelier information.

Therefore, this Committee recommends the adoption of the following:

That the Committee Chairperson should communicate updates (pending AOSM approval) to the Webmaster within 30 days following each AOSM. Note this includes all website recommendations presented at each AOSM as well as agreed content between AOSM's.

Literature and Publishing

What can AOSM do to facilitate exchange or availability of AA materials to member countries? Can be too hard to order literature from <http://www.aa.org/> for AA members in “emerging AA communities”.

Continue receiving information from AAWS representatives — through live presentation at AOSMs or through other communication media— on literature, translation and licensing. Work with Agenda Committee to achieve this important aspect of hearing 1st hand from key Staff Members from AAWS, New York at each AOSM.

Encourage sharing experience on translation process at future AOSM meetings. Lessons learned. How the translation team works together. Flow chart process. (Could AAWS create flow chart?). This region has more languages than any other zone.

Many countries in this Zone are in their infancy with AA. Emphasise how the process might begin on a basic level, such as with translating the first part of “How it Works,” from the Big Book.

Recommendation for AOSM approval:

That each AOSM Standing Committee have available to them the appropriate app (phone or appropriate device) to translate into the languages of the relevant Committee members.

This is one-way AOSM can overcome a major communication obstacle.

Roger nominated Uliana M. as Chair for the 2021 AOSM Website etc Committee. All approved. Grateful appreciation to our Committee Secretary, Judy S.

Roger S
Chair

Site Selection and Agenda Committee

Attendees; Phylis P. (Fiji), Patarawee P. (Thailand), Nyamsuren B. (Mongolia), Timikara T. (China), Krishna (India), Blake G. (Scribe China)

Meeting started with Serenity prayer.

Krishna (India) stated the committee responsibility was to recommend;

1. Agenda for next AOSM.
2. Location of Next ASOM. He also stated at this time there were only 2 possible bids for location.

Krishna (India) then asked each delegate to spend 5 minutes discussing possible agenda topics for discussions and work shops

Phylis P. (Fiji) – More sharing of what is being done to promote a service structure in countries that have already established GSO structures. Less talking about the structure of AOSM. It we are following business without AA substance.

Patarawee P (Thailand) – She stated she felt uncomfortable at first. She is unsure with what should be done and what her role is. She has been given no help with what to do.

Nyamsuren B (Mongolia) - She did not understand her role and needed more direction.

Timikara T (China) – He expressed the desire for more mentoring as to responsibility. He stated the information he was given prior to the meeting was very daunting. He suggests that his area of Mainland China would be willing to put in a SOFT proposal for the next ASOM. H explained to the other Delegates the difference between Hong Kong and Mainland China due to questions concerning we are having this meeting in China and they did not understand that Mainland and Hong Kong are 2 separate entities. That mainland China members had to go thru customs to get to Hong Kong and that different currency is used.

Krishna (India) explained briefly the requirements of hosting an AOSM and presenting a bid. He then presented different possible topics for agendas such as translations, Public Information (PI), and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).

Phylis (Fiji) – requested breakout meeting s for not just supporting AOSM but on how are we carrying message and how can we get sponsorship program started from other countries. She asked how we link for country to country sponsorship.

Krishna (India) suggested a workshop on Sponsor is it being done with discussions from a sponsoring country and a separate discussion form a country that has been sponsored and how it all worked.

He also introduced all the work India has done on translations for other countries and that they are willing to help other countries in this same way. He stated India does very limited financial sponsoring and only when promoting our Primary Purpose, but they do invite guest to their conferences providing everything but travel to India if requested and approved.

Phylis P. (Fiji) asked is country sponsor can be assigned.

Krishna (India) explained that country sponsorship is just like sponsoring member in the steps. The member must request the sponsorship and the request must be accepted.

Nyamsuren B. (Mongolia) suggested workshops on PI and CPC.

Phylis P. (FIJI) requested a set of guidelines of responsibilities be developed to help first year delegates to be more productive.

Krishna (India) stated this is the reason for first- and second-year delegates.

Timikara T (China) stated he agreed with Phylis on a set of guidelines. He stated the 1st year delegates are dropped in with no experience and feel this would help them understand their responsibilities.

Phylis P. (Fiji) stated she had been directed to keep all information within the committees and felt there should be more openness and trust. She feels there should be more information of carrying the message

Krishna (India) replied there is nothing secret and did not know where this direction was coming from and it did not work the way Phylis described. He stated that if we stop new ideas how will we grow?

Timikara T (China) stated he felt what he had experienced so far was too procedural and not enough content on recovery. He mentioned the Thailand delegate share concerning issues of AA instead of procedures.

Final Conclusions

Topics for next AOSM.

1. Country to Country Sponsorship
2. Developing Guidelines for 1st year Delegates to assist them in being more productive and to help promote more participation.
3. Have a country with a GSO explain how they achieved this. What were the steps they used?
4. Have a country that received sponsorship present how it went and what was developed.

Site proposal

1. This would be discussed in the follow-up meeting on Saturday.

Policy, Admission, and Finance Committee Meeting

Committee Members:

Bertie Sawhney—MERCAA (1st Term)**

Peter James—South Korea (1st Term)

Ruby Jones—Australia (2nd Term <Alt.>)

Simon Miles—Hong Kong (1st Term)

Yasuhiko Morita—Japan (2nd Term)*

Yasumichi Hoshi—Japan (1st Term)

*Chair / **Alt. Chair

Committee met 3 times:

12-July 15:00–15:45, 13-July 11:00–12:30, 13-July 15:30–16:45

Agenda:

1. Confirming the Recommended Actions from the 12th AOSM in Mongolia
2. Matters arising and Correspondence
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Other Issues
6. Election of Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson

Discussion:

Opening with the Serenity Prayer

Committee agreed to allow observers, but with no participation

1. Confirming the Recommended Actions from the 12th AOSM in Mongolia
 - a. Reviewed the minutes from the 12th AOSM, and commented on the following:
 - i. The New Zone Draft Plan from Japan to be presented at the 13th AOSM general session (see item under old business)
 - ii. Newsletter—three newsletters were created, but the fourth was not.
 - iii. AOSM Hosting Bid form was created and posted to the AOSM website. A bid flowchart has been created and will be included in the final report.

- iv. Process Selection of Delegates. Delegates were asked to provide information on their process for electing their AOSM delegates, and some have included this information in their literature displays.
 - v. Archivist—discussed the importance of documenting our history for consistency and continuity.
 - vi. Had discussion of country-to-country sponsorship.
 - vii. Selection of Chair and Alt. Chair.
- b. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made and seconded. **Vote: PASSED unanimously**
2. Matters arising and Correspondence
- a. Proposal for adding guideline for the AOSM PAF Committee from MERCAA
 - i. Discussion: The AOSM registration form says that delegates can only attend two meetings but it is inconsistent with the Statement of Purpose for the AOSM and the Guidelines for conducting the AOSM. The committee discussed that it is a guideline to suggest that a delegate can only attend twice, but some interpret it to be an unshakable rule, which can create a conflict with an individual country's conscience. Continuity is important. There has been precedence at the WSM where a country has sent an alternate delegate and they also served their own term. The committee recognizes the need for rotation of our trusted servants, but ultimately needs to respect and trust the wishes of the particular structure.
 - b. **Recommendation:** To provide clarification regarding specific AOSM delegates terms of service, the following text to be added to the *Guidelines for the conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous*, item 3: "In accordance with Tradition Nine, the AOSM delegates shall observe the spirit of rotation. It is preferred that delegates attend only two AOSM's (one 4-year term), but this guideline is not binding on any structure within the AOSM zone. If a structure appoints an individual to stand in for their delegate (such as an alternate delegate) who cannot attend, this would be endorsed by the Policy, Admissions, and Finance (PAF) committee prior to the start of the AOSM."

3. Old business

- a. Review the New Zone Draft Plan
 - i. The 13th AOSM had already discussed the Draft Plan on 11-July, and voted to not change the boundaries at this time.
- b. Review the Financial Reports for operating the AOSM
 - i. The committee reviewed the financial report as presented. The financial report as presented by Roger S. was accepted by the AOSM.
- c. Discuss creating the representative for Chinese-speaking Asia (similar to Central America)
 - i. The committee acknowledged the ongoing discussion between Hong Kong, China, and GSO-NY, and encourages continued development of a structure in the region.
- d. Invitation for South Korea's participation
 - i. The committee discussed that AOSM has not had a representative from South Korea since 2003, and the current representative is from the English Intergroup of Korea (IGK). The prior participants were from the Korean GSO. Concern was voiced on how the IGK participation would be perceived by the Korean GSO and Korean fellowship. The Korea delegate committed to continue to build unity between the IGK and Korean GSO, and also possibly solicit country sponsorship from Japan.
- e. Flowchart for countries after successful bid to host the next AOSM
 - i. A flowchart has been created and reviewed by the committee. The committee will provide the draft version for all AOSM participants to take back to their countries and provide feedback to the 14th AOSM PAF committee for finalization.

4. New business

- a. Discuss Bhutan's request for participation in the AOSM in Hong Kong
 - i. Bhutan has attended previously and were financially supported by India. The delegates from Bhutan were unable to attend due to lack of financial support.
- b. Discuss procedures for handling requests by countries who wish to send a delegate to the AOSM when they cannot afford it.
 - i. GSO manages a list of countries who are willing to sponsor other countries financially, especially for attending the WSM. It was suggested that AOSM follow the same guidelines as the WSM. The AOSM secretary had sent out requests asking for support and was able to match up one of the requests with a country willing to provide support.

ii. **RECOMMENDATION:** The following table be adopted for use by countries requesting financial support to attend the AOSM:

1. Name of country:
2. Number of groups:
3. Number of members:
4. Requested is from Intergroup/GSO?:
5. Full amount needed to attend: (US\$)
6. Amount our country can provide: (US\$)
7. Full amount requested: (US\$)
8. To pay for:
 - a. Flights (US\$)
 - b. Accommodation (US\$)
 - c. Delegates fee (Approx. US\$)

iii. **RECOMMENDATION:** “The AOSM secretary to coordinate all requests for financial support by distributing detailed requests to all AOSM country’s GSO’s or local structures (where a GSO does not exist).”

5. Other Issues

a. Importance of having Archivist for AOSM

i. The 12th AOSM requested clarification for creating and maintaining an archive for the AOSM. Australia and New Zealand currently maintain an archive.

ii. **RECOMMENDATION:** “The AOSM formally request that New Zealand General Service Board to consider maintaining the Archives for the AOSM. In the event that New Zealand is unavailable, the request will be sent to the Australian General Service Board”

b. Rotating Delegates Form

i. A proposal to create guidelines for how to do a pass-it-on from a current delegate to their successor was brought up, but the committee declined to discuss it.

c. Expats outreaching to local communities

i. Discussed the need for more shared experienced on how groups that are predominately expat members are reaching out to local communities with cultural sensitivity. The Committee suggests to the Agenda Committee to consider adding this subject as a Workshop topic for the 14th AOSM.

6. Election of Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson

a. Bertie Sawhney (MERCAA) was elected as Chairperson for the 14th AOSM PAF Committee

b. Peter James (South Korea) was elected as the Alt. Chairperson for the 14th AOSM PAF Committee

Workshops

- **How can we share our AOSM knowledge with smaller countries – especially those with little or no service structure?**

Should our workshops be filmed to share with smaller countries?

Members should take the opportunity to add carrying the message to their holiday plans. We can focus more on country sponsorship and be more proactive with it. Invite members to attend round ups and conferences.

Have more time for sharing at the AOSM.

Streaming of information on platforms such as WhatsApp, Zoom and WeChat, as it was felt that most members do not take the time to read newsletters. Face to face and electronic meetings are not mutually exclusive.

Audio recording of information, as opposed to video, in order to keep with our anonymity tradition.

- **Do we focus enough on our Statement of Purpose? Is this statement of purpose clearly stated – one country didn't think so. What's different between our purpose and any other meeting's purpose?**

Are these statements still appropriate?

NOTE: These 'purpose' topics came up a few times.

We need more time to talk about our problems and share solutions.

The AOSM Statement of purpose on the website and our guidelines are inconsistent.

We can get confused between proper twelfth step work and country sponsorship, yet both are important.

Pick more relevant workshop topics, such as, Reaching past the expat member or Country to Country sponsorship. As well as more time for workshops.

More focus on carrying the message than on the AOSM itself.

More sharing on how PI, CPC and carrying the message into prisons would be more beneficial than some of the information that is shared.

Look at rewording our statement of purpose.

- **How can we (should we?) exchange speakers within AOSM to share experience, strength and hope and/or conduct seminars on the traditions, concepts, and principles?**

What about Country to Country Service Sponsorship?

Making other countries aware, when service orientated members are going to be visiting their shores.

Build a bank of resources, pod casts etc. More use of electronic media, it is not about the platform, any platform will do, as long as it is effective.

Getting larger countries to record experienced members experience, strength and hope. Invite members and delegates from other countries to attend conventions and roundups. Some members have organized tours to countries, to carry the message.

Members of European Service Meeting has a way for people to ask questions of the group. They use email but we could use chat.

When AOSM delegates or service orientated members travel, delegates or GSB's should let the delegates from the destination country know, and workshops could be organised or they can be invited to speak at meetings.

- **Do we need networking during the even years when AOSM does not meet?**

What can be done to encourage countries to share via the newsletter?

While the newsletter is a good concept, it is time wastage to wait on it, when we have more immediate means of communication available.

Set up networking, especially in the off year from the AOSM, so that the solution can be shared.

More work between AOSM's with concrete tasks encourages networking and communication.

It's critical to share information with our fellowships after the AOSM. Some countries delegates have a set plan.

Language barriers do present a problem with contact between AOSM's

Online tools can help us with networking – conventions have been organised via WeChat. However, anonymity must be maintained.

A quarterly Skype meeting might be a viable option.

An AOSM dashboard could help with this.

- **How can countries ensure their delegates' expenses are paid?**

How do our countries do this?

