

Final Report of the

14th AOSM

Held Virtually

9th-11th
July 2021

Carrying the
Message in the
Digital Age

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.

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Report on the

14th Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous 9th – 11th July 2021

Host

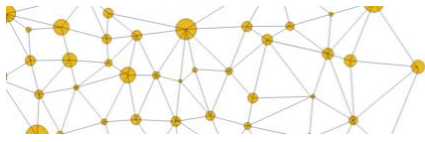
- Japan hosted the meeting on the Zoom platform
- India (Hyderabad) had planned the face-to-face meeting but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting face-to-face.

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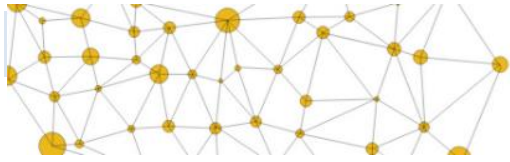
A NOTE ABOUT ANONYMITY

Confidential – Full names used
 Since this report is a confidential AA Document for Members only, it contains members (full) names. Such confidential use respects our Tradition of Anonymity in public communications and with any media (press, radio, TV, internet, and film).



Section A

Presentations



A.1. Opening Address

Krishna V. (Chair – AOSM Host Committee)



Friends

It is my privilege and pleasure to open this 14th AOSM (virtual) meeting. Though I would have been very happy welcoming you all as the host committee chairman in Hyderabad during these days, God wished otherwise.

In these days of the pandemic, with travel still not happening, it is only but natural that we must continue our endeavors to pass on the message of recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our primary purpose should continue uninterrupted. Towards this end, our meeting virtually is certainly better than not meeting at all.

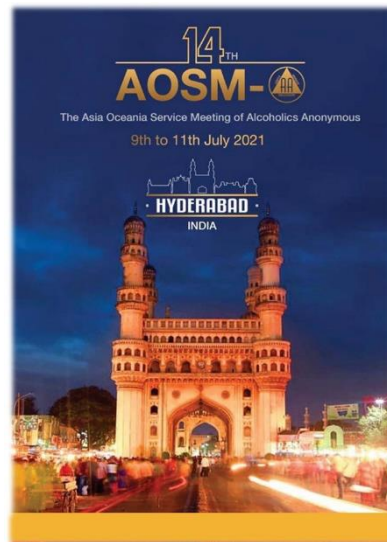
All of us in the Asia Oceania region are striving to carry the message, especially in these pandemic time –digitally, through social media, through other means–, so that the necessary work of carrying the message of recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous is never interrupted. I am sure each one of you has your own experiences, and we will share them in the days to come. We in Hyderabad and around India are thoroughly disappointed that we are unable to welcome each one of you.

As you will be seeing in the attached visuals, Hyderabad would have welcomed you with one of the most modern and efficient airports. Almost 200 volunteers would have been at your service, making your visit, participation, and stay comfortable. We had planned it so that each and every delegate and their partners would be accompanied by at least one English speaking member with vehicles right from the time of arrival at the airport, through their stay, and until the time of their departure. And even the

deliberations would have had at least 100 observer registrants with sufficient space for healthy social distancing, as well as interpretation.

At the same time, your entertainment and sightseeing needs had been planned to be well taken care of with a specifically dedicated travel desk for ensuring that your partners would have had a good time while we are

Figure 1: Hyderabad's Original Cover



deliberating in the AOSM. Also, health and safety had been given absolute focus with a dedicated team of doctors, partner hospitals, as well as ambulances ready in case an emergency occurred. And even the vaccination for those of our brethren coming from the countries where

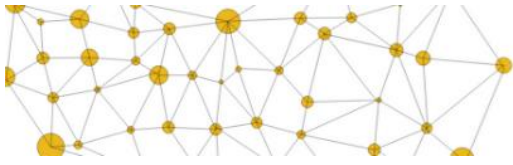
vaccines are still not available was also arranged at the airport itself.

Apart from this, we in Hyderabad, with a fellowship of more than 300 people within the city and almost 1,000 in the state, and nearly 3,000 in the two neighboring states with almost 300 groups, a dozen district committees, five area committees, and four Intergroups, and a few members of the GSB of India, would have welcomed you, and accompanied you.

Last but not least, you would have enjoyed your farewell dinner at one of the largest (or the largest) dining tables in the world, at the Nizam's Falaknuma Palace, which seats 101 people. And that would have been the pièce de résistance. Well, maybe this is all for another time. But we are at least happy that we are able to meet, we are able to discuss, we are able to share ideas. And I thank you for the privilege of letting me open the 14th AOSM, and I hope to see you soon in person.



Figure 2: Some Shots from Hyderabad's Slide Show



A.2. Keynote Address

Dr. Ashok Narayan (Chair – General Service Board of India)

The Higher Power

The omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent Higher Power, which is beyond human comprehension, guides us on the right path, however adverse the situation may be. We have full faith in it. It is the foundation stone of the wonderful fellowship of AA.

The first and the second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic have shaken the very existence of mankind. The divine fellowship of AA has always helped suffering alcoholics all over the world, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex and place of birth or economic status. The imposition of lockdown in various parts of our country, along with social distancing, has had its positive and negative impacts.

On the positive side, it has helped contain the pandemic, thus minimizing loss of life. It has also provided an opportunity for introspection and positive thought, and it has brought about often better and broader interaction online. Social distancing need not imply social isolation.

On the negative side, it has led to isolation, anxiety, depression, withdrawal symptoms, suicidal tendencies, and relapses to binge drinking. It has led to loss of income and employment, and to family disruptions. Physical distancing / social distancing has also had profound implications for access to treatment services for the suffering alcoholic.

HOW ARE WE TRYING TO HELP?

We continue to use social support as a powerful reinforcer for humans, which can go a long way in helping people avoid relapse or an escalation of alcohol use. The

recovery programs of AA and various other behavioral therapies are based on social support.

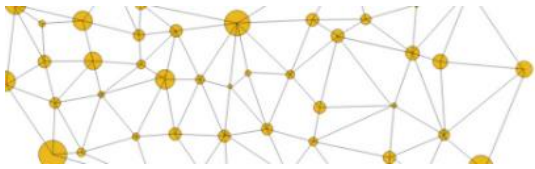
Examples include helplines, social-media channels, online meetings, web portals, addiction recovery apps, newspaper articles, FM radio programs and videos on YouTube, Google AdWords and Facebook in English and local languages.

Specifically, an online AA help portal brings AA members, AA friends and doctors together through email meetings and special purpose WhatsApp and Facebook groups. National and local websites carry recovery stories in audio and text forms along with public-service announcements. Addiction recovery apps on both iPhone and Android platforms include: 24 Hours a Day, Joe & Charlie, Sober Grid, I am Sober, Recovery Box, Sober Times, etc.

WHERE DOES IT LEAVE US?

The impact of the above measures has been mixed. To an extent, the impact has certainly been positive and on the expected lines. However, on account of the limitations of the online formats, and in fact, on account of the limitations of nonphysical communications, it has posed its own challenges.

Virtual life is not a substitute of real life. The optimum opportunities of communication and social interaction can happen only in physical meetings. However, we have to wait for the pandemic to be over and we have to continue to use online technology as best as we can. Thank you.



A.3. Officer Reports

A.3.1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Roger S. (Aotearoa / New Zealand)



Welcome to all delegates, especially the '1st termers', to our unique 'digital' platform as we respond to the Covid pandemic by continuing to communicate and carry the message of recovery. Often, we have regarded the AOSM zone as too big, covering nearly a third of

the populated globe and more than 70 countries.

However, what an opportunity we now have using Zoom technology to connect to so many. Most, if not all of you, will have participated in an AA Zoom meeting over the last 12 months. OK, it's not the same as a face-to-face AA meeting but it demonstrates our marvelous adaptability in the face of great change.

Already the chairs of the four standing committees have been able to 'Zoom meet' with their respective delegates many times. This simply wouldn't have happened before. It's appropriate to acknowledge the many hours spent on AOSM work by all these chairs and those delegates involved since our last AOSM in Hong Kong in 2019.

The Site & Agenda Committee in particular, have worked tirelessly over the last few months creating an informative agenda with several presentations we'll all benefit from. Not only that, the setting up of a Zoom platform that can cope with observer attendance, committee meetings, workshops and voting to run without a hiccup is not accomplished easily! Our grateful appreciation goes to the Japanese team (with a New Zealand assistant) led by Hiro K. working 'behind the scenes' to achieve all this. Please be patient if you find yourself in the wrong 'meeting room' or briefly unable to log in.

The number of delegates registered to attend has topped over 30 from 18 countries. This is by far the most representation at an AOSM held so far. It's warming that we're going to 'meet' fellowship people, often experiencing personal hardship from countries less well

known to most of us. As well, we've been able to accommodate numerous observers from very diverse countries.

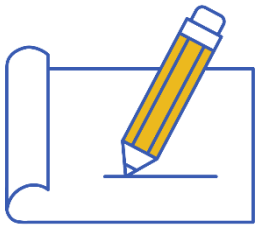
I'd like to take a few moments to mention the AA triangle. Service is an essential part of our triangle. All of you are involved. Service is not to be taken lightly or the positions we serve. We carry out our responsibilities to the best of our ability. The significance of service and unity gives us the wonderful platform of recovery we can all share together.

Bill W. has an oft repeated quote: "The good is the enemy of the best." Just being good is not enough; we must strive for the best. Best service is when we're growing outside our comfort zones, involving our service sponsors, seeking others' opinions, leading rather than excuses for not 'getting into action'. Avoid the trap of being 'perfectly right' at the expense of being 'generous and willing' even if it means making a mistake or two!

Over the years that our AOSM website has been in place (www.aosm-aa.org) it has struggled to gain practical use or favor. Our webmaster since inception, Steve T., has signaled his wish to rotate off from this role. Sadly, we haven't supported him with timely information from each AOSM. I'm as guilty as anyone. However, it's also an opportunity for us to 'carry the message in the digital age.' It's a golden chance for anyone looking for a niche service role!

Finally, please participate in this AOSM, no matter how 'new' you may feel. Each and every one of you has a useful contribution to make despite not being able to chat and share a cuppa face-to-face together! I look forward to meeting those not greeted before as well as saying hello again to those I already have.

Thanks again to all that have made this AOSM possible. Your help is much appreciated. It's been a privilege to be a humble servant with you... and I'm much richer in spirit as a result.



I am so grateful to be at this meeting. At the same time, I am sad that I cannot see you physically in India. This is my third AOSM. My first one was the seventh, held in Japan in 2007. I was a first-term delegate and a

member of the chaotic host committee. The activities of the host committee were incredibly challenging and exciting. My second one was the eighth, held in Bangkok. I really had a good time in Thailand and went to many local meetings. In those days, local Thai meetings did not exist but I went to English meetings, consisting of expatriates and tourists. I met only one local Thai once at the meetings. When I reported back to Japan at area assemblies or in district meetings, my shares on local meetings were much more well-received, compared with the activities of AOSM itself.

In Japan, there are lots of Japanese meetings all over the county. I did not think of it as a blessing.

However, I came to realize that AA Japan is rather exceptional in Asia.

I came back to AOSM for the first time after 12 years. AOSM seemed to have changed in some respects and remained the same in the other respects. AOSM some 10 years before was very wild but simple and 'easy does it'. The average age of delegates has increased. It is, however, still a gathering of dedicated servants.

On another note, I have not received any bids for hosting the next AOSM. It will take at least another year or two for this pandemic to end. I think we had better think of the online setting as well.

As to AOSM newsletter, articles are welcomed all the year around. Last but certainly not least, let us stay sober and stay safe!

Thank you!

A.3.3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Yasuhiko M. (Japan)



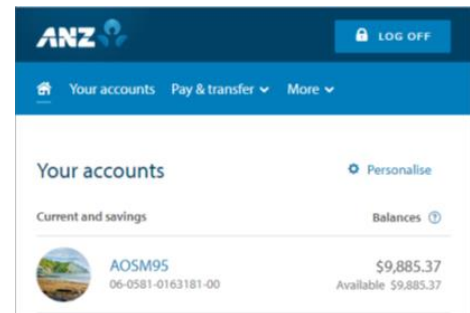
UPDATE (SINCE AOSM JULY 2021)

On 16th November 2021, all the funds of \$NZ9885 (\$US7092) held in the AOSM acct in New Zealand (see below) were successfully transferred into the AOSM account in Japan. The New Zealand AOSM account has now been closed.

The overall balance held in the AOSM account (Japan) at the time of publishing this report is JPY 1.6mill (approx. \$US14,000). This includes several significant contributions to AOSM from Member Countries / Zonal Groups since July 2021. The Treasurer considers the balance of \$US14000 now held, a sufficient financial reserve.

The Treasurer extends thanks to all those involved in unfreezing the New Zealand bank account and facilitating the transfer of the funds to Japan.

Previous AOSM Bank Account in New Zealand now closed.



TREASURER'S REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE 14TH AOSM (2021)

This is the cash flow chart of AOSM. (Dubai in 2015, Ulaanbaatar in 2017 and Hong Kong in 2019. All past reports were written in NZ\$. So this cash flow chart is converted to US\$ at the rate of NZ\$ 1.00 = US\$ 0.175 (as of May 20, 2021).

	US Dollars		
	In	Out	Balance
11th AOSM (Dubai 2015)			
Opening Bank Balance			\$6,153
2015-2017	\$4,894	\$6,863	\$(1,963)
Closing Bank Balance			\$4,189
12th AOSM (Mongolia 2017)			
Opening Bank Balance			\$4,189
2017-2019	\$9,411	\$6,508	\$2,903
Closing Bank Balance			\$7,092
13th AOSM (Hong Kong 2019)			
Opening Bank Balance			\$7,092
2019-2021	\$2,273	\$0	\$2,273
Closing Bank Balance			\$9,365
14th AOSM (Virtual 2021)			
Opening Bank Balance	Frozen →	\$(7,092)	\$2,273

THE ACCURATE BALANCE DETAILS

According to the past two financial reports, almost all income has been from contributions from New Zealand, Australia, Japan and USA / Canada GSOs. Some contributions have been from individuals. We have small interest incomes.

We explain the details about expenses by showing US\$6,508 highlighted in yellow in the list. The main costs consist of the airline tickets and hotel fees for the chairperson and the Secretariat and for other expenses specifically:

US\$4,311 as airline tickets and US\$1,622 as hotel fees for the chairperson and the Secretariat, USD\$576 for other expenses, which comprise only three items: bank charges, website maintenance fees, and NZ GSO refunds.

Our financial reports from the past three meetings do not include any expenses paid during the AOSM. We can't get any information about how the fees for the venue and the interpretation devices were paid. We can only assume that these fees were paid from the registration fees for the delegates.

The following is just for your reference:

2017 12th AOSM Mongolia

- Delegate registration fee: US\$400
- Number of the delegates: 16
- Interpreter registration fee: US\$145.

2019 13th AOSM Hong Kong

- Delegate registration fee: US\$400
- Number of the delegates: 20
- Interpreter registration fee US\$400.

AOSM is held via online this year so the conference style is completely different from the last AOSM. The expenses for the airline tickets and the hotel fees for the chairperson and the Secretariat are not necessary.

THIS YEAR'S OUTLOOK

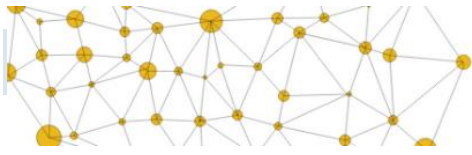
The delegates won't gather or stay at hotels so we don't have to pay these expenses from registration fees. But we need to pay for the equipment such as computers and projectors from the AOSM budget. If we can't afford to pay these expenses from our bank account, we need to ask for contributions or collect registration fees.

An AOSM bank account was opened in Japan in 2019. However, before the AOSM funds held in the NZ bank account could be transferred to the new Japanese account, the previous treasurer sadly passed away suddenly. This was the first attempt at transferring AOSM funds to another country since AOSM was established in 1995.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JAPAN ACCOUNT

Only the Japan GSO and groups in Japan have contributed to this bank account in the past two years.

Date	From	Ref. Code	Country	Japanese Yen			US Dollar		
				In	Out	Balance	In	Out	Balance
11/09/19	Open Account	Treasurer	Japan	¥1,000		¥1,000	\$9.02		\$9.02
18/09/19	Yasuhiko M.	Individual	Japan	¥1,000		¥2,000	\$9.02		\$18.04
16/12/19	AA Japan GSO	Country	Japan	¥100,000		¥102,000	\$902.04		\$920.08
22/01/20	3rd Thu Meeting	Group	Japan	¥10,000		¥112,000	\$90.20		\$1,010.28
17/12/20	AA Japan GSO	Country	Japan	¥100,000		¥212,000	\$902.04		\$1,912.32
15/02/21	Doug G.	Individual	Japan	¥20,000		¥232,000	\$108.41		\$2,092.73
07/06/21	Doug G.	Individual	Japan	¥20,000		¥252,000	\$108.41		\$2,273.14
28/06/21	AA Mongolia GSO	Country	Mongolia	¥11,056		¥263,056	\$99.73		\$2,372.87
FX Rate 25-June: ¥110.86 = \$1.00						¥263,056			\$2,372.87



A.4. Delegates' Presentations

A.4.1. COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP – A SPONSOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Brian S. (Australia) - 2nd Term Delegate

My name is Brian, I am an alcoholic; my home group is Brisbane Traditions in Brisbane Australia. I am a second-term delegate to the World Service Meeting. My sobriety date is 20 June 1977.

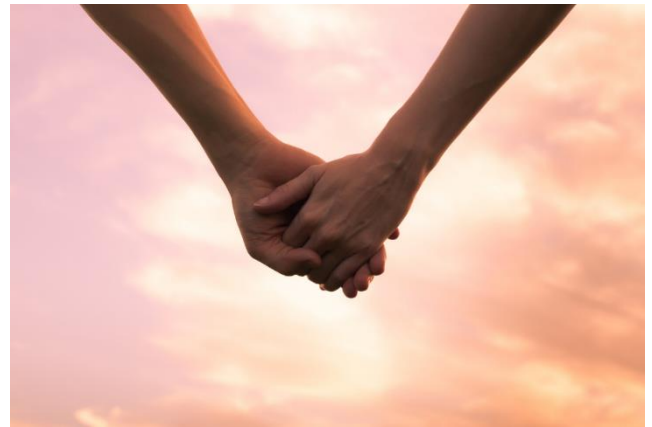
I had no idea at my first meeting why I was there. I believe I was one of those people who had drunk and always would. It was a 'steps meeting', on Step Two. I was introduced to the program on that night but did not do anything except go to another meeting. It was only then I found I needed a sponsor to help me through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the fellowship I could do fine. It was one alcoholic helping another alcoholic.

Country-to-country sponsorship is no different, it is one alcoholic country helping another alcoholic country. Australia today has a vibrant general service structure that attempts to carry the message into the Asia Pacific region. We've done so since the setup of our structure in Australia as a requirement of our license (quoting past service delegate David E.). Sponsorship funding has been provided to countries like Bhutan, Bali and Vietnam to attend AOSM in the past. We also have provided literature to PNG and sponsored a Samoan delegate to the National Convention of Australia. The problem that arises out of this type of sponsorship is that we never hear from them again, until next time they want sponsorship. Because we have to be accountable to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia, we have also sent delegates from Australia to the Solomon Islands and started groups there and run public awareness meetings, and the groups were growing well until such time as expats on fly-in / fly-out contracts say, "this is how you do it" and take over the fledgling group and the local population are confused and leave. They do not take in the cultural differences of the countries and this causes confusion in the group.

Country-to-country sponsorship needs to have a plan of when it starts and when it finishes so that each country can achieve the goal of being entirely self-supporting through its own contributions.

Australia also has a policy of not going to other countries unless asked. This can be done in writing to the World

Service delegates or the General Service Board of AA Australia, which is an autonomous board of Alcoholics Anonymous.



Services provided by sponsorship can be things like funding to attend AOSM, literature and pamphlets in different languages, and also coordination of visits by visiting AA members. In 2010, we also brought a member from the Solomon Islands to Coffs Harbour. The delegate was given a lot of information; however, it did not seem to translate into the establishment of groups. In 2013, the board funded two members to visit the Solomon Islands to help sort out problems in a correctional centre. This was done by the invitation of the management of the centre.

That worked so successfully that we then sponsored two members to come to Australia. However, this stopped growing due to misinformation being passed by fly-in / fly-out cowboys. In 2016, no region had put in a bid for a national convention in Australia, but Australia had received a request to help carry the message in Fiji (which is our responsibility).

Probably the most successful sponsorship of one country to another is the sponsorship funding provided to Fiji through the International Sponsorship Fund. What has happened as a result of this is Fiji is now running meetings online to the other island countries in all our areas of responsibility. The other service provided is the guidelines for doing just about everything in Alcoholics Anonymous, such as cooperating with courts, 'DWI' and similar

programs. Other literature used is the Traditions Checklist and the pamphlet “Is there a problem drinker in the workplace?”.

One of the most successful country-to-country sponsorships that you can read about in the book “One to Another”, although it wasn’t called sponsorship at the time, is when Dr. Minogue, a psychiatrist in Sydney, wrote to New York about Alcoholics Anonymous, as he had read an article in a psychiatric journal. Bill W and Bobby

continued to support the fledgling fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.

Freely it was given and freely we shall pass it on. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there and for that I am responsible. Last week, I received a request from GSO Australia for a contact in Vanuatu, I passed this request on to Fiji who then sent their contact details onto the member in Australia who was going to Vanuatu.

A.4.2. COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP – A SPONSOR’S PERSPECTIVE

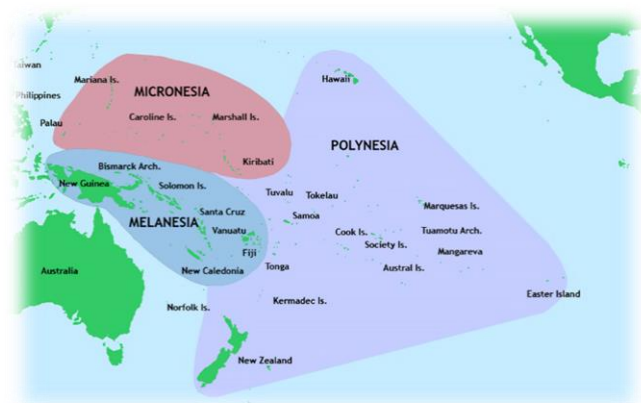
Pip A. (Aotearoa / New Zealand) - 2nd Term Delegate

Tēna koutou katoa, my name is Pip and I’m an alcoholic from Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Thank you for the opportunity to share at this AOSM. I’d like to begin this talk about country-to-country sponsorship by placing New Zealand in a geographical context.

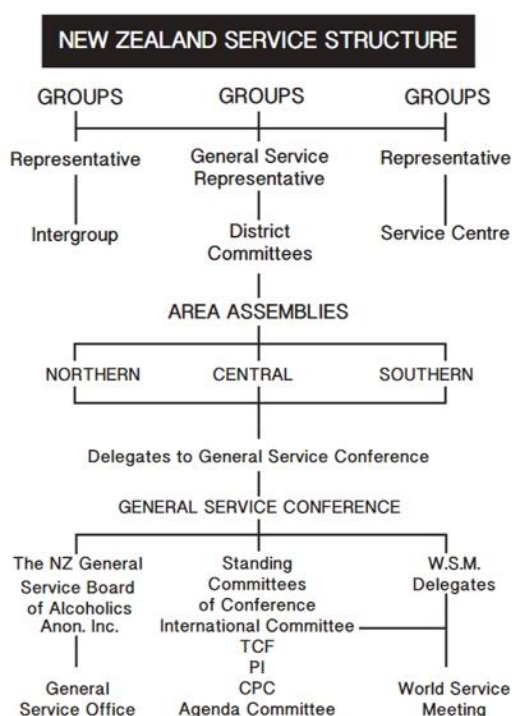
AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

Aotearoa / New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, comprising of two main landmasses – Te IkaaMāui / the North Island, and Te Waipounamu / the South Island – and around 600 smaller islands, with a population of about 4.9 million people. Aotearoa / New Zealand as a country maintains strong cultural, economic, and political ties with other Pacific states and territories.



SERVICE STRUCTURE

I also think it is useful to touch on the New Zealand general service structure because I believe this is the



engine that has made country-to- country sponsorship possible.

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 at 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 in their primary purpose of carrying the message.

COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP

Decisions about country-to-country sponsorship are discussed by the International Sub Committee, then presented to the General Service Conference, who make the final decision on how to proceed on behalf of the fellowship.

I think this is a very useful structure because it means the fellowship is kept informed about country-to-country sponsorship. The informed fellowship is also helpful in carrying out country-to-country sponsorship. I used to ask regularly, in my World Service delegates' report, that when members travel, they attend local meetings and perhaps make some connections (contacts so they can stay in touch) and bring this experience back to their groups. We always work service-structure to service-structure but having this experience in the fellowship has often led to service-structure to service-structure contacts. We also find that informing the groups shows them our gratitude for their donations and service support. We remind the fellowship that putting money in the basket at their meeting is a spiritual act and has wide reaching, sometimes international effects.

While the New Zealand fellowship of AA has sponsored countries financially: to get countries to the World Service Meeting (WSM) and to the AOSM, and by regularly donating to the international literature fund. I wanted to talk about a few examples of country-to-country sponsorship that were outside of these types of country-to-country sponsorship.

Some examples

New Zealand's ties with the Pacific can be seen in the 2018 census, which recorded a total of 381,642 people living in New Zealand from over thirty distinct Pacific groups. The majority (243,966 people or 64%) lived in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. This is 85,701 more people than was recorded in 2013.

Pacific people in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland and New Zealand are a rapidly growing and changing population. From a small immigrant community, the Pacific population has grown, through migration and natural increase, into a population of considerable size and social significance.

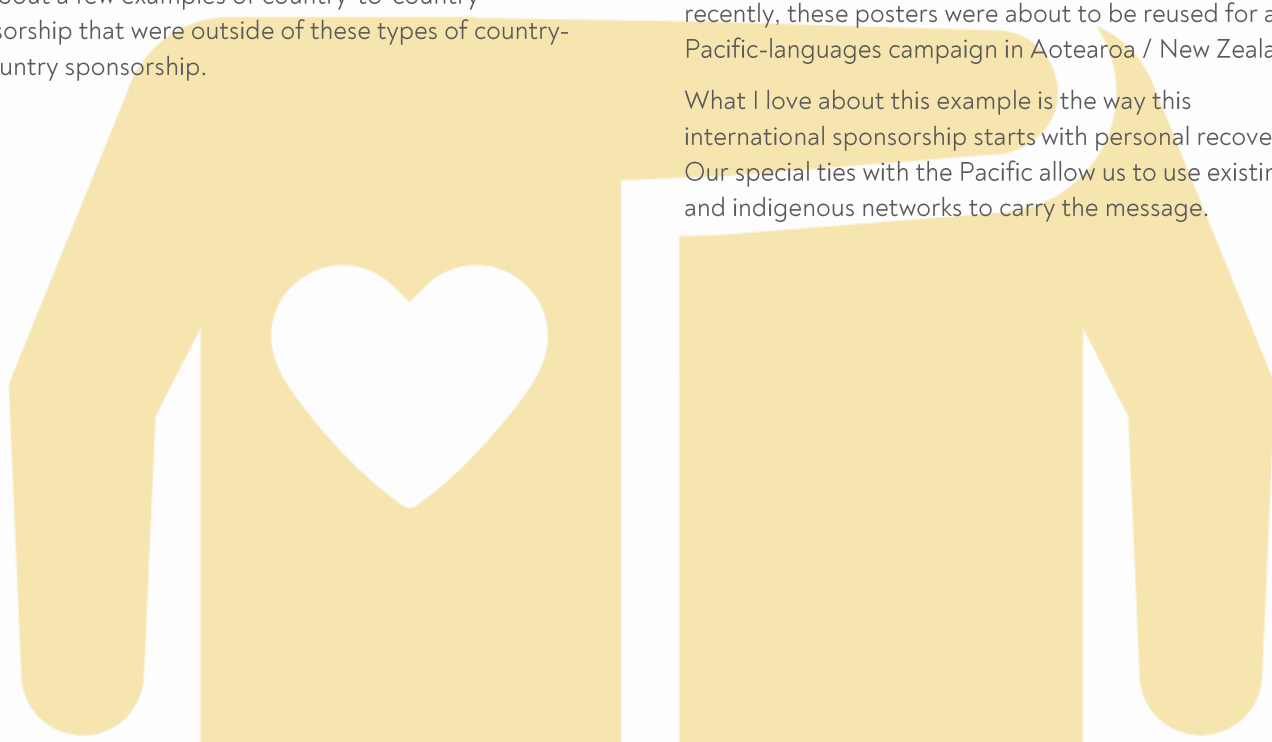
The AA fellowship reflects this:

Many members with Pasifika heritage found, as they repaired family relationships and embarked on making amends, that they were travelling to Pacific islands. These members started to talk to each other and decided it could be useful if they coordinated their trips back and travelled together. The idea was that they would attend local meetings or, where there weren't local meetings, they would hold public meetings.

An AA meeting on an Air Radio show run by the Auckland Service Centre included Pacific language episodes and these were publicized throughout the Pacific.

The General Service Conference, on hearing the experience of this group through a delegate's report, decided to create posters for this show. Awareness has grown of the Pasifika community in Auckland and, recently, these posters were about to be reused for a Pacific-languages campaign in Aotearoa / New Zealand.

What I love about this example is the way this international sponsorship starts with personal recovery. Our special ties with the Pacific allow us to use existing and indigenous networks to carry the message.



A.4.3. COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP – A SPONSEE’S PERSPECTIVE

Mary R. (Fiji) – 1st Term Delegate

The Fiji Islands has benefited tremendously from country-to-country sponsorship. This support began in 2012 when it financed an AA advertisement in a daily newspaper and paid the operational costs for our hotline. In 2019, with Australia’s approval, we redirected the funds for the newspaper advertisements toward the outreach efforts detailed below.

In 2016, the Australian National Convention was brought to Fiji. This created an opportunity for the Fiji Ministry of Health to bring in 140 ministry officials to be part of an AA information day. A total of 400 people attended, including AA members from Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

While the convention spurred our growth and awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous in the islands, we still need to raise awareness of the disease of alcoholism and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous as a solution. Through Australia’s country-to-country sponsorship, we have been able to send a representative to two national conferences in Australia and to one AOSM (Hong Kong, in 2019). We sent a representative to the national conference before the one hosted in Fiji, and we sent a representative to the national conference after the one hosted in Fiji so that we could report outcomes to that national conference.

We are grateful that we will receive support to send two delegates to this year’s AOSM, held virtually, and to send two delegates to the 14th AOSM (2023).

As a result of country-to-country sponsorship, the Fiji AA fellowship has been able to successfully establish an organizational structure that is now operational and maintained by its sober members.

We maintain an active General Service Office. Service positions include a chair, a secretariat, and a treasurer. They meet monthly to discuss a fixed agenda. The secretariat records minutes and files them electronically so that they are available when members rotate into the positions. Our treasurer oversees our bank account, which

we were able to open after we acquired our own tax identification number. The group can now collect and bank the 7th Tradition and other donations from members. This way, we have been able to make payments where necessary.

We have now conducted successful outreach activities at the community / health-facility level, and at the national level through the Ministry of Health and the Fiji College of General Practitioners. We’ve outlined the results in our detailed country report. These approaches have been especially impactful because of the familiarity that local sober members bring to the local context and in the local language. We believe that this has been key in carrying the message across our islands and to our Pacific Island members in PNG, Solomon Islands, Samoa and very recently, Vanuatu. The disease of alcoholism is still being seen as a foreign disease and this has been a barrier to carrying the message. But when facilities, ministries and village folk see their own people sober – and talk about the disease from their experience, strength, and hope – a difference is made. And this does not imply that visiting members, who may have lived in our islands or who may have returned, have not done anything. They have done their best. They have carried the message and they have stayed sober as a result. For this we are grateful.

We have set up an active public information outlet that has helped carry the message of recovery through posters, stickers, and pamphlets. We have also revamped the Fiji AA website (<https://fijiaa.org>) and our Facebook page.

Through sponsorship, our representatives have been able to bring back experiences, resources and lessons which have helped us all appreciate how AA works. This has not only contributed to our ability to focus on our singleness of purpose but it has given Fiji AA a sense of permanence and structure that will continue to carry the hope of recovery into the future. Vinaka vakalevu!



A.4.4. COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP – A SPONSEE’S PERSPECTIVE

Sonam T. (Bhutan) - 2nd Term Delegate

Jurwa, which means ‘change’ in Bhutanese, is the only active AA group in Bhutan. Jurwa was formed in 2012 by Sonam T. in a small town called Paro, which is around two hours from the capital Thimphu.

EVOLUTION OF AA

We started with two members, and later reached up to 45 members at times in the meetings. However, the saddest truth is that, despite a lot of drinking issues and problems among the opposite sex, very few women have dared to come forward to seek support. This is because of the stigma, discrimination, and lack of family support.

GRATITUDE TO INDIA

We would like to thank the dear fellowship from our neighboring country, India. In addition to them helping us to produce literature, posters and key tags, they have sponsored our attendance at this AOSM.

We know for sure that after joining the AOSM and interacting with other countries and fellowships, we will learn and grow a lot.

Thank you, AA India. Thank you AOSM, and all those beautiful fellowships who supported us to come this far.



My name is Shirley, and I am an alcoholic, sober just for today. At the request of the AOSM Agenda Committee, I give you this presentation on the topic: "The history and pioneers of the AOSM".

In 1995, Bob J. and I were both elected by the Australian General Service Conference to represent Australia at the forthcoming AOSM to be held in Auckland, New Zealand. Since the concept of this international arm of service was new on the AA service scene, Bob and I were, at that time, the 'babies'. Although both of us were well versed in service, I felt we were really breaking onto 'new ground' somehow. It was a very exciting time. At that meeting of the minds, I was introduced to the founding fathers of the concept of a body of folk presenting ideas of an Asia/Oceania Region. Bob P., Trevor G., Alan N. were waiting for us at the Auckland airport, and so the journey began. This idea had been tossed around for some years before it became, first a reality at the very first AOSM held in Tokyo, Japan, to this, the second one. I would like to 'backtrack' to my own journey in service because without those friends and mentors who guided me to become a responsible member, I would never have had the courage to continue. Brian N., a past General Service Trustee, was my 'power of example'. Brian himself was later elected as a World Service representative by our conference. Although, unfortunately, his untimely death prevented him from taking up that position, when I visited Brian just prior to his passing away, he said simply, "Just keep doing what you can. Do the best you can for those who don't know about us yet." He died sober, as did many others who supported the ideas of a far-reaching fellowship; Tom the Finn, Ron C., Jack from Dalby, and Anne O'C., Ian C., and John S., to mention only a few.

Mention must be made to the ongoing support and dedication of Doug G. translating for, particularly, our Japanese friends, like the dedicated Yukie Y., the first secretariat to AOSM, and the subsequent ones, too. Thanks, Doug.

CHANGE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Although we can now speedily communicate with each other, it was quite a different story in those earlier days. Back at the birth of our AOSM, dealings with each other were very limited. This was a time of no computers, no Wi-Fi, no emails, of course; all communications relied on 'snail mail' or by telephone contact (no mobiles then

either) with one another. So, progress was slow regarding exchanging ideas and information, etc. My thoughts now on this are that we had time to give consideration to new ideas and suggestions at that earlier time, but today's communications are rapid with instant responses.

Question: is that progress? I hope so! In the Foreword to the Fourth Edition, the latest version of our Big Book, it states, "While our literature has preserved the integrity of the AA message, sweeping changes in society as a whole are reflected in new customs and practices within the Fellowship. Taking advantage of technological advances, for example, AA members with computers can participate in meetings online, sharing with fellow alcoholics across the country or around the world. In any meeting, anywhere AA's share experience, strength, and hope with each other, in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics. Modem to modem or face-to-face, AA's speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity."

– Page xxxiv, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Zoom-ing has entered my computer scene now. This AOSM is making history this weekend by making itself available to those who are looking for a better life in sobriety. I recently was attending a Zoom meeting in Australia when a new member from Japan appeared on my computer page. His case was one of desperation. He was given many contacts by members from around the world. What a switch from my pen and pencil days; this concept has been well worth waiting for!

CARRYING OUR MESSAGE... BY ANY MEANS

There were other methods we further utilized in those earlier days; these were standard practices in helping to spread the AOSM message around and about. Ocean-going seamen and far-flung travelling members from all corners of our Asia region readily got themselves involved. These members generously left AA pamphlets and details of where to contact one another when asked (Public Information had begun). Some later became members of Loners International under the steady guiding hand of GSO New York. The AA Literature translations were very basic, too, as many members known as expats settled down in different areas, sometimes up against the complexity and difficulties of a foreign language. This progress marked the beginning of trying to establish and attract newcomers to those earlier embryo groups, just as our founding members had hoped

would happen. The AOSM Secretariat of the day kept in contact with these groups for as long as was needed and still does to this day.

Some expats moved on to other places and put down roots again somewhere else, and small groups came and went. All of this movement; members travelled (and still do), moving in transit to different places within the Asia zone via fastmoving aircraft! Most of those earlier groups have put down roots and have stayed.

NOW FOR THE ARCHIVES

Just recently, the subject of what to do with our written archives of the AOSM has arisen. After consultation with New Zealand GSO and others, it was decided to try and record as much as we had onto USB drives and CDs, etc. Sometimes, strange things happen when a decision is made. I had recently come across an old-style tape that was recorded in 2000 at the Minneapolis International Convention. Entitled "AA in Asia / Oceania Zone – a

General Discussion", it is a record of those earlier discussions regarding the formation of our AOSM, plus a record of a recovery story by an Indian member, Mohan S., and how he got in contact with another alcoholic! (Perhaps this CD can be replicated for use by anyone interested in our history?).

All our paper archives have been scanned to a USB drive, and the tape-recording has been transferred to a CD. Copies of all of this will be forwarded to GSO New Zealand and possibly available to anyone else who may be interested!

IN CONCLUSION

The role that I have so much enjoyed is now in the hands of those who are at this AOSM, and hopefully, will be passed along for as long as it is needed. Stay safe, enjoy the journey! I certainly have!



A.4.6. THE HISTORY AND PIONEERS OF AOSM

Doug G. (Japan) - 1st Term Delegate

My name is Doug G., I'm an alcoholic and privileged to serve the fellowship as the first-term delegate from Japan. I would like to thank Phylis for the loving invitation to share on The History and Pioneers of the AOSM.

I have only lived in the AOSM zone for a total of five years (most recently since 2019), yet my relationship with the

area. Bob agreed that maybe the time for a Pan-Pacific zonal meeting had come.

The NZ General Service Conference met that September, and Bob P. raised the issue. It was discussed, and the idea was approved but then got forgotten or shelved –or both.



Figure 1: All the Report Covers (1995 - 2019)

AOSM goes back to my first one, the third AOSM held just outside of Sydney, Australia in 1999. Japan had elected a delegate who was an outstanding, trusted servant, well-versed in all three of our legacies, and with highly respected service acumen, but didn't speak English. So, I was asked to attend as his interpreter. It must have gone well enough because I was asked to do it again. This marks my 11th AOSM, yet my first serving as a delegate rather than just volunteering my time interpreting. I've also attended 11 WSM's, the first in Aotearoa / New Zealand, but only one as a delegate. I don't mention this to impress anyone; it simply means that I have been blessed to see a lot of the growth of the AOSM over the years and deeply privileged to have met and learn from some incredible trusted servants around the world.

I suppose the history of the AOSM actually goes back to Helsinki, Finland, at the fifth WSM in 1978. The European Service Meeting (ESM) was just beginning, following the example of the Ibero-America meeting (now called REDELA). Australia and South Africa discussed it, Australia brought it back to their board, and it was decided that the Australian fellowship wasn't ready for such a development at that time.

However, on Thursday, 11 July 1985, while in New York on the way home from the International Convention in Montréal, Bob P. from New Zealand met with Bob P., the general manager of GSO New York. It was an informal discussion, but the general manager asked Bob what Australia and New Zealand were doing for the Pacific

At the 1992 WSM in New York, when the other zones had broken off into their own meetings, New Zealand's Bob P. and Alan N. suddenly faced an awkward situation that they didn't have a meeting and were on the 'outside'. They grabbed a room, held a very impromptu meeting with Akiyo M. and Yukie Yamamoto (non-alcoholic), the two delegates from Japan.

They concluded to restart the efforts for creating a zonal meeting. Alan was noted to say that "the wheels of AA can move slowly, but they do move in the right direction." After some additional correspondence between Bob and Yukie by mail, fax and the occasional phone call (expensive in those days), they aimed for March 1995, at Japan's 20th anniversary convention. Much support was received from Jim K. at the UK GSO for their experience. To speed things up a bit, Bob P., Trevor G., Alan N., and Harry W. all came to Tokyo at their own expense on 28 May 1994, for an informal planning meeting.

A very informative workshop was held, and a complete account of it appeared in Japan's national newsletter. It was decided to change the name from "Pan Pacific Service Meeting" to "Asia Oceania Service Meeting," Bob P. would be the chair, and Yukie Yamamoto would be the secretariat. They decided it would be held in Tokyo just before Japan's convention. Each country could select up to two delegates, the methods for their choosing up to that country but discouraged self-appointed representatives, and the cost was the responsibility of those countries. They also agreed to put a call out to as

many countries in the zone as possible. In a report that Yukie published upon her retirement, she recalls how persistent Bob P. and Harry W. were. I think we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the fellowship of New Zealand and the other pioneers, as well as countless other anonymous trusted servants over the years, that we get to be sitting here today. Bob, Trevor, Alan, Harry, Yukie are all gone today, but their legacy lives on in each of us. I knew all of them, and they were indeed true giants. If I could personally give back just a fraction of what they did, I would be overpaid.

At that first AOSM, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Vanuatu attended. They set the foundation, and it was a historic moment for AA in the region. Japan was celebrating 20 years—their convention was the largest AA gathering in Japan up to that point. I have copies of the report back from the two observers from the US / Canada structure.



Figure 2: Manly, Australia (1999)

The second AOSM was held in Auckland two years later, chaired by Alan N. (NZ). This time, Australia and Thailand joined and have been an integral part of our history ever since. This is where our provisional ‘statement of purpose’ was developed and the idea of each country undertaking a sponsorship role for their neighboring countries. A database was created to gather group contacts throughout the zone. Several countries unable to attend sent written reports, namely Malaysia, India, South Africa, and Indonesia.

COMING OF AGE

I guess you could say that the AOSM came of age at the third AOSM held, in March 1999 at the quarantine station in Manly, just a short ferry ride from Sydney. This was my first one, and what an honor to witness the transition. The statement of purpose was formally adopted, and they agreed to publish the meeting / contact directory every three years.

Yukie Yamamoto (nonalcoholic), who had served as the secretariat and was so instrumental in ensuring the AOSM continued, suggested that the secretariat role should be rotated, and Anne O’C., who was there only as an observer, was elected as our second secretariat and established our own cheque account. The secretariat would not only help organize the future AOSMs but would also publish the directory and newsletter that had been initiated by Bob J. (AU) and Yukie. Indonesia and Korea bid to host the fourth AOSM in 2001, and Korea’s bid was accepted. The guidelines for the AOSM were also formally adopted.



Figure 3: Seoul, S. Korea (2001)

Hosting the fourth AOSM was a proud moment for Korea when the 15 delegates from 10 countries arrived in Seoul. Delegates from Russia’s Siberia all the way to Malaysia and East Timor joined. The news of the AOSM traveled throughout the zone via the newsletter and directories. As we were still in a growth phase, a subcommittee was formed and tasked with researching from older zonal meetings, then preparing recommendations on how we could handle country sponsorship, prudent reserves, agendas, and themes. They even held a workshop and presentation on “International Sponsorship,” just like this year, and emphasized the value of accompanying professionals to “sponsee” countries.

Although the AOSM continued to be held in East Asia and Australia/New Zealand, by 2009, we started to venture west, first going to Bangkok, Thailand, then to Chandigarh, India, where Shirley was the secretariat. From there, we continued to seek out where the need was greatest, holding the AOSM in places such as Listvyanka (Russia), Dubai (UAE), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), then back to Hong Kong.

I know we were all looking forward to being in Hyderabad this year. Everywhere the AOSM meets has been a valuable 12th Step call on the region. There are too many memories, too many turning points, too many spiritual awakenings to mention in my limited time, so I think I should wrap up my talk.

Much of the AA-fellowship growth throughout this zone can be traced back to what happens at the AOSM. Every two years, we have continued to gather with one purpose to help the still suffering alcoholic, wherever they may be or whatever language they may speak. Our task is great. As I mentioned in my keynote address in Ulaanbaatar, we have literature in most of the predominant languages of our zone. Still, we have been challenged with reaching out to the local populations because of language barriers or because many AA members are expats in that country for a limited time. Coming together at this AOSM every two



Figure 4: Hong Kong (2003)

years allows us that opportunity to create those bonds, to share experience, strength, and hope, and collectively gain new perspectives on how we can continue to achieve our sole aim.

Since the First International Convention in 1950, that fateful date the fellowship was turned over to our care, it is now our responsibility to carry this on. We carry a message of hope to those who suffer in a way that no non-alcoholic can. We must keep AA healthy, vibrant, relevant, attractive and accessible. Our doors must remain open to all who seek. As it was said by one of the US / Canada past trustees, in effect, "If AA were to fail, it would be

from inside, not from outside forces. It will be because maybe we weren't humble enough or couldn't control our egos. Maybe it was because we thought too much of ourselves and not enough of others... But our future is very bright." Thankfully AA is self-correcting. If we are willing to continue to take our inventory, we will need the humility to make every effort to find new and better ways to carry our loving message of hope.

We stand on the shoulders of those first pioneers of the AOSM who had vision and tenacity and whose roles of leadership were subsequently taken up by the past AOSM chairs elected every two years: Bob P., Alan, Bob J., Simon, Kevin, Lynn, Goldie, Val, Ian, Shrikanth, John, Kunal, and Heather. Of course, we should not forget those six people who have tirelessly served in the often-challenging job of secretariat: Yukie, Anne, Bob, Shirley, Brenda, and James.

They are all part of our history. This AOSM marks a new turning point in our history being forced to hold the meeting virtually. Despite the tragedy that is this pandemic, it has been a blessing in many ways too.

I thought back to a bleak day in November 1934. Two men sat across a kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn, New York –one, drunk on gin and pineapple juice, the other, sober for two months. Little did they know what was about to transpire, or how far reaching their impact would be. At the end of Bill's Story in our Big Book, Bill says, "Most of us feel we need look no further for utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and goodwill to men."

I thank you for your life, and I thank you for mine. You continue to inspire me to be a little bit better, to strive a bit harder, so just maybe one person's life might not end in the morass of alcoholism. You have rocketed me into the fourth dimension. Thank you.

A.4.7. COUNTRIES WITH A GSO – HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT (IRAN)

Ali H. (Iran) - 2nd Term Delegate

Hi, my name is Ali and I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is April 30, 2011. I have served as Iran's delegate since 2018. Now I'm a second term delegate and probably this is the last time that I will serve as Iran's delegate. I'm a bit sad because I am going to miss you all, although I hope to see you again someday. Now let's talk about our main subject which is how Iran service structure formed and a history of our presence in international meetings.

The first groups in Iran were formed about 30 years ago by members who came to Iran from their home groups in the United States. These groups faced a lot of challenges along the way. In some cities, they even stopped after a



while and it was mostly because of the general sensitivity to the name "alcohol". This issue made it difficult to carry the message and developing the structure. It even caused some members to join NA and continue their recovery process in there. After a few years and by reducing the prejudices, the formation and development of AA groups became easier so the areas and structure gradually began to form. Finally, on June 10, 2010, the Iran structure registered its general service office at www.aa.org website and our office is currently located in the capital of Iran, Tehran.

Subsequently, in October of 2014, Ali G. participated for the first time as an Iran's delegate in the World Service meeting in Warsaw, Poland, although he had previously participated in three MERCAA meeting in Kuwait, Dubai, and Qatar respectively in 2006, 2009, and 2013. He

attended the first one as an observer and the other two as Iran's delegate. He also joined the 2015 Asia-Oceania service meeting in Dubai as Iran's delegate. After that, in 2017, Masoud F. participated as Iran's delegate in the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Mongolia, following that and with your generous support in 2018, Iran AA attended the 25th World Service Meeting in South Africa with two delegates for the first time (Masoud

F. and Ali H). Iran was also able to attend the last Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Hong Kong with one delegate, Ali H. thanks to The New Zealand. Finally, Iran participated in the 26th World Service meeting 2020 New York, hosted by US / Canada, which was held virtually for the first time, with its two delegates, Ali H. and Reza V.

Attending international events helped Iran AA to grow and develop its service structure and raise the level of awareness of services. For example, one of the achievements of attending the 25th World Service meeting was inviting Lotus. A (European French Speaking delegate) also one of delegates from South Africa to come to Iran. No need to say that their presence in Iran was a wonderful and instructive experience.

Today, AA program is really active in Iran. About 240 in-person and online groups in 16 areas are allied to the service structure of Iran Alcoholics Anonymous. Before the Pandemic, there were more in person meetings and we had just one online Skype meeting. But now we have more than 25 online meetings on Skype and more than 50 meetings per week on FCC (Free Conference Call). We estimate our membership to be over 4000 members. Groups include men's stag and women's stag, and some mixed meetings. The meetings are held in different formats and at different times. The community's efforts to build service structure have had positive outcomes – we now have a well-established Public Information Committee, translation and Website committee, hospital & institutions committee, treasure, literature, workshop, Online and an International Service Committee as part of the Iran service structure. In some areas we hold meetings in prisons, clinics and rehabs. However, after Covid-19, we faced a lot of challenges and limitations related to those meetings.



Now, after recent changes, Iran has ten trustees: eight Class B plus two Class A trustees. Our board of trustees actually serves as Iran's General service board; therefore our General Service Board consists of ten trustees that I mentioned above. The Class B Trustees are as follows: 5 regional trustees nominated from their areas one trustee-at large who is actually our 2nd term delegate and two other trustees who have some special skills that can help AA.

The Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship of Iran, despite more than a decade of activity, has not yet been able to officially register in Iran. A few years ago, following a failed attempt to register AA in Iran due to sensitivity to the names, "alcohol" and "anonymous", we proceeded to register under the name "Nameless Sobers". That became controversial, and therefore, in 2018, when I was representing Iran at the World Service Meeting with Masoud F., we asked that our name be changed again to "Alcoholics Anonymous of Iran."

As you may know there is another AA structure with a central office in Mashhad who still continues to publish AA literatures without a license. However, we are friends personally but just separated in structure. We really hope

someday that we will have one allied AA in Iran which respects to all AA principals. Now we prefer to focus on our own job.

All in all, our knowledge and connection with the greater AA community needs to be reinforced, strengthen and it needs to grow to a greater extent as we better comprehend the 12 steps, traditions and concepts of AA and transfer it to others. Meanwhile, we should mention that although we really miss the previous situation when we could easily visit and support each other with warm hugs, we thought it would be a good opportunity to have a new experience, so our new Online Committee decided to put in the effort to create our First Transnational Convention. It was on a virtual platform and we had speakers from G.S.O NY, delegates and members all over the world. It was a brilliant experience. We are really grateful for this chance and many thanks to all the dear people who supported us in this our first experience. Also we had our first Concepts & Traditions Workshops with Speakers from US / Canada that was so useful for our structure and many thanks to all those who supported us in these workshops too.

Hope to hug you all someday somewhere.

A.4.8. COUNTRIES WITH A GSO – HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT (MONGOLIA)

Zok G. (Mongolia) – 2nd Term Delegate

The Mongolian AA Association was officially established in 1998 with the support of JCS International. But to continuously to operate, we needed a local GSO for AA’s operations. At the 2010 General Services Conference we decided to establish a local GSO. In December 2010, this goal was achieved and became fully operational.



GSO in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

At that time, we didn’t have enough money to establish a GSO. In 2000, with the support of JCS International, World GSO, and foreigners, The Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book) was translated into Mongolian and the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions were donated to us, with the full coverage of the printing cost. As a result of selling these books to the members of the association at a certain price, the Mongolian AA began to lay the foundation for



Spreading the message throughout the remote countryside



funding to establish its own GSO. With the launch of GSO, the association began to make progress. With the official approval of World GSO, we have been able to translate books, publications and brochures into Mongolian, officially publish them in our country, and deliver them to our groups and members, which has been a huge step and made an accessible service to the community.

By expanding locally and spreading our message, our association’s activities began to expand on a larger scale. As a result, Mongolian AA services reached not only the capital but also the remote countryside, and branch groups began to be formed. From that time until now, GSO had a tradition of donating a “package of manuals” to newly formed groups. In accordance with the 7th tradition, our community groups have started to support the activities of the MN AA Association and make monthly donations. GSO reports to its members on a monthly basis.



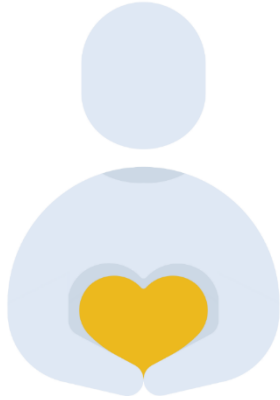
National Rehabilitation Center

A “rehabilitation center for alcoholics,” which is located outside of Ulaanbaatar, recently allowed us to set up our own corner and we began to provide AA services there. In addition, members of AA conduct meetings one day a week at this “rehabilitation center”. As a result, it is commendable that some of these alcoholics there have continued to attend AA meetings, even though they have left the rehabilitation center.

Following the approval of the VIII Conference of the Mongolian AA, “Office Manager” position specializing in “GSO” was hired in accordance with the Mongolian Labor Law in 2017.

Due to the global epidemic COVID-19, meetings and conferences have been moved to electronic form.