A service fund could be set up by an arm of the country's service structure, where members could donate an amount, set by them, on say, a monthly basis.

Keeping the fellowship informed on where their 7th Tradition is going and that it is being well spent. Also, the responsibility we have to other countries reaching out for help.

Delegates have a dual role: educating members on what their service structure is for and then what AOSM is for.

We need to keep in mind, that each country is autonomous, but some do have separate collections and funds set aside for international responsibilities.

Financial support from other countries.

- **Can we improve offering financial sponsorship to a country for their delegate?**

Form for country to fill in?

A date to be submitted by?

By delegates reporting back on what they heard, what they saw and what they felt at the AOSM.

Preparing good budgets and countries putting together detailed requests for assistance.

Having an easy to follow but comprehensive form for requesting funding assistance and deadlines.

Maybe best handled by Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee (PAF).

- **What presentation topics, agenda items, workshops would you like considered for the 14th AOSM agenda?**

AOSM Committee structure and functions.

Working culturally appropriately.

Helping fellowships develop.

How to engage with local communities, beyond expats.

Make AA known, not anonymous.

Shared experience on fundraising.

How Structures help facilitate sharing the message.

How can we make the AOSM more inclusive?

Rotating delegate passing the baton - how to rotate so as not to leave new delegates without information.

- **Prudent reserve?**

It's important to have a reserve, but AOSM do not. Some countries have a prudent reserve. How our finances are laid out and reported to the fellowship can be confusing. Which can lead to misunderstanding if not done properly.

A prudent reserve equivalent to the cost of one AOSM should be held.

We encourage delegates to return to their countries and discuss the AOSM and its funding needs, and the necessity of making regular contributions.

- **Other Questions**

Recommend that delegates communicate the importance of being at this gathering to support local 12th Step opportunities.

That Delegates start using digital tools, in addition to email for communication between AOSM meetings.

Explore the different methods of discussion, such as Open Space etc.

Country Reports

Australia

This resolution authorises The Australian General Service Conference to act for Alcoholics Anonymous: “We the members of the 10th Anniversary Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. Here assembled at Sydney on March 29th, 1970 declare our belief that our Fellowship has now come of age and is entirely ready to assume full and permanent possession of the Three Legacies of our AA inheritance – The Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

We believe that the Australian General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous has now become entirely capable of assuming the guardianship of AA’s Twelve Traditions within Australia and of taking over the full guidance and control of Australian Services of our Society.....”

This was done in 1970 when all states had their own state service structures. It was believed at the time that all states structures would work with the General Service Structure for the growth and unity of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. Today the General Service Structure is made up of six regions being the Southern Region (Victoria and Tasmania) which has five Areas and only two are functioning today. The Eastern Region has eight Areas and it is the most populated region and is all of New South Wales. The North Eastern Region (Queensland) has three functioning Areas and is the state of Queensland. The Northern Region (Northern Territory), unfortunately, has no representation at this stage. Western Australia is the Western Region which has two functioning Areas. Lastly, South Australia is the make-up of the Central Region which has two functioning areas.

General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Australia

The GSB of AA Australia is made up of five Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, two World Service Meeting Delegates, one Trustee Emeritus and one Class A (NonAlcoholic) Trustee. Currently there are three vacancies for Class A Trustees on the Board. The General Service Office (GSO) is staffed by one manager and two assistants.

Australia’s General Service Conference meets in Sydney each November. This is coordinated by the GSO staff over a four-day period. The Board also meets four times a year including the November Conference. The Eastern Region held Australia’s 2019 National Convention in Canberra over the Easter break with approximately 900 attendees. The next Convention (2020) will be held in the North Eastern Region in the host city of Toowoomba. It will be held from the 2nd to the 5th of October 2020. I can state that a real Australian Outback experience is planned for this occasion. In 2021, the Central Region (South Australia) will host the National Convention. All over Australia, rallies and forums are held on weekends.

Back in 1970, when the Fellowship was deemed to be “of Age” in Australia, the decision was made to establish our National Structure similar to but not a copy of the North American Service Structure. Based on my historic understanding, this initially appeared to work well until 1976, when money, power and prestige manifested itself in the structure by way of a leaky roof. Despite all this, the First Legacy has forged ahead, groups have been formed, meetings are being held, alcoholics have got sober and stayed sober. However, the other two legacies appear to have been overlooked in some areas. It is my view the Australian GSB in 1970 did not adequately deal with the various state service councils in managing a proper transitional process from the state-based structures to the one National Service Structure. It seems to me that the problems we are experiencing today are a legacy of this oversight. In the book 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, referring to Tradition Four, it states on page 147, “There would be a great danger should we commence to call some groups “wet” others “dry”, still others “Republican” or “Communist”, and yet others “Catholic” or “Protestant.” This is analogous to the old state-based structures that are trying to resurrect themselves within the Australian Fellowship. This is a disunifying problem for our current Board.

To deal with this problematic situation of the resurgence of state-based structures, the Fellowship as a whole, the delegates to Conference with Board support, need to understand that they represent all of us in Australia equally not just their individual states. I realise this is not unique to Alcoholics Anonymous. Australia is made up of six different geographical states with their own state-based governments. Naturally, there is some friendly and at times not so friendly rivalry between the states. However, this is not for Alcoholics Anonymous. We have only one structure where every entity should be equally represented, and that structure is the General Service Structure.

In 2016 at the Australian General Service Conference the decision was made to hold a Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community (PICPC) event in Fiji. Today that great event is still helping members to get sober and stay sober across the Pacific Region of Australia’s responsibility. On Founder’s Day each year we have a “Brown Paper Bag” appeal. These funds are used to carry the message within the Pacific Region. It is proposed to continue to have a regional service meeting of the Pacific Region in 2019- 2020.

China

Guangzhou: AA has been in Guangzhou approx. 10+ years with individual members carrying the message of AA by holding meetings where ever possible and using online platforms, websites and word of mouth to show travellers, locals and new comers where meetings are being held. Over the past 4 years GZ fellowship has grown from 2 meetings to 4 meetings a week, we began collecting 7th tradition, updated our website, we have a homegroup of 12 members ensuring our regular meetings chaired by local AA. Our literature is brought in from Hawaii via an old timer who regularly visits us twice a year. We reach out to our China local AA and attend their meetings on a regular basis. Guangzhou highlighted at our last Group Conscience (April 2019) to reach to our fellowships in South China being Shenzhen to form our Southern AA group.

The Guangzhou fellowship endorsed Timikara to represent GZ and observe the AOSM in Hong Kong. Upon instruction from the AOSM chair, Timikara registered as delegate representing Guangzhou. Note: I do not represent other China fellowships.

China Brief:

From conversations with old timers, AA China has been active since the 1990's.

AA is wide spread without entire China service committee, intergroup that connects every fellowship as one body. Fellowships Shanghai & Beijing are structured and organised, over 30+ daily meetings. Beijing has an intergroup. South China Guangzhou, Shenzhen approx. 7 weekly meetings. There are satellite meetings in isolated areas and are mainly connected through online apps. In China online meetings are a regular for alcoholics all over the world.

China:

- Intergroup Beijing: Beijing do have an intergroup, and their structure is a good base where other fellowship can be connected. This is process driven by members in China.
- Remote Isolated Fellows: Website AA loners is a website dedicated to support isolated fellows, while displaying most meetings in the entire of China.
- There are active daily online meetings occur globally and China fellows access meetings to support their sobriety and creating online fellowship to most is valuable.
- Wechat online platform have various group chat rooms where the message of AA is carried while supporting fellows in all of China.

- Literature Fellowships in China have access to literature, stock and serve out. We network when we need literature, generally literature is available. China has translated Chinese literature available and is sourced through networking.

Groups and Members

North

Beijing

22 meetings

1. ENGLISH
2. CHINESE
3. WOMANS

Homegroup

Intergroup Service Structure

Shanghai

1. 16 meetings

2. AA
3. NA
4. WOMENS
5. AL ANON
6. ATHEISTS AGNOSTICS
7. CHINESE

Homegroup

South

Guangzhou

- 4 meetings
- GZ homegroup 8-12 members
- New comers 2-3/month

Dongguan

- 1 meeting
- Member manages

Hangzhou Meetings

- 2 meetings
- 3-4 people attendance
- No website
- No homegroup

<http://chinaaloners.com>

Website to support fellows isolated, and place where newcomers can source help.

By Timikara T.

Shenzhen

- 4 meetings

Huizhou

Kuiming

- 1 meeting Managed by one member

Harbin

1 meeting

Fiji

Fiji is made up of two main island and 300 smaller islands. The membership is spread out from the capital Suva to four other smaller islands. To carry the message and further the fellowship, we rely heavily on the technology of the internet and find that it has succeeded in maintaining our sobriety, the fellowship and the necessary connectiveness.

Due to the membership being in isolated areas of Fiji, where there are no meetings, meetings are held online, in a Skype meeting format call. The Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea joins the fellowship online for the Skype meetings. We also have members that join from the United States, New Zealand and Australia. One meeting (The Suva Bula Group) that exists is self-supporting and has a face to face membership, maintains literature and distributes to off island groups and members and is responsible for contact with institutions.

The **Australian National Convention** brought to Fiji an Information Day, that with the Fiji Ministry of Health cooperatively brought 140 ministry officials with 400 in attendance. Needless to say, that has spurred our growth and awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, there exists much misinformation of what alcoholism is and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Recovery programs other than AA are not available.

General Service

A General Service Representative is elected by the five Skype Groups and face to face meeting in Fiji at their monthly meeting with participating members. A GSO is responsible for attending the AOSM and bringing back information to the five groups.

Carrying the Message

Newspaper Fiji Times advertising of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings is assisted by the Australian General Service Office for twice monthly meeting notices. Hotline Vodafone – A hotline is maintained on a 24/7 basis for calls and is assisted by the Australian General Service Office.

World Wide Web (aafiji.com)

A Fiji AA website maintained and supported by the membership, receives the majority of calls from visiting members to Fiji and also offers information on the hotline and main AA website.

Bula Woman's Messenger Discussion Group

A Facebook messenger room was created for women's Daily Reflection and For Today reading, which is posted daily. Daily support and comments give isolated members the message of recovery.

Fiji Bula Group Chatroom Messenger (Closed Group)

A mixed group was created for posting of Daily Reflections and for Today, giving isolated members support and contact through the day.

12 & 12 and Big Book Study Chat Room Messenger (Closed Group)

A weekly chapter is led by volunteer members each week. With volunteers sharing their experience with the step or chapter.

General Service and Carrying the Message

Members have travelled to the island of Vanua Levu to present the AA program, have visited and presented to St Giles Psychiatric Hospital, the AA program, have presented a slide presentation of AA to the medical doctors and surgeons in Suva, have presented AA program to the Salvation Army, have presented to the Nabora Remand Prison inmates the AA program, have presented to the village of Votua the AA program, have distributed on bulleting boards and in medical clinics, cards and flyers of AA phone number Hot Line contacts.

Banking and Seventh Tradition

Banking is an issue in Fiji, as it was necessary to have a tax pin number. Since we are anonymous and not affiliated as a NGO, we have been unable to set up a bank account. We are investigating how we can collect the 7th Tradition from our Skype meetings by adding to our website, using credit cards and Pay Pal, but set up costs have prohibited us from being able to add that service.

Fijian membership now has a growing number of Fijian citizens active in AA, indicating growth.



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 Hong Kong and include two autonomous women's groups. Two meetings are conducted weekly in Cantonese.

A fourteenth group has established officially with a local hospital in the Substance Misuse Clinic. 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 and Website Committee. 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.

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/PI committee began outreach into the asylum-seeking communities of Hong Kong and we now have all three versions of Big Books (English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese) in all Public Libraries. We have also placed posters and literature at all six minority service centres.

Hong Kong's annual Convention continues to be a significant source of finance for Intergroup. We always attract international guests and speakers. Also because of HI/PI, we have doctors in training from the Chinese University of Hong Kong visiting AA meetings twice a month. AAs have also spoken at the Hong Kong Psychological Society as well as presented at university classes regarding spirituality and healing. And working with local non-profit groups, we continue to share our Experience, Strength, and Hope at the local high schools. HK AA Intergroup as an entity is now in the process of obtaining Tax Exempt status, or in layman terms, a government-recognized Charity organization. This will allow HK AA to participate in government allocated Public Announcement Services as such public radio and ad space in the MTR.

Last but not least, Hong Kong AA celebrates 50th anniversary this year!

India

Background

India is a country that in its complexity and diversity staggers the imagination. It is necessary to provide a little overview for a clearer understanding about the presence of A.A. in India.

India, the world's largest democracy, has a population of over 1.3 billion people – spread over in its 29 states and 7 Union Territories in which 22 official languages are spoken. The states for the most part operate independently in terms of their internal government and customs. Cultural nuances vary across the nation. This country is a mini UNITED NATIONS.

Diversity is the unique character of this country. It has the largest English-speaking population in the world coexisting with bare minimum literacy in more than 25 languages.

The English-speaking free world looks to India for its Business Process outsourcing needs while rural India grapples with their developmental problems, illiteracy and know only their language.

History

A.A. came to India by way of a Canadian, Charlie M., who was posted in the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. Charlie regularly inserted A.A. ads in a leading newspaper. One response to the ad was from a Bombay (now Mumbai) schoolteacher, Harry M., who met Charlie, sobered up and began spreading the message. May 5, 1957, Harry's sobriety date, marks the beginning of the Fellowship in India. The first A.A. group began in November of that year.

Groups and Members

India has approximately 2250 groups and estimated membership of more than 50,000 AAs in recovery.

Service Structure

We have a robust and mature service structure taking the best of what suits our needs both from USA and UK fellowships.

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and overseen by the GSB through its 3 working trustees. The Dy.Chairman and chairman of public information, the treasurer and the general secretary. Two coordinators and two assistants manage the office. Other regional trustees help out as and when the need arises.

The General Service Board is composed of nine Class A and eighteen Class B trustees. The working trustees, apart from the chairman of the board, are Class B trustees while the Chair can be class A or B. Our non-alcoholic Class A trustees come from various professional backgrounds such as medicine, psychiatry, de-addiction, law, administration, education and religion.