Hello, everyone. My name is Yasumichi and I'm an alcoholic. I am the second term AOSM delegate representing Japan. I am very grateful for the opportunity to share the experience how Japan GSO had been established.



We, AA Japan, now have a GSO (we call it JSO since it's Japan GSO). It plays a variety of roles. However, if we look over the history of AA Japan, we can see that Japan GSO was established and developed out of necessity as AA Japan and our service structure grew. So, let me start from the early days of AA Japan.

AA Japan was officially started on March 16, 1975. This is not to say that there was no AA in Japan before that time. I have heard that AA members from US military bases had been holding meetings and tried to carry the message to Japanese alcoholics before that. However, these efforts have barely taken root. After all, the requirement of speaking and hearing English without difficulty was and still is a high barrier for Japanese people.

Here are some of the attempts that were made to carry the message before 1975. At Mukogawa Hospital in the Western region of Japan, a doctor led AA meetings for several years, with more than 10 members, but they were dismissed when the hospital got dissolved for its developmental reorganization. In the early 1970s, English meetings expanded and there were over 100 Japanese members. Among them was an American priest who had become an alcoholic in Japan, and achieved his sobriety in AA after returning to the U.S. He was given a mission by the Church to start a facility to carry the message in Japan where he got drunk. He came back to Japan and started Japanese meetings with a Japanese priest who was also an alcoholic, and they vigorously increased the number of Japanese members. That was a major turning

point for AA Japan. It had been the start of Japanese speaking AA meetings.

They didn't seem to care much about whether their activities were AA or not. Therefore, they did not call themselves AA, but started their activities under the name of "Today Club". In particular, the Japanese priest, who was fluent in English, translated the Big Book and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. They printed those translated literature in mimeograph and started to use the two books inside their meetings. In March 1975, the "Today Club" began to call themselves an AA group. On March 16th of the same year, they opened a Step Meeting in Japanese at a Catholic church in Kamata, Tokyo. We have set the day as the founding day of AA Japan, and from that day on, AA Japan began its continuous growth.

Since the mimeograph printed Big Book and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions somehow existed from the beginning, Japanese founders seemed to value "Recovery", "Unity", and "Service". At that time, there was no office (GSO), and the AA Tokyo Japanese Intergroup registered themselves with the U.S. and Canada GSO and carried the message. Up until about the 10th anniversary in 1985, the focus was mostly on Recovery and Steps.

Conversations like "we supposed to have 'Traditions'" or "we needed only first 5 Traditions for AA Japan" started to come up among fellows at the end of first decade, and after the 10th anniversary, we came to understand that we needed the "12 Traditions" and "Service" too.

The publication of the Big Book came quite early: in 1979. Just four years after the birth of AA Japan, the first edition of the Big Book was printed. However, since we did not have the funds to publish it, we had to ask the

U.S. and Canada for financial support. The same was true for the reprinting and the publication of 12 Steps & 12 Traditions in 1982. The U.S. and Canada generously offered that we did not have to return the money, but we did pay them back later. For each book sold, we set aside some money in an account called "resale reserve" and sent it back each several years. After repeating these, the repayment was completed. There was no General Service Organization yet, but AA Japan was trying to be independent.

At this time, the Tokyo Japanese Intergroup was functioning as the de facto conscience of AA Japan. In parallel with the messaging and other activities, there was a discussion about the need for General Service Board, and, at the same time, the need to open a service office (GSO). As a result, a call for contributions was made to all

groups. A number of groups responded enthusiastically to it, and in 1979, the AA Japan GSO (known as JSO in Japan) was opened on the second floor of the recovery facility I mentioned earlier. Later, in 1981, Japan GSO was moved to a different location to avoid confusion between the facility and AA. I think this meaningful event made it clear both internally and externally that AA and recovery facilities are different things. The establishment of the AA Japan GSO has a big meaning in protecting the copyrights of the translated publications that AA Japan owned. Another major reason for setting up an office was to be able to receive contacts from outside entities.

At the same time, in 1981, JSO contacted the U.S. and Canada GSO, and was registered as a GSO in Japan. A service manual sent with the acceptance notice pointed out that the understanding and cooperation from non-alcoholics was essential. Hence, experts in various fields who had been enthusiastic supporters of AA were appointed as Class A trustees, and together with Class B trustees who are alcoholics themselves, and General Service Board had started. The urgent task of GSB was to establish various committees in immediate needs such as finance, CPC and Literature & Publishing. However, the problem at that time was that the General Service Structure was not yet put in order, and we could not say that we had a proper General Service Board elected from the whole AA Japan.

From 1982, the late Yukie Yamamoto, a non-alcoholic (some of you may know her name as the secretariat of the first AOSM held in 1995) started working in the JSO. She is one of the benefactors of AA Japan, who devoted herself to the fellowship for 20 years during the early days of AA Japan. She worked tirelessly to translate English publications from English into Japanese. I feel that this is a great achievement, since we were eager to have as many examples of "experience, strength, and hope" that AA brings to us as possible. Thus, in the early days, Japan GSO acted as a liaison to the society and to alcoholics, a place to carry the message to those pre-AA members who were trying to get in touch with A.A. and, of course, the office played a role as a publishing bureau. In addition to this, Yukie Yamamoto was the third WSM delegate in Japan and served in our general service activities.

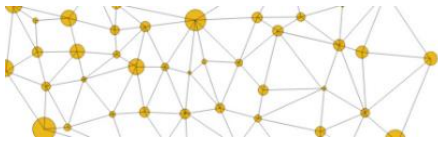
At the same time, the service structure was gradually put in order, and at the same time that the GSO made a clear break with the office of the recovery facility, the Kanto Group Service Representative Assembly in the Eastern region of Japan, the capital area, was effectively taking

over the general service activities from 1982. The first National GSR Assembly was held at the 10th anniversary convention in 1985, where we decided to elect a WSM delegate and send him to the World Service Meeting in Guatemala in 1986. Back then, we still needed a laborious process where the only way to make decisions related to general service was to gather GSR from all over the country for an assembly. This led to the idea of holding General Service Conference, and as a forerunner, the General Service Meeting was held annually starting in 1989.



It meant a great significance to dispatch WSM delegate to the World Service Meeting. He brought back the idea of area division and establish a central office for each area. Accordingly, we divided Japan into seven areas. Each area has one central service office, which functions as the area's local service base.

When the General Service Meeting was held in 1994, we recommended the start of General Service Board (GSB) to the groups in Japan. The 20th anniversary was held in Omiya and we had a whole general service representative assembly to unanimously adopt General Service Structure, such as General Service Conference and General Service Board. We cannot do without the existence of Japan GSO which serves as a working level organization. Thus, AA Japan had developed its Service Structure for 10 years from 10th anniversary. And in accordance with that, Japan GSO has been established and grew to the solid office of our community.



A.5. GSO Officers' Presentations

A.5.1. INT'L LITERATURE FUND – CARRYING THE MESSAGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Racy J. - US/Canada General Service Office – International Desk

In the past year and a half, access to AA's life-saving message often found through AA literature has taken on a deeper meaning in light of Covid-19. Due to physical distancing, some groups have had to reexamine how to recreate that simple hand-to-hand exchange of one receiving their first "Big Book" at a meeting. In addition, many structures around the world are reviewing AA literature and questioning whether our literature fully reflects AA today, the platforms we gather, our members and potential members, and how the AA message is carried to the public.



In a sense, however, this current experience is not necessarily entirely new for AA. From its earliest beginnings, the AA founders recognized the need to reach beyond the face-to-face transmission of the AA message, giving rise to the development of AA's basic text, the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This book and other AA materials which are widely

available on multiple platforms – digital, audio and video – has literally circled the globe and opened the door to recovery for millions of alcoholics looking for help. Even prior to this pandemic many AA members around the world – whether homebound, living in remote areas, in remote places

– have counted on participating in AA remotely through AA literature, phone calls with other members, correspondence by letter or email and meetings online.

While many AA members are for the first time reporting the shift from in-person meetings to digital platforms, for many alcoholics around the world, remote connections, and hand delivered or mailed "Big Book", and meeting on digital platforms are how they initially encountered and have maintained their recovery in AA even prior to the pandemic.

In 2020, the 26th World Service Meeting marked 27 years since the 11th World Service Meeting recommended that the WSM secretariat "...write to all participating countries for the specific purpose of seeking cooperation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions." Since that time, the response from countries around our AA world has been, and continues to be positive, heartwarming and most gratifying.

In 1992, the Literature / Publishing Committee of the World Service Meeting reported that the committee had agreed that the International Literature Fund should be under the purview of the World Service Meeting Literature / Publishing Committee. The Committee also suggested that "AA World Services (AAWS) use proceeds of (the) International Literature Fund to offset AAWS.' expenditures for foreign literature assistance, and to reimburse similar expenses incurred by other overseas AA offices or boards." And, stated that "AAWS should have the latitude to prioritize the use of these monies based on the need as expressed by each GSO and World Service delegate." The Committee also asked that "AAWS provide World Service Meetings with an accounting of the receipts and disbursements of these monies at each WSM."

To provide some help in establishing initial projects and priorities, the committee also recommended that the secretariat of the World Service Meeting write to each General Service Office and World Service delegate requesting sharing on what their countries were doing in carrying the message to neighboring countries; what literature translations had been done within and outside their countries; what other languages were needed within their countries and whether or not they needed monetary help from the International Literature Fund to accomplish this. This effort was helpful in establishing some initial projects and priorities.

At the 25th World Service Meeting held in South Africa in 2018 it was agreed that AA World Services consider the use of the International Literature Fund to offset

administrative costs associated with translation review and copyright registration of AA Grapevine, Inc. books.

The International Literature Fund is one aspect of A.A.W.S.' many responsibilities to AA's worldwide community.



Over the years since its inception, nearly two million dollars has been contributed to the fund by 41 different countries, helping to provide literature to AAs in places such as Albania, Bolivia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka,

Trinidad, Uganda and Uruguay, just to name a few, and to make translations available in more than 110 languages, among them Visayan, Arabic, Tagalog, Thai, Georgian and Serbian.

These contributions represent sacrifices by AAs in each of these countries to help defray the cost of translations and literature assistance to Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania. It is a profound truth that by having AA literature available to alcoholics in as many languages as possible means countless lives may be impacted. And in these times of Covid-19 the connectiveness found through AA literature has taken on a deeper meaning when person to person connection may be less available.

Over the years the International Literature Fund has provided copies of complimentary Big Books and other literature to Bangladesh, Chile, The Czech Republic, Croatia, The Kingdom of Bhutan, Kuwait, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa and Tanzania. In one recent year AA books and pamphlets were published in Amharic (Ethiopia), Saami (Lapland), Tibetan, Hindi, Samoan and Xhosa (South Africa). This would not be possible without your continued support - both monetarily and spiritually.

It is with grateful hearts that the Directors of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board and the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, U.S. and Canada, express their collective appreciation for the many Seventh Tradition sacrifices that help carry AA's message of hope around the world.

With an AA presence in over 180 countries, a steady surge in requests is being made each year to license translations of AA literature, from pamphlets and booklets to

Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. These requests are directed to the translations and licensing department of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

In 2015, the Big Book was published in Twi (Ghana) and Rarotongan (Cook Islands) after a long period of translation and evaluation and is now available. We are just now using the International Literature Fund to provide Ukraine-language Big Books to 5 districts of AA Ukraine -- for use in their corrections/prisons outreach.

AAWS Publishing Director, David R. will include specifics and updates on recent translation and licensing activity in his report.

The challenges for different countries in developing AA literature are many. Translations of the Big Book, for example, can present particular cultural questions for each country, such as how to address the concept of God or a Higher Power. Translation is an art, not a science, so sensitivity to maintaining the integrity of the original English as well as the vernacular of the local Fellowship must be bridged. Some creative approaches have provided solutions for many countries: For example, the Fellowship of Goa, India, has done work on a version of the Big Book in the style of a drama, which is the traditional form for communicating material of spiritual depth in the Konkani language. A Zulu audio version of the Big Book has been licensed.

Contributions to the International Literature Fund are provided by a growing number of participating service structures around the world. Many have a set amount that they contribute on an annual basis, while others contribute as they can, based on their individual financial circumstances. Some countries have shared that the spiritual benefits of their participation have been significant.

If you would like additional information about the International Literature Fund or the international activities of the General Service Board and the General Service Office of US/Canada, please contact: General Service Office, international@aa.org.

AA in the digital age has certainly taken on a new meaning in these challenging times, reminding its members and those searching for help that AA is not a "place," but exists in the hearts, minds and help of its members.

A.5.2. LITERATURE, TRANSLATIONS, LICENSING AND DISTRIBUTION

David R. - US/Canada General Service Office – AAWS Publications Director

“What’s new in the AA’s global publishing efforts: innovations in accessibility, inclusion and attraction, and— with a focus on digital distribution”

"Accessibility"
"Inclusion"
"Attraction"

Hello AA friends old and new. My name is David R., and I am an alcoholic. As many of you know, they call me “the Publishing Guy.” I have served in the professional capacity as publishing director of AA World Services, Inc. since 2016, and prior to that, held the position of licensing manager in the

G.O.O. beginning in 2014. I joined the office after having worked professionally in various magazine and book publishing venues (academic, trade, print & eBook, and membership-based distribution platforms, among them) for more than 25 years.

Let’s begin with... the “why”

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

All of this painstaking attention to items of our literature, to the accuracy of translations? To licensing and distribution of literature within our structures? Why do we do this? One answer: We work together to help ensure that the message of hope that we carry is not “garbled,” to use one of our co-founder Bill W.’s favorite phrases.

And what is more: We work together to ensure that we respect and support the international structures of our Fellowship. Our primary purpose and our great responsibility to keep the doors of AA open both inform our work. We extend the hand of AA to the next sick and suffering alcoholic – and help those who help alcoholics in recovery everywhere.

“I want the hand of AA always to be there. . .,” ...and in that hand: perhaps an item of literature, say, a Big Book.

THE “WHAT”

In particular, we are making great strides forward with our items of literature in the significant areas of “accessibility”, “inclusion” and “attraction”.

Around the world, working groups, translation committees and teams, service committees, and teams of writers, designers and production professionals are immersed daily in dozens and dozens of translation and distribution projects – each one moving forward in effort to ensure that the powerful message of hope that our beloved program of A.A. offers can be most effectively shared.

The Emergence of Digital and Online Access

Since the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 (and arguably for several years running leading up to this moment in time), we have seen the emergence of increased online participation in our Fellowship and the subsequent ongoing expressed need for materials to be made available in digital formats (PDFs, eBook, and



audiobook among them). All this, in addition to and not replacing print materials.

For the past year and a half – during the “new normal” when in-person gatherings have been suspended and in certain locales halted altogether, still; we in Alcoholics Anonymous have participated in the astonishing enduring resilience of our Fellowship in action – with platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, and the like offering vital access to AA meetings, workshops, workgroups, committees, conferences, conventions, and other gatherings focused on service, such as this one.

We are mindful that not all people everywhere have access to digital or online communication devices, Wi-Fi, and all the rest. But more and more, data shows that folks of all ages and backgrounds are becoming comfortable with the digital arena.

Homegrown Translations - An Ongoing Surge!



For about a decade running now, the AA World Services publishing department has seen a steady surge in translation and licensing activity, worldwide.

We say “homegrown” because almost every new international translation of our literature begins with a local AA group or local service committee expressing a need and moving a project forward.

Today, our office is immersed in the continued surge of activity in licensing, translation and distribution – for items to be distributed globally in print, as previously – but also now we are seeing an uptick in interest in and queries regarding digital, eBook and audiobook formats.

Our Big Book

The Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, published in English in the United States in 1939, our basic text now in its English-language Fourth Edition, is translated into 72 languages worldwide... and counting, in addition to the original English (so it is available in 73 approved languages total), which includes the two latest translations: Tatar (Russia) and Oriya (India). Fifty-one (51) languages are printed and distributed by AAWS, Inc. and 39 languages are licensed to be printed and distributed by local entities abroad (with 22 printed by both AAWS, Inc. and international entities).

There are 24 Big Book languages in translation pending, at various stages of completion, which includes 19 new translations in progress and five revisions/re-translations.

A word about: a 5th Edition English-language Big Book...

Note: As of this past April, by Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference of the United States and Canada, a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book has been called for us to begin to develop, to begin work on. As we all know, based upon experience, a new edition of our Big Book, with new stories to be solicited, reviewed and selected to represent the widest possible range of AA’s current Fellowship, may take a few years to complete.

A word about: a Fourth Edition “Alcoholicos Anonimos”... Also of note: by Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference, a Fourth Edition Big Book in Spanish translation has also been called for to start its draft process.

Along with the Big Book, our items of literature range across more than 1,000 items in print, digital, audio, video and other formats. All told, these are translated into more than 110 languages ...and counting.

For the publication	We have
“Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions”	51 languages 3 pending
“Daily Reflections”	37 languages 1 pending
“Living Sober”	37 languages 1 pending
“Came to Believe”	19 languages

THE “HOW”

Our AA World Services board-approved Process and Policy for International Translations and Licensing – including submission & review, permissions and licensing are available in English, French and Spanish on aa.org – under “Terms of Use.”

I will briefly walk through a few important particulars of the process here – notably, for today’s presentation I have been asked to cover information relating to digital materials.

Contact us

Please know that our Licensing Administrator Rosa Rodriguez and I are available for setting up individual phone calls and/or Zooms with representatives from individual countries to review your active licenses, needs for renewals, and address any questions you may have: translationsandlicensing@aa.org

Please be patient. As many of you are aware, we are swamped with a backlog of individual licensing and translation review requests. But hope is here – we are in the process of training a new licensing assistant, who has recently joined our team.

Each translation begins with an expressed need. Local committees drive this process.

IMPORTANT: We work best with one point person, one contact such as a literature chair or designated representative from each AA local. What is not efficient is for us to receive emails and calls from different folks about licensing items of literature in any given international locale. It causes confusion and delays.

Translation submissions

When a committee deems a translation is ready for our office to have reviewed, meaning -- that the translated text best represents the integrity of the original English text, the point person or contact person submits it to our office in a word document attached to an email -- to then be shepherded by our Licensing Administrator Rosa Rodriguez to be reviewed by an outside independent-translation-evaluation professional.

This review service locates a professional linguist familiar with AA's literature, who will report on the submission's clarity and adherence to the sense, spirit, tone, and passion of the original English work -- the translation's overall integrity. As we all know: "Translation is an art not a science," it is often said, and many factors contribute to a successful translation. (Google translate has its uses but sadly does not create publishable text).



Translation review

When we in the office get the report back, suggestions for improvement and a critique may be included. Examples of corrections to grammar. And so forth. We will next pass the report on to the local

committee's contact person, and the committee may then use this report to revise, correct and polish the text further.

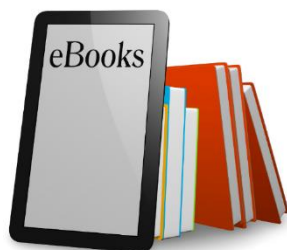
Final texts are then submitted back to the office -- and licenses to reproduce and distribute may then be generated.

"ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF LICENSES"

Note: In the past year -- conforming to international licensing best practices, we now exchange licenses for signature and countersignature electronically. In the past, we had shied away from this practice but it is now universally accepted as valid. Also, we no longer can accept licenses via fax.

eBook Licenses

Any text for an item of translated and licensed literature, which has been approved via our translation-submission and review process -- usually undertaken for print distribution -- may be licensed for eBook format.



Our office does not participate in the format conversion process from text to EPub 3 eBook, nor do we need to review these. Each local committee handles that format change.

To obtain a license to distribute an approved item in eBook format, simply request to license eBook format for an item of literature. Our Licensing Administrator will send you the appropriate documentation for distribution of the item in eBook format.

As you may know, a successful "test" that German-speaking Europe undertook with the German Big Book in eBook format resulted in a very favorable report that was delivered at the 2018 World Service Meeting, accompanied by data that showed print book sales did not suffer when expanded eBook distribution was implemented, and the German-language Big Book in eBook format is now reaching exponentially more folks who want and need it.

Audiobook Licenses

Similar to eBook format, you may request licenses to distribute in audio format. Our office will not need to review the audio. You will need to provide "Narrator release" documents, which we shall provide you.

POSTING ON WEBSITES

Licenses to post an item of literature on a country's official AA website (in PDF or eBook formats, for example) may be requested for any licensed item as well. Multiple items may be included in one license. Simply request the license accompanied by your list of titles you intend to post. Our Licensing Administrator will need the name / URL of your official AA website. It is included in the license.

Use of items of literature in AA meetings

Just as is the practice in physical, in-person AA meetings, whereupon printed books or booklets may be handed out for use in that meeting and then collected at the end -- and not distributed further, many groups are visually sharing digitally (in Chat, perhaps or via Screen share) excerpts from books and other items of literature in the course of their meetings. This use of literature does not require any additional licensing or permission. It is for a given group's use. If the group wishes to share / distribute items of literature beyond that meeting, that is another matter.

NEW PAMPHLETS COMING SOON

Approved by the 71st General Service Conference and in the works to be printed later this year: pamphlets that will include shared experience by Spanish-speaking women,

and a new illustrated pamphlet: "Our Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve".

Steps Illustrated." Also of note: The pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" will undergo editorial changes and will be retitled "Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous."

Newly redesigned, revised and updated "AA Service Manual 2021-2023"

As you know, we encourage each international AA entity to craft its own service manual to tailor it to best reflect its structure and best serve its own Fellowship. Our own service manual, tailored for use by the United States and Canada Fellowship, has been redesigned, revised and updated, and having been approved by the 71st General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada, it will be available first digitally, then in print form in the late Fall.

OTHER INNOVATIONS



Audio

Audio format is seeing a major increase in "readership" worldwide.

We have undertaken re-recordings of our Big Book and 12 x 12 in

English, French and Spanish as well as new professional recordings of "Living Sober" and "The Twelve Concepts for World Service". Next up is "Daily Reflections".

Also, we are undertaking the first-ever conversion of our most-distributed print pamphlets into high-quality, professional audio production to commence in 2020.

A creative workgroup for Podcasts has been formed and original podcasts are in development. Stay tuned...

Video

An AA World Services, Inc. "owned and operated" YouTube channel has been recently populated with more and more of our A.A.W.S.-produced content and is being continually populated with our videos.

Another project includes leveraging the experience of our Class A Trustees for short videos. As you know, Class A trustees are wonderful ambassadors of AA, for example, as professional talking to professionals, and as AA friends speaking to the public at large about us.

New distribution channels for English, French and Spanish eBooks

AAWS board approved on January 30, 2020, to move forward with a plan to greatly expand its eBook distribution (into libraries, professional, educational, and other eBook platforms) with the contracted help of an industry-respected "hub." This began implementation in January 2021.

CONCLUSION

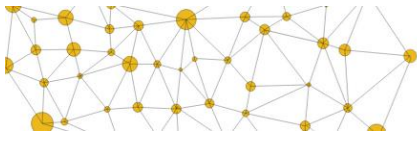
Our service corporation AAWS, Inc. has been assigned the deep moral and spiritual responsibility for preserving and protecting the integrity of our literature.

Our efforts move forward projects for the sharing of AA's profound spiritual message and together with our global AA able helpers we achieve real, tangible results.

The effect of all these efforts? To borrow one of Bill W.'s favorite words: "Incalculable". Thank you very much.

"Millions of our pamphlets and hundreds of thousands of our books are today in circulation. A.A.'s message can never be garbled; anyone at all can find out about us with ease. What the dividends of this single project in world communication have been, only God himself knows."

Bill W: The Language of the Heart (1964), p 348



A.G. World Service Meeting Report

Simon M. (Hong Kong) - 1st Term WSM / 2nd Term AOSM

The 26th World Service Meeting (WSM) took place on 28-30 November 2020. For the first time in its history, the three-day event took place virtually.

The theme for the meeting was apt, “The Purpose of Our Service: Sobriety within Everyone’s Reach”. Opening remarks referenced the resilience and adaptability of AA amid the adverse conditions of a global pandemic. Conversations throughout the meeting focused on how the fellowship is responding to the challenges and taking up the often-unforeseen opportunities.

PARTICIPATION

Delegates from 44 countries participated in the meeting. Two new countries participated (Bulgaria and Greece) and two countries which had previously attended as part of the Central America Northern Zone participated as countries in their own right (El Salvador and Guatemala).

LITERATURE REPORT

GSO has published new and revised translations of the Big Book. The new translations have been into Miskito (Nicaragua), Shona (Sub-Saharan Africa), Quechua (Peru), Tatar (Russia), and Sesotho (Lesotho). New translations into the Indian languages of Oriya, Khasi, and Konkani are on the way. Revised translations of the Ukrainian Big Book and the Russian Big Book have been published. A new book was published in May: “Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970”.

PRESENTATIONS

You’ll find the full text of each presentation in the WSM Report. The meeting heard presentations on:

- The Importance of a Group Conscience Process
- Encouraging Women into General Service
- Young People in AA
- Anonymity and the Internet
- Safety in AA
- The International Literature Fund

COUNTRY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

You will find each country’s service highlights in the WSM report. Rather than presenting highlights during this time-constrained meeting, countries uploaded their highlights to the WSM Online Dashboard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - KEY OUTCOMES

Policy, Administration, Finance

The committee:

- recommended that the 27th World Service Meeting be held October 1-6, 2022, in Japan.
- affirmed that the \$1,500/USD delegate fee will be restored for the 27th World Service Meeting.
- admitted four countries but declined applications from two: China & Moldova.

The committee appreciated China’s desire to be a part of the WSM but agreed that it did not currently meet the criteria based on the information received. The committee noted the benefits of greater participation at zonal meetings for emerging structures.

Website, Literature and Publishing

The committee:

- Suggested that AAWS gather shared experience on creating eBooks and making literature available online with proper copyright protections in place
- Discussed the tradition of self-support versus the reliance upon literature sale profits. This was prompted by a severe drop in literature sales as a result of the pandemic.

Site Selection and Agenda

The committee announced that Japan will host the 27th WSM and that Iceland will be the alternative host. The theme will be: “Carrying the Message of A.A. in the Digital Age.”

The committee suggested the following themes for 27th WSM:

- AA and New Technologies
- What is our attraction? Recovery, Unity, Service

- The Seventh Tradition: Fully self-supporting in the Digital Age
- Our non-alcoholic friends
- Alcoholics Anonymous has already come of age. Is there any danger that it may get too old?
- How to invest in the future of AA

The committee suggested the following topics for workshops:

- How to encourage the Seventh Tradition in the time of a Pandemic
- Social Isolation at each level of the structure.
- Virtual Groups: How can they be integrated into the General Service Conference structure?
- A.A. in Society: Relationship with networks and social media

Working with Others

The committee suggested that the fellowship might respond to the pandemic by:

- Increasing the availability of hotlines and expanding their hours to 24/7 coverage. Several fellowships reported a large increase in phone calls.
- Creating guidelines to help members navigate video-conferencing platforms, address anonymity concerns, and deal with “zoom bombers”
- Offering newcomers individualized help, enlisting volunteers to accompany them to their first online meeting or offering break-out rooms for one-on-one contact at the end of meetings
- Conducting webinars for Hospitals and Institutions etc.

WORKSHOPS – KEY OUTCOMES

“Communication - A Key to Unity”

Fellowships continue to communicate with the newcomer in established ways during the pandemic but some fellowships are stepping up their use of traditional and social media channels. Ideas included (a) conducting interviews with Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees and (b) developing video resources to address special population groups and to reach alcoholics with accessibility issues.

Countries continue to support other countries by visiting them and by sponsoring them financially. For example, the USA/Canada structure sponsors the Mexican structure, and the Mexican structure sponsors several South American structures.

“The Use and Value of our Literature in Sponsorship”

Sponsors shared which literature they like to use when they sponsor people. Most sponsors favored the Big Book and the ‘12 and 12’, but many also used ‘AA Comes of Age’. Sponsors sought guidance from pamphlets like “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” but the need emerged for more guidance on sponsoring cross addicted people and on doing service in public institutions such as correctional centers.

“The Importance of our Non-alcoholic Friends in our Structure”

In some countries, ‘Class-A Trustees’ are part of the service structure. In some other countries, work with non-alcoholic friends is difficult because the country does not recognize the work of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Countries shared that they establish relationships with non-alcoholic friends by participating in professional conferences, by organizing information sessions, by utilizing social media platforms and by inviting non-alcoholics to conventions. To encourage individual members to establish relationships, some countries have arranged workshops for their members and others have prepared customized presentations that members can use.

REPORTS OF ZONAL SERVICE MEETINGS

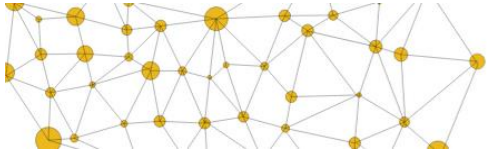
You can read these detailed reports in the WSM Report. The WSM received reports from:

- the 13th Asia Oceania service meeting (Hong Kong)
- the 20th European Service Meeting (York, UK)
- the 21st Meeting of the Americas (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and
- the 9th Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting (Johannesburg, South Africa).



Section B

Outcomes and Recommendations



B.1. Election of Officers

B.1.1. AOSM CHAIR

The meeting received two nominations. Delegates elected Bertie S. (MERCAA) to the position of Chair and Brian S. (Australia) to the position of Alternate Chair.

B.1.2. AOSM SECRETARIAT

The four-year position of Secretariat was up for reaffirmation after two years. The current Secretariat, Masayo S., indicated she was open to stepping down rather than continue for two more years. Delegates showed deep appreciation to Masayo for her service, and elected Simon M. (Hong Kong) to serve for the following four years, with a reaffirmation after two years. This change was significant because it now staggers the election of the Secretariat and Treasurer by two years allowing for better continuity. Delegates elected Ali H. (Iran) to the position as Alternate Secretariat.

B.1.3. AOSM TREASURER

Delegates reaffirmed the current Treasurer, Yasuhiko M. (Japan) to serve through the 15th AOSM (2023).

B.1.4. WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPORT

Delegates selected Steven R-K. (New Zealand) to give the report from the 14th AOSM (2021) at the 25th World Service Meeting (2022), and to present a report from the 25th World Service Meeting (2022) at the 15th AOSM (2023).

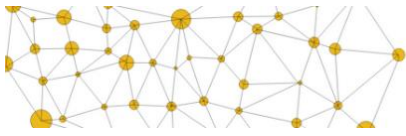


B.2. Committee Recommendations (Passed)

KEY: PAF: Policy, Admissions and Finance WLP: Website, Literature and Publishing
 SSA: Site Selection and Agenda WWO: Working with Others

The Committees recommended that AOSM:

1	Provides an orientation booklet for all delegates at the time of their appointment to AOSM and conduct an orientation session for all delegates approximately one month before each AOSM.	PAF
2	Adds the positions of “Alternate Chair” and “Alternate Secretariat”.	PAF
3	Enhances accounting procedures so that we record Total Income and Total Expenses over a period of 24 months and present bi-annual statements.	PAF
4	Adopts the wording below for the delegates’ “Guidelines, Criteria and Qualifications”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall choose its own delegates. • Delegates should preferably be resident and/or citizen of the Country they represent at the time that the country applies to attend the AOSM. • Delegates should be recommended by Group/Service Structure and should not be self-appointed. The size/age of the recommending entity is not important. It may range from a group to a GSO, whichever is the most developed level of that country’s structure. 	PAF
5	Hold regular meetings online between the chairs of the standing committees and encourage standing committee chairs to communicate closely with the members of their committee between AOSMs to continue their work.	SSA
6	Holds the 15th AOSM on 6-9 July 2023.	SSA
7	Adopts a theme, invites presentations, and conducts workshops for the 15th AOSM, as below: <i>Theme: Carrying the Message and Overcoming Cultural Challenges within Borders.</i> Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Literature Fund, Translations, Licenses. • Cooperation with Professionals Communities and Government Authorities. • Reaching out to Remote Communities (Language, Culture, Geography). • Understanding Anonymity Inside and Outside of AA. • Anonymity on Digital Platforms. • Creating local literature in local languages—sharing examples. Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Seventh Tradition - Overcoming Challenges to Support our Services. • Using Traditions to Find Solutions to Adversity and Maintain Unity. 	SSA
8	Investigate the cost and feasibility of hiring a professional webmaster. The webmaster will be advised by volunteer AA members appointed by the Web/Literature Committee to serve as a team.	WLP
9	Allow the webmaster to join the next AOSM WLP committee meeting, but only for the portion of the meeting that concerns the website.	WLP
10	Ask AAWS to provide a simple diagram (flow chart) describing the translation and Licensing process.	WLP
11	Ratify the wording in the scope to include “Committee will meet four times a year to discuss outreach”.	WWO



B.3. Committee Reports (Full)

B.3.1. POLICY, ADMISSIONS AND FINANCE

Attendees:	<u>8 Voting Members:</u> Bertie S. (Chair) MERCAA-UAE 2 nd Term Peter J. (Alt Chair) South Korea 2 nd Term Simon M. Hong Kong 2 nd Term Yasumichi H. Japan 2 nd Term Greg B. Australia 1 st Term Yisrael C. Israel 1 st Term Izz K. MERCAA-Jordan 1 st Term Kirill K. Kyrgyzstan 1 st Term <u>4 Non-Voting Attendees:</u> Morita Y. (AOSM Treasurer) - Guest Japan Takashi I. (Interpreter) Japan Wada A. (Interpreter) Japan Dimitri P. (Interpreter) Kyrgyzstan		
Absent:	n/a		
Committee Scope:	The purpose and function of this committee is to review and initiate recommendations involving policies, finances and requests for admissions (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM.		
Summary:	The committee edited its recommendations for presentation to the AOSM and voted for its next Chair and Alternate Chair.		
Recommendations:	1. The committee recommended that AOSM:		
	1.1. Provides an orientation booklet for all delegates at the time of their appointment to AOSM and conduct an orientation session for all delegates approximately one month before each AOSM.		Passed
	1.2. Admits the Treasurer to the PAF committee as a non-voting member.		Not Passed
	1.3. Adds the positions of “Alternate Chair” and “Alternate Secretariat”.		Passed
	1.4. Enhances accounting procedures so that we align with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), i.e. the world-wide standard (See Discussion A).		Withdrawn
	<u>Reworded</u> Enhances accounting procedures so that we record total income and total expenses over a period of 24 months and present bi-annual statements.		Passed
	1.5. Adopts the attached Guidelines, Criteria and Qualifications” for delegates (See Discussion B).		Not Passed

	<u>Reworded</u>	Passed
	1.5.1. Each Country / AA Regional Structure shall choose its own representatives	
	1.5.2. Delegates should preferably be resident and/or citizen of the Country they represent at the time that the country applies to attend the AOSM.	
	1.5.3. Delegates should be recommended by Group / Service Structure and should not be self-appointed. The size / age of the recommending entity is not important. It may range from a group to a GSO, whichever is the most developed level of that country's structure.	
	2. Recommendations withdrawn because of time constraints:	
	2.1. Encourages current 2nd term delegates who are taking part in the AOSM to put themselves forward for the position of next AOSM Chair.	Withdrawn
	2.2. Collates into a manual the procedures and guidelines for an AOSM which have been agreed by previous AOSMs.	Withdrawn
	2.3. Invites countries to participate virtually if they cannot afford to attend in person and if they cannot secure sponsorship from another Country. This would make future AOSMs hybrid conferences.	Withdrawn
	2.4. Increases the cap on the number of observers from 25 to 50 for face-to-face AOSMs.	Withdrawn
	2.5. Elects a Treasurer who lives in a country with no exchange control regulations.	Withdrawn
Elections:	The committee unanimously voted to the position of: Chair: Greg B. (Australia) Alternate Chair: Yisrael C. (Israel)	

Discussion A:	<p>Enhancing Accounting Procedures (in support of Recommendation.4):</p> <p>The financial statement should include a full financial breakdown i.e., a detailed list of all income and expenses, not just the totals.</p> <p>Income as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations – we can include all donations in this heading and easily pick out individual donations if necessary. • Registration Fees – from members attending AOSM Service Conference. <p>Expenses as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel - Airfares – includes Chairman and Secretariat. • Travel - Accommodation – includes Chairman and Secretariat. • Venue – Hotel fees or Zoom fees for AOSM Service Conference. • Website – Any expenses related to setting up and maintaining. <p>The committee recommends this so that our financial statements align with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), i.e. the world-wide standard.</p>
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The final Treasurer's report should also cover the month of the AOSM itself so that it includes all the expenses incurred for the meeting. This would align with GAAP which state that a financial report should cover a 24-month period. In the past, the Treasurer's report included only the period between meetings.

The prudent reserve should be kept at USD 7,000. This is equivalent to the estimated cost of one AOSM. This cost is only estimated because we lack proper accounting documentation of previous AOSMs.

Discussion B:

1. **Adopting more specific "Guidelines, Criteria and Qualifications" for delegates** (in support of Recommendation 5):
 - 1.1. The committee commits to the following:
 - 1.1.1. We believe that each Country / AA Regional Structure should choose its own representatives.
 - 1.1.2. When setting criteria for a country's admittance to the AOSM, we must keep in mind our Statement of Purpose. We must ensure that we do not set any conditions that prohibit the admittance of countries that are in the early stages of establishing a fellowship.
 - 1.2. After consultation with the sitting AOSM Chair, the AOSM Alternate Chair and the GSO International Desk, the PAF committee suggests that:
 - 1.2.1. Each Country/AA Regional Structure shall choose its own representatives.
 - 1.2.2. Delegates should preferably be residents and / or citizens of the Country they represent at the time that country applies to attend the AOSM.
 - 1.2.3. Delegates should have at least three years sobriety.
 - 1.3. Group / Service Structure should recommend delegates. The delegates themselves should not appoint themselves. The size / age of the recommending entity is not important. It may range from a group to a GSO, whichever is the most developed level of that country's structure.
2. **Why do we need to clarify selection criteria for new delegates?**

The committee feels that we need to do this because the current AOSM Guidelines include only the points below in relation to Delegate and Country attendance at AOSM. Note that Point 5 seems to indicate that there are no criteria for delegate selection. There appears to be guidelines for Delegates only when a country asks for sponsorship. In the past, this practice has led to attendance by unsuitable delegates.
3. **What are the existing guidelines which relate to Delegate and Country attendance at AOSM? – (Source: 13th AOSM Hong Kong - p.4).**
 - 3.1. Each Country / AA Regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two Delegates.
 - 3.2. 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 Secretariat in the first instance and the Secretariat will then approach AOSM delegates on the requestor's behalf.
 - 3.3. When country sponsorship is involved, the following guideline shall apply:
 - 3.3.1. The candidate should be endorsed by at least two AA groups where there is not yet an established structure in that Delegate's country.
 - 3.3.2. The candidate should have a minimum of three years unbroken sobriety as an elected representative, with service beyond group level (5th AOSM Hong Kong).
 - 3.3.3. Neither Delegate qualification nor country structure shall be considered relevant.

4. Should new and returning countries send one delegate or two delegates?

We note that the system works best if participating countries are represented by two delegates, both with a four-year term. However, when a country is first admitted to AOSM, or a country returns to AOSM after an absence, one delegate would be classed as a First Term Delegate (serving a four-year term) and the other as a Second Term Delegate (serving a two-year term).

Discussion C:

Financial Sponsorship

1. How should countries seek financial sponsorship for their delegates to attend AOSM?

- 1.1. Countries should request financial sponsorship from the AOSM Secretariat. The Secretariat will then approach AOSM delegates on the requestor's behalf.
- 1.2. If a country cannot afford to send their elected delegate to an AOSM and that country is also unable to obtain financial sponsorship, then we should investigate whether we can conduct the AOSM in a hybrid manner (face-to-face and virtual).

2. What criteria should a delegate meet before seeking financial sponsorship?

When country sponsorship is involved, we suggest that:

- 2.1. The delegate should be endorsed by at least two AA groups where there is not yet an established structure in that Delegate's country.
- 2.2. The delegate should have a minimum of three years unbroken sobriety as an elected representative, with service beyond group level (5th AOSM Hong Kong).

B.3.2. SITE SELECTION AND AGENDA

Attendees:	8 Voting Members:		
	Phylis G. (Chair)	Fiji	2 nd Term
	Tom M. (Alt Chair)	Thailand	Alternate Delegate
	Ivan P.	Kyrgyzstan	2 nd Term
	Doug G.	Japan	1 st Term
	Tandin P.	Bhutan	1 st Term
	Nicholas C.	Singapore	1 st Term
	Gholmreza V.	Iran	1 st Term
	Srinivas N.	India	1 st Term
Absent:	n/a		
Committee Scope:			
Summary:	The committee edited its recommendations for presentation to the AOSM and voted for its next Chair and Alternate Chair.		
Recommendations:	The committee recommended that AOSM:		Passed
	1. Hold regular meetings online between the chairs of the standing committees and encourage standing committee chairs to communicate closely with the members of their committee between AOSMs to continue their work (Discussion A).		
	2. Hold the 15th AOSM on 6-9 July 2023.		Passed
	3. Adopt a theme, invite presentations, and conduct workshops for the 15th AOSM, as below:		Passed
	3.1. Theme: Carrying the Message and Overcoming Cultural Challenges within Borders.		
	3.2. Presentations:		
	3.2.1. International Literature Fund, Translations, Licenses.		
	3.2.2. Cooperation with Professionals Communities and Government Authorities.		
	3.2.3. Reaching out to Remote Communities (Language, Culture, Geography).		
	3.2.4. Understanding Anonymity Inside and Outside of AA.		
	3.2.5. Anonymity on Digital Platforms.		
	3.2.6. Creating local literature in local languages – sharing examples.		
	3.3. Workshops:		
	3.3.1. Understanding the Seventh Tradition – Overcoming Challenges to Support our Services.		
	3.3.2. Using Traditions to Find Solutions to Adversity and Maintain Unity.		
Elections:	The committee unanimously voted to the position of:		
	Chair:	Doug G. (Japan)	
	Alternate Chair:	Srinivas N. (India)	

<p>Discussion A:</p>	<p>Broadening the Scope of the Committee (in support of Recommendation 1).</p> <p>The committee discussed whether AOSM should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. encourage all standing committees to arrange regular Zoom meetings between AOSMs. The committee felt that countries would more likely send delegates to the AOSM if those delegates had been attending meetings in between AOSMs. 2. expand the scope to include the technology needs of an AOSM. The Committee agreed to draft guidelines for how to conduct a virtual meeting using Japan's example. The committee will present the draft guidelines to the 15th AOSM Site Selection and Agenda Committee.
<p>Discussion B:</p>	<p>Moving the AOSM to a 100% virtual platform or a hybrid platform in future.</p> <p>The committee weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a virtual meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advantages: more countries would be able to participate 2. Disadvantages: (a) delegates would feel less connected to each other (b) some countries would be reluctant to send face-to-face delegates if the virtual platform appears to work well enough.
<p>Discussion C:</p>	<p>Seeking financial sponsorship from countries.</p> <p>Members of the committee explained to other members how countries who cannot afford to attend an AOSM can request support through the Secretariat, who can then convey the need to other AOSM countries.</p>
<p>Discussion D:</p>	<p>Using technology to carry the message into remote areas / Sourcing literature.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The committee discussed how to use technology to carry the message to remote communities. 2. Members advised the delegate from Kyrgyzstan to contact the Publications director at GSO NY about how to source more literature.

B.3.3. WEBSITE, LITERATURE, AND PUBLISHING

Attendees:	9 Voting Members:		
	Uliana M. (Chair)	Russia	2 nd Term
	Lokesh B. (Alt Chair)	India	2 nd Term
	Zok G.	Mongolia	2 nd Term
	John K.	Israel	2 nd Term
	Truman Y.	China	1 st Term
	Mary R.	Fiji	1 st Term
	Sheli B.	Hong Kong	1 st Term
	Subodh A.	Nepal	1 st Term
	Steven R-K.	New Zealand	1st Term
Absent:	n/a		
Committee Scope:	The purpose and function of this committee is to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and views related to (a) the AOSM website (http://www.aosm-aa.org/), (b) translations (c) licensing, and (d) publishing of AA approved literature of the AOSM member countries.		
Summary:	The committee edited its recommendations for presentation to the AOSM and voted for its next Chair and Alternate Chair.		
Recommendations:	The committee recommended that AOSM:		
	1. Investigate the cost and feasibility of hiring a professional webmaster. The webmaster will be advised by volunteer AA members appointed by the Web / Literature Committee to serve as a team.		Passed
	2. Allow the webmaster to join the next AOSM WLP committee meeting, but only for the portion of the meeting that concerns the website.		Passed
	3. Ask AAWS to provide a simple diagram (flow chart) describing the translation and licensing process.		Passed
Elections:	The committee unanimously voted to the position of:		
	Chair:	Sheli B. (Hong Kong)	
	Alternate Chair:	Mary R. (Fiji)	

Discussion A:	<p>1. Enhancing the Website (http://www.aosm-aa.org/)</p> <p>The committee discussed whether the website should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. A members' only section for sharing ideas. 1.2. Links to GSO NY and to the main www.aa.org. 1.3. The latest country reports 1.4. General service office addresses and contact information of structures where an office does not exist 1.5. Details of events in the region such as conventions, forums, etc. <p>2. General discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Members felt that more people would use the website if it were updated more frequently and if old content were regularly archived.
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- 2.2. Members noted that material that was available online and also in print was often inconsistent, e.g., the guidelines for delegates and the registration forms.
- 2.3. Members observed that www.aa.org may not be the best model to follow because it has too much information on it.

Discussion B:

Enhancing the Literature and Publishing.

Members discussed how to get AA materials to emerging fellowships. They acknowledged that those fellowships often find it difficult to get literature from www.aa.org.

Members felt that live presentations from AAWS continue to be important, either during AOSMs or at other times. Members agreed they would like to see a flow chart to illustrate the translation process and they would like to know how the translation team works together.

B.3.4. WORKING WITH OTHERS

Attendees:	8 Voting Members:
	Pip A. (Chair) Aotearoa/New Zealand 2 nd Term
	Dane A. (Alt Chair) Singapore 2 nd Term
	Lokesh B. India 2 nd Term
	Brian S. Australia 2 nd Term
	Ali H. Iran 2 nd Term
	Navam X. Sri Lanka 2 nd Term
	Sonam T. Bhutan 2 nd Term
	Thez K. Sri Lanka 1 st Term
Absent:	n/a
Committee 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.
Summary:	The committee edited its recommendations for presentation to the AOSM and voted to retain its current Chair and Alternate Chair.
Recommendations:	The committee recommended that AOSM ratify the wording in the scope to include: “committee will meet four times a year to discuss outreach”. Passed
Elections:	Members agreed that Pip and Dane would continue as Chair and Alternate Chair until the other delegates felt comfortable in their new roles. The committee voted to retain in the position of: Chair: Pip A. (Aotearoa/New Zealand) Alternate Chair: Dane A. (Singapore)

Discussion A:	Carrying the message in Nepal. The committee shared that the fellowship in Nepal could establish links with old timers, youth clubs and schools. Nepal shared that the fellowship was working with the police to establish a venue for meetings. Nepal reported a fellowship of around 50 members in the country and eight meetings per week. Meetings are in Kathmandu and Pokhara. The fellowship needs help with establishing guidelines for meetings and with enhancing knowledge of the principles.
Discussion B:	Carrying the message through technology in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka reported the challenges associated with (a) the number of languages in the country and (b) the technology infrastructure. Sri Lanka acknowledged India’s support and they reported that they had held some successful workshops.
Discussion C:	Establishing an intergroup within emerging or small structures. The committee discussed whether an intergroup is always necessary, for example in countries like Sri Lanka and Singapore.
Discussion D:	Establishing contact with other countries in the zone. Members of the committee shared that they had established contact with fellows in Vietnam and Vanuatu. Moves are underway to establish a fellowship in Vanuatu.



B.4. Workshop Outcomes

Developing Guidelines for
1st Term Delegates

The AOSM divided into three groups to discuss:

- How we can stimulate interest in the AOSM.
- How we, as 1st term delegates, can prepare to attend the AOSM.
- How we can report back to our countries after the AOSM.
- How we, as 2nd term delegates, can prepare to hand over to our successors.

B.4.1. How can we stimulate interest in the AOSM?

Online engagement

- Generate interest by participating online between AOSMs.
- Continue to use the Zoom platform as it has many advantages.
- Use social media channels/digital platforms, e.g., Facebook page.
- Use AOSM website as information hub.

Perception and Awareness

- Change perception – participation is a gift and participation in AOSM is not as daunting as you might think.
- Promote awareness of the value of AOSM to fellowships.
- Reassure fellows in some countries that their level of English does not prevent them from taking part.

Channels

- Issue a monthly newsletter to promote AOSM.
- Share service structure reports and AOSM experience in AA meetings.
- Travel around the country and inform groups in assemblies and workshops.
- Drop in on other groups around the country and overseas – present outcomes to them in assemblies and workshops.
- Conduct service workshops.
- Sponsor people into AOSM and other types of service after they have done the steps.
- Announce AOSM outcomes at regional conferences.
- Meet key people in the service structure.

Collaboration

- Get information to people as quickly as possible.
- Cooperate with professionals.

- Invite past delegates to a reunion to regenerate interest.
- Support countries with smaller AA groups and fewer resources.

B.4.2. How can delegates prepare to attend the AOSM?

- Read the final reports, minutes, and exchange of emails.
- Study past themes to predict topics.
- Study over two years.
- Talk to the previous delegate.
- Set up communication with the 1st term delegate.
- Prepare a shared folder for the 1st term delegate.
- Prepare a 1st term Delegate AOSM checklist.
- Work with a service sponsor.
- Induction booklet informing of preparation / reporting / history.
- Prepare an AA dictionary.
- Get involved in committee meetings and WhatsApp chat groups.
- Conduct a “Getting-to-know-one-another” meeting before AOSM.
- Listen with an open heart and open mind.

B.4.3. How can delegates report back to their country after the AOSM?

General

- Report back quickly and every three months thereafter.
- Pass the report to Board members who represent the Regionals.

Translation

- Translate the AOSM Final Report into local language.

- Give presentations in other languages – connect speakers of other languages with AOSM delegates who speak that language.

Media

- Use a master PowerPoint provided to the GSB.
- Use WhatsApp group to post summaries to fellowships in the country.
- Use PowerPoint.
- Use video.
- Use newsletter.
- Pass on a simplified report – key points only.
- Record outcomes during and immediately after the meeting.
- Have both delegates record key outcomes during the AOSM by collaborating live on Google Docs.
- Debrief with other delegates after an AOSM.

B.4.4. How can 2nd Term Delegates prepare to hand over to their successor?

- Have a succession plan in place. Always bear in mind that someone else will be taking over from you.

- Involve the alternate delegate as soon as possible.
- Spend time with the successor. Share experience and enthusiasm for the role.
- Meet with new delegates frequently in the beginning. Walk them through the four years. Create a calendar. Talk about the unwritten customs.
- Have an orientation session well before term of office commences and create an orientation manual.
- Set the time at which all countries need to elect the next delegate.
- Make it clear that being a delegate is a life-long commitment, not just a four-year commitment.
- Elect an emeritus person, a historian.
- Have informal get togethers between past delegates, present and new delegates.
- Read THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL combined with TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE (2018-2020 Edition)
- Avoid Delegates leaving committee's abruptly, with no hand-over. Ensure 1st term delegates can access previous communication with committee chairs and minutes of previous committee meetings.



Section C

Country Reports



C.1. Australia

Australia was the first country to receive the lifesaving message of Alcoholics Anonymous from our friends in America in 1945. We adopted the General Service Structure as suggested by Bill W. and we have produced our own Service Manual. Australia consists of six regions and twenty areas. Each is represented at our annual General Service Conference.

At our last survey there were approximately 20,000 members in 2,000 groups in Australia. This year we will be launching another survey to get an updated picture of our membership.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

The GSB of AA Australia is made up of six Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, and one Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustee.

Currently, the board has three vacancies for Class A Trustees. Our Trustee Emeritus and two World Service Meeting Delegates attend Board Meetings but they are not voting members. The General Service Office (GSO) is staffed by one manager and two assistants who also attend Board meetings. The Board meets four times a year.

CORONAVIRUS

Australia is slowly opening back up as the country takes some control over the COVID19 virus. Most groups have returned to normal but some are smaller now as some members are still a little reluctant to return to face-to-face meetings. Plenty of Zoom Meetings are available. Weekend workshops and rallies are not happening yet except in rare cases. The North-Eastern Region is planning two weekends. One is a mini conference with only 160 people allowed in the venue. Previously, we have had up to 600 participants at this event.

However, the grey cloud of the Coronavirus has its silver lining in AA's discovery of internet communication channels. In the past, communication between AOSM Delegates was restricted to the actual AOSM meetings themselves. The Internet has overcome the tyranny of distance and regular meetings of the various committees are now possible.

VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our 55th National Convention in 2020 was scheduled to be held in Toowoomba in rural Queensland. Due to

Coronavirus, the Convention was held virtually. It was very successful.

This year's 2021 National Convention was set down for Adelaide but, sadly, due to restricted numbers allowed in the venue, it had to be cancelled. Hopefully by next year, the virus threat will be gone and the 2022 Convention will be held in Melbourne.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The 62nd Australian General Service Conference in November last year was conducted virtually. We had hoped to hold this year's conference face-to-face but due to the continuing threat of closure of state borders, it will again be conducted virtually. The dates are set for 18th – 21st November.

SUPPORT FOR FIJI

Following our National Convention in Fiji in 2016, we continue to offer financial assistance to allow the locals to reach out to many of the islands within Fiji.

PI & CPC

The National PI/CPC Forum and the Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum will be combined on the one weekend and held every second year. Despite the virus threat, the organizing committee have decided to hold it face-to-face and it is set down for 27th – 29th August. Numbers are limited to 150 people.



C.2. Bhutan

AA meetings started in Bhutan around 2005 in a hospital in the Capital, Thimphu. This hospital serves as a detox / rehabilitation centre for suffering alcoholics and addicts. There has been no consistent group because this was conducted by the hospital staff.