Sixty-one delegates represent all parts of the country. We have had 48 conferences so far. Group services are largely provided through IG/AC's/DCM across the country. Very few district and area committees have been formed and only in a few states. There are 100 service entities in all.

The General Service Conference serves the Fellowship through six Conference Committees. Efforts were made to establish a 'Cooperation with Professionals' Committee, but it is not yet a full-fledged committee.

Many treatment facilities are beginning to appear around the country, and this is a welcome development. Today there are more than 4,000. Many of them, however, operate in isolation. We are trying to establish a dialogue with these centers and offer A.A. as a resource in post-discharge maintenance of recovery.

Our Treatment Facility Committee was recently established with a view of bridging the gap. Large numbers of members are coming from treatment centers to the fellowship.

A considerable number of A.A.s are referred by professionals working in the field of alcoholism or a field related to alcoholism.

Literature

We print a total of 51 A.A. books and 145 pamphlets. Of these, 14 books and 47 pamphlets are in English, and 37 books and 98 pamphlets are in various regional languages – all under license from A.A.W.S., Inc. We publish a monthly GSO India newsletter and an independent bimonthly magazine, ***The 12th Step***. Several regional fellowships also have their own regional magazines. Our website is hosted by GSO and is regularly updated. We have the AA India app also for the benefit of members. Visitors to the site are mostly researchers and members.

Finance

Financially, A.A. in India is progressing towards self-support. Over 40% of the groups send contributions, and the margins from the sale of literature have improved to cover the cost of running

GSO India. There is an increase in the contributions from Groups and Individual members to self-support GSO India.

Public Information

As earlier noted, we are witnessing an exciting and phenomenal period of growth in India. Across the length and breadth of the country, A.A. is becoming known and accepted as a resource at various public and private levels. Here is a sample:

- Railways: The Indian Railways, the world's largest, today directs problem staff to our meetings. In cooperation with management, the Fellowship in Mumbai region carried out a sticker campaign resulting in a number of calls for help.
- Defenses: A.A. has made an entry in the Army, Navy and recently some Big Books were distributed in the Air Force. A command hospital had invited the Fellowship to participate in a seminar on alcoholism.
- Public utilities: Public utilities, such as municipal corporations, state-run hospitals and police departments have shown keen interest in our program of recovery, and we hope to achieve a double objective here also: to reach the large number of employees of these corporations; and to facilitate spreading the A.A. message to people who come in contact with these organizations.
- State transport corporations: A sticker campaign was carried out in many states in cooperation with state corporations. Stickers were put in vehicles run by state corporations in a few states. This served a dual purpose of creating awareness among employees and reaching alcoholics who were in need of the message.
- Religious institutions: In this secular state, we have been very fortunate to have the support of the Christian churches. All across India, church-run schools double as A.A. meeting rooms, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to these and other institutions. At the Goa International Convention the Fellowship attracted the participation of heads from three religions on the dais.
- Media: Another great friend of A.A. is the media. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our needs. Renowned Hollywood producer, director and actor Amir Khan included alcoholism as a topic on a much-viewed TV program. The

program was aired on July 1, 2012 in more than 80 countries and generated more than 300,000 enquiries.

- Press: The newspaper industry has been particularly cooperative with us by highlighting various facts of our program and running stories of recovering alcoholics in a series of articles.

The Challenges

- India is seen by its neighboring countries as an A.A. resource. We wish accordingly to be able to offer help to China, Bangladesh, Burma, Pakistan, Tibet and Sri Lanka. And for that we need guidance.
- Carrying A.A.'s message to women alcoholics is still a major problem. A delegation of Australian women members visited India in January 2013. A delegation of A.A. women helped a few women to deal with social stigma, and a few A.A. meetings did start, but did not survive for long time.
- The functional alcoholics in India today are having and maintaining lavish life styles; they are high bottom cases. We are now seeing the emergence of a new social disorder in India – the functional problem drinker with a higher degree of denial. The third of our initiatives is aimed at functional alcoholics. But we are yet to begin in this direction.
- Our judicial system regarded an alcoholic as criminal. Following an awareness meeting with judiciary, few judgments have directed those accused of alcohol abuse to A.A. meetings. Prohibition exists in some states. Our educational system has not given adequate importance to alcoholism. Alcoholism is only a small part of an optional subject called “social medicine,” even for medical students. Large numbers of doctors are not well informed.

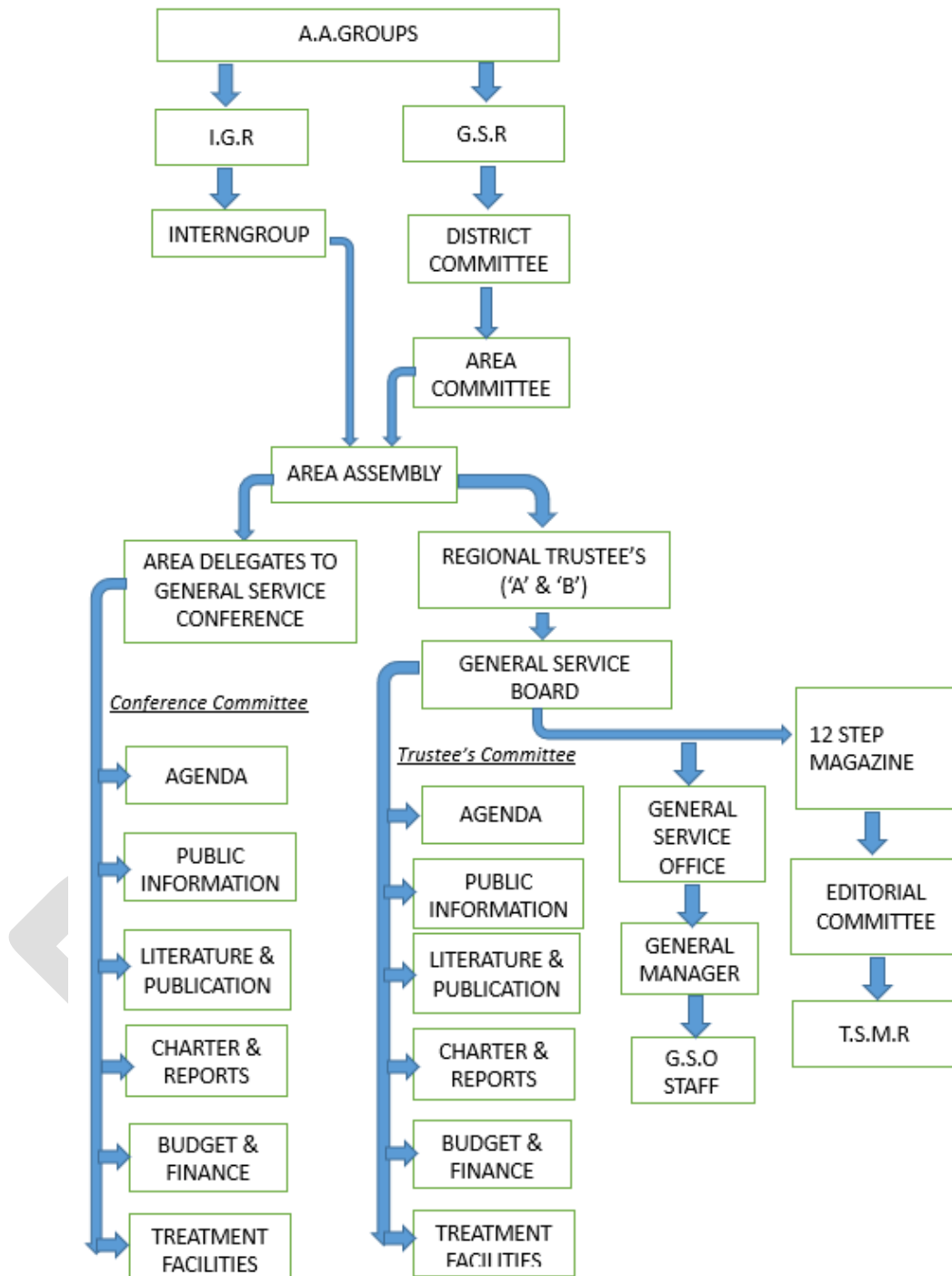
Our Vision

Every citizen of India should be able to define and describe Alcoholics Anonymous and every problem drinker who wants to will be able to find the hand of A.A. within reach. We also want to offer services to neighbouring countries in Asia, the way the U.S./Canada Fellowship is catering to the need of World Fellowship.

The road ahead is tough, and our tasks often seem insurmountable. A.A. in India has few laborers and a mountain to harvest. Our GSC Theme for 2018 is EACH ONE REACH ONE.

Thank you and God Bless Krishna V.

AA Service Structure in India



Iran

IRAN is grateful to have the opportunity to participate another time in the A.O.S.M. this time held in Hong Kong (2019). 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 Iranian fellows who used to live in U.S.

Today, A.A. program is much more active in Iran. About 200 autonomous groups in 14 area structure are connected to the general service office of Iran's Alcoholics Anonymous. We used to name it "Iran nameless sobers" which made some controversies in our country, so our trustees decided to use "Alcoholics Anonymous" again. We estimate to have over 4000 members now. Groups are made of men and women separately, also mixed ones. 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, Literature & translation, Website, Hospitals & Institutions, treasure, 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.

Literatures; Some of A.A. approved literatures other than the Big Book and 12 & 12, are translated into Persian. About this matter We would like to mention to a beautiful letter we've received from David R in W.S.O :

"Dear Friends at G.S.O. Iran,

In response to your request for clarification of the status of currently active licence for the reproduction and distribution of translated (Farsi) A.A.W.S , Inc. Copyrighted Literature in Iran, We can confirm that licence for these items are in place:

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th edition
- Twelve steps and twelve traditions
- Living sober
- As Bill sees it

As you know, in accordance with our long-established policy confirmed by the board of A.A. World Services which has oversight responsibility for the publishing program of our fellowship, We adhere to the "one licence one country" model per item of literature.

In efforts to support Unity throughout the A.A. Fellowship worldwide, and to achieve group Conscious decisions while at the same time is striving to protect the integrity of the profound

message our literature conveys, our use of copyright, policies and procedures that are set in place with General Service structures around the world For licensing the rights to translate, Print and distribute our literature have a deep spiritual purpose.

Years of experience has though us that in this way, out sacred responsibility of sharing the message to all who need it And to fulfil our primary purpose can be achieved.

With all best wishes and gratitude for our work together, sharing A.A.'s message in Iran via our literature.”

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 9 PM to 10 PM. A service number from A.A.W.S , records department, allocated to the above mentioned group, named Kerman A.A. Expanding this structured A.A. , is a big challenge in our country. We need more inter-communications with A.A.W.S. or A.O.S.M. providing a healthy atmosphere to carry AA message to those who still suffer.

There is another AA central office in Mashhad who does not obey the copyrights laws for AA literatures and doesn't believe in sending delegates to A.O.S.M. or W.S.M. Unfortunately, With this platform that they have stablished everybody can start a new G.S.O. and a new disunity from A.A. as a whole. We were invited to discuss about unity between the two board of trustees (Tehran & Mashhad) hosted by Kerman English speaking A.A. group.

A most excellent W.S.M. delegate from France (Lotus.A) was also invited to share her experience and help us to attain more UNITY.

Although the slow progress in unity, we are still in touch and hope for a better future for all AA groups in Iran.

Our trustees decided to mention that our last A.A. statistics in Mongolia was based on both structures but this time it was just about this structure that is connected to A.A. world community. All in all, Our knowledge and connection with the greater A.A. community needs to be reinforced, strengthen and grow, to as much greater extend as we better comprehend the 12 steps, Traditions and Concepts of A.A. and transfer it to others. With best Hopes

Ali Hajizadeh

IRAN's AOSM first term delegate

Japan

A.A. Japan will hold its 45th Anniversary Convention on March 20-22, 2020, in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture. Its theme is "Pass It On." We would be very happy if you can join us together.

A.A. in Japan had its birth in February 1975- the first Japanese speaking meeting was held in Tokyo. After that meeting of 1975, A.A. gradually started to take root in Japan. When the 20th anniversary convention was held in 1995, the establishment of the annual GSC(General Service Conference) was decided. Although A.A. was not huge in those days, the number of groups has been constantly increasing, and the number of members has also been doubled today. Currently we estimate that A.A. in Japan has 600 groups and 6,000 members.

I think I can mention three significant things other than this.

First is that; A.A. is hardly known in public. Almost no Japanese hasn't heard about A.A., or knows what it is about. So, there is a movement all around A.A. Japan to put an emphasis on public information. The number of A.A. members has increased in these last twenty years. Still, this question basically remains:" Even though the A.A. program is so attractive, why is the increase of members so low?" One of the responses to it is that a growing number of members have begun to think that it is all the more necessary to focus on public information.

We are requesting a favor from all of you. There might be countries and regions that have followed the same path as we are on. We would be pleased if you could share your experiences with us.

Secondly, the biggest area in Japan decided to divide itself into two areas in 2017. The decision is made, certainly, but the final activity is not taken place yet. It will take several years until the area is actually divided into two.

Last but not least, GSC (General Service Conference) recommended A.A. Japan this year to stand for as a candidate to host the 27th WSM (World Service Meeting). If we could have this honor, it will be the first WSM in Asia, we would be delighted.

The following is what A.A. in Japan is about.

The History of A.A. Japan

Please refer to the Country Report of 2016 WSM written by Mr. Morita - the current 2nd term WSM delegate from Japan - for the situation of AA Japan now in detail. In this report, I would like to focus on how A.A. in Japan developed and, as a result of that, what it is like now.

As reported in Country Highlight of Japan, A.A. in Japan has its birth in February 1975 - the first Japanese-speaking meeting was held in Tokyo. One American father who was living in Japan made contribution to it. He who became an alcoholic in Japan, once went back to his homeland U.S. and started his recovery through the A.A. program, returned to Japan and gathered alcoholics to start a meeting. Prior to that, there seemed to be several attempts to start A.A. in Japan. But none of them had a chance to root themselves in Japan, and withered.