The first consistent AA meeting was started on 4th April, 2012 in a small town, Paro, which is almost 1.5 hours' drive from the capital, Thimphu. This meeting was started by four members who are still there. The group currently has 28 local members including four women, and many visitors because Bhutan is a popular tourist destination. This group is called Good Will group of AA.

With help of the local authorities, we were allotted a piece of land on which we built a centre that serves as a halfway home for many alcoholics and addicts. The group has 4 meetings a week that are well attended: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday (4-5pm, local time). During the pandemic, we were conducting meetings twice a week on messenger but we have now again started face-to-face meetings at our center.

Alcoholism is a big menace in Bhutan resulting in domestic violence, crime, and alcohol related illnesses. We are looking for some kind of guidance and assistance from AA globally. Though we do conduct PI activities in prisons, hospitals, and schools, we need to learn a lot. We also need literature that we can distribute and books for ourselves and prospective members. Sporadically, we receive help from individuals and sometimes from GSO India but we would like more support. We have been informed that regular participation in AOSM will help us grow our current fellowship.



Though we have had representation at AOSM in the past, those delegates were only visiting Bhutan and do not live here anymore. We have lost contact with them.

Currently our trusted servants of the Good Will group are: Tandin P – Chairperson, Karma W – Treasurer, Sonam C – Vice Chair, Sonam T GSR.



C.3. China



HISTORY

Before 2000, expat AA members were scattered across China and the numbers were unknown. At the same time, the message of AA was somehow carried into the city of Yanbian, an autonomous prefecture in the Northeastern corner of China bordering North Korea and Russia.

The development of Chinese AA started around the year 2000. Dr. David J. Powell, a specialist in addiction treatment, had “worked in many Asian countries, assisting them in the development of 12 Step programs and addiction treatment”. He came to China and established a relationship with Beijing Medical University (BMU). The relationship resulted in 4 doctors from China attending the AA International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, in 2000. The following year, 2001, representatives from the New York GSO office visited Beijing Medical University 6th Hospital, the country’s leading mental health institution. AA’s 12 step program was formally introduced into the medical system here.

Today, the ‘graduates’ from the 6th Hospital made up a large percentage of the face-to-face Chinese AA group in Beijing. This group is still the largest group in all of China. After Dr. Powell’s passing, part of his ashes were buried in the courtyard of the 6th Hospital, honoring his will.

We estimate that about 1000 active Chinese members are spread across China in approximately 101 groups. Interestingly, about 50% of these members rely heavily on online meetings. This was true even before the COVID outbreak.

Today the message of recovery is being carried through face-to-face meetings, online meetings, hospitals, conventions of all sizes, and translated story sessions. The expat AA community here has been working closely with us as well. The Clubhouse in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities have both English and Chinese meetings 7 days a week.

Since 2020, we have been working on setting up a China General Service Office. We’re hoping to update AOSM soon.

By connecting with the worldwide AA community, China looks forward to learning from your Experience, Strength, and Hope. <http://chinaaloners.com> (Website to support isolated fellows and a place where newcomers can find help).

GROUPS AND MEMBERS

In total, we counted 101 meetings per week in 48 cities across China. We counted 20 online meetings per day hosted through 12 channels. The five largest fellowships are in Beijing and Shanghai in the North and in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan in the South.

Please contact AOSM Secretariat or the delegate for China, Truman Y. for a list of other cities.

North China	Meetings	Including
Beijing	22	English Chinese Women
Shanghai	16	English Chinese Women Agnostics
South China	Meetings	
Shenzhen	5	
Dongguan	4	
Guangzhou	4	



C.4. Fiji Islands

BACKGROUND

Fiji is a Pacific Island country made up of 330 islands including the two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Our membership is spread out from the capital Suva to four other smaller islands. To maintain our sobriety and carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers, we have, since the 1990s and long before the COVID pandemic, relied heavily on the virtual platform. Those that lived in Fiji as expatriates, and returned to their home countries, continued to stay connected through this

platform. We have also been able to connect with the islands of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and very recently, Vanuatu.

GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE

There are 6 meetings in the Fiji Islands. Each meeting has a rotating chair. Our National General Service Office has 3 service positions: a Chair, a Secretariat and a Treasurer. The GSO meets once a month.

BANKING AND SEVENTH TRADITION

Fiji GSO has, since the last AOSM, opened its bank account with a Tax Identification Number. This is a step towards being self-supporting. Members have continued to send in their 7th tradition funds. The two face-to-face meetings collect their own basket and they have the option of contributing to the National GSO account. This account contributes to the monthly hotline phone bill which was previously funded by GSO-Australia.

CONCLUSION

Our fellowship in the islands is growing and we continue to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers a day at a time. We are grateful to have found hope and recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous, that we have been given an opportunity to live usefully and humbly under the grace of God

Fiji GSO		
Monday	Night	Men's meeting
Suva Tuesday	Lunch Hour	Face-to-face meeting
Wednesday	Lunch Hour	Mixed Nadi Meeting
Wednesday	Night	Mixed Meeting
Friday	Night	Mixed Meeting
Sunday	Midday	Regular Meeting Speaker on last Sunday of the month





C.5. Hong Kong

HISTORY OF A.A. IN HONG KONG

In 1969, two expatriates held the first AA meeting in the Mariner's Club, in Kowloon. In 1985, the group that was to later become the Hongkong-Kowloon Group moved into its current venue in a historic school building on Borrett Road, Hong Kong Island. Other groups formed, and sometimes dissolved, throughout the territories as the fellowship grew. In 1991, a Cantonese fellowship was also established. We have several hundred active members.

With Covid related travel restrictions, tourists without a Hong Kong ID are not allowed into the territory. However, we have welcomed many new regular visitors from abroad into our online meetings during this time. Indeed, some online meetings have 30% of participants from outside of Hong Kong.

STRUCTURE

Hong Kong has 20 A.A. groups and 52 meetings a week, including both online and face-to-face meetings. We have English speaking groups, Cantonese speaking groups, men's groups, women's groups, an LGBT+ group and an agnostic group.

HANDLING OF THE PANDEMIC

From around April 2020 until now, groups have adapted quickly to the changing situation, reverting to Zoom only meetings, hybrids, or face-to-face meetings as the restrictions have warranted. During this time, the number of newcomers entering the fellowship has been steady, and all groups continue to focus on the importance of 5th Tradition.

During this time, it has also come to our attention that there are those who are simply better served with online meetings. As we move back to our respective rooms, we are evaluating the use of our Zoom capacities for better accessibility for mobility challenged, hearing impaired and those whose first language is not English.

We traditionally hold an annual fellowship Unity Day, during which all groups, including AI-Anon, CODA, CA and OEA invite others to their meetings. This event has been on hold since 2020 but will resume once the Covid situation stabilizes.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our annual conference attracts visitors from around the globe, including a lot of visitors from Mainland China. In 2019, we hosted our 50th Anniversary convention but in 2020, the convention was postponed due to the pandemic. The convention committee remains intact and it is planning the 2021 convention. It will be going ahead in November. However, this year will be the first time that it will be run as a hybrid, with both face-to-face and online access.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

Hong Kong does not have a General Service Board or an office. The Hong Kong Intergroup employs a part-time manager and meets once a month.

LITERATURE

The fellowship orders English language literature from GSO New York. With the generous assistance from the Indian fellowship, we have provided literature to the Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Nepalese speaking

communities. We've placed the Big Book into Public Libraries throughout the territory.

HIPI (HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

We are currently seeking tax exempt status from the Hong Kong government, which will allow us reduced rates for advertising space and the right to air public service announcements on all government media in Cantonese and English.

Our HIPI committee works with treatment centers, hospitals, professional associations, the clergy, schools, and universities to carry the message in both English and Cantonese. Both fellowships welcome medical students, psychology students and social workers to our open meetings. We regularly talk at schools (as independent alcoholics, not as an organisation).

The Hong Kong fellowship operates two 24-hour hotlines: one in English and another in Cantonese. We use messaging apps, too.

The use of Zoom has made our HI efforts easier as medical practitioners and medical graduate students can sit in on open meetings and ask questions. We have had numerous sessions with the various medical schools throughout the pandemic. Medical practitioners can observe the issues of isolation on the sick and suffering, as well as the challenges to those in recovery.

FINANCE

About 60% of income is from 7th tradition contributions and 40% is from literature sales. Both sources of income have been affected significantly by the pandemic. Groups are setting up online 7th tradition facilities. We currently hold in cash just a little over our prudent reserve.

WEBSITE

Our website is at: <https://www.aahk.org/>. It includes pages in Cantonese. The site lists the contact details of fellowships throughout China as well as links to local meetings.

Our website and hotlines became the principal points of contact for old-timers and newcomers alike during the pandemic. We updated our meeting list regularly as government restrictions changed and meeting conscience responded.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Hong Kong is an active member of the Asia Oceania Zonal Region (AOSM) and of the World Service Structure. We hosted the 13th AOSM in 2019. Our closest relationships are with the growing fellowships in Mainland China and with the fellowship in India. HK fellows have assisted with Mainland China conventions and they have delivered workshops and presentations within the AOSM region; most recently in Beirut, Lebanon, and Vladivostok, Russia.





HISTORY OF A.A. IN INDIA

Fellowship of AA in India is in its 64th year. It has been a long way with vivid culture, different languages and uneven growth of AA nationally.

Here is an account of how AA came to India and its growth in the subsequent years. Though there are no accurate records from the early days, what is definitely clear is that Harold M., a schoolteacher by profession, was the first person in India to stop drinking and gain lasting sobriety through the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. He stopped drinking on 5th May 1957, and hence that date is nationally acknowledged as the "Founders Day" in India.



HOW DID HARRY M. GET THE MESSAGE?

A Canadian member of AA named Charley M. was posted to the Canadian Embassy at New Delhi and arrived on 12th January 1957. He then began to post ads in local newspapers offering help to those with a drinking problem. It was one of these ads to which Harry M. responded that enabled him to call on Charley M personally in New Delhi. Harry M. spent some days with

Charley in Delhi learning about the disease of alcoholism, the programme and the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. He returned to Mumbai armed with the literature given to him and stopped drinking from 5th May 1957. He remained sober till his death on 5th June, 1967.

Out of approximately 2,500 groups West and South India has about 1,900 groups and North and East has about 600 groups. We have very minimal presence in the Northeast region of India.

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by three Working Trustees: Vice Chairman/ Chairman, Public Information, Treasurer and Secretariat. A manager and three assistants manage the office.

General Service Board has nine class A non-alcoholic trustees and 18 class B trustees. Out of 18 class B trustees, trustees serve as Working trustees namely Vice Chairman/ Public Information Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretariat. They shoulder responsibility of General Service Office.

The Working Trustees excluding the Chairman of the Board are Class B trustees. 62 delegates represent all parts of country. We have had 51 Conferences so far. Our 51st GSC was held online. We still do not have District Committees and Area Assemblies even though adopted by the Conference in 2004. However, a few regions have recently started to implement this. Group services are largely provided through 85 Service entities including Intergroups, District Committees, Area Committees and State Committees across the country.

THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET

Online Meetings: We were able to hold 250+ online meetings in more than 10 languages through different online platforms to keep our fellowship united.

Carrying the Message Online: We were able to do PI activities online with kind support of Rotary, Lions Clubs, NGO's etc. to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic.

LITERATURE AND PUBLISHING

We publish and distribute A. A. books and pamphlets in 16 languages, 'The Twelfth Step' magazine is published bimonthly. Apart from the national magazine, periodicals are published by regional fellowships. A newsletter is published periodically from GSO India. The Trustee Committee for Charter & Reports has undertaken an

uphill task of updating the Charter and Bylaws. The GSC will adopt a General Service Manual in 2020.

We are witnessing an exciting and phenomenal period of growth. Across the length and breadth of the country, AA as a resource is becoming known and accepted at various public and private levels.

COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Defence: in 2010, AA was invited to PSYCON (a conference of psychiatrists attached to hospitals for the armed forces). As per last information received more than 10 AA meetings are held weekly at base stations of Air Force. Because of security reasons entries to participants are restricted. Paramilitary forces (SSB, CISF, CRPF, BSF) keep on inviting AA for awareness sessions.

Railways: Indian Railways is the largest employer in the country. Following the permission from Rail Board to conduct awareness sessions, in many rail workshops, schools and hospitals interactive sessions were held by AA members. In many railway premises, AA meetings are held.

Govt Hospitals: Health department of Central Government has issued permission to conduct awareness sessions and mount informative boards and banners in all Government run hospitals.

Treatment Facilities: Nowadays, many members from treatment facilities are coming to AA. The TF committee is exploring many ways to bridge the gap.

COOPERATION WITH MEDIA

Another great friend of AA is the media. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our need. Newspapers have been particularly cooperative by highlighting various facets of our program and by carrying stories of recovering alcoholics.

CONVENTIONS

Annually, conventions are held by Manali, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka etc.

PI Convention

Fellowship had its 1st National Virtual PI seminar organised by the General Service Office on 9th and 10th of October 2020 on Zoom. One representative from each service entity participated so that we shared our collective experience and wisdom.

Reaching where A.A. is not there

In the year 2010, we began our effort to carry the message to alcoholics in areas where AA does not exist. Towns were selected on the basis of population, number of local recoveries (either migrated from other areas or discharged from treatment facilities), the number of rehabs, and the support available from nearby existing fellowships. Since, then towns like Ujjain, Lucknow, Rajkot, Indore and Roorkee, Chattisgarh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Kanpur, Washim, Andaman Nicobar have been covered and AA meetings have been started.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP

We have sponsored our neighboring countries, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, by sending them literature and by keeping in touch with them through phone and mail.

Literature to Gulf Countries: we have sent literature on an individual basis in Indian languages to expats in gulf countries.

CHALLENGES

Perhaps the greatest challenges facing AA in India are:

- The social stigmas especially around women alcoholics

Due to changing social conditions, the number of women alcoholics is increasing sharply and women from all strata of society are falling prey to alcoholism. At present, there are only five women's groups in India and it remains a major worry for the fellowship to approach them with the message. The visit of AA Women from AOSM, had a sudden impact on the fellowship and many women came forward.

- Reaching the Northern and Eastern states where 65% of the population resides and the fellowship has virtually no existence.

Many alcoholics still die for want of the message. With the collective efforts, we are sure that the fellowship will reach those areas.

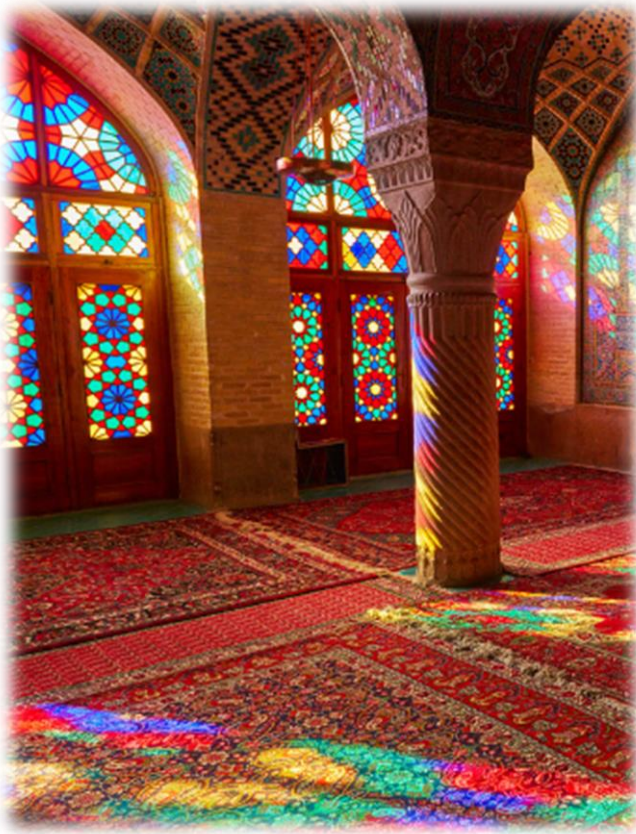
India is seen by its neighboring countries as an A.A. resource. We sincerely want to be of help to China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia etc. We are trying to assist them with our experience in translation of literature in local languages. We do extend an invitation to attend our GSC.

Thank you, "GOD Bless Us".



C.7. Iran

Iran is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 14th AOSM (Hyderabad, India 2021) and the first Virtual AOSM in the History of A.A. The message of A.A. arrived in Iran near 50 years ago, more or less during May 1971, yet there was no active group to be known. After years, in 1994 the first meeting was started in the house of some



fellow Iranians who used to live in U.S.

Today, AA program is very active in Iran. About 240 in person and online groups in 16 area are allied to service structure of Iran Alcoholics Anonymous. Before the sanitary situation there were more in person meetings and just one online Skype meeting we had. But now we have more than 25 online meetings on Skype and FCC (Free Conference Call) which hold more than 50 meetings a week. We estimate our membership to be over 4000 members. Groups include men stags and women stags. Some groups have both men and women together meetings. The meetings are held in different formats and times. The community's efforts to build service structure have had positive outcomes – we now have a well-established Public Information Committee, translation and Website committee, hospital & institutions committee, treasure, literature, workshop and an International Service Committee as part of the Iran

service structure. In this framework, we have Ten trustees eight of which are alcoholic members plus two non-alcoholics. In some areas we hold meetings in prisons, clinics and rehabs, however after Covid-19 we faced a lot of challenges and limitations about these meetings.

By the grace of God, we could participate in 13th AOSM at least with one delegate in Hong Kong and one of the gifts our delegate Ali H. brought for us from these meetings was the book “Our Great Responsibility” so we started to translate it to Persian and now we have this honor to say that we have also a license for publishing Persian translation of “Our Great Responsibility” and we are so thankful that our dear fellows have this new A.A. book in Persian.

Iran AA continues to foster friendship and welcome members from all around the world. One of the greatest achievements of the 25th WSM in Durban- South Africa was inviting Lotus A. (AA European French speaking delegate) to Iran by Iran Alcoholics Anonymous. Her trip to Iran made some of the most memorable moments for Iran AA, Days full of experience and joy, along with recovery meetings and workshops. She also patiently accompanied us in a long 5-hour meeting between two boards of trustees on the subject and goal of unity. We are still perceiving the positive effects of her trip on our fellows when they share in meetings. We need more inter-communications with AAWS or AOSM providing a healthy atmosphere to carry AA message to those who still suffer.

As you may know there is another AA structure with a central office in Mashhad who still continues to publish AA literatures without license, however we are friends personally but unfortunately separated in structure. Although, we really hope someday that is not too far have one allied AA in Iran who respects to all AA principals now we prefer to focus on our own job.

Our trustees decided to mention that our last AA statistics in Hong Kong about our members was based on both structures but this time it was just about this structure that is connected to AA world community.

All in all, our knowledge and connection with the greater AA community needs to be reinforced, strengthen and grow, to as much greater extend as we better comprehend the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts of AA and transfer it to others. Meanwhile we should mention that although we really miss previous situation that we could easily visit and support each other with warm hugs, we thought it is a good opportunity to have a new

experience, so our new Online Intergroup Committee decided to make an effort for a new unimaginable action. By the grace of God we were successful and we had our First Transnational Convention. It was on a virtual platform and we had speakers from GSO NY, delegates and members all over the world. It was a brilliant experience. We are really grateful for this chance and

many thanks to all those dears who supported us in this our first experience. Also we had our first Concepts & Traditions Workshops with Speakers from US/Canada that was so useful for our structure and many thanks to all those who supported us in these workshops.

Hope to hug you all someday somewhere.





C.8. Israel



AA started in Israel in the early 1970's with various fits and starts. It is only from 1975 that we see the unbroken line of AA presence that exists today. Some say it was a Canadian that brought AA here; some say it was an American and still others say it was some South Africans. No matter what, it is an age-old tale. Someone got sober

somewhere and then moved a long way from home and found that the one thing they didn't have in their new homeland was AA.

We now count the beginning of AA to be the First Saturday of May 1975 which was the 1st anniversary of our first local member. We celebrate the anniversary of AA every first weekend in May with an annual country wide roundup (convention); often with international speakers (if they happen to be visiting).

We are presently between 1,000 and 1,500 members. AA has since grown to over 100 meetings a week in 3 languages: English, Hebrew and Russian. We have over 75 active home groups and we have H&I committees in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We bring meetings to a local halfway house and we are attempting to bring meetings to various rehabs though there is governmental resistance. We are also focusing on our outreach to the Arabic speaking community.

We are building a national service committee monthly meeting as well as functioning Jerusalem Intergroup.

Due to regional political tensions, our admission to MERCAA has met with resistance. Therefore, we feel that the natural place of growth and attachment in the AA service structure is the AOSM. We hope that our growth and connection to MERCAA will be a shining example of AA tradition showing that we really are not allied with any sect or denomination and that outside issues really are of no importance to us. Israel is a growing AA structure that will be greatly aided in helping the alcoholic that still suffers with the support of a larger more established service structure.



C.9. Japan

Alcoholics Anonymous Japan was scheduled to hold its 45th Anniversary Convention in May 2020 near Osaka, with the theme of “What We Pass on to the Future,” and we were looking forward to welcoming guests from worldwide. However, when Covid19 hit, the GSB reluctantly canceled the convention. Our 50th Anniversary Convention will be held in Tokyo in 2025 - the committee is just taking shape, and the dates and locations are to be announced.

The pandemic hit our fellowship very quickly. Most meeting locations were closed, and the JSO (Japan GSO) staff were working remotely. Many groups struggled to move to online platforms because of a lack of experience and technology proficiency. Gradually, some meetings moved online, and the GSB Technology Committee created a page where they could be listed. Without groups gathering, literature sales dropped, as well as group contributions to sustain our services. After a call out to the fellowship, and efforts by the Technology Committee to enable online contributions, we saw individual contributions skyrocket to unprecedented levels for several months; birthday contributions also more than quadrupled. By July 2020, some face-to-face meetings could start up again, with health precautions and contact tracing methods required for all attendees. However, by year’s end, many meetings had to go back online due to the increasing number of infections. The 26th General Service Conference was held online for the first time in February 2021, and it was a big success. The GSB meetings have been online since the start of the pandemic.

As for recent developments, we are presently updating our Big Book with new Japanese

AA members’ stories. It is currently scheduled for GSC review in 2022 and publication in 2022 or 2023 or later. It will also contain some translation refinements, which a subcommittee is diligently and painstakingly reviewing. Conference also approved forming a new Archives Committee to catalog and preserve our 46year history for future generations, but progress is slow.

Japan’s Public Information Committees continues to reach out to professionals, and the Committee is



presenting at more and more online conferences for medical and corrections personnel. CPC activities are combined with PI for numerous translation projects and other literature update projects are ongoing. We hope to publish our first eBook, “Living Sober,” soon.

The KantōKōshin’etsu Area, encompassing the greater Tokyo metropolitan area and neighboring prefectures, is planning to split in 2022. This will be the first significant change to our structure since its formation. We hope that having two smaller Areas will make service more attractive.

With the explosion of online meetings, conventions, and other gatherings, AA members from around the country are finding great strength and unity by interacting with other members from around Japan and around the world. Born from a devastating pandemic, this change is also evolving to be an incredible turning point for AA’s future.





C.10. Kyrgyzstan

Good day friends!

On May 21, 1996, an AA group arrived from Poland. Our first AA group meeting took place on that day for a group of five people. Between 1996 and 2013, groups of 69 people to 8090 people formed and broke up.

In 2012, the International Red Cross implemented a project that resulted in the opening of groups in Naryn, AtBashy, and Kochkork; each with 812 people. At this point, however, those groups have broken up.

Information on the AA fellowship in Kyrgyzstan (name of groups, addresses, contacts, etc.) is given below:

AA INTERGROUP IN KYRGYZSTAN

- Date of foundation: 1 August 2020
- Number of members: 5 (representatives from AA groups)
- Address: Bishkek 12th micro district, building 52/3 Temple of Prince Vladimir the Great Meeting time: monthly (first Sunday of each month) at 13:00

AA Group "Chance"

- Date of foundation: 21 May 1996 Number of members: 8
- Address: Bishkek Trudovaya Str. 4
- Meeting time: Monday, Thursday 18:30:00
- Phone: +996 706 007 008

AA Group "Dostuk"

- Date of foundation: November 2017
- Number of members: 10

- Address: Bishkek Trudovaya Str 4
- Meeting time: Wednesday, Saturday 18:30:00

Online group

- <https://join.skype.com/pjkwk7bAZXRq> Meeting time: Sunday at 20:00
- Phone: +996 553 199 999
- AA Group "Center"
- Date of foundation: 19 June 2019 Number of members: 10
- Address: Bishkek Trudovaya Str 4 Meeting time: Tuesday, Friday 18:30:00
- Phone: +996 770 052 589

AA Group "Meridian"

- Date of foundation: 19 January 2019
- Number of members: 9
- Address: Bishkek 12th micro district, building 52/3, Temple of Prince Vladimir the Great Meeting time: Tuesday, Saturday 18:30:00
- Phone: +996 551 190 010

AA Group "Hope"

- Date of foundation: 26 January 2020
- Number of members: 7
- Address: Bishkek Kokjar village, Karagul Akniet Str., 32/1 (Mosque bus stop) Meeting time: Tuesday, Friday 18:30:00
- Phone: +996 703 371 926



CONSOLIDATED MEMBER COUNTRIES 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 for the 2021 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). MERCAA includes:

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

Each of these member countries functions as an area-like entity unto themselves. Some have multiple groups across cities / states / emirates, and some remain a single city with single or multiple groups. AA has been in some of

these countries for many years now, the 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 we continue to carry the message into new areas. The region's fellowships support a predominantly Western and Asian expatriate population, as well as a large transient / traveler population.

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 populations are poorly represented. This is most often due to a variety of factors including language barriers, cultural sensitivities, reluctant and minimal government and institutional support, and a lack of cost effective, approved AA literature.

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. Its objectives are to:

- Conduct recovery workshops, which are usually hosted in Dubai as a central location and as having maximum membership.

- Develop and maintain the MERCAA website (www.mercaa.com) as a valuable resource and contact portal for all travelers and newcomers, for all those who want to know more about AA.
- Carry the message into the low income, Asian labour camps where alcoholism and alcohol abuse are prevalent. This initiative started in the UAE and is relevant across the region.
- Hold an annual AA convention for the Middle East a celebration of sobriety and of carrying the message. It is held in rotation between member countries and is in its 17th year.
- Support AOSM and other GSO activities by contributing 7th tradition funds.

MERCAA participated in AOSM for the first time in 2007 at the Tokyo AOSM, as an observer. Ann D. of Kuwait presented the first MERCAA report. Since then, MERCAA has attended all AOSMs and even hosted the AOSM in 2015.

MERCAA TRUSTED SERVANTS

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

- Chairpersons & Alt Chairpersons: two-year terms.
- Treasurer – two-year terms.
- Secretariat – two-year terms.
- Translation Committee Chairperson – voluntary.
- Web Servant – voluntary.

Current MERCAA Trusted Servants

At the Annual MERCAA Meeting in 2018, the four fellows below were elected as trusted servants:

- Chairperson: Bertie S.
- Alternative Chairperson (& Web Servant): Craig B.
Secretariat: Ann S.
- Treasurer: Mark S.