There do is one organization succeeded other than A.A. - the organization called "Danshu-kai(= Gathering for the Abstinence)". One doctor who visited US to see the situation there considered AA to be efficient and started Danshu-kai in Japan. He decided to modify the A.A. program so that it could be accepted well among Japanese alcoholics. They formed their programs dependent of the meetings saying, "it starts from and ends in the sharing of the experiences", and did not introduce 12 steps and 12 traditions, no need to say about 12 concepts. Their inaugural meeting was held on November 1963.

They form a registered membership organization, take membership dues and have a top-down structure so that it is easy for Japanese alcoholics to understand them. It seems that not much care has been taken to member's privacy there. Nevertheless, Danshu-kai achieved a certain extent of success in Japan. Although Danshu-kai is decreasing in its memberships nowadays, contrary to the A.A. memberships in Japan increasing, they are still considered as an influential organization comparable with or surpassing A.A. inside the society. Above all, I assume the boldness of its name is one of the key factors.

Let's go back to AA in Japan. I have to say that we have our developing in the starting hands in hands with rehabs since the American father who introduced A.A. to Japan also started his rehab. A.A. in Japan developed together with the rehab. There was a member who was fluent in English and he introduced basic literature of A.A. like Big Book and 12 & 12. It might has a connection with this, but several years later, we agreed upon that AA being together with the rehab is an issue and, from that time, AA became an separate and independent gathering other than the rehab.

After that, A.A. gradually started to take root in Japan. The number of members increased among relatively young people. When the 20th anniversary convention was held in 1995, a nationwide GSR assembly was held as a part of its program, and the establishment of the annual GSC was decided there. Long timers are saying that A.A. had shown relatively good progress till that point. Although they were not huge in number, it was told that there were about 2,000 to 2,500 members by that time. These past 23 years since that convention, the number of groups has been constantly increasing, and the number of members has also been doubled.

Our Characteristics

At this point of the report, maybe you think that the path A.A. in Japan was relatively smooth. I would like to point out some of the characteristics of us in regard of that.

1 We are providing relatively abundant literature, pamphlets and guidelines in Japanese.

Basic literature like "Big Book", "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions", "Daily Reflections", "As Bill Sees It" and "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age" are available in Japanese. Other than that, important items are "Came to Believe", "Dr, Bob and Good Oldtimers", "Living Sober", "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship", "AA Tradition - How It Developed" and "Selected Collection of BOX916 Vol.1-5" (BOX916 is a Japanese version of the Grapevine magazine). There are many in our catalogue.

2 In Japan, there are AA groups and meetings almost all over the country.

Japan is divided into 7 areas and each area has its own central office. Also, nearly all the prefectures (equivalent of states in U.S.) has AA groups, and cases that suffering alcoholics who seek for the solution could not have any contact with AA is getting rarer and rarer.

However, it seems there are many members who don't have meetings in their proximity or enough number. AA is getting quite common in big cities with large population but still a lot of time and effort is required to get to the meetings in other areas. A certain number of fellows can only attend a few meetings a week no matter how hard they try.

I assume the abundance of the literature are fulfilling those gaps. I think that utilization of the literature can cover lack of the meetings in a certain extent.

3 In reality, we have to say AA is hardly known to the larger society.

Professionals who deal with alcoholism do know about AA, but if they are dealing with other diseases, they know little about the AA. That is our current situation. Of course, lay public is the same. The interest of fellows are gathered to the challenge of "how can we let ordinary people know about us". We can say that "Public Information" in Japan is still on the way of development.

4 There are movements of "Back to Basics" frequently found among fellows.

In other words, we can say that fellows in often think that AA basics are not much respected in here. For instance, let's take sponsorship as an example. Only half of the Japanese members are using sponsorship effectively. As it is said in the starting of "Q&A on Sponsorship": "A.A. started with sponsorship.", it is sad that sponsorship is not fully utilized in Japan.

Also, long-timers often thinks it's a pity but, there are not many members who try to work the basics of the A.A. program - the 12 Steps. Of course, A.A. is a a fellowship of men and women with "a desire to stop drinking". But A.A. gives us much more grace than just not drinking. I feel it's a waste that many members are giving up those precious opportunity from themselves.

Friends of A.A. often mention that AA's attraction is in "showing each alcoholic change their way of life". Stop drinking is inevitable, but that can only clear negatives into zero. It surely is a miracle to see an alcoholic stop drinking, but it is even more of the miracle to see an alcoholic changing their way of life drastically, which is a new birth in one's life. Seeing those miracles are what delights our friends. Our primary purpose is not about fulfilling their expectation but working with the program we need in our life seems to be an important process of our recovery.

Though we have several problems to tackle as we mentioned, both of us - the delegates from Japan - would be glad if you - delegates from all over the world - who have experiences of same kind of problems in your country could share those with us.

Thank you so much. *Danshu-kai is one of the "two kinds of A.A." written in 82p of "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age"

The History of General Service Board in Japan

Rev. May 15, 2019 It is told that AA in Japan has started the first meeting in Kamata (which is a bed town/factory area of Tokyo suburb) in 1975. Six years later, we opened General Service Office by renting a room in an apartment in Shinjuku, Tokyo. When we registered our office to New York GSO, English AA Service Manual was sent to us. We translated a part of it into Japanese, and we noticed that we somehow need General Service Board. At that time, we were translating the term "General Board for Service". We changed the name to "Permanent Committee" after that, and then we started to use the current name "Permanent Trustee Board"

4 enthusiastic expert members supported AA at the time as class-A trustee which was described in the service manual, and 4 self-recommended alcoholics also gathered at the office on the second Sunday of January 1982. This was the first General Service Board meeting. Since then, these class-A trustees who understood us well helped us by giving advices and opinions enthusiastically. In this way, step by step, the framework of our AA service structure was created.

After our 10th anniversary in 1985, GSB activities had somehow disappeared. However, the AA itself has spread throughout Japan with JSO (Japan General Service Office) playing as the principal part. Also, at the time, Tokyo (Kanto Area) has been mainly taking the leadership in general service. The acting committee changed its name from "the Standing Service Committee", to "Operating Committee of Japan Service Office" and then "the Office Executive Committee".

It could not be called the service structure yet. However, enthusiastic members worked very hard through various activities. For example, they translated the original text properly without changing the principle of AA. While communicating with GSO in New York, they kept sending messages to the still suffering alcoholics all over Japan.

Since 1989, seven times of "General Service Meeting" were held, and the current structure that includes General Service Conference, and then, General Service Board was recommended at the 1995 National Assembly of General Service Representative. The first General Service Conference was held in the next year when the AA Japan came 20 years of age. The framework of the service structure was defined at the conference. After that, we were able to keep providing fair and continuous service throughout Japan and to the whole world. This is still continuing till this day.

This document is written in reference of AA Japan 20th anniversary official book let: "Repeat every encounter" in 1995.

Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA)

Consolidated Member Country Reports

Salaam Alaikum from the Middle East.

It is the combined privilege of the Member Countries from the Middle East to include this consolidated Country Report in the 2019 AOSM Conference.

Membership of Countries

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



1. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
2. Kingdom of Bahrain
3. State of Qatar
4. Sultanate of Oman
5. Lebanon
6. State of Kuwait
7. Kingdom of Jordan
8. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
9. Egypt
10. Sudan

Each of these member Countries function as an Area like entity unto themselves, some with multiple groups and across Cities/States/Emirates and some remain single city, single or multiple groups. AA has been in some of these countries for many years now, UAE claiming to have started its first AA meeting 40 years ago. The spread and growth of AA in these Countries has been encouraging and continues to carry the message in new areas and support a predominantly Western and Asian expatriate population, as well as a large transient/traveller member base.

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

History of MERCAA

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

1. Conducting Recovery Workshops – usually hosted in Dubai as a central location and maximum membership
2. The MERCAA AA Arabia website www.mercaa.com – this is a valuable resource and contact portal for all travellers and newcomers and all those who want to know more about AA.
3. The Labour Camp push - an initiative started in UAE and having relevance across the region. The objective is to carry the message into the low-income Asian Labour Camps where there is a high prevalence of Alcoholism and alcohol abuse.
4. The AA Convention of the Middle East - an Annual Celebration of Sobriety and carrying the message. It is held in rotation between member countries and is in its 17th year and the next one in 2019 will be hosted by Kuwait.
5. MERCAA has also taken a group conscience to use some of the 7th tradition funds collected through the groups and member countries, to support AOSM and GSO activities, and makes its contributions accordingly.

The first observer participation was held in 2007 at the Tokyo AOSM and Ann D of Kuwait was invited and presented the first MERCAA report. Since then MERCAA has regularly attended all AOSMs and has even hosted the AOSM in 2015.

MERCAA Trusted Servants

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

1. Chairpersons & Alt Chairpersons: 2 year terms
2. Treasurer – 2 years terms
3. Secretary – 2 year terms

4. Translation Committee Chairperson – voluntary
5. Web Servant – voluntary

Current MERCAA Trusted Servants

At the Annual MERCAA Meeting in 2018, the following new Servants were voted.

Chairperson	Bertie S
Alternative Chairperson (& Web Servant)	Craig B
Secretary	Ann S
Treasurer	Mark S

Countries have also nominated/elected formal Country Delegates to MERCAA who will participate in the scheduled MERCAA meetings and report MERCAA & AOSM Activities to their respective Countries.

2018 MERCAA Annual Convention

Dubai hosted the two-day event, which took place on 9th and 10th November. Over 120 members from all AA groups in the Middle East region and visitors from other regions and GSO New York attended. This was a unique Convention where certain speaking slots were put out to the local groups and AA Members from the local Community and other Regions shared their Experience, Strength and Hope. The Event covered its own costs.

2019 MERCAA Annual Convention

The next MERCAA Convention will be held on 22-23 November 2019 in Kuwait.

Arabic Translations

MERCAA with help of Intergroup Bahrain has so far translated the following Literature which has been approved by GSO New York:

Big Book

12 X 12

Living Sober

A New Comer Asks

This is AA

Is AA For You?

Recovery Workshops in the Region

Dubai hosted various Workshops in the last two years. These were well attended and received good feedback. These included MERCAA funded and supported as well as UAE Intergroup funded and supported recovery related workshops. Bahrain has also conducted 12 Step Recovery Workshops.

Summary of Country Reports – Insights Gained

From the various Country Reports and our collective experience of the service and recovery in the Region, we feel the following points are important to share with the Worldwide Service Structure.

1. The Fellowship and Member base in most of the member countries is Expatriate based
2. The nature of population is transient and temporary
3. Also due to recent Political and Economic circumstances, it has been observed that many long term sober and active members have started to return back to their home countries, and this led to a reduction in members, groups and service volunteers
4. It is also evident that local PI efforts have not been as effective as we would have liked it to be, and we still find it difficult to attract local population which is primarily Arabic speaking.
5. While there has been some positive news in some countries - in general, it is difficult to get the support of local Government and Regulatory bodies to carry the message and even find Meeting locations.
6. The Region continues to need more and more Arabic language literature to effectively carry the message, but much progress has been made in recent years.
7. Considerable effort has been made to give MERCAA a GSO status in the region, this will help in many ways to carry the message more effectively.
8. MERCAA Annual Convention remains the highpoint of the Region's Fellowship gathering and is a much awaited event every year. This is also supplemented with International Speakers coming from time to time to do Workshops in the Region and are well attended.
9. Our priority remains to support the smaller and newer fellowships to become self-supporting and get a fellowship and meetings going. e.g. Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt.

MERCAA Member Country Reports

United Arab Emirates

Background

AA in Dubai started in late 1970s and has grown and established quite strongly with multiple meetings in nearly all the major cities of UAE. Thereafter an AA community and Fellowship has grown and many meetings are held today across the country.

Finding meeting venues is an challenge for Dubai and the UAE, so as and when a suitable venue is found, often more than one weekly meeting is hosted in this venue.

UAE Intergroup meets bi-monthly and the Service Positions are regularly rotated.

Meetings

The current break up of Meetings in different Cities of UAE is as follows:

Dubai	32 meetings a week
Abu Dhabi	10 meetings a week
Al Ruwais	1 meeting a week
Al Ain	3 meetings a week
Sharjah	3 meetings a week

Public Information Meetings

Intergroup UAE has a PI Committee which is segregated in various Sub Committees and holds a monthly PI Meeting where various ways to spread the AA message are discussed and put into practice. More efforts are being put into carrying the message to the Labour Camps and Schools in Dubai and Intergroup has bought Literature in different languages to be distributed at the Awareness & AA Meetings in the Labour Camps free of cost.

Literature

We place regular orders through GSOs (UK, USA & India) and sell the same to the groups at cost plus shipping.

7th Tradition Contribution

The UAE regularly makes contributions to MERCAA, AOSM and GSO.

Service Committees

There are various Service Committees set up on an ad hoc / task needed basis.

AA License as a Not for Profit Association

Currently UAE Intergroup is working with the Community Development Authority, Dubai to fulfil its obligations to apply and receive an Organisational and Operational license to exist as a legal entity under the category of Not-for-Profit Association. This will have local and expat members as Directors and Founders and an ad-hoc Committee to complete this task has been formed and is operational.

Bahrain Country Report

Bahrain is an island located to the east of Saudi Arabia with a total population of roughly 1,500,000 where expatriates make up approximately 48%.

AA started in Bahrain in the year 1960, but it was not regular and not organised. It was on and off. The connecting point was the American Mission Hospital in Manama.

In August 1981, an Expatriate working in Bahrain was searching for recovering alcoholics and started regular meetings.

Groups

There are presently three functioning groups, one at the Hospital, another at the Sacred Heart Church in Manama and a third one at the American Mission Hospital in the suburbs of Manama.

Each Group functions independently, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Service Structure

Each group is run by a team of members who take on the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, literature secretary, tea and coffee provider and greeters. Groups are encouraged to appoint a Group Service Representative (GSR), generally with a proven track record in Service, who coordinates Service activity on behalf of the Group.