Due to the Pandemic, our Annual Convention was cancelled in 2020. New elections will be held in November 2021. Countries have nominated / elected Country Delegates to MERCAA. Those delegates 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 attended from all AA groups in the Middle East region. Visitors from other

regions and GSO New York also 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.

The next MERCAA Convention will be held virtually in November 2021.

ARABIC TRANSLATIONS

MERCAA, with the 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 Newcomer Asks
- This is AA
- Is AA For You?

RECOVERY WORKSHOPS IN THE REGION

Dubai has hosted various workshops in the last two years. These workshops were well attended and they received good feedback. Workshops were funded and supported by MERCAA and by UAE Intergroup. Bahrain has also conducted 12-Step Recovery Workshops. In 2020, MERCAA conducted a virtual traditions workshop.

INSIGHTS GAINED FROM COUNTRY REPORTS

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. The fellowship in most of the member countries comprises expatriates. This means that: The nature of population is transient and temporary.

Many long-term sober and active members have started to return to their home countries due to political and economic circumstances – the number of members, groups and service volunteers are all decreasing.

Local PI efforts have not been as effective as we would have liked them to be - we still find it difficult to attract the local, primarily Arabic speaking population.

Local government support is rare, which means that carrying the message can be difficult and meeting locations can be hard to find.

MERCAA has put considerable effort into gaining GSO status, which will help in many ways to carry the message more effectively. Our priority remains to help the smaller

and newer fellowships to become self-supporting and to get a fellowship and meetings going in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, and Egypt. 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.

The MERCAA Annual Convention remains the highpoint of the region's gathering of fellowships and is a much-awaited event every year. The region also receives international speakers from time to time. Their workshops are well attended.



BAHRAIN

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

AA started in Bahrain in 1960 but it was not regular and not organized. 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 AA as a whole.

Since it is a relatively small island, the three dozen or so 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 turnover, there is a constant change of members in the meeting rooms.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

Each group is run by a team of members who take on the roles of Secretariat, Treasurer, Literature Secretary, tea and coffee providers 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.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS

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



EGYPT

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 Maddi group was established in 1978 and thereafter, meetings such as the Gouna meeting have continued to carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

MEETINGS

In Egypt, only Cairo hosts Arabic speaking AA meetings. Meetings are held twice a week; on Fridays in Dokki and on Mondays online.

INTERGROUP

AA in Cairo is what could be considered a small fellowship comprising about 1015 members. Willingness to commit to long term service is an ongoing challenge. To cater to this challenge Intergroup comprises the secretaries of each meeting. They vote on AA related affairs.

Since the fellowship is small, our challenge is to ensure that each meeting has a committed chairperson. We have not been able to expand to support extended committees.

WEBSITE

<http://www.aegypt.org/>

The AA Egypt website caters to the needs of Cairo AA. It's all in English. Visitors, newcomers and enquiries are primarily accessed through the website. The website includes AA readings such as the preamble and the daily meditation as well as meeting lists and AA contacts for support.

CHALLENGES

AA Egypt has faced many difficulties in reestablishing 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 its amenities (no elevator) makes accessibility difficult for elder members. We've been trying to find a new venue but without success so far.



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 we have moved our Monday meeting to the western suburbs to make it more convenient for more of our members.

As part of our efforts to attract a broader range 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 face a couple of challenges. We lack Arabic speakers to conduct these meetings and we are only able to take our meetings to the center on weekends because our members have jobs during the day. However, the Center has a staffing problem on weekends and even though staff do not attend out meetings, the ward director would feel more comfortable if the center's staff were there. 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.

Thanks to the virtual meetings, now our Arabic speaking members can attend the Arabic meetings from Egypt and Bahrain.



KUWAIT

We hosted the MERCAA Convention in 2019, which was attended by over 50 members from MERCAA countries. Ms. Eva attended from the International Desk at GSO, New York.

The Kuwait group has conducted all meetings via zoom since February 2020 due to the curfews and lockdowns imposed by the Government for the safety of its citizens during COVID.

We hold 4 zoom meetings each week, which vary in numbers from three – ten per meeting. We are anxious to open face-to-face meetings and will do so as soon as it is allowed.

We believe though that we will continue with a hybrid meeting for the foreseeable future. During COVID, we have still had a number of newcomers join us and stay with us to celebrate a way of sober living.

The rehab center in Kuwait has been operating under severe staff shortages and in compliance with the 60% COVID occupancy regulation. It remains open only to NA

and not yet to AA. This remains a challenge for our community. As COVID eases up, our aim is to continue attempts to have AA recognized at the rehab and at state level.



LEBANON

Currently, we have 58 members in our fellowship WhatsApp group. However, half of these members do not live in Lebanon full time. Lebanon has just one group, which is in the capital, Beirut. We hold three meetings 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.

PI OUTREACH

There is very little awareness of alcoholism in Lebanon. We are in talks with psychiatry units in hospitals to spread awareness about AA as a whole and about our own activities. We have also printed cards which we place in treatment facilities and pharmacies.

EXPANSION

We are also discussing with fellows who live in other cities the feasibility of setting up other groups and more meetings in those cities.

SOCIALIZING

Being such a small Fellowship, we do quite a lot of social activities together. We have just launched a book club, which has attracted 11 fellows so far.

Sultanate Of Oman is the oldest independent country in the Arab World. It shares its land borders with UAE to the Northwest, Saudi Arabia to the West, and Yemen to

the Southwest. It shares its marine borders with Iran and Pakistan.

From the late 17th century, the Omani Sultanate was a powerful empire. Historically, Muscat was the principal trading port of the Persian Gulf region. Muscat was also among the most important trading ports of the Indian Ocean.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said was the hereditary leader of the country, which is an absolute monarchy, from 1970 until his death on 10 January 2020. His cousin, Haitham bin Tariq, is the country's new ruler.

Oman is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It has sizeable oil reserves, ranking 25th globally. In 2010, the United Nations Development Programme ranked Oman as the most improved nation in the world in terms of development during the preceding 40 years. A significant portion of its economy involves tourism and trading of fish, dates and other agricultural produce.

MEETINGS

AA began in Oman five decades ago.

Oasis – The first ever AA Group in Muscat was founded in 1973 at The American Hospital at Matrah.

Currently, there are two more groups operating in Oman; 'The Sunflower Group' for ladies and the 'Serenity (Prashanthi) Group', which conducts meetings in Malayalam, a regional language of India. The 'Serenity (Prashanthi) Group' started in March 2021 as an extended arm of Oasis Group.

Due to the pandemic and consequent government-imposed protocols, all meetings are convened online. The physical meeting place for Oasis was the Al Harub Clinic in Shatty Qurum before the pandemic spread.

We have a Librarian, who takes care of our AA literature needs, and a Treasurer and a GSR who are elected through Group Conscience.



QATAR

HISTORY

A group was formed by John L from India in 1988. 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. The venue hosted two meetings per week for six years. 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 and held meetings every Friday. In 2003, a third meeting each week was introduced as membership had increased as the population had grown. The Sofitel Hotel and Qatar Red Crescent Society were both added as venues. In 2004, the group got a meeting room in the Hamad Medical Corporation's Psychiatric Hospital where they still meet to this day.

THE PRESENT

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 women's group that is thriving and growing.

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 behavioral disorders.

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 Reflections and Living Sober.

The meetings are chaired by fellowship members who attend business meetings.

FINANCES

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.

The Group plans to support groups in other towns along the coast.

WEBSITE

AA Qatar has a regularly updated website that details all meetings and locations, helpline numbers and email contacts.

CORONAVIRUS

Like most AA homegroups globally, the Qatar group has been meeting largely remotely since the Coronavirus was declared a pandemic in March of 2020. With lockdowns beginning to ease, in-person meetings may begin again at some stage over the summer. This still needs to be decided.

Due to the feasibility of meeting remotely, a new meeting has been added to the group on Wednesdays at noon to give fellows an opportunity to meet during the day, alleviating the pressure for those who cannot attend in the evenings.



SAUDI ARABIA

(Riyadh only because the rest of KSA Report is not available)

In Riyadh, we have a small fellowship that has been here for a few decades, albeit with ups and downs. We have a new updated website: www.aariyadh.com.

We have two English language open meetings a week at a medical center on Takhassusi Street in Riyadh. The attendance varies between two to 14 fellows per meeting, with an average of eight people. Currently, all meetings are being held over Zoom.

We have a varied fellowship with locals and expatriates of different nationalities who often move out of Riyadh. We receive visitors regularly. We are grateful to have a good amount of literature brought in by fellows during their travels.

Two to three fellows regularly attend the yearly MERCAA Conventions.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AA in Dubai started in the late 1970s. Since then, it has become well established with many meetings every day, and with meetings in nearly all the major cities of UAE.

Finding meeting venues is a challenge in the UAE so each venue hosts more than one weekly meeting. UAE Intergroup meets bimonthly and the service positions are regularly rotated.

MEETINGS

Here's a list of meetings in the different cities of the UAE. Currently, all meetings are being held virtually over Zoom:

City	Meetings / Week
Dubai	32
Abu Dhabi	10
Al Ruwais	1
Al Ain	3
Sharjah	3

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Intergroup UAE has a PI Committee which is segregated into various subcommittees. The PI Committee meets monthly to discuss ways to spread the AA message and put them into practice. More efforts are being put into carrying the message to the labour camps and to the schools in Dubai. Intergroup has bought literature in different languages to be distributed at the awareness meetings and AA meetings in the labour camps free of charge.

During the pandemic, we have managed to conduct some virtual awareness meetings for the labour camps but not in any other places.

LITERATURE

We place regular orders through GSOs (UK, USA and 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

Service Committees are set up on an ad-hoc, as-needed basis.

LICENSING AA 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 Organizational and Operational license. This will allow AA to exist as a legal entity under the category of Not-for-profit Association. This Not-for-profit Association will have local and expat members as Directors and Founders. An ad-hoc committee to complete this task has been formed and is operational.



C.12. Mongolia

Although some groups have paused their operation, most groups are operating healthily even though Covid-19 hit Mongolia hard in mid-2021. We have been hosting meetings on Zoom every day in Mongolian and once a week in English. In this way, lots of recovering alcoholics are able to attend a meeting in their own language.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

We held our Service Committee Meeting by Zoom in January 2021. After this meeting, we updated our Service Structure and we created a General Service Committee. We also created an office manager position and employed support staff. Our staff operate under Mongolian labour laws and regulations.

HIPI OUTREACH

We created an AA information corner at the National Rehabilitation Center, which is located outside of the capital city, Ulaanbaatar. In Mongolia, all alcoholics with a

court order are forced to be treated at the National Rehabilitation Center.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website (<https://www.aa.org.mn>): We built a new website in November 2020.

Facebook: We reactivated our Facebook page and began answering chats and questions. Our page name is “Монголын АА нийгэмлэг”. YouTube: We created a YouTube channel and began uploading AA video contents and messages. Channel name: “AA Mongolian GSO”.

Since creating digital platforms to carry the message, Google Analytics has indicated that interest in AA is increasing, especially from younger alcoholics who may be afraid to go to meetings in person. They can visit the website, chat with staff, watch video content, and learn about AA in their own language



C.13. Aotearoa / New Zealand

Note: All place names in this report are written in Te Reo Māori, then in English.

HISTORY

A.A. has been in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1946, when our founder, Ian McE., read an article in Reader's Digest and wrote to GSO New York seeking help. The AA service structure was initially established in 1964 at a National Conference in Te PapaiOea 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 at 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 revitalized.

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 licenses, 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 and controls the management and operation of the General Service Office (GSO).

The Board membership consists of a maximum of two nonalcoholic (Class A) trustees and a minimum of six exalcoholic (Class B) trustees, chairperson, Secretariat 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 Secretariat. 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.

Conference currently has four subcommittees. District, Intergroup and Area meetings generally have these same service committees. The committees are:

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 Service Meeting (AOSM).

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

Our GSO is located in Te WhanganuiaTara Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand's capital city, and is staffed by one paid employee, who is assisted by voluntary A.A. members and one parttime paid assistant. The office is open Monday to Friday, and outside of these hours a telephone answering service operates.

The office services a fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members and approximately 500 registered groups. The General Service Office is currently preparing to survey the New Zealand fellowship to determine membership and groups. Some of the areas the survey will look at are:

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Home Group membership
- Are meetings / groups registered with GSO

ONLINE / VIRTUAL MEETINGS

As well as managing and updating meeting lists (hard copy and online), they also ensure virtual online meetings (Zoom Meetings) are registered and listed. To be registered / advertised as a virtual meeting, registration needs to be made with GSO with contact person and details.

Aotearoa New Zealand is very fortunate to be in the position to resume all physical AA meetings. However, a strong network of virtual / online meetings remain which have naturally fitted into the meeting structure.

Conference has commenced work on developing guidelines on how to include the Online / Virtual meeting community in the AA Service Structure. The aim is to be inclusive so that this community feels connected with the AA Service Structure and are not just "meetings" outside of this structureLiterature

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 bimonthly meeting in print entitled 'Mainstay'. An occasional newsletter is also sent out to the Fellowship. GSO 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.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Conference members along with the Board made a conscious decision to significantly increase the inventory of basic AA literature held at GSO. This has meant the New Zealand fellowship has continued to have uninterrupted access to basic AA literature.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There was significant work done to upgrade Aotearoa New Zealand's website just prior to the pandemic. This allowed for increased capacity, which was fully taken advantage of during 2021.

The site includes a national meeting directory which can be downloaded, and audio meetings. A mobile phone app

called Findameeting NZ was developed by GSO New York.

Significant changes within the Aotearoa New Zealand banking system means that "Cheques" are no longer accepted by banks. This has meant that Groups have had to further embrace banking technology to make group contributions within the AA service structures. This is a recent development and some groups are still getting arrangements in place.

Aotearoa New Zealand continues to move towards a cashless society. This means that members often do not carry cash for the 7th tradition. Many groups now invite members to make an online payment directly. Early indications are that 7th Traditions are increasing.





C.14. Nepal

HISTORY

Though there are no accurate records from the early days, AA appears to have arrived in Nepal around the end of 1970, after a catholic priest brought the AA message to Nepal from India.

Initially through smaller groups, 'AA Sun Rise Group' started functioning in around 1982, holding the first A.A meeting in a hall in Kathmandu.

Since then, AA meetings have continued on and off, while venues have changed. In the 90s and till the beginning of 2000, the 'AA Sun Rise Group' functioned fairly regularly, then closed. In 2000, the 'Deep Jyoti Group' started. The group still meets regularly.

AA Nepal Area was formed in 2018.

We now have 7 meetings a week conducted in both



Nepali and English. (See 'Groups and Members' below).

PANDEMIC

God's Grace has been with us through technology during this period, and AA meetings in Nepal continue online via Skype and Zoom, with around 2,035 members attending each meeting. Members from India often join us.

However AA Nepal's trusted servants and members wish the physical meetings to start soon after government guidelines are issued towards such aspirations.

GROUPS AND MEMBERS

We have seven home groups in Nepal. Among them, six home groups are located in the valley of Kathmandu and one is located in the city of Pokhara, about 200 km away from the Capital.

The Kathmandu valley comprises 3 districts: Kathmandu (also the capital of Nepal), Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. The six groups are: (1) Deep Jyoti HG (2) Prarambha HG (3) Double Winner HG (4) Sober HG (5) Hope HG and (6) Gratitude HG.

The Pokhara Nepal Group was established in December 2020.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

Public Information, Hospitals & Institutions and Cooperation with the Professional Community

General Assembly elects Trusted Servants periodically who form Committees and Panels for the required tenure by group conscience. Recently elected Committees are at work on Public Information (PI), Hospitals & Institutions (H&I), Literature and others, following AA practice. The committee's ongoing activities are reported in the monthly business meetings.

FINANCE

We collect 7th Tradition from all Home Groups, and we secure the collected amount in a bank account handled by an elected treasurer.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

In the past, some trusted servants/members have taken part in AA conferences in India.

Most of the Meeting venues have been mapped out in Google Maps by some trusted servants, so the alcoholics from Nepal or those visiting from abroad, can find their meetings easily.

AA Nepal looks forward to registering with WSO and in the International AA Directory, towards which some efforts have already been made by some trusted servants. AA Nepal also wishes to contribute 7th Tradition to the WSO.

WSO resources have registered some translated Nepali literature, which may be purchased online by alcoholics or those interested.

TRANSLATION & LITERATURE

Very little literature is available in the Nepali language. This includes very few IPs, and the Big Book (Third Edition) in paper print. We realize how important it is to carry the message in Nepali so we have recently elected a Translation Committee. Monthly GSR meetings discuss the progress of literature translation.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

We've conducted three workshops since 2018 and one-day event. Workshops included:

- Revitalizing A.A in Nepal (2018).
- 12 Traditions (2019).
- Fellowship Development (Virtual, 2020).

GOALS AND CHALLENGES OF AA NEPAL

We feel we need to:

- Set up more regular meetings and new venues in Nepal's districts. Only 4 of 75 districts have regular meetings.

- Boost HIPI work in hospitals, police stations, communities, and awareness programs in government institutions.
- Attract more fellows into service, as member of Intergroup and as chairs for meetings.
- Participate more in conventions, workshops, and events, both in Nepal and abroad.
- Arrange for quieter venues / rooms for meetings.
- Encourage more members to become 12 steppers to carry the messages to alcoholics.

Alcohol is readily available everywhere in Nepal. The social stigma attached to alcoholism discourages many alcoholics from attending meetings. Many alcoholics disappear after a few meetings for the fear of being exposed or for other reasons.

AOSM PARTICIPATION

An AA member attended the AOSM Conference in Chandigarh, India, in 2013.

Two elected delegates attended the AOSM Conference held virtually in 2021.

REQUIRED CONNECTIVITY WITH AA'S INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Some home groups have proposed that AA India sponsor AA Nepal's Intergroup with a view to becoming affiliated with AA WSO. The reasons for our relationship with AA India include our physical, cultural and linguistic proximity. Physical proximity means that Nepalese members can easily participate in conventions and other events in India. AA Nepal will easily be able to access printing facilities in India for cheaper IPs and for AA literature in Nepali and Hindi. We anticipate that AA India will offer other miscellaneous support to AA Nepal.

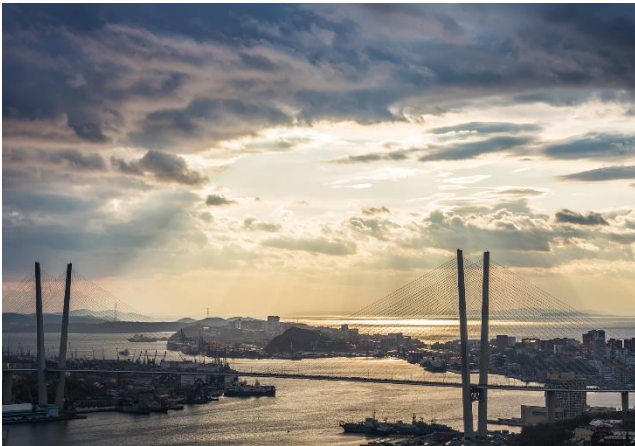


C.15. Russia

MEMBERSHIP

There are 681 groups registered in Russia. Basically, groups exist in big cities, but AA groups have expanded to small towns and to the countryside as well. Some of them hold their meetings every day. During the last year, the number of online groups has grown considerably, to around 300.

Over the last several years, delegates have started to participate more actively in committee meetings of GSO AA. Also, delegates initiate informal meetings with those interested in service through online meetings (chat, voice messaging meetings) where veterans are invited to inform and share their experiences.



SERVICE STRUCTURE

Officially, there is one Russian A.A. General Service Conference, one General Service Board and one General Service Office (Foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous called “Unity”) which can be confirmed by the presence of over three quarters of the Russian AA groups represented by delegates.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

In April 2021, the 32nd Russian AA General Service Conference was held. There were 41 delegates from 627 groups, seven trustees, one international delegate, five alternate delegates, and six observers.

At the Conference, more than 70 issues were considered, a number of important decisions were made and two new delegate districts were registered. The form for submitting questions to the agenda of the Conference

was approved and the budget for the next year was also approved.

The Conference was held in full accordance with the Traditions and Principles of AA in an atmosphere of love and mutual understanding.

LITERATURE AND PUBLISHING

At the conference, the Working Group of the Literary Committee of the RSO AA was entrusted with clarifying the translation of the full text of the book “Alcoholics Anonymous”. Translators are working in close cooperation with GSO in New York.

The Committee will also publish four pamphlets and create a video:

- 12 Traditions with Illustrations
- A Questionnaire on Traditions from Grapevine Magazine
- A Manual for Carrying the Message in Medical Institutions
- A Manual for Carrying the Message in Correctional Institutions, and
- A video about the Russian AA Community.

Unfortunately, publishing and distribution of non-licensed AA literature by an unofficial service structure called FOAA continues (this unofficial entity was established in 2011).

FINANCES

Over the last two years, contributions from AA groups, area and district committees have been at about the same level. Interestingly, contributions did not decrease during periods of lockdown.

PANDEMIC

During the pandemic, the number of Russian AA groups actually increased slightly. Some meetings held temporarily online have now reverted back to in person meetings. Other groups registered as online groups and they continue online.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

During the last two years, workshops, seminars, and speaker meetings have become popular. We have

welcomed a broad range of speakers, including our trustees, delegates, former trustees, former and current WSM and AOSM delegates, and the General Manager GSO Russia. We have also welcomed guest speakers from overseas who have shared with us their experience, strength and hope. We had face-to-face workshops and online workshops focusing on the 12 Steps, working the program of recovery in daily life, the 12 Traditions for unity, and some of the 12 Concepts of service in AA.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Russian GSO keeps in touch with A.A. in Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, and the UK. GSO also maintains Russian speaking groups in

Ulan Bator (Mongolia), Mogilev, Leda (Belarus), Haifa (Israel), Stockholm (Sweden), Helsinki (Finland), New York (USA), and London (UK). The Donetsk and Luhansk republics were the two new delegate districts registered at the 32nd General Service Conference.

HIPI

The PI CPC Committee and Treatment & Correction Committee have established many agreements with correctional and treatment facilities. AA members continue to replenish stands with literature and AA cards where we have an agreement and to carry the message to treatment and correction facilities by teleconference and by providing AA literature.





C.16. Singapore

Singapore is grateful for the opportunity to participate in AOSM 2021.

HISTORY

The message of AA was brought to Singapore over 60 years ago. Dick D., who regularly corresponded with GSO New York, wrote that the Singapore group founded in 1957 had 12 members and two likely prospects. Singapore AA listed its first meeting with the Records Department on December 8, 1959.

MEMBERSHIP

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 citystate. Daily meetings number anywhere from six to 11 depending on the day of the week.

PANDEMIC

COVID19 has presented new challenges for AA in Singapore, like it has in the rest of the world, but the fellowship has adapted well. During the lockdown periods, meetings shifted online to Zoom, which has opened new opportunities for alcoholics to participate when travelling or when based in remote locations. As a country with a high degree of expat transience, online meetings have also allowed the fellowship to be in meetings with fellows that had moved out of Singapore to other countries years ago. Although newcomers have joined and stayed sober through online meetings, this format has presented difficulties in welcoming and sponsoring them. Some members prefer online meetings, but there is a large number that miss in person meetings and are anxious for them to resume.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

The fellowship's service structure is supported by an Intergroup that meets at least four times a year. In addition to representatives from each group, Singapore's Intergroup has chairs for HIPI, AOSM, a Newsletter, Website, Hotline, Round Up, Literature, Treasury and Social Committee. The Singapore AA fellowship raised the possibility of establishing a General Service Office (GSO) in early 2021. There was a healthy discussion among

members, but outstanding questions to address related to areas like legal, financial and compliance considerations remain. For the time being, the decision to establish a GSO or not has been put on hold.

CONVENTIONS

A weekend roundup is held in Singapore, usually in March, April or May. Most attendees are from Singapore, but we host visitors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and other nearby countries. In 2021, an online roundup was held with 50-60 attendees.

FINANCES

Singapore's Intergroup has a surplus of contributions after accounting for its local and regional activities that it sends back to the GSO periodically.

HIFI

Singapore AA is making efforts to strengthen its outreach to the local community. A key driving force to strengthen our outreach to the local community is driven by an HIPI committee. Before Covid-19, we sometimes held talks at local hospitals and schools by AA members. We have also provided A.A. literature to the local professional community.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

In addition to strengthening ties to the local community, Singapore's AA fellowship is excited to participate in AOSM and through it, evaluate ways to contribute resources and support to smaller fellowships across the region.



C.17. South Korea

HISTORY

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 1970s.

In the early 1980s, 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.



GROUPS AND MEMBERS

AA is active in South Korea in two languages: Korean and English. English AA is independent but it cooperates with Korean AA.

Korean AA has 3,000 members in 186 groups in nine districts. There are 254 meetings each week, available every day. The Korean GSO office is located in Yeongdeung-po-gu in Seoul and has an English-speaking full-time manager.

English AA has 200 members in 12 groups in eight districts. There are 21 meetings each week, available every day, twice on Sunday. The English GSO office is located in Osan City in Gyeonggi Province and has a part-time manager.

PANDEMIC

During the pandemic, some meetings have shifted to Zoom.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Korea (AAIGK) is the equivalent of a District Office, an Area Committee, GSO (AA New York), and an 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 4-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; Secretariat; H & I; Literature; PI; Treasurer. We also have a new Roundup Committee each year.

HIPI & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

A total of 22 facilities are available in Korean AA. Fortunately, one of them, the Keyo Alcoholic Treatment Hospital has an English-speaking psychiatrist who has offered his undivided attention to any English-speaking alcoholics who require his services. He has provided us with the addresses of facilities in Korea for us to distribute our English information. He also regularly travels to other hospitals in Korea to teach them about the importance and the effectiveness of our 12-step program.

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 Interpreter, at Korean AA Conventions. We also provide an English speaker to Korean 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

A delegate from South Korea attended the AOSM in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2003. This delegate represented the Korean-speaking AA in Korea. He was also instrumental in helping to organize the AOSM in South Korea in 2001.

This will be the second time that English-speaking AA will attend as our representative. I am both blessed and excited to have been chosen to have the honor and the responsibility to attend the AOSM Service Meeting in July 2021 as the Acting Delegate for my second term.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS & NEEDS

For further information about us, 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 see all of you good people online in July.

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





C.18. Sri Lanka

HISTORY

AA in Sri Lanka started in 1964. It was brought to Sri Lanka by the General Secretary of the Colombo Fort YMCA and held its first meeting on 17th August, 1964.

Soon, there were 5 active groups with the original YMCA group becoming dormant and St. Mary's Church becoming the dominant group. By 1968, two outstation groups were formed in Kandy and Jaffna.

By the early 80's, meetings were being held in other parts of the country and conducted in the Sinhala language. Of particular significance was the conducting of meetings in Ward 59 (psychiatric) of the National Hospital of Colombo. Conducted for over 10 years, a particularly useful outcome of this initiative was that it changed the mindset in Ward 59 so that alcoholism was now viewed as a disease.

In the late '90's, meetings in the North and East of Sri Lanka such as in Mannar, Vavuniya, Pesalai, and Batticaloa began. These groups are still active and some members count over 20 years of sobriety. Much of this work was done during the 30 year civil war, with neither the armed forces nor the LTTE objecting, as both sides knew that alcoholism was a major problem.

With the new millennium, groups started in the suburbs of Colombo. AA also reached districts of Matara, Puttalam, Kandy, Chilaw, Kalutara, Gampaha and Badulla.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

The first Intergroup in Sri Lanka was inaugurated in 1977. This intergroup functioned for approximately 5 years, after which it became dormant. The need for a structure for AA Sri Lanka was again felt in 2010, 47 years after its inception. India volunteered to help, sending two senior members of their General Service Office. Those Indian members were instrumental in helping Sri Lanka form an intergroup and conduct its first meeting where the 1st Intergroup Committee was elected. India also introduced Sri Lanka to the AOSM, with two delegates attending the meeting.

- Current Chairman Newton F.
- Secretary Lawrence S.
- Treasurer Pushpa P.
- Public Information Chairman Hema Y.
- Literature Chairman Roland F.



MEMBERSHIP

Approximate membership – 1000

Number of Groups in Each District			
Colombo	5	Batticaloa	2
Gampaha	10	Vavuniya	1
Kalutara	1	Mannar	3
Chilaw	3	Kurunegala	1
Puttalam	1	Kandy	1
Matara	1	Badulla	1

HIPI

MARUPAA – 'Mega Awareness Round Up Program of Alcoholics Anonymous'. Initiated in July 2020 with the goal of visiting all 25 districts in the country, spreading the message of AA.

- Hospital awareness meetings – Kandy, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Colombo and Kegalle.
- Police awareness programs.
- Annual awareness programs at the National Seminary in Kandy.
- AA stall at the “Good Market” – a curated community of social enterprises, responsible businesses, voluntary initiatives, and changemakers.
- Multiple other awareness programs – in particular at the Festival of St Anne in the town of Thalawila.

RELATIONSHIP WITH AA INDIA (PAST AND PRESENT)

See interaction in 2010, mentioned under ‘Service Structure’.

SUPPORT NEEDED

HIPi activities:

While many PI initiatives are in place, financial constraints prevent carrying out even more robust activities.

LITERATURE:

English literature – Currently purchased from GSM in the United States which becomes costly due to the unfavourable exchange rate and high shipping costs. Financial limitations severely restrict such purchase and distribution or resale.

Sinhala and Tamil literature – Other than the Big Book and 12 and 12, other useful literature needs to be translated into these languages.

WORKSHOPS

Two awareness step workshop roundups held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with the participation of international speakers.

RESOURCES

Turning point

(<https://www.facebook.com/TheTurningPointSrilanka-407493649431489>) – a resource and activity center

dedicated to assisting in the recovery of alcoholism. It is also the office of AA Intergroup in Sri Lanka. The center has two guest rooms, a main meeting room, an office and a kitchen. It also houses an extensive library of AA literature and materials.





C.19. Thailand



HISTORY

There exists a few accounts of the origins of AA in Thailand. One alludes to the first meeting being established in Bangkok by two pioneer expats from the West. Another references the US military presence of the 1960's being a primary source of sober drunks sowing the seeds and carrying the message. Perhaps they are both accurate. Hopefully, our Archives committee can ferret through all the stories and arrive at the most promising – perhaps “official” version.

For now, suffice it to say that AA Thailand's first meeting was established in Bangkok in the 1960s. In the late 1970s, with just a few meetings in Bangkok, the first meeting in northern Thailand was established in the city of Chiang Mai. It's been reported that the first Thai language meeting was established in what became designated as the northeast geographic region, at the Thai rehab in Khon Kaen. This occurred in 2004.

From those humble beginnings, AA in Thailand has spread across the Kingdom. Meetings are held in 9 languages Thai, English, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Norwegian, Swedish and Russian. Most of our growth has occurred in

the areas of high expat populations – with penetration into the Thai communities in its infancy. This is not to say that efforts have not been made over the past four or five decades. It is an indication of the challenges presented by vastly differing language, culture and customs.

GROUPS AND MEMBERS

At the current count by our webmaster, Thailand has 204 nonThai language meetings and 24 Thai language meetings. I suspect those numbers may have been affected downward somewhat by the Covid19 pandemic. As with the meetings count, our member numbers are also somewhat obscured by the pandemic. While we had an estimate in excess of 500 members, many of our membership returned to their home countries at the outset of Covid19 – before travel became next to impossible. Those numbers, and when they will return, are impossible to estimate at this time.

SERVICE STRUCTURE

Thailand's service structure consists of Groups (may consist of one or more meetings), Districts and one AA Area (the entire country). The AA Thailand Area Committee currently supports the following subcommittees – Archives, CPC/PI, Helpline, Literature, Translation and Website. Thailand is divided into 5 geographical regions – Eastern Seaboard (Pattaya and vicinity), Central (Bangkok and vicinity), South (Phuket and vicinity), North (Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and vicinity) and the Northeast (which is Isaan). Some of these geographic regions are very large and sparsely populated with meetings.

HIPI & OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Primarily due to manpower issues, Thailand has combined the responsibilities of these three committees in one that we call “CPC/PI”. Under this structure, there is a lot of activity entailing Public Service Announcements (PSAs), videos in Thai specifically for the medical community, outreach through attendance at annual Addiction Conferences and other related activities. These activities afford the opportunity to make contact, answer questions and collect contact information with those best situated to help in satisfying the 5th Tradition.

The committee has 13 members and observer/contributors that communicate via the LINE app. The committee meets monthly via ZOOM.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

While international efforts have never been robust, and to date there have been no formal efforts at the Area level; one Group has made some effort. The Mai Sot Group's efforts to work across borders with Myanmar needs to be noted. These efforts have been seriously muted by the recent pandemic, but the work has been started. A huge obstacle is that while Area does keep some Burmese and Shan language pamphlets in inventory, the translation quality renders their usefulness questionable. Still, it is a start and a place for us to work forward from.

TRANSLATION & LITERATURE

The AA Thailand Area Committee maintains a "Literature" subcommittee. The Literature Committee is responsible for maintaining stock of those titles most requested by the Groups, Meetings and other Committees. It also maintains inventory of titles deemed critical to the newcomer regardless of general "popularity". Currently, there are about 75 titles inventoried in a mix of 6 languages. Other titles and languages can be obtained at shipping cost savings by adding onto the Literature Committee replenishment orders with New York.

Another subcommittee is our Translation Committee. At direction from the group conscience of the annual Thailand Area Assembly, our Translation Committee oversees (and performs) the obtaining of permissions and the actual translations of Conference Approved publications. The newer version of the Thai Language Big Book is an example of their work. The Committee communicated with AAWS in New York obtaining permission to do the translation, getting the resulting

manuscript approved, gaining approval to include stories from recovering Thai AA's, and finally gaining approval to have the document published in Thailand – all at great cost savings to the Area. Other recent projects include new translations of some of the Thai language pamphlets and the ongoing translation of "Living Sober".

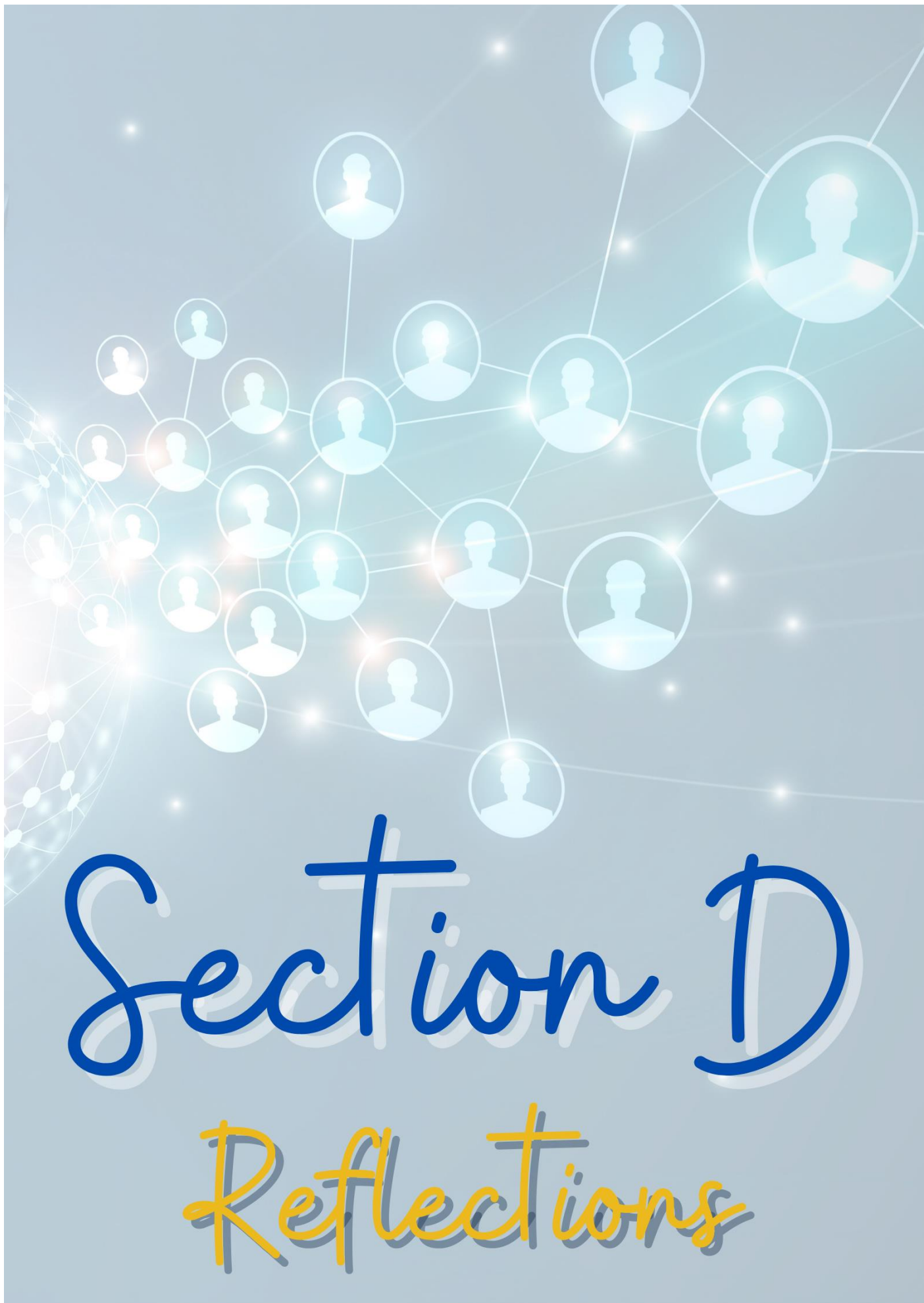
AOSM PARTICIPATION

In 1997, Thailand attended its first AOSM through Country-to-Country Sponsorship from New Zealand. From 2005 to present, Thailand has had uninterrupted participation in every AOSM – sending two delegates most years. As noted by past delegates, there has been internal pressure to disassociate with the AOSM – due primarily to cost, but also the lack of perceived work or accomplishments between AOSMs.

It is with pleasure and gratitude that I note the activity of the current AOSM committees over the past two years. I also note the changed format for this 14th AOSM that is in direct response to concerns expressed at previous AOSMs. The cooperation and communication between the various committees needs also be noted and appreciated. All of this offers hope for the future.

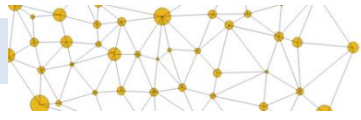
COMMENTS AND NEEDS

Our biggest struggles are root caused in manpower – having enough sober AA's willing to follow our 36 principles that make up and support Recovery, Service and Unity. Solving that difficulty, the challenges of expansion into both the Thai and Expat "worlds" throughout the Kingdom, working with neighboring countries and continuing the fine work currently being done all become achievable. In closing, it is important to note that even with our challenges, a lot of really good work has and is being achieved by many meetings and individuals that sometimes lack other support.



Section D

Reflections



D.1. Outgoing Chair

Roger S.

When the Covid virus pandemic began its deadly spread around the world back in January 2020, little did we know of the far-reaching consequences that would eventuate!

I recall thinking back then, that with the scheduled AOSM to be held July 2021 in Hyderabad, India, there'd be more than enough time for the world to "come to right". The result is now history, of course. However, our Fellowship rose to meet the communication challenge superbly. Zoom became our friend almost overnight. Once the delegates made the decision (facilitated by a Zoom meeting naturally) to switch to holding a "virtual" AOSM rather than going to Hyderabad, there was perhaps a sense of relief at least we'd still be able to go ahead and meet even if virtually!

Leading up to the July 2021 AOSM, there were numerous up and down times. Being able to connect through Zoom meetings was a real plus. Committee Chairs did a marvelous job holding regular "Committee Zooms" as well as delegates being able to attend others all together. It would be fair to say that the depth and scope of all the Committee recommendations tabled at this AOSM were a result of the time put in prior to July by all Delegates. However, we were still heading into unknown territory in many respects. How would time zones work? How would we cope in front of a screen over several days? How would discussions work? Would Delegates be able to vote? How many observers would we be able to admit?

Personally, it was a constantly changing whirlpool with moments of clarity then awful anxiety! With a couple of weeks to go, the pressure was immense. The Agenda Committee were doing a magnificent job coping with collating the Delegates' Information Pack, liaising with the Technical Team, finalizing presentation time slots to fit in with time zones, all the while juggling emails, data schedules and updates on delegates/observers attending.

Then we arrived at the Virtual Opening of our AOSM – what a testimony to all involved in the homework, long hours, and technical planning in the background. Once we began, didn't it work so well! Presenters and all their subject content were excellent. The break-out system worked smoothly so standing committees could meet separately. Even the timely "Coffee Breaks" with music and visuals from Hyderabad worked well. One of many observations – how attendance remained much the same no matter what the time zone. There were some very late nights/early mornings for many!

Come Sunday evening (in New Zealand), it was time to deliberate on the recommendations being brought back

by the respective Committee Chairs. Easily, this was the most challenging period overall. Delegates needed to consider and vote on a lot of content after being in front of their screens for some time already. What followed was quite remarkable. The grace, consideration and understanding demonstrated by delegates as well as the chairs reflected the spirit of a Higher Power at work. The fascinating way the voting calculations worked as the process was guided by Hiro and the Japanese tech team. The way that recommendations were resolved in a manner reflecting the wishes of the majority after minority voices aired concerns.

Elsewhere in this Report these recommendations are set out for future reference – they are essential material for the new Committees to consider & put into action.

Reflecting now after the AOSM is over... it was an intense period of concentration without doubt! However, it was such a privilege to witness time and again how the Fellowship rises to the occasion.

Some examples:

- How delegates' attendance hardly wavered when we had to keep going much later than the timetable had indicated.
- How volunteer committee secretaries and previous presenters from the World Service Office (including the General Manager) New York stayed on to observe despite time zone mismatches.
- How delegates gave careful consideration to elect a replacement secretary.
- How many 1st Term Delegates from "emerging AA structures" were able to attend; some who'd never been together before – 'we are people who would not normally mix', coming from diametrically opposed cultures.
- How the generous number of observers were able to be accommodated without distracting from AOSM business.
- How we all got to watch videos of greetings and good wishes from the original Hosting Committee in Hyderabad.
- How the Interpreters worked so hard in the background.
- How Zoom worked so flawlessly - there was the odd "lost soul" not using their virtual lobby entry pass code to correct effect but given there were 10 separate Zoom Rooms it was a technical masterpiece!

At the end, it was with a sense of sadness watching as everyone began to depart screens. There was a deep feeling that 'the powerful cement that binds us... as we are now joined' had truly been experienced over these three days.

Lastly, a heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all that made this AOSM such a success. Many were involved. Service is the evidence of Recovery and Unity on display. We were indeed privileged to be part of Carrying the Message of AA in the Digital Age.



D.2. Incoming Chair

Bertie S.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the 15th AOSM. I am humbled by your confidence in me and the trust you have in me.

I have been associated with four versions of AOSM. This has given me the opportunity to learn about a range of aspects related to this Conference and to meet delegates from different countries. All have contributed towards my understanding, and to all, I'm grateful for their guidance through my journey in AOSM.

The 14th AOSM was full of challenges due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, but we proved again that we alcoholics, with help and guidance from our Higher Power, have risen to each challenge and overcome each adversity. In my opinion, with the extra help of technology, we managed to stage a meaningful and productive conference. Special thanks to the technology team of Japan GSO headed by Hiro, who worked round the clock for several days. Thanks, too, to our Agenda Committee for setting up this flawless and seamless conference which was the result of several thousand man-hours of hard work.

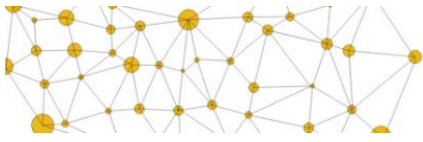
During this Conference, we witnessed a great enthusiasm from the first-term delegates and tremendous spirit of unity from the second term delegates. My biggest learning point was about the value of regular meetings of the committee chairs and the committees themselves that took place throughout the second year. This meant that during the conference, with zeal and enthusiasm, we were

able to complete our work in much less time. This enabled us to cover new areas during the conference despite the fact that we had 30% less time than we would normally have during a face-to-face conference. I am hopeful that this practice will continue during the 15th AOSM and beyond, especially since this was one of the recommendations passed (Refer B.1).

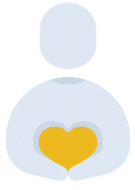
This Conference also had two countries participating for the first time and three countries being reinstated after a break of many years. I am hopeful that in future, we will be able to work more towards country-to-country financial and technical sponsorship, which will help newer countries become self-sufficient. I hope too that we can bring yet more countries into our regional fellowship. I feel that this would strengthen the spirit of the AOSM.

Though it's sad to part with the outgoing delegates, on a happy note I would like to mention here that Australia GSB has come up with a brilliant idea of inviting the past delegates to share their Experience, Strength and Hope with the present delegates. We hope to announce the details of this arrangement soon.

Lastly, I am looking forward to an exciting term of two years in this new role at AOSM, in which I will be supported by Brian S., Alternate Chair, the committee chairs and all the other first-term as well as second-term delegates in carrying forward the legacy of AOSM. I'm certainly looking forward to catching up with the physical hugs that we all missed during the 14th AOSM.



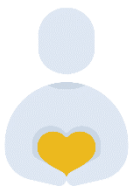
D.3. Delegates



2nd Term Delegate - Dane A. (Singapore)

When I entered my first AOSM meeting in Hong Kong in 2019, I immediately felt the loving support of the fellowship from places and perspectives I had not experienced in my 6 years of sobriety in Singapore up to that point. My heart swelled with gratitude as I saw the program that saved me grow in countries like Mongolia, China, Iran and Fiji. I also learned that other countries in our region struggle to branch out from communities of Westerners into the local communities where they serve, like Thailand, Dubai and Hong Kong. And finally, I came to better understand countries with more developed service structures like those present in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and India. This insight was especially helpful as Singapore considers establishing a service office structure in the future.

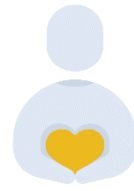
Beyond the practical lessons of AOSM, I was most moved hearing shares and experiences across so many languages and cultures. It reminded me that the cunning and baffling nature of alcoholism cuts across all of humanity, but that the solution which started in Akron all those years ago does, too. Thanks to the AOSM, we're able to convert these powerful feelings "Into Action".



2nd Term Delegate - Uliana M. (Russia)

My name is Uliana and I am an alcoholic. I am so grateful to the Russian service structure that elected me as AOSM delegate.

It is a great privilege to be part of AOSM. First of all, it gave me a great opportunity to meet wonderful, trusted servants from other countries. I have learnt how AA is developing in the countries of Asia and Oceania and how AA members in those countries carry the AA message. I could see how AA principles work. I think the Russian service structure benefits from sending delegates to AOSM. I was able to pass all the information I got from AOSM on to Russian AA. I also tried to pass on the spirit of love and service that I got from AOSM. Russian AA members were able to hear the experience, strength, and hope of AOSM delegates who we invited to speak at our meetings. Some AA members told me that now they feel that Russian AA has reached an international level.



2nd Term Delegate - Phylis G. (Fiji)

Dear AOSM,

First, I would like to thank Australia for sponsoring Fiji's AOSM attendance. Thank you also, Simon, and AOSM for this opportunity for those rotating out delegates to say our fond farewells.

To have the experience of service on a world level was a first for me and one in which I believe I learned so much about showing up, giving back, learning new things, being humble, asking for help, and seeing how kindness and understanding works in so many different countries with different languages and backgrounds when carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yes, there were many operational concepts and procedures in past AOSMs that had been in place to follow. But for the 2021 AOSM Virtual first time ever conference, it was as if everything had been thrown up into the air to start new in the last few months.

Rather than going to India, we were going to be on a virtual platform due to the worldwide pandemic. Would delegates attend? How do we organize, translate, and create the same atmosphere of sharing as in an in-person AOSM?

The Agenda Committee was overwhelmed with the work necessary to conduct a virtual AOSM from scratch.

I admitted from the start that I did not have the technical skills to chair and lead this effort. That's where humility comes in. Kindness, understanding, help, and fellowship then stepped in with the calm guidance from Roger, our chairperson, and Doug, the technical wizard of all! That brought together the experience and know how to pull this AOSM together and to get the needed tech teams. Tom spent nights on the computer (while sick) creating spreadsheets, emails, invitations to speakers, and registrations. Srinivas pitched in for contacts and contributed the great scenes and music from India.

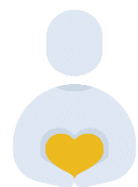
Finally, the incredible Tech Team from Japan, who I think went without sleep. My humble gratitude and thanks to such a committee.

Only with the skills of Doug, Tom, Srinivas. and Roger was all this accomplished. Behind the scenes, what the team did was such a gargantuan effort that it only could have been done with the help of a Higher Power. For me that evidence was in the love felt on the days of AOSM. It felt

like we were there sharing in person; that a spiritual connection was made even on Zoom.

I am sad to not be a part of the next AOSM. Hoping you all have the experience of service, love, and fellowship as we did. I am so glad to have been a part of this and I look forward to seeing all of you again when our paths cross in AA.

Yours in fellowship.



2nd Term Delegate – Brian S. (Australia)

My name is Brian, I am an alcoholic, and I am a second term delegate to the AOSM.

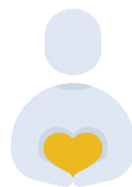
My first AOSM meeting was in Hong Kong in 2019, I was a first term delegate and was given the responsibility to attend the meeting with our other delegate - Class A Trustee, Ruby - as our second term delegate, David E, was ill. Also, Australia had sponsored the delegate from Fiji. I was fortunate that a previous AOSM delegate from Australia had attended with me as an observer.

Throughout the whole time I sometimes felt that I was flying by the seat of my pants and I thought we were too bureaucratic, but the positive out experience was the meeting of like-minded service people who practiced all of the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was also looking forward to renewing acquaintances and being of service in India in 2021. However, due to Covid, the world of service in Alcoholics Anonymous changed and the getting things done over a cup of coffee between meetings was not possible. The silver lining of the Zoom format has greatly enhanced our ability to carry the message into countries where we normally couldn't get to due to financial restraints, I believe this format will make the organisation of AOSM and world service meetings more accessible to countries without having to spend hours on planes, but there's a price to pay for this. It's a coffee and chat over breakfast.

How does Australia benefit from having two delegates?

We have been able to pass onto our conference and our board the advantages and ideas of new ways to carry the message and sponsor countries outside of Australia. The highlight of that for me personally has been the growth of the fellowship in the islands of the Pacific Region. The disappointment has been the lack of CPC work in the AOSM field.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,



2nd Term Delegate - Simon M. (HK)

I've heard people who serve as delegates to the AOSM describe this service position as their 'Golden Handcuffs'. I can see why! On the one hand, serving as a delegate has been the best thing that's happened to me in sobriety. On the other, it's been an opportunity to face up to my fears and to work on those pesky defects.

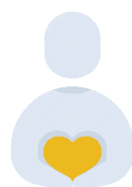
I've heard it said, too, that true peace comes only in facing up to one's fears, in surmounting a challenge, in serving others and in making connections. This, I now know to be true. Serving as a delegate has given me so much more than I could ever give back.

I used to drink and isolate because people frightened me. Seven years later, I sit at a virtual table at which delegates from 18 countries also sit. Several have well over 40 years of sobriety. Most illuminate the virtual room with a sunlight of the spirit I never imagined I'd be lucky enough to bathe in (I glow for weeks afterwards). Some are relatively new in sobriety, like me.

As proceedings get underway, the nerves begin to ebb. Within an hour, I'm overwhelmed by a sense of belonging and unity. As I sit at that virtual table, slowly I come to believe that a power greater than myself has put his trust in me. And when called upon to speak, I humbly share my feelings and thoughts, knowing that others will listen without judgement.

Service to AOSM and to my fellowship has given me purpose and responsibility. It's made me aware of my strengths when in the past I was only ever aware of my many weaknesses. It's given me self-esteem and a maturity that's seeped into every other area of my life.

I'm so incredibly grateful to everyone in AOSM for welcoming me and for giving me a space to grow as a sober member of this precious fellowship.



2nd Term Delegate - Peter J. (S Korea)

Howdy Family,

Brother Simon asked us to write a few words about our 4-year experience working within the AOSM group. First, 100 words is only enough for my intro. Second, please educate everyone to pronounce the name properly, AOSM is pronounced AWE-SOME. There will be a test when I see you again.

I'm not sure where to start but I do know there is no end. With forty-five years of sobriety under my belt & very little service experience to go with that, I was more than ready to become involved. I knew that would mean more

respect from my peers in South Korea & they would see me as a Trusted Servant. As close as they got was calling me a Rusted Servant or a Twisted Servant. Close enough.

I am the oldest of nine children & didn't like or understand God too much when my common sense (oxymoron) told me they should die after me. I tried talking, begging, arguing, reasoning, threatening in my communications with God. Brother Danny died at 1 month, then Sister Marg died at 61 years & then my best friend, Brother Ed died at 64 years. I asked God why he would take Ed, the Christian writer (aka Ed Strauss) who wrote more than one hundred excellent Christian books for children & adults and carried the Word of God to thousands of people. After all, I was only talking to one alcoholic once in a while to carry the message.

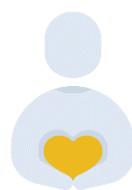
It all became clear to me when I attended the AOSM (Awe-some) Service Meeting in Hong Kong in 2019. It surprised me when I choked up the first time I spoke during the introductions. I heard myself saying to everyone there "Now I understand more about what God's purpose is for me".

I was shocked when they told me that I had been placed on the P.A.F. Committee. Obviously, they did not know that I would be much more valuable if I was on the Entertainment Committee. Of course, I came to learn that my twenty years of professional financial experience would allow me to input some useful information to the P.A.F. Committee. What an insult that the membership did not understand my wisdom & voted down the GAAP Principle of Accounting. Now, if AOSM would just do away with that silly rule about "Spirit of Rotation" I could hang around much longer & help out. After all, who else is there that can translate for Brother Bertie so that everyone can understand him? I grew to love & appreciate everyone in the membership, but Brother Bertie will always be at the top of my list.