Since it is a relatively small island, the three dozen or so actual active members would be seen at any one of the three meetings. There are meetings every day of the week with an average of ten members per meeting.

Due to the high number of expats and therefore turn-over, there is a constant change of members in the meeting rooms.

Carrying the Message

Hospitals and Institutions:

Meetings are conducted on a regular basis at the government Psychology Hospital.

Qatar Country Report

A Breif History Of AA Qatar:

- Group formed by John L from India in 1988.
- New Members were initially Expatriates who were Members in their Home Countries.
- In the beginning Meetings were in Members' homes. However in 1989 Doha College provided the first official AA Venue in Doha, this ran for six years with two meetings per week.
- Between 1995 and 2002 the Meetings went back to Members' homes. The group was small but solid.
- In 2002 the Group got a room in the Parish Centre with Meetings every Friday.

- In 2003 a third Meeting each week was introduced as Membership had increased due to the growth in population. The Sofitel Hotel and Qatar Red Crescent Society were both added as Venues.
- In 2004 the Group got a Meeting Room in the Psychiatric Hospital where they still meet to this day.

AA has a strong Fellowship in Qatar. The Group is healthy and buoyant with approximately 60 active members and many more who pass through for work or who are on vacation. The majority of the group are Westerners, however there are a number of Qataris, South Africans, Sri Lankan, Indian and Members of GCC countries represented. The majority of Members are male although there is a thriving women's group that is growing.

The group has been running since 1988. Most new members are referred by family members, friends and employers. AA also receives a number of members from Naufar, a Facility for the Treatment of Substance Abuse and related Behavioural Disorders.

The Group meets in various locations through Doha with plans to support groups in other towns along the coast. The Group predominantly meets at the Hamad Medical Corporation's Psychiatric Hospital although has expanded to locations throughout the city. Every Meeting is well attended.

Meetings cover a wide range of AA topics to suit Newcomers and established members alike and there is strong support in terms of sponsorship and support calls. Meetings take a standard format: Speaker meeting, AA speaker tapes, Big Book Study, 12 Steps and Traditions, As Bill Sees It, Daily Reflection and Living Sober.

AA Qatar has a regularly updated website that details all Meetings and locations, helpline numbers and emails contacts for support and information. The meetings are chaired by Fellowship members who attend business meetings to take care of business arising. The Qatar Fellowship adheres to the 12 Traditions as a guide to the day-to-day Management of the Group, as such declining outside contributions and ensuring anonymity for members.

Oman Country Report

Our Group in Oman was first established in Muscat almost two decades ago. Known as the Oasis Group, it further gave rise to another Group called Plan B. Both Groups share an estimate of 10-15 Members.

Due to the small size of the group here, we have received a lot of support at meetings from other 12 Step Programmes. The initiative went further to the starting of Oman's first AA Arabic Meeting held once a week.

Other meetings run 3 times a week so in total we now have 4 AA meetings a week in The Sultanate.

Literature is available but on a limited basis and we do struggle sometimes with AA Birthday Chips.

Due to the size structure of the groups here, many Newcomers take up service positions early in recovery, sometimes multiple service positions. We have an AA hotline and members are available 24/7 for the still suffering alcoholic.

Service has reached the doors of various Hospitals and Institutions here so the awareness about alcoholism is growing. We do hope and pray that in time it will reach further so as to reach the World of the still suffering alcoholic in time.

Lebanon

- Number of members in the fellowship: 58 as per the fellowship AA WhatsApp group, however half of these are not living here full time.
- Meetings: Meetings are held three times a week:
 - Tuesday – Step Meeting.
 - Thursday – Open Topic Meeting.
 - Saturday – Big Book Meeting.
- The number of attendees in any given meeting ranges between 3 to 15.
- At the moment there is only 1 group and that is in the Capital Beirut.
- PI Outreach - we are in talks with various Hospitals Psychiatry units spreading Awareness about AA as a whole as well as our own activities since there is very little awareness in the Country. We have also printed cards to be placed in Treatment Facilities as well as Pharmacies.
- We are also discussing with various Fellows who live in other Cities the feasibility of setting up other groups and more meeting in different regions of the Country.
- Being such a small Fellowship we do quite a lot of Social Activities together and we have just launched a book club which has attracted 11 Fellows so far.

Kuwait

- Kuwait group now has 3 meetings a week (versus 5). We have struggled, as have other Countries in the Middle East, with a significant loss in numbers in the Expatriate population, both baby boomers and the downturn in the economy.
- We are struggling to keep our meetings open and the numbers can be anywhere from 1 – 3 at a meeting. We changed the timing of the Friday evening meeting to a Saturday morning meeting and that seems to have attracted more people. Sometimes up to 10. We hope that this continues.
- We are hosting the MERCAA convention in November 2019 and we are working on a large Public Information plan to attempt to get our message out there to the National population. It is slow progress. As has been stated in previous reports, the Middle East has a far greater understanding and tolerance of other substance abuse 12 step programs versus AA – reasons remain unknown.

Jordan

Our Amman group seems to be struggling with dwindling Meeting attendance due to Expatriate relocations, etc., but we still have a group of core Members who are actively attending Meetings. We are now holding our Wednesday meeting at the Forearms for Community Change Center in Jebel Hussein, and have moved the Monday meeting to the western suburbs to make it more convenient for more of our Members.

As part of our efforts to seek a broader section of Jordanians, we have had talks with the National Center for the Rehabilitation of Addicts in Shafa Badran to take a joint AA/NA meeting to the Center once a week. Their inpatient population is pretty evenly split between Alcoholics and Narcotics Addicts, so with Representatives from the NA group, we feel that this is a good way to Carry the Message and also to show inpatients that there is support in the Community for them after they are discharged.

Right now, we lack Arabic Speakers to conduct these Meetings, and also we are only able to take our Meetings to the center on weekends, due to our members having jobs during the day. The Center has a staffing problem on weekends, although they are not present in any of the meetings. The Ward Director would feel more comfortable with additional staff. We are currently trying to work out something to satisfy all parties, even if it means finding someone to translate from English to Arabic for the patients.

Riyadh (Rest of KSA Report not available)

- We have a small Fellowship that has been here for a few decades with ups and downs.
- We have a new website with updated information: www.aa-riyadh.com
- We have 2 English language Open meetings a week at a Medical Center on Takhassusi street in Riyadh.
- The attendance varies between 2 to 14 per meeting - average 8.
- We have a varied Fellowship with locals and Expatriates of various Nationalities who often move out of Riyadh. We do get visitors regularly.
- We do have a good amount of literature brought in by Fellows during their travels.
- Some of our fellows (2-3) regularly attend the yearly MERCAA Conventions.

Sudan

Currently there is only one Loner in Sudan and she travels to MERCAA Conventions and Workshops.

We need to do some PI Activity in Sudan and are open to suggestions.

Egypt

Brief History:

The first contact with GSO was established by an AA traveler in 1957, but it was not until 1973 that the first AA group in Egypt was established, the Oasis Group. The current Maadi group was established in 1978 and there after, meetings such as the Gouna meeting have continued to carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

Meetings:

In Egypt there are 2 major cities which provide English speaking AA meetings, Cairo and El Gouna. There are meetings 6 days of the week in Cairo and twice a week in El Gouna.

Cairo meetings centralize in 2 major Cairo towns. Maadi on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday and Zamalek on Fridays.

Gouna meetings are held on Fridays and Wednesdays.

Intergroup:

AA in Cairo is what could be considered a small fellowship comprising of about 10-15 members. Willingness to commit to long term service is an ongoing challenge. To cater to this challenge intergroup has been comprised of the secretaries of each room representing their meeting in business or intergroup meetings which vote on AA related affairs.

For the above-mentioned reasons beyond the day to day maintenance of ensuring meetings are represented with a committed chairperson to run the meeting- AA had been unable to expand it's support in extended committees.

Website:

The AA Egypt website caters to the needs of both Cairo and Gouna AA.

Visitors, newcomers and enquiries are primarily accessed through the website. Information included are AA readings such as the preamble, daily meditation as well as meeting lists and AA contacts for support. <http://www.aaegypt.org/>

Challenges:

AA Egypt has faced many difficulties in re-establishing itself as a source of firm support for the next suffering alcoholic. We face difficulties with longevity of sobriety, meeting attendance, sponsorship and willingness to commit to AA service positions.

These challenges may be attributed to a vicious cycle where meetings are late in the evening which impacts meeting attendance and support for the group as a whole. Furthermore, the location of the meeting and it's amenities (no elevator) makes accessibility difficult for elder members. Efforts to find a new venue have been attempted with no success over the years. Furthermore, there are no Arabic AA speaking meetings- an attempt to establish meetings in Arabic were pursued with no success. Members are unable to fully participate in English speaking meetings- and thus opt to join our sister fellowship NA who do provide Arabic speaking meetings.

Mongolia

Structure and Service

A.A meeting was on the 28th November, 1998 and it is considered A.A in in Mongolia.

The first General Service Conference was held in 2008, then it is organized, annually. A.A office was officially opened in June, 2010.

Present, there is some service structure with A.A groups, center for groups, service committees and Conference. In the service, there is a general manager, an office manager, service 4 trustees and large 3 trustees.

Last conference, new structure is experienced by 4 geographical zones. Therefore, A trustees should be 2 for service.

There are 107 groups and 3500 members in the program. 72 groups and in the countryside and 35 are in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. In the small groups, there are at least 4 members and at large groups, there are around 60 members.

AOSM delegates fees should be paid by GSO in Conference IX, 2018 and two delegates' fees are paid in AOSM XIII, in Kong Hong.

The last national convention was held in June 2018 and over 460 members participated and shared their experiences. The national Convention is held once in 2 years. During the convention, there is some documentary is shown for members.

The next national convention is going to hold in 2020. The next convention date should be announced by the conference delegates in January 2020.

According to the last AOSM was in Tuushin hotel, in Ulaanbaatar, we printed "Daily reflection" "As Bill sees it" and "living sober" and these three literature is printed for second time. This literature are effected to the members' sober life. The literature meeting numbers are increased. In over 20 groups, there is a meeting for literature.

According to the groups and service members' request, "12 steps and 12 traditions" workshop was organized twice in the Dornogovi and Uvurkhangai aimags.

A.A in Mongolia day is announced "a Founder's Day" and A.A meeting is held through the country. A.A in Mongolia, there is some money economy is saved and almost 60-70% is from literature.

At finally, we are developing and there are still many questions for us. For example, we need more understanding and experience about Al-Anon. Because, in the countryside, the number of Al-Anon members is increasing.

Hospitals and Institutions:

Meetings are conducted on a regular basis at the private and state Psychology Hospital

New Zealand

Brief Historical Summary

A.A. has been in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1946, when our founder, Ian McE., read an article in the *Reader's Digest*, and wrote to GSO New York, seeking help. The A.A. service structure was initially established in 1964 at a National Conference in Te Papa-i-Oea Palmerston North.

Current AA Structure

The Aotearoa New Zealand Service Structure begins with the individual AA groups which elect General Service Representatives (GSRs) to represent the views of the groups at District Committee and Intergroup level and the three Area Assemblies.

The Area Assemblies elect three delegates each to represent them at the General Service Conference (Conference) keeping in mind that they must act for AA as a whole.

This Conference structure is how AA functions nationally in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is a framework whereby the collective group conscience of our AA Groups are able to guide our trusted servants with their primary purpose of carrying the message.

General Service Board (Board)

The New Zealand General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. (Board), was incorporated on October 7, 1991. This incorporation provides a legal safety net under Aotearoa New Zealand 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 revitalised.

The Board operates under the statutory legal framework of an Incorporated Society, the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA, and the Board By Laws. It is the legal arm of the fellowship and has the ability to contract on behalf of AA. The Board produces policies and guidelines to allow AA to comply with its legal obligations. The Board carries out all instructions (Advisory Actions) from Conference to enable it to achieve its objectives.

The Board has its own By Laws as well as being part of the Conference Charter. The Board's primary function is to serve the General Service Conference and act in a legal capacity on the Fellowships behalf.

It provides a vehicle for selling AA literature, and holds the licences, leases, trademarks, patents, and other property interests, if any (whether intellectual or not), in the name of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It promotes awareness activities in relation to Alcoholics Anonymous, controls the management and operation of the General Service Office (GSO); and carries out all instructions from Conference to enable it to achieve its objectives.

The Board membership consists of a maximum of two non-alcoholic (Class A) trustees and a minimum of six ex-alcoholic (Class B) trustees, a chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

The Board has six working committees: Archives, Communication, External Relations, Finance & Administration, 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 meets before each Conference. It holds its AGM each March to enable the Auditor's Report to be discussed and filed with the Charities Commission in order to comply with its legal obligations. Telephone conferences between each Conference ensure Advisory Actions are on track.

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

General Service Conference (Conference)

The General Service Conference (Conference) meets biannually and is composed of nine elected area delegates, eight board members (two Class A 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. The Conference Chairperson has a casting vote only. All members of Conference have speaking rights.

Services

Conference currently has four subcommittees:

Public Information (PIC) – coordinates the Public Awareness week and liaises with national media organisations to ensure AA gets maximum value for media placements.

PIC is always seeking input and Initiatives from local PIC and Area Assemblies.

Treatment and Correctional Facilities (TCF) – facilitates requests from members and groups who are interested in carrying the message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment centres and correctional facilities. The TCF Committee is always seeking suggestions for initiatives from local TCF Committees and Area Assemblies. The Prison Correspondence Coordinator sits under this committee. The primary function is to be a “national point of contact” between AA and inmates and to facilitate the “carrying of the message” into Correctional Facilities by correspondence.

Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – fosters relationships with the professional community which includes health care professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders and those working in the field of alcoholism.

International – makes decisions about the level of funding NZ provides to the International Literature Fund for translation of AA literature into new languages. It also agrees on the level of funding toward Asia Oceania Meeting (AOSM).

District, Intergroup and Area meetings generally have these same service committees.

General Service Office (GSO)

Our GSO is located in Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara Wellington, Aotearoa 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 Fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members and approximately 500 registered groups. 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. Aotearoa New Zealand also publishes a bi-monthly meeting in print entitled *Mainstay*. An occasional newsletter is also sent out to the Fellowship. GSO has also publishes translations of the Serenity Prayer and 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in Te Reo Māori, one of Aotearoa New Zealand's three official languages, and a booklet containing stories from members who received the message of AA in prison.

Information Technology

Aotearoa New Zealand's website includes a national meeting directory which can be downloaded, and audio meetings. There is a "members only" section accessible by password that contains information such as area minutes, application details for service structure positions, upcoming events, etc. A mobile phone app called "Findameeting NZ", developed by GSO, is available and has received wide support and use. Increasingly, AA groups make their bank account number available and AA members use banking apps to pay their 7th tradition.

¹ *All place names in this report are written in Te Reo Māori then English.*

Russia

In July 2018, the Alcoholics Anonymous group of Vladivostok invited two speakers, Karyn and Judy, from AA of Gold Coast, Australia, to share their experience of passing through the AA steps, living the AA traditions, working on public awareness committees, receiving and giving sponsorship, and working with professionals and correctional institutions.

I was privileged to host them in my home and to be their translator at meetings.

During their entire stay in Vladivostok from August 31 to September 12, Karyn and Judy attended nine AA meetings, where they talked about their work step-by-step and answered questions. They also held a two-day seminar on AA traditions. At the 11th Far Eastern AA Forum, which was held in Vladivostok September 6-8, our guests shared about their experience of recovery in AA, the sponsorship relationship, serving on committees for working with the public and professionals, working in correctional institutions, and attending various types of AA meetings. It was an amazing forum. If I were to give it a title, I would call it "Unity in Diversity."

On the fourth day of Karyn and Judy's stay, another guest came to Vladivostok. Michael, an AA member from the USA, joined Karyn and Judy as a speaker for two groups. At one of the meetings, after Michael shared his story, Karyn said, "We have all had different experiences of alcohol use and different experiences of recovery. We are all very different, but we are united together. Everyone has a place in AA, and that's great."

Both Karyn and Judy repeatedly said that there are no rules in AA, no bosses, and no punishment and that we are all free. In their statements, there was a great amount of love, tolerance, and respect for the opinions of others. They were asked a lot of questions by people hoping to get a specific answer and a guide to action, but they only shared their experiences. Not once did they say that a certain group or person was doing something right or something wrong or that someone has to do this and that.

At one of the meetings, Karyn and Judy asked, "Do you have mentors appointed to your group? What do you think about this?" Karyn said that she had had no such experience and that for her it would not work, since it was important for her to choose a mentor whom she would like to listen to. Judy said that it worked for her. Although Judy wasn't assigned a mentor, her sponsor herself suggested taking Judy through the steps and Judy agreed.

Karyn and Judy recorded how we hold AA meetings and forums in Vladivostok in order to bring their experience to the Gold Coast. They liked very much that the forum gave people the opportunity to speak and that those who did not have time to speak could introduce themselves. They also liked that we begin by reading the third part of the chapter. They were pleasantly surprised by our hospitality and open hearts and said that their AA group needs to learn this.

In the first ten days of September 2018, Alcoholics Anonymous from three continents gathered at AA meetings in Vladivostok. Despite the fact that we live in different countries, we are all alcoholics who have found a common way to solve our problems. Sharing our experiences, strengths, and hopes, we carry the message of AA all over the world, keeping our community united and accessible to all who need our help.

Singapore

Singapore is grateful for the opportunity to participate in AOSM 2019. The message of A.A. was brought to Singapore over 50 years ago. Dick D., who regularly corresponded with G.S.O. New York, wrote that the Singapore group founded in 1957 had 12 members and two likely prospects. Singapore A.A. listed their first meeting with the Records Department on December 8, 1959. We estimate our membership at around 250-300 members who attend meetings regularly. Singapore's meeting count has grown steadily over the past five years to now have daily meetings from morning to night across the city-state. There are currently 19 autonomous groups that hold 39 meetings throughout the week.

The fellowship's service structure is supported by a healthy Intergroup that meets at least four times a year. In addition to representatives for each group, Singapore's Intergroup has chairs for HIPI, AOSM, a Newsletter, Website, Hotline, Round Up, Literature, Treasury and Social Committee. A weekend Roundup is held in Singapore at the beginning of every year, usually in March or April. Most attendees are from Singapore, but we host visitors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and other nearby countries. Singapore's Intergroup has a surplus of contributions after accounting for its local and regional activities that it sends back to the G.S.O periodically.

In 2018, an outreach meeting to Sri Lanka was coordinated with over a dozen members of the Singapore A.A. fellowship travelling to bring the message of A.A. to the country. In previous years, Singapore A.A. has sent A.A. literature to Bhutan.

Most meetings are currently attended by expatriates from around the world, but Singapore A.A. is making efforts to strengthen its outreach to the local community. Singapore's outreach to hospitals and institutions is supported by weekly meetings at NAMS (National Addictions Management Service) clinic under the IMH (Institutes of Mental Health). Fortnightly meetings are also held at Angsana halfway house. Talks at local hospitals and schools by A.A. members are held throughout the year and literature is provided by A.A. to the local professional community. Efforts are also underway to provide anonymous data to Singaporean authorities to demystify A.A. so that the government considers A.A. a part of the solution to treating alcoholism in the country. In addition to strengthening ties to the local community, Singapore's A.A. fellowship is excited to participate in AOSM and through it, evaluate ways to contribute resources and support to smaller fellowships across the region.

South Korea

Brief History of AA in South Korea

Alcoholics Anonymous and its recovery was first introduced to Korea by the Irish Catholic Father, Arthur M (widely known as “shin-bu” to Korean members) in the 1970’s.

In the early 1980’s, some AA groups were established in Seoul and Kwangju City. The Gyeoja-si (Mustard Seed Group) started the meeting in Bapo-dong in Seoul and “An shinbu” was a member of this group. The Go-ma-um (Thankfulness) Group was established in Sang-gye-dong in Seoul. Irish Father, Mortimer K was one of the founding members. The Pyeong-on-ham (Serenity) Group was permitted to use the employee lunchroom of a hospital located in Kwangju City as its meeting place in 1984. These three groups are the oldest groups in South Korea and are still functioning to carry the message to suffering alcoholics.

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous was first translated into Korean in 1986; the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 1990; Living Sober in 1994; the Daily Reflections in 1997; and As Bill Sees It in 2003.

AA is active in South Korea in two languages: Korean and English.

The English AA is independent but in cooperation with the Korean AA Organization.

Groups and Members

In **Korean AA** there are 3,000 members in 186 groups in 9 districts.

There are 254 meetings each week, available every day.

The Korean GSO office is located in Yeong-deung-po-gu in Seoul and has an English-speaking full-time manager.

In **English AA** there are 200 members in 12 groups in 8 districts.

There are 21 face-to-face meetings each week, available every day, twice on Sunday.

We also have 11 Skype-based meetings on a weekly basis.

The English GSO office is located in Osan City in Gyeonggi Province and has a part-time manager.

Service Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous Inter-Group Korea (AAIGK) is the equivalent of: a) District Office b) Area Committee c) GSO (AA New York d) Intergroup Office. We provide services to the expat communities in Seoul and all other parts of South Korea. We run a volunteer telephone answering service; keep and update a list of AA meetings; maintain an inventory of AA literature (or individual groups ask the former USO group to order

for them); and organize AA-related events that groups may not have the resources to do themselves. We try to keep track of meetings in the following places: Seoul; Dongducheon; Uijeongbu; Osan; Pyeongtaek; Gunsan; Daegu; Busan; and Daejeon.

I have been elected to a 2-year term as DCM for Korea. I have also been elected to a 4-year term as Delegate for Korea to attend the AOSM this year.

The other positions we maintain, in accordance with The AA Service Manual, are: Chairperson; Secretary; H & I; Literature; PI; Treasurer. We also have a new Roundup Committee each year.

Public Information; Hospitals & Institutions & Co-operation with the Professional Community

There are a total of twenty-two facilities available in Korean AA. Fortunately, one of them, the Keyo Alcoholic Treatment Hospital has an English-speaking psychiatrist (he is my former student) who has offered his undivided attention to any English-speaking alcoholics who require his services. He has provided us with a list of the twenty-two facilities in Korea for us to distribute our English information. He also regularly travels to all other hospitals in Korea to teach them about the importance and the effectiveness of our 12-step program to help them with their patients afflicted with our disease.

Currently, the only institution for English-speaking alcoholics is located on the American Military Base and unfortunately, new members view AA as a form of punishment rather than an opportunity.

International Efforts to Carry the Message

Most of our English-speaking members have longer lengths of sobriety than the Korean-speaking members, so we regularly take turns speaking, with a translator, at their AA Conventions. We also provide an English speaker to their AA meeting in the Keyo Alcoholic Treatment Hospital, on the last Thursday of every month.

Translation & Literature

We are currently working with the Korean GSO Office to print publications & information pamphlets in both Korean and English. We are also creating coins that are printed in both languages to distribute.

AOSM Participation

In the past, a delegate from South Korea attended the AOSM in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, & 2003. This delegate represented the Korean-speaking AA in Korea. He was even instrumental in helping to organize the AOSM in South Korea in 2001.

This will be the first time that English-speaking AA will be in attendance as our representative. I am both blessed and excited to have been chosen to have the honor and the responsibility to come to Hong Kong in July with my wife, Lisa, as the Acting Delegate for my first term. I am hoping I will also have the opportunity to sing The Serenity Prayer for you, as well as an original song about our founders, Bill & Dr. Bob.

In any event, I have been around this beautiful program for a long time, so now it is about time I am involved in being of service.

Any Other Comments & Needs

We are celebrating our 40th Annual Korea Alcoholics Anonymous Roundup this year in Seoul. It will be a one-day event this year, on Saturday, June 1st. Our theme this year is "Humility" from the plaque that sat on the desk of Dr. Bob. Who better to speak about Humility than the person who gave me my plaque for my desk, my sponsor, Lew F., from Chilliwack, B.C., Canada. Lew has fifty-five years of sobriety, including forty-four years of speaking at AA events all around the world.

For further information about us or our Roundup, visit our website at www.aainkorea.org

You can also visit the Korean website which has some English at www.aakorea.org

I am really excited to meet as many of you good people this summer in July.

After all, you are my family of choice. My two grandfathers, Peter & James, always told me "there are no strangers in your life, only friends you haven't met yet."

I am grateful to have alcoholism because it used to have me.

In The Fellowship of The Spirit & The Spirit of The Fellowship, Love Peter James

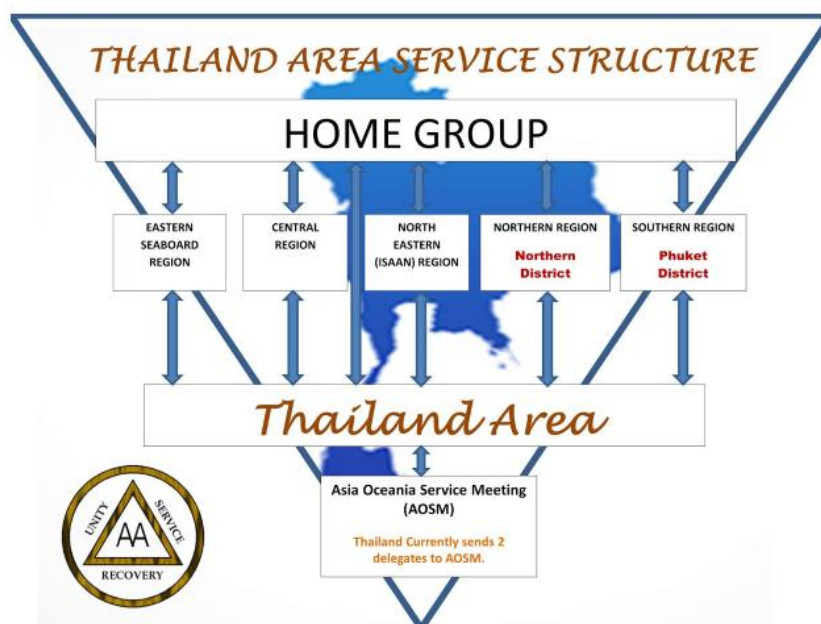
Thailand

Brief History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Thailand

Alcoholics Anonymous arrived in Thailand in the '60s primarily due to the presence of the US Military. In the '70s a member who was a standup comic from San Francisco was arrested naked in downtown Bangkok. With a few meetings in Bangkok in 1979 a meeting was then established in Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand. In 1981 the first Thai language manuscript of the Big Book was delivered to GSO in New York, the official translation was a very slow process. We believe that the first Thai language meeting was held in 2004 at the Khon Kaen Rehab. Fast forward to today and Alcoholics Anonymous in Thailand is strong and growing with some important caveats. Meetings are held in Thai, English, German, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. Meetings are listed by region on: www.AAthailand.org. The caveats are that while AA in Thailand prospers the Thai language penetration is fledgling at best and the Foreigner successes are somewhat limited by region and demographics. As a desirable Retiree destination we are mostly a fellowship of old white men limited to a few urban areas.

Groups and Members

We have just over 200 meetings per week listed on our Website, 203 to be precise and we estimate around 500 members. Our Service Structure consists of Home Groups, District, Area and AOSM.



PIC/CPC

Regarding PIC and CPC efforts we have had vibrant PIC/CPC Committees both in the Northern and Phuket District's for some time which have made inroads at hospitals and distribute and man card and flyer holders in numerous locations throughout their areas of responsibility as well as trying to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering Alcoholic in other varied and creative ways.

If you are familiar with the AA video, 'AA Video for Healthcare Professionals' we produced a Thai version, presented it to a gathering of a large number of hospitals and it is now being used as a teaching tool. Chiang Mai University School of Medicine has allowed us to conduct AA meetings on campus with medical students observing followed by a Q&A for the medical students. We also have an AA Sunjon which means road trip where AA's once a month carry the message to rural areas.

We recently established a PIC/CPC Committee at the Area level as well. The committee's biggest accomplishment so far has been the production of an audio track of the Big Book in Thai posted on the Internet. The feeling was that Thai's don't particularly like to read and that many of the locals attracted to AA are Hill Tribe people, Refugees or other marginalized individuals who while they speak Thai often cannot read so this makes the Big Book much more accessible.

International Efforts to Carry the Message

At this juncture, we don't have any formal efforts at trying to carry the message internationally. Working with AOSM's, Working with Others Committee we reached out to some of our neighbours regarding Roundups Across Borders but could not really gain a foothold. We had two Thailand Roundups in Thailand interested in pursuing the idea but could not find a neighbouring country with a significant enough AA presence.

Translation and Literature

We have a large collection of AA literature translated into Thai. Our most successful piece is a comic book titled, 'What Happened to Joe'. We also have found 'The Twelve Steps Illustrated' and 'The Twelve Traditions Illustrated' very useful I have copies here of all three for your perusal. We have just completed a new translation of the Big Book into Thai. The first translation was written

in a very upscale Thai language that the common Thai had a very hard time understanding. We have Southern Thai, Central Thai, Northern Thai languages as well as a Thai language to be used with Monks and another for Royalty. The feedback on the new translation is very encouraging, I have some copies of this as well for you to look at should you like.

AOSM

As a country, we have been a strong supporter of AOSM sending two delegates to the bi yearly meetings. There is a lot of pressure to discontinue this participation as many members do not see any real accomplishments by AOSM.

Comments and Needs

Our struggle continues to be carrying the message of AA to Thai's, expanding our foreigner universe to more young people, women, rural areas and helping our neighbouring countries. Additionally, we have many meetings and groups who creatively and energetically work to carry the message via Open Houses, Roundups and other methods but have struggled to have the same success on the Area level.

World Service Meeting Report

I will report the 25th World Service Meeting held for five days in Durban, South Africa, from October 7th to 11th, 2018.

WSM is held every two years. In the 24th WSM in 2016 at New York, we had 9 days schedule as we had an observer attendance in the US/Canada General Service Board and a tour to their General Service Office in addition to WSM. However, this time, we only had 5 days schedule since there was no event other than WSM. When we arrived at King Shaka Airport in South Africa, the chairperson of the local host committee picked us up by his car. He is an AA member who served as a World Service Delegate at the 24th WSM in New York. As we remembered each other, we were delighted to see again for the first time after the WSM in NY two years ago.

72 delegates from 45 countries/zones participated in the 25th WSM. In addition to these participants, the US/Canada General Service Office staffs, Spanish-English interpreters and Japanese interpreters attended the meeting. After all, the meeting was consisted of nearly 80 members. From the AOSM zone, six countries participated: Iran, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia. Hong Kong was registering their delegate, but it was canceled due to some circumstances. Participations from the other zones were as following, 16 countries in the REDELA (North and South Americas) and 22 countries in European Service Meeting. Unfortunately South Africa as the host country was the only participant from the African continent. Turkey and Bolivia participated in WSM for the first time, so they were very welcomed.

The theme of this WSM was "Our 12 traditions; A.A.'s future in the modern world". Country reports were submitted from each country, and there were time for country highlights where delegates present some topics in their reports. I was surprised that many countries use the new media for public relations and finance. E-books, Internet contributions, video sites, social network service and real-time meeting guides linked to maps by mobile applications are officially used by some country's GSO and General Service Board. On the other hand, some countries are hesitating to use those media since they are afraid of income losses, expense increase and breaking traditions. However those countries which have already introduced such a new media seemed to overcome such fears easily.

In addition, country to country sponsorship is carried out as usual thing. The United States and Canada plant seeds in Mexico and Brazil, and Mexico works as the sponsor for Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Dominica and Venezuela. The case of sponsorship crossing zones between distant countries was also introduced, such as Germany helping Bolivia. There is, of course, financial assistance, but it seems that there is a various form of assistance given. Like inviting sponsee country members to sponsor's General Service Conference or General Service Board Meeting to give them a live view of certain service meetings and structures were quite common.

We also had sharing sessions whether members with diverse backgrounds could join in the AA groups. Those are, for example, women, young, sexual minorities, seniors, occupations, old timers. Such special meetings are closed meetings only for AA members, but they seem to be mostly not limiting attendance with any other backgrounds. So if men come to a women's meeting, they do not shut the door and seem to be welcoming. However, often times, the purpose of the meeting

will be explained, and another meeting place will be recommended for the next time. There are also special meetings for the old timers and special meetings for lawyers and medical doctors, who share their specific worries and sufferings. Of course, those doors were open and shared without rejecting other occupations.

Sharing between countries was very exciting and I felt that it was a chance to see that what I used to think as common things were actually not. There were a lot of sharing and presentations, but I felt 5 days were too short. I think it is same with the AOSM.

In the 25th WSM, there were three delegates of class A (non-alcoholic). Three class B (alcoholic) delegates were with over 40 years of sobriety. Hearing the story that Danish delegate have joined AA in their 20s, and are continuing their service activities even in his 60s, while doing work and study again, it seems that his experiences overlap with mine, and I have been shown "Set a positive leadership example" of Concept 9. In addition, delegates from Iceland, Slovakia and Czech are very young and active. And, although their sobriety was less than 10 years, they looked lively and they were participating these international meetings without hesitation. Seeing their such attitude, we were encouraged not to be satisfied with the current domestic situation, but to need to get in touch with the services that we can.

At this WSM I gave an overview presentation about AOSM held in Mongolia in 2017. My term as an international delegate in Japan is four years, and this is my last 4th year. It is a great honor to be able to participate 2016 WSM, 2017 AOSM, 2018 WSM and 2019 AOSM consecutively. I feel very fortunate to be able to be a bridge between WSM and AOSM after Heather H.

The next WSM will be held in New York from October 25 to 29, in 2020. The theme was decided as "The purpose of our service: Sobriety within Everyone's reach". I would like to conclude the WSM report here.

Appendix Reference of THE 25th WORLD SERVICE MEETING Theme: Our Twelve Traditions: A.A.'s Future

The Title List of Presentations. By General Service Office International Literature Fund. Our Global Publishing Partnership. A.A. Literature for Today and Tomorrow. Old Values for a Modern A.A. Is Anonymity Still Relevant Today? Attraction vs. Promotion in an Internet World. Traditions in the Mass Media. Service: Investing in A.A.'s Future.

Service: Don't Tell Me — Show Me. The Seventh Tradition — Supporting Our Services . Literature and Its Place in an Internet Environment. E-books — How They Affect A.A. Funding. The Future of Our National Magazines. A.A. Literature — A Picture Tells a Thousand Words. Safety of the Vulnerable Member. A Society of Equals. Recognizing the Vulnerable. Including Minorities in A.A. Share the Value of Tradition Four. Freedom or Chaos? How Does It Support Unity? Attracting Members into Service. Service Sponsorship. The Rewards of Doing Service. Participating in Service beyond the Group. Special Purpose Meetings. Meetings or Groups? The Value of Women's Meetings. Special Purpose Meetings and the Third Tradition.

The Recommended Action of Standing Committee. Agenda. --For the next 26th World Service Meeting (2020).-- Theme: "The Purpose of Our Service: Sobriety within Everyone's Reach."

Presentation/Discussion Topics: 1. Importance of the Group Conscience Process 2. Encouraging Women into General Service 3. Young People in A.A. 4. Anonymity 5. Safety in A.A. 6. International Literature Fund

Workshop Topics:

1. Communication — A Key to Unity
2. The Use and Value of our A.A. Literature in Sponsorship 3. The Importance of our Nonalcoholic Friends in Our Structures

Literature/Publishing. The committee accepted the A.A.W.S. Report on the International Literature Fund regarding the fund and the disbursement of funds.

The committee reviewed with appreciation the "Country to Country Sponsorship" service piece.

The committee addressed the following topics related to literature:

1. The need for modernizing the language in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* considering younger members whose vernacular is different from the language used when the Big Book was written.
2. Who sets the literature prices in your country? What procedures are used?
3. What is your country's experience regarding pricing (if at all) A.A. leaflets and brochures?
4. When a member requests to purchase literature (published and distributed by the member's country) from another General Service Office, the member should be referred to the G.S.O. in his/her country.

The committee recommended that A.A. World Services, Inc. consider use of the International Literature Fund to offset administrative costs associated with translation review and copyright registration of AA Grapevine, Inc. books.

The committee had a wide-ranging discussion regarding the benefits, pitfalls and development of policy regarding online literature including, but not limited to: • The potential of downloadable literature cannibalizing print literature sales; one country noted that while their literature is available electronically, it is not downloadable; • The benefits of e-books and audiobooks as a

means of providing the A.A. message in a more accessible format, including those members who may have learning challenges.

The committee agreed to forward this topic for further discussion by the Literature/Publishing Committee at the 26th World Service Meeting in 2020.

Policy/Admissions/Finance. The committee approved the requests of Bolivia and Turkey to participate at the 25th World Service Meeting.

The committee reviewed the qualifications for countries participating in the World Service Meeting and the qualifications for World Service Meeting delegates and made no changes to either.

The committee reviewed World Service Meeting finances and delegates' fees and had an in-depth discussion of the spiritual and practical aspects of the Seventh Tradition principle of self-support.

The committee recommended that the 26th World Service Meeting be held October 25-29, 2020.

The committee reviewed a memo from the World Service Meeting Coordinator that reported the progress made in exploring an online communication vehicle for World Service Meeting delegate sharing between meetings and the implementation of that communication platform within the next six months.

The committee reviewed correspondence from El Salvador and Honduras, notifying the World Service Meeting of their withdrawal from the Central American Northern Zone and sharing their intention of participating in the World Service Meeting as individual countries starting in 2020. The committee also reviewed correspondence from Guatemala sharing their intention of participating in the World Service Meeting as an individual country starting in 2020.

The committee recommended that countries that have participated in the World Service Meeting as members of a zone and want to begin participating as an individual country will need to reapply for admission as an individual country.

The committee discussed current World Service Meeting financial assistance procedures and agreed to establish a World Service Meeting Fund as a way for countries to contribute funds to

provide financial assistance to countries that request funding and to support the World Service Meeting.

The committee agreed that World Service Meeting delegate listings in the International A.A. Directory and the World Service Meeting Final Report may include the delegate's full name, telephone number and email address but exclude their home address.

Working with Others. The committee discussed the following topics: 1. Public Information 2. How do local A.A. groups collaborate with A.A. groups across national borders, and what is the role of online meetings? 3. Strategies to keep members active in service 4. Accessibility of the A.A. message to underserved communities. 5. Are all alcoholics safe in A.A.? 6. Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) C.P.C. as a resource for alcoholics through public and private companies in the occupational health care business:

The Theme of Workshop. How to Use the Internet Wisely.

Country-to-Country Sponsorship.

Leadership in A.A.

Reports of Interim and Zonal Service Meetings. 12th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting. 19th European Service Meeting. 20th Meeting of the Americas (REDELA). 8th Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting.

List of participating countries/zones. (A-Z order)

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELARUS, BELGIUM (DUTCH-SPEAKING), BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CENTRAL AMERICA/ NORTHERN ZONE (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), CENTRAL AMERICA/ SOUTHERN ZONE (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama), CHILE, COLOMBIA, CUBA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, FINLAND, FRENCH-SPEAKING EUROPE, GERMAN-SPEAKING EUROPE, GREAT BRITAIN, ICELAND, INDIA, IRAN, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PARAGUAY, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UKRAINE, U.S./CANADA & VENEZUELA

Responsibility Statement

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that: **I am responsible.**

Declaration of the 30th Anniversary International Convention, 1965, Toronto, Canada.

Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first;

To keep our fellowship united.

For on A.A. unity depend our lives,

And the lives of those to come.

Declaration of the 35th Anniversary International Convention, 1970, Miami, Florida

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Let us consider our AOSM

What is working?

What needs to be improved?

What is our purpose?

OUR WEBSITE SAYS: “Plan-Do-Evaluate. The AOSM meets for two or three days every second year. Little can be done in those few days so it is vital that the work of the AOSM is carried on between meetings. At the AOSM itself, the delegates can evaluate what has been achieved since the last meeting. They then plan what to do for the next two years and carry out the work until it can be evaluated at the next AOSM”. The Primary purpose of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Purpose: The AOSM 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 AOSM encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA service to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work.

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

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)

NOTE: We may not look the same as in 1935, but our message has not changed. In AA our questions come before our answers. We need to take time to decide whether we want something or if we really need a service. Only then, will we (as individuals and ASOM) provide the time, money and effort to proceed.

**QUESTIONS, comments and ideas raised by delegates in the 2018 questionnaire,
for use in the workshop**

- How can we share our AOSM knowledge with smaller countries – especially those with little or no service structure? Should our workshops be filmed to share with smaller countries?
- Do we focus enough on our Statement of Purpose? Is this statement of purpose clearly stated – one country didn't think so. What's different between our purpose and any other meeting's purpose? Are these statements still appropriate? NOTE: These 'purpose' topics came up a few times.
- How can we (should we?) exchange speakers within AOSM to share experience, strength and hope and/or conduct seminars on the traditions, concepts, and principles? What about Country to Country Service Sponsorship?
- Do we need networking during the even years when AOSM does not meet? What can be done to encourage countries to share via the newsletter?
- How can countries ensure their delegates' expenses are paid? How do our countries do this?
- Can we improve offering financial sponsorship to a country for their delegate? Form for country to fill in? A date to be submitted by?
- What presentation topics, agenda items, workshops would you like considered for the 14th AOSM agenda?
- Prudent reserve?
- Other questions?

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



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.

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

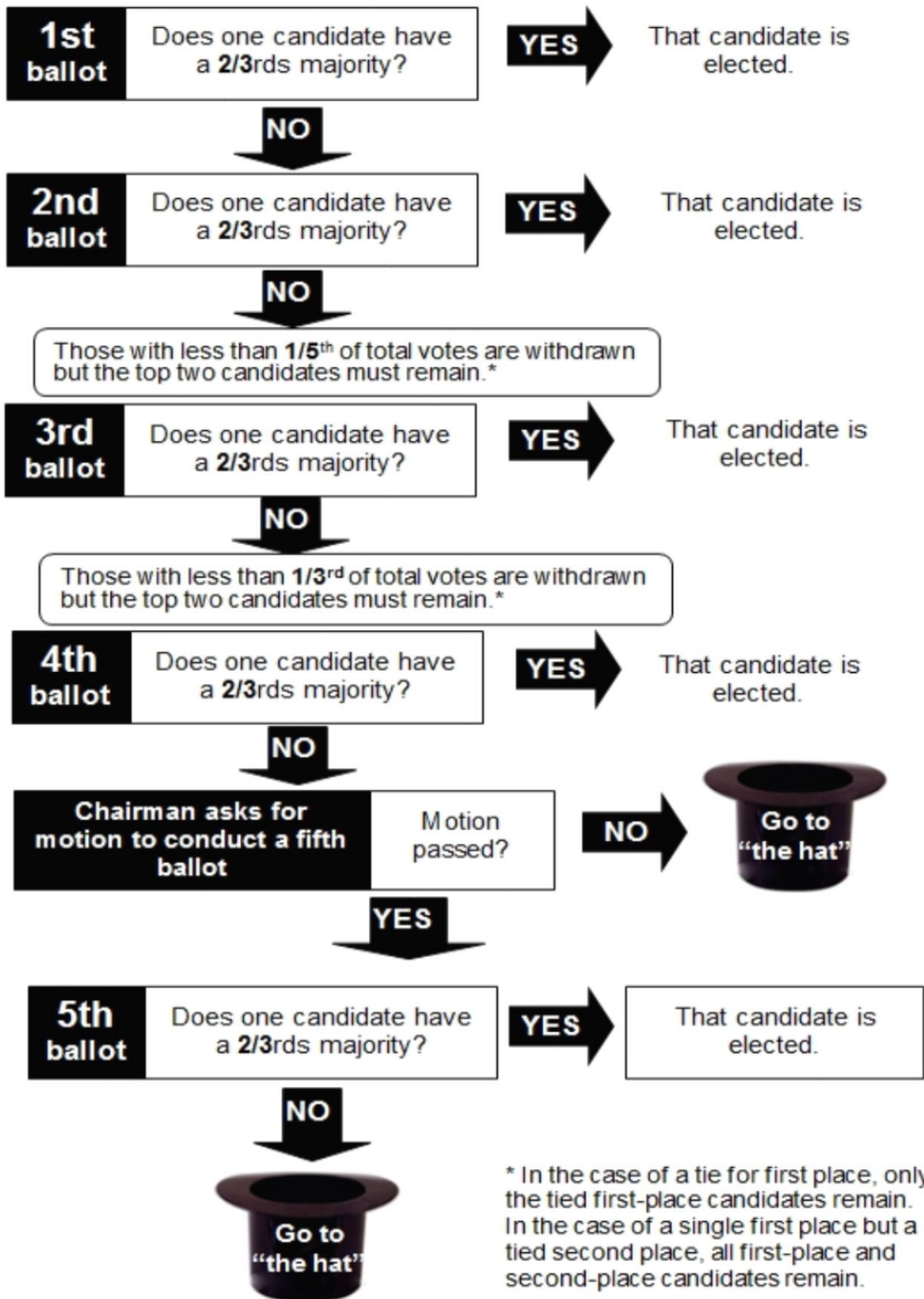
- • That the candidates are eligible and willing to stand.
- • That the right to vote has been established.
- • If the election involves appointing an Alternate position, it should be decided in advance whether the runner-up will be that Alternate or whether this will be by a separate election.

PROCEDURE

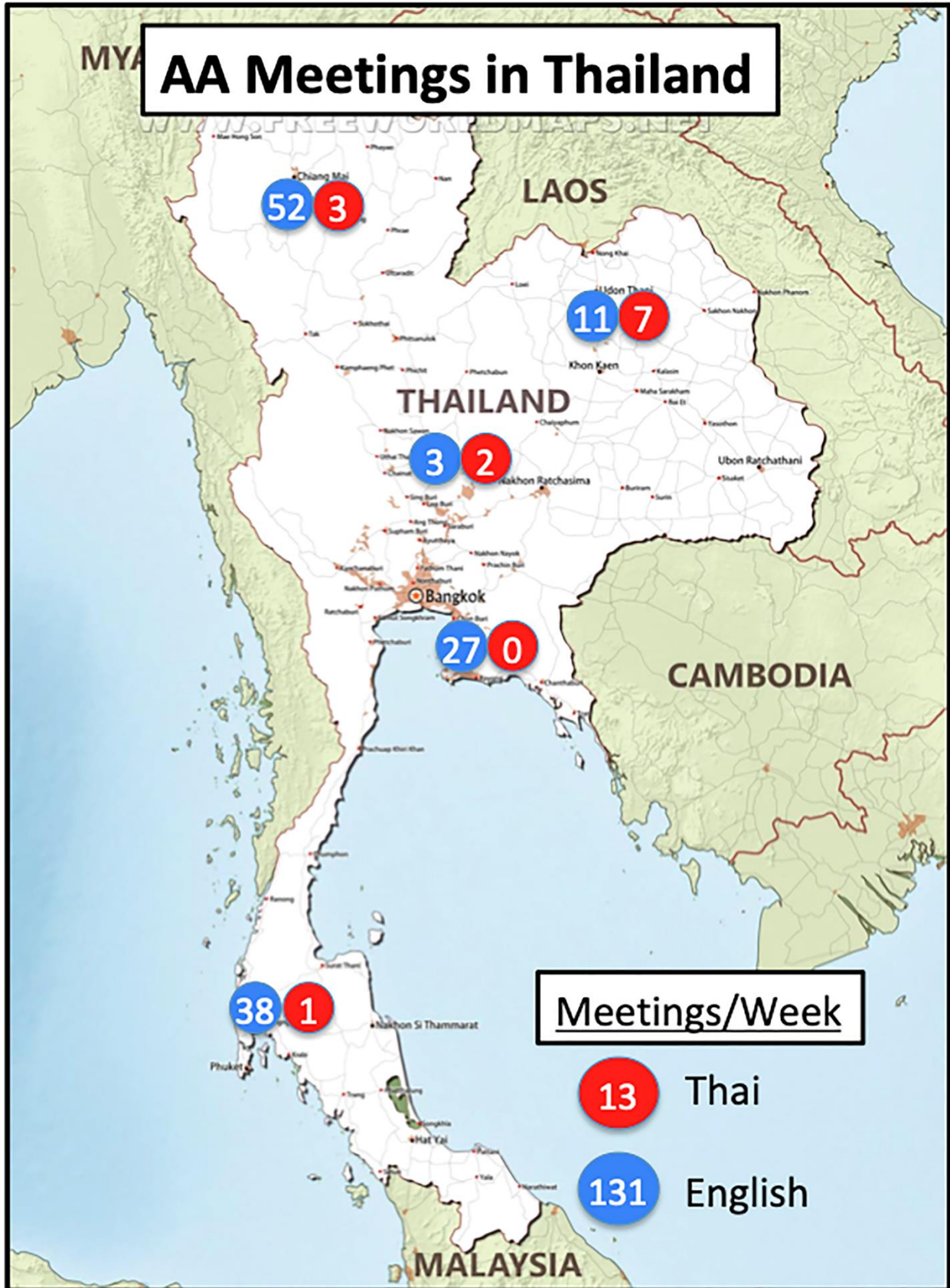
(Note that there is an illustrated version of this below which you might find easier to follow.)

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



AA Meetings in Thailand



Thailand Area Charter

Preamble

The Thailand Area of Alcoholics Anonymous (the Area) will use the will of a loving Higher Power as expressed in the group conscience for its basic guide of conduct, following the suggestions and the guidance of the current A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service. The Area will be spiritually guided by the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions the 12 Concepts for World Service and the General Service Conference approved literature. We will serve the collective conscience of all A.A. groups present and future in the Thailand Area.

Charter

The Thailand Area Assembly is a meeting for all A.A. members including General Service Representatives (G.S.R.s), District Committee Members (D.C.M.s), Area Committees Chairs and Area officers. The Area Assembly has but one primary purpose and that is to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Area Assembly's goal is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, to act as the service link to Worldwide A.A. and to aid the District Service Committees. Operating under the guidelines set forth in the A.A. Service Manual, the Area Assembly is convened to elect the Delegates to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) and to provide a venue for District Service Committees to coordinate activities. Assembly meetings will consider a variety of issues including AOSM business, Area problems and solutions and Area financial affairs.

An election assembly will be held once every two years to choose the AOSM delegate and the Area Officers and who serve for two years. Elections will be held sometime prior to November of the year before the elected delegate and officers' terms expire.

All individual Thailand A.A. members are encouraged to attend and to participate in discussions of any or all Area Assemblies. Although they have no vote in the Assembly Meeting, their input is needed and greatly appreciated. All Area Committee members and G.S.R.'s have one vote each at an assembly. The Third Legacy procedure will be used to elect the delegate and officers.

The Area Committee is composed of all District Committee Members (DCM's), Area officers, the Chairperson of each Service Committee and the AOSM first and second term Delegates. The current committees are Web Services, Helpline, Meeting Schedule and Translation. Additional committees such as but not limited to Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) may be added to the Area Committee. Whenever possible every position should have an alternate to provide continuity. The Area Committee may meet as needed at times and places convenient to the committee. The Area Committee will not decide policy but will restrict itself to maintenance of the service structure and organizing and planning for the Area Assembly.

The Area **Chairperson** is responsible for the smooth running of Area Assemblies, consulting with the Area Committee before setting the date and time of all meetings, making sure that all groups are notified, consulting with officers and committee members on the program. An alternate chairperson is recommended. The Area **Secretary** records and distributes minutes of area meetings. The Area **Webmaster** keeps the national website up to date and maintains the member listing for the Area Assembly Internet Mailer Site and Area information Archive. The Area **Meeting Schedule Coordinator** maintains the national meeting schedule. The Area **Treasurer** keeps financial records for the Area makes quarterly postings to the Area Assembly Internet Mailer and reports to the Assembly. The Area may also have an Archivist.

Financial support for Area activities comes from individual A.A. groups within the Area as they see fit to contribute. Services to A.A. groups are not dependent on their financial support.

BYLAWS

1. Eligibility requirements: A.A. groups will establish the eligibility requirements for their Group Service Representative (G.S.R.) and alternate. (A two-year term to coincide with Area officers is recommended.) Each District may elect a District Committee Member (D.C.M.). Eligibility requirements for AOSM Delegates shall be decided upon by the Area Assembly. The eligibility requirements for Area officers and committee chairs are suggested in the A.A. Service Manual and may be used as a guide.

2. Voting: Votes on general matters will be decided by simple majority of the eligible voters present. Votes on amending or revoking the charter and bylaws will require a two thirds (2/3) vote by the eligible members present. Votes on general matters or the charter and bylaws may be handled via the Area Assembly Internet Mailer as long as two thirds (2/3) of the member groups participate. The following procedures will govern all votes:

- a. Only voting members can propose, second or call for the vote on motions.
- b. Motions are made and seconded before discussion commences.
- c. Only voting members may speak to the motion for not more than two minutes.
- d. All members must be given an opportunity to speak before a member who has spoken may speak again.
- e. A voting member at any time during the discussion may call for a vote. If the call is seconded and receives a majority vote the discussion ends and the secretary reads the motion and the motion is voted on.
- f. Members voting in the minority may then speak for two minutes each in order to convince majority voters to reconsider the motion.
- g. A motion to reconsider may only be called and seconded by members who have voted in the majority.
- h. The Area Chair may only vote in case of a tie.

3. The Area will endeavor to maintain a prudent reserve of three months known expenses. The Area will establish a separate reserve to fund the travel and per diem expenses for the first term and second term AOSM delegates. The Area Treasurer will prepare and post on the Area Assembly Internet Mailer a two-year budget upon taking office so all groups will be aware of the Area's future commitments.

The following recommendations were adopted by the 13th AOSM

Website | Literature & Publishing

That the Committee Chairperson should communicate updates (pending AOSM approval) to the Webmaster within 30 days following each AOSM. Note this includes all website recommendations presented at each AOSM as well as agreed content between AOSM's.

That each AOSM Standing Committee have available to them the appropriate app (phone or appropriate device) to translate into the languages of the relevant Committee members.

Policy | Admissions & Finance

Recommendation: To provide clarification regarding specific AOSM delegates terms of service, the following text to be added to the *Guidelines for the conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous*, item 3: "In accordance with Tradition Nine, the AOSM delegates shall observe the spirit of rotation. It is preferred that delegates attend only two AOSM's (one 4-year term), but this guideline is not binding on any structure within the AOSM zone. If a structure appoints an individual to stand in for their delegate (such as an alternate delegate) who cannot attend, this would be endorsed by the Policy, Admissions, and Finance (PAF) committee prior to the start of the AOSM."

RECOMMENDATION: The following table be adopted for use by countries requesting financial support to attend the AOSM:

1. Name of country:
2. Number of groups:
3. Number of members:
4. Requested is from Intergroup/GSO?:
5. Full amount needed to attend: (US\$)
6. Amount our country can provide: (US\$)
7. Full amount requested: (US\$)
8. To pay for:
 - a. Flights (US\$)
 - b. Accommodation (US\$)
 - c. Delegates fee (Approx. US\$)

RECOMMENDATION: “The AOSM secretary to coordinate all requests for financial support by distributing detailed requests to all AOSM country’s GSO’s or local structures (where a GSO does not exist).”

RECOMMENDATION: “The AOSM formally request that New Zealand General Service Board to consider maintaining the Archives for the AOSM. In the event that New Zealand is unavailable, the request will be sent to the Australian General Service Board”

DRAFT