To anyone who is a new delegate or considering becoming involved, I can assure you that this will be one of the best life-changing experiences you will have in your sobriety. I have learned in my long-term sobriety that the more that I learn, the more I have to learn. As you heard, I was not able to change anything within AOSM, but I was certainly able to make a difference. The major change that happened was the experience within AOSM that changed me.

As a founding member of The Rule 62 Club in South Korea, I want to remind all of you not to take yourself too damn seriously. After all, music & laughter have always been the best medicine in my life. When Brother Bertie asked me if I always thought outside the box, I had to be honest & tell him "I didn't even know there was a box".

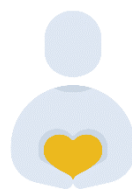
Wow, I just used my new math skills to count the words & I'm happy to be able to finish my Personal Reflections in about two hundred words.



2nd Term Delegate - Pip A. (Aotearoa / New Zealand)

As I complete my term as World Service Delegate for Aotearoa / New Zealand and reflect on attending two AOSMs, the overwhelming feeling I am left with is gratitude. AOSM was very important to me because I made connections with members of AA in the region. I was really grateful for the structure set up over the life of the AOSM. The meetings were incredibly helpful to share experience, strength, and hope and to get insight into how other countries carry the message. I have also enjoyed the contact with other delegates between AOSMs. This was new to me and I was a little resistant to start with. I am a stickler for guidelines and had some concerns that decisions that affected AOSM would be made outside of group conscience of AOSM. But I was wrong. God as we understand him has been the ultimate authority through our traditions and concepts and the contact in between AOSMs has been invaluable, especially during the pandemic. Service is an important part of my programme and service in the AOSM has been particular enlightening and humbling. Watching the AA programme thrive in other countries has brought me closer to God as I understand him. I have seen God with skin on in the form of basic goodness and it has helped me stay sober one day at a time, which means, hopefully I am here to do the dishes and open the doors and share a kind word with a newcomer. I look forward to staying in touch with you all.

Yours in love and service.



1st Term Delegate - Mary R. (Fiji)

My name is Mary and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is the Fiji Bula AA group, where I sobered up on 14th July 2017. I have been very honored to represent Fiji at the 14th Virtual AOSM meeting this year - as first term delegate and a serving member of the Website, Publishing and Literature sub- committee.

From the outset, it's important for me to acknowledge the support of the Australia-GSO, which has enabled the participation of Fiji delegates in this meeting since 2019.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity for many reasons. The sense of belonging I felt in a room of recovering alcoholics from 44 member countries was overwhelming and familiar. Despite the many cultures, backgrounds and

level of experience, I felt the spark that I feel every time I come into an AA meeting or when I talk to another alcoholic. The same spark that Dr. Bob speaks about when he first talked to Bill. W. The fundamental awareness that I was among many, among my own tribe. Racy from our New York office describes it perfectly in her closing comments, saying that “AA is not a place, but a fellowship of the spirit that comes from within its members”.

It was incredible to see the 12 traditions and 12 concepts of world service come to life through the serving members. As an infant to service work, it was indeed a valuable opportunity to watch older serving members practice the AA principles at an international platform. During the main portion of the meeting, it was incredible to observe the manner in which key recommendations were presented. The clarity with which the group conscience proceedings unfolded was truly a key learning experience for me. It was valuable to witness the chair hold himself in a calm and confident demeanor. The hearing of the minority voice and to see its importance is truly remarkable. The ability of the minority voice to influence and move the group conscience with the practice of unanimity was commendable. The latter has specifically helped our group draft our first GSO guidelines and I am happy to report that iterations are progressing well as I write this reflection.

As first term delegate, the learnings from other countries with more developed GSO structures has been valuable. Additionally, the new friendships made has led to other opportunities for service. Just as I came into the rooms of AA as a newcomer, not too long ago, I needed to surround myself with experienced sober members. Similarly, as a young fellowship, the expanding network is useful in terms of support, continued learning and growth. I believe the AOSM provides that platform and opportunity for which I am grateful, not just as a serving member of the WPL-AOSM sub-committee but as a trusted servant of our own Fiji GSO, a member of AA and a human being.

We have since outlined our modest plan to GSO-Australia on how we propose to use key learnings to build on Fiji’s existing service structure and how we can carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in our islands as well as our neighboring Pacific Island countries. The examples from Japan, Mongolia, and Iran as well as New Zealand has helped inform how Fiji, with its small numbers can develop from individual groups and what we can aspire toward in future. The ideas around carrying the message translated in the I-Taukei language has taken fruition and as mentioned above, our first GSO service guidelines is now in draft.

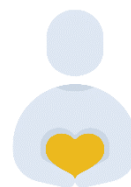
The continued representation and service at the AOSM is vital for carrying the message of recovery to the still

suffering alcoholic in Fiji. We are grateful that through the support of GSO-Australia, we have had this opportunity and we hope it will continue into the future.

I am deeply honored to have been elected alternate chair to the WPL committee and I will do my very best during my term to give back what has been freely given to me in abundance. A second chance at life, a life beyond my wildest dreams. I am a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous today.

Vinaka vakalevu from the Fiji Islands!

Yours truly in service and fellowship.



1st Term Delegate - Doug G. (Japan)

Leading up to the AOSM, amidst the backdrop of a pandemic, we knew this would be an actual test of trusting in our Higher Power. We were seeking through

2nd Tradition whether holding the event would be God’s will and would require us all to lend a helping hand rather than leaving the coordination to just the Chair and Secretariat. You can’t say that alcoholics are weak-willed people—if it was God’s will, we were going to pull it off. It would mean having to shift gears from in-person to online, trying to design an event that would enable us to fulfill our primary purpose on a little-to- nothing budget, an attempt to retain the historical flavor of the AOSM while still having ample time to do our business across many time zones, and all while attempting to overcome any technological and language barriers.

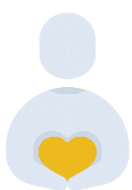
This pandemic has certainly brought tragedy to many, yet it has brought out the best in AA members. We learned new levels of patience and tolerance. The Chair held several meetings in advance to ensure everyone knew how to access the meeting. The Japan GSB Technology Committee did a herculean job in the background to enable us to meet. It was impossible to hire a company to do what they very selflessly accomplished with no budget.

The beauty of the AOSM that is not as prevalent at the World Service Meeting is that it has such a wide range of experience amongst its members. Some countries have long-established fellowships and very active General Service Boards and GSOs; some countries are in the process of establishing their Boards, others might just have an intergroup, and yet some only have a few groups and a handful of translated pamphlets. Yet, the enthusiasm is identical. The more established countries bring experience and a bit of old-timer wisdom to those newer countries, and newer countries bring different challenges and a thirst to learn and grow.

The meeting itself ran a long two and a half days and tested everyone's stamina. We talked a lot about the need for more translations, for country-to-country sponsorship—both financially as well as spiritually, and how shifting to an online platform has been such a gift to AA but has also created some disunity from those who cannot participate online or feel left behind. Finally, we talked about how we need to work harder at carrying the message into local populations, especially where literature translations may exist, but the majority of the AA membership speak only English. There is still much work to be done, but the delegates to the 14th AOSM seem motivated to continue our mission.

Was this a perfect AOSM? My sponsor says that nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Indeed, many things could have been done better, more information could have been sent out further in advance to help everyone prepare, but under the circumstances, I think it was an amazing event. We all rose to the occasion. We talked a lot and shared ideas and experiences. We formed friendships. I just wish we would have done it over a cup of coffee with laughter and hugs. Having 33 delegates from 20 countries, the largest number of attendees we've ever had, showed me that AA's unity is alive and well regardless of where we live or what our backgrounds are. The Big Book in chapter two says, "We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful." When I looked across my screen, seeing friends from very diverse places, some of whose countries have completely opposite ideologies from each other, realizing we could all be in the same room together in harmony, with no opinions on those outside issues that divide us, and stay focused on our single reason for our existence which is to help that drunk out there who is stumbling in the dark tonight—this scene brought tears of joy to my eyes many times. I recalled the closing of Bill's Story, where he said, "Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and goodwill to men." This AOSM was indeed a utopia moment for this drunk.

I can't wait to see everyone in person (hopefully) in 2023 at the 15th AOSM. But, don't forget that as of this writing, we are still looking for bids!



1st Term Delegate - Sheli B. (HK)

A decade ago, my sponsor, Marie T., along with Celia J., were the Hong Kong delegates to AOSM. It was hosted in a rural part of Chandigarh, in Northern India. It

was the first time I'd heard of AOSM and it sounded like such an incredible fellowship experience. Plus, they brought home great guidance on things other countries were doing to help carry the message. I thought 'someday, I'll do that too.'

Fast forward to 2019 and one of my sponsees was very involved with AOSM, which was being hosted in Hong Kong. She asked if I'd be a delegate. I said 'of course!', but never heard anything back.

This year, I actively put my hand up and was voted in. As a new delegate, I was welcomed on one of the pre-event Zoom calls. On that call, there was an inspiring and very detailed presentation on the history of AOSM by Doug, from Japan. AOSM's founding and growth essentially followed the path of AA maturing in the Asia Pacific region. A big part of that is one country with an established AA base, reaching out to essentially sponsor countries where AA is in its early years, to guide them on how to best serve the still sick and suffering in their countries. A truly beautiful process that has happened and is still happening now around APAC. It is the key focus of AOSM.

I didn't get the schedule for the actual three-day event until Friday and when I did, it was a bit daunting. Simon M., the Hong Kong 2nd term delegate, guided me on what would be happening and essentially told me to buckle up for a serious ride.

(Side note: Simon was elected to be the new AOSM Secretariat. So instead of this being his last AOSM, he is now on for four more years and I really look forward to working with him more in this context!)

The Friday was essentially an introduction, but the Saturday and Sunday were full-on, with back-to-back sessions, presentations, and committee meetings from morning to night. There were literally two 15min breaks throughout each day.

I was delighted to find they'd put me on the WPL (Website, Publishing & Literature) Committee. Since that is sort of my area of expertise, I assumed the others on the committee would also be geeky digital marketing people like me. Not so. However, we delved into the agenda, which had been worked on for two years, during our session with an abundance of enthusiasm to come up with a solid proposal for how to go forward in these 3 key areas.

Also, I was elected to be the WPL committee chairperson and, essentially, the new AOSM web master.

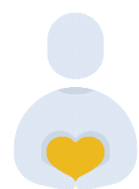
All the committees produced amazing progress and proposals, following up not only on the last AOSM, but also based on a lot of hard work in the interim two years.

Although we were all suffering from Zoom fatigue after two very intense days, there was a definite sadness when we finished up on the Sunday night of AOSM 2021.

For those two precious days we worked together, made friends with people that we've never met, heard from wise sages, and like a well-oiled machine, accomplished so much. We bonded in a special way.

Happy to report that the AOSM-WPL committee has committed to meeting once a month and we have already produced important documents to support our work for the next two years. Am blessed to have a few very committed people on the WPL team, especially my fellow first delegate Mary from Fuji, who has taken on overseeing publishing and literature, while I oversee the website revamp.

It never ceases to amaze me, the mountains that can be moved by a committed group of drunks.



1st Term Delegate - Izzy K. (MERCAA – Jordan)

Dear AA Brothers and Sisters and AOSM's, my name is Izzy and I am an alcoholic. My clean date is April 6th, 2011. I write this email with humility and a TOTAL attitude of gratitude, and I mean that from all my heart.

In the beginning, when I was asked by MERCAA to take part in AOSM, my first and following feelings were of fear, and a sense of not being able to do the task required. I had no idea what AOSM was, and what I could or should do to participate.

From the start of the AOSM Convention, my feelings changed very quickly. Being greeted by so many happy faces and listening to everyone's sharing I immediately knew without a doubt that I was in the right place. I was assigned to the PAF Committee (Policy/Admissions/Finance) and my natural alcoholic thoughts was that: again, I'm in the wrong committee, what am I going to learn from this?!?

Truth is that I was in the exact right committee to be in. We were a total of 9 people on the committee, some were

2nd Term Delegates who've already attended AOSM in previous years, and others 1st Term Delegates such as myself to whom this was a first-time experience. The guys couldn't have been cooler. Literally. The ice was quickly broken with an atmosphere that reminded me of being among old high-school friends who could laugh at each other and themselves without any feelings of awkwardness. The committee's serious matters and issues were discussed in detail, if not extreme detail, showing how caring and concerned they are for the benefit of others, and to ultimately carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The Convention style was to go back and forth between the General large virtual room where all attendees were to the smaller virtual rooms our committees were in, to discuss matters on hand then revert back to the general audience room.

Many issues which affect our group here in Jordan were mentioned and discussed by other AOSM delegates representing their respective countries. Therefore, I was able to learn and benefit from their experiences and what our local group may do to carry the message locally both in AA meetings, plus other means of carrying the message to local Institutions such as Hospitals and Treatment Centers, as well as local Governmental and/or Social issues which other countries in the AOSM region have or were facing and how they solved the challenges.

Moreover, 2 representatives from the AA World Service Office in New York were present. Their presentations and later taking and answering of delegates questions, answered a lot of questions and real issues which my local group is facing, and we now have the means of solving them one day at a time.

I am very grateful to have had this chance, and hope that I may have the privilege to participate once more and continue to stay in touch with the members of my AA family. AOSM's desire to carry the message and share the love, strength, hope, and experience is amazing, and as one member put it AWESOME!

I humbly thank you and my best regards.



Appendices

Appendix A - Officers, Delegates, Guests & Support



Officers					
New Zealand	Roger S.	Chair			
Japan	Yasuhiko M.	Treasurer			
Japan	Masayo S.	Secretariat			
Delegates					
Australia	Greg Byrne	1 st Term	Kyrgyzstan	Kirill Kapranov	1 st Term
Australia	Brian Smith	2 nd Term	Kyrgyzstan	Ivan Panchenko	2 nd Term
Bhutan	Tandin Pelzang	1 st Term	MERCAA-Jordan	Izz Khalaf	1 st Term
Bhutan	Sonam Tshering	2 nd Term	MERCAA-UAE	Bertie Sawney	2 nd Term
China	Truman Yeh	1 st Term	Mongolia	Zok Ganzoo	2 nd Term
Fiji	Mary Raori	1 st Term	Nepal	Subodh Aryal	1 st Term
Fiji	Phylis Gandy	2 nd Term	Nepal	Lok Raj Adhikari	2 nd Term
Hong Kong	Sheli Bowman	1 st Term	New Zealand	Steve King	1 st Term
Hong Kong	Simon Miles	2 nd Term	New Zealand	Pip Adam	2 nd Term
India	Nagadurga Srinivas	1 st Term	Russia	Uliana Maiorova	2 nd Term
India	Lokesh Babu K	2 nd Term	Singapore	Nicholas Cant	1 st Term
Iran	Gholamreza Vakii	1 st Term	Singapore	Dane Anderson	2 nd Term
Iran	Ali Hadjizede	2 nd Term	South Korea	Peter James	2 nd Term
Israel	Yisrael Campbell	1 st Term	Sri Lanka	Thezween Kariyawasam	1 st Term
Israel	John Kennedy	2 nd Term	Sri Lanka	Navam Xavier	2 nd Term
Japan	Doug Grude	1 st Term	Thailand	Tom Morrison	Alt. Delegate
Japan	Yasumichi "Mike" Hoshi	2 nd Term			
Guests					
India	Dr Ashok Narayan - Chair General Service Board of India			Keynote Speaker	
India	Krishna M. - Chair – AOSM Host Committee (Hyderabad)			Keynote Speaker	
US/Canada	Racy J. - US/Canada General Service Office: International Desk			Presenter	
US/Canada	David R. - US/Canada General Service Office – AAWS Publications Director			Presenter	
US/Canada	Bob W. - US/Canada General Service Office – General Manager				
Interpreters					
A. Wada (Japan), Takashi I. (Japan), Dimitri P. (Russia), Alexandre M. (Russia), Naki G. (Mongolia)					
Recording Secretaries					
Val K., Yolanda S., Ollie O., Jane M-R.					
Tech Support					
Japan GSO Tech Committee Hiro K., Takashi N., Atsushi H., Martin G. (NZ)					

Appendix B - Committee Membership



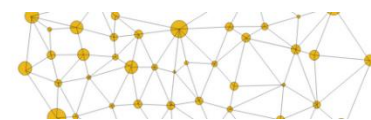
Policy, Administration and Finance		
Bertie S. (Chair)	MERCAA-UAE	2 nd Term
Peter J. (Alt Chair)	South Korea	2 nd Term
Simon M.	Hong Kong	2 nd Term
Yasumichi H.	Japan	2 nd Term
Greg B.	Australia	1 st Term
Yisrael C.	Israel	1 st Term
Izz K.	MERCAA-Jordan	1 st Term
Kirill K.	Kyrgyzstan	1 st Term

Website, Literature and Publishing		
Uliana M. (Chair)	Russia	2 nd Term
Lokesh B. (Alt Chair)	India	2 nd Term
Zok G.	Mongolia	2 nd Term
John K.	Israel	2 nd Term
Truman Y.	China	1 st Term
Mary R.	Fiji	1 st Term
Sheli B.	Hong Kong	1 st Term
Subodh A.	Nepal	1 st Term
Steven R-K.	New Zealand	1 st Term

Site Selection and Agenda		
Phylis G. (Chair)	Fiji	2 nd Term
Tom M. (Alt Chair)	Thailand	Alt. Del.
Ivan P.	Kyrgyzstan	2 nd Term
Doug G.	Japan	1 st Term
Tandin P.	Bhutan	1 st Term
Nick C.	Singapore	1 st Term
Reza V.	Iran	1 st Term
Srinivas N.	India	1 st Term

Working with Others		
Pip A. (Chair)	Aotearoa/NZ	2 nd Term
Dane A. (Alt Chair)	Singapore	2 nd Term
Lokesh B.	India	2 nd Term
Brian S.	Australia	2 nd Term
Ali H.	Iran	2 nd Term
Navam X.	Sri Lanka	2 nd Term
Sonam T.	Bhutan	2 nd Term
Thez K.	Sri Lanka	1 st Term

Appendix C - Agenda



9-11 July 2021 (all times India Standard Time)

Friday 9-July

- 09:30 Welcome and Orientation
- 10:30 Red Ball Recovery Meeting (90 min) [Greg B. (Australia)]

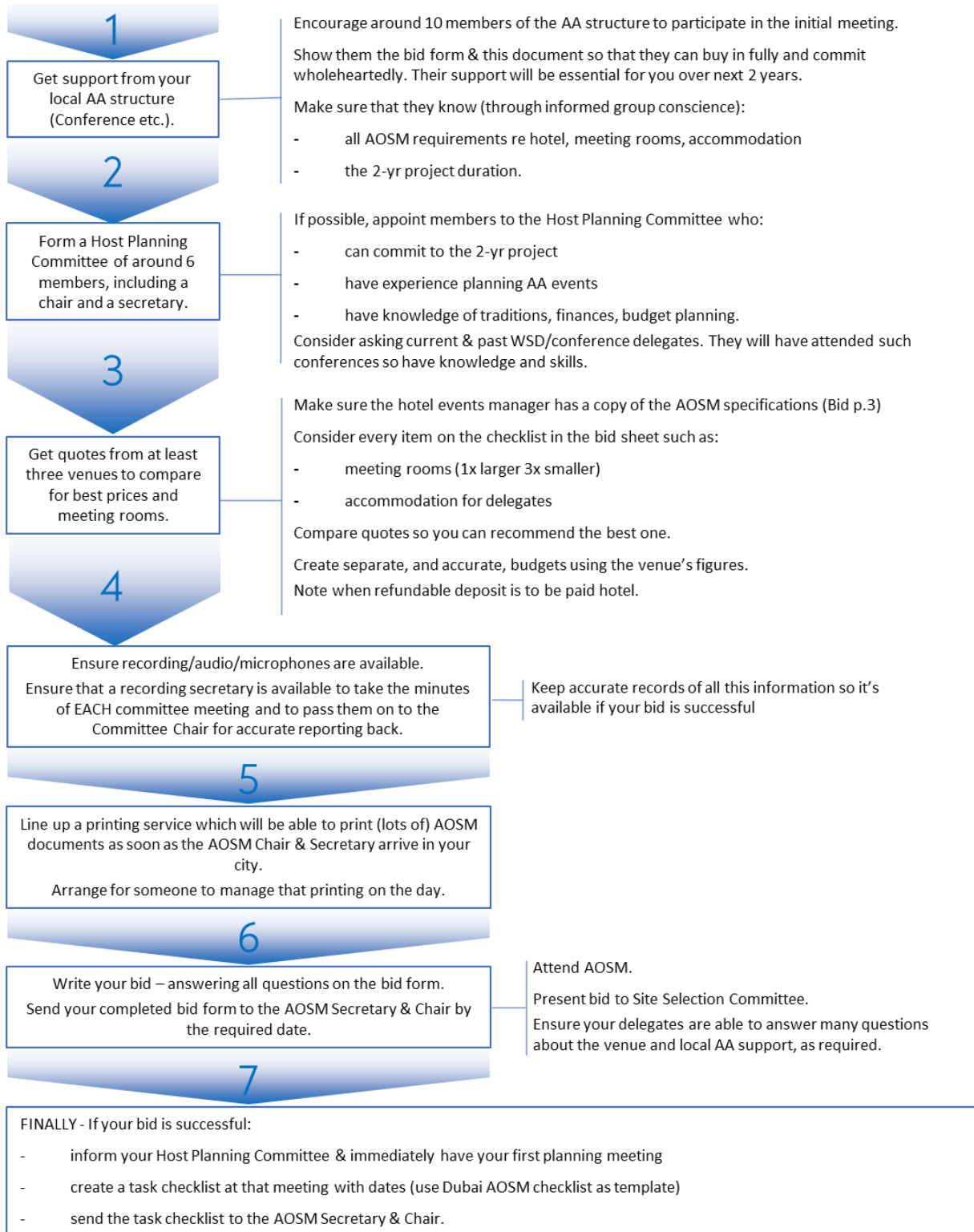
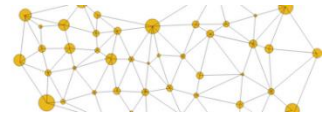
Saturday 10-July

- 08:30 Opening Reading, Chair Welcome, Statement of Purpose, Introductions, Apologies
 - Welcome from Hyderabad Host Committee
 - Keynote address from Chair of India General Service Board (Dr. Ashok Narayan)
- 09:00 Officer Reports: Chair Roger S. / Secretariat Masayo S. / Treasurer Yasuhiko M.
- 09:30 Presentations / Q&A
 - Country to Country Sponsorship – The Sponsor’s Experience
Brian S. (Australia), Pip A. (New Zealand)
 - Country to Country Sponsorship – The Sponsor’s Experience
Mary R. (Fiji), Sonam (Bhutan)
- 10:30 World Service Meeting Report
Simon M. (Hong Kong)
- 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:15 Committee Meetings
Website, Literature & Publishing / Agenda & Site Selection / Working with Others / Policy, Admissions, & Finance
- 13:15 COFFEE BREAK
- 13:45 What’s On Your Mind?
- 15:00 Presentations / Q&A
 - International Literature Fund & Translations - Racy J. (GSO/New York)
 - Literature Translations, Licenses - David R. (GSO/New York)
- 16:00 Evening AA Meeting - Reza (Iran)
- 17:00 Site Selection Committee for 2023 AOSM (CLOSED MEETING)

Sunday 11-July

- 07:30 Morning AA Meeting - Sheli (HK)
- 08:30 Presentations
 - History and Pioneers of AOSM
Shirley C. (Australia), Doug G. (Japan)
- 09:00 Workshop (3 Groups)
 - Developing Guidelines for 1st Term Delegates
- 10:00 Presentations
 - Countries with GSO’s - How They Achieved It
Ali H. (Iran), Zok G. (Mongolia), Yasumichi H. (Japan)
- 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:15 Committee Reports & Recommendations to the AOSM
- 13:45 What’s On Your Mind?
- 14:30 Selection of 15th AOSM Date and Location
Election of 15th AOSM Chair, Affirmation of Secretariat & Treasurer
- 15:00 Farewell Remarks from 2nd Term Delegates
- 16:00 Close with Serenity Prayers in all languages present
Evening AA Meeting – Lokesh (IN)

Appendix D - Bidding Flowchart and Bidding form



Flowchart passed at AOSM Ulaanbaatar 2017

BIDDING FORM

[Please have the facility's function manager read the specifications on page 3 and carefully explain any variations before you fill in this form and email to the AOSM Secretariat at aosmsecretary@gmail.com]

City:	<input type="text"/>	Country:	<input type="text"/>
Email Delegate 1:	<input type="text"/>	Email Delegate 2:	<input type="text"/>

HOST COUNTRY SUPPORT

Approximately how many AA members are there in your country?

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

 YES NO

Is your bid supported by your Fellowship?

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

General Service Board General Service Conference General Service Office

Intergroup Committee Intergroup Office Area/District Committee

Other (please describe)

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

TRANSPORTATION

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

Airport's name?

Which major airlines service the airport?

What transportation (airport to venue) is available?

Cost of airport shuttle, per person (US \$)

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

WHAT FACILITIES ARE AT THE HOTEL OR CONFERENCE CENTRE?

Name of hotel:

Website:

No. of rooms:

Does it provide all the required facilities listed in the specifications? YES NO

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

Any variations from the list of specifications?

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

What will be the **total cost** of accommodation, meals, refreshments, and hire of function rooms for the threedays of the meeting and for four nights' accommodation?

If 25 people attend (US\$ per person)

If 30 people attend (US\$ per person)

If 35 people attend (US\$ per person)

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

Single room

Double room

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

Any other comments?

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE 15TH AOSM 6TH TO 9TH JULY 2023

These are the preferred specifications for an Asia/Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Any variations should be carefully noted on the second page of the bid form above.

Time:	Friday morning through to Sunday afternoon.
Dates:	The completed form must be sent to the AOSM Secretariat by November 30th, 2021
Attendance:	25 to 35 people
Accommodation:	Attendees will be staying for four nights: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All guest rooms to be either single or double occupancy with en-suite bathrooms. This standard may not be available in some cities. Please list any variations in the form on page 2.
Meals required:	<p>Friday: breakfast, lunch and dinner</p> <p>Saturday: breakfast, lunch and dinner</p> <p>Sunday: breakfast and lunch only.</p> <p>Ideally, all attendees should be seated together – particularly at lunch and dinner. On Friday night a private dining room for 40 people with a sound system will be needed.</p>
Refreshments required:	<p>Tea, coffee, iced water and pastries (or similar) should be available as follows:</p> <p>Friday: mid-morning and mid-afternoon</p> <p>Saturday: mid-morning and mid-afternoon</p> <p>Sunday: mid-morning only</p>
Meeting facilities required:	<p>Friday, Saturday & Sunday</p> <p>One general session room for 35-40 people with 28 people seated around a table (round rectangular or hollow), space for 12 people to sit elsewhere around the room, a table, and chairs for four Interpreters, a sound system with at least 10 microphones on the main table, a white board, a data projector and screen, a display table for books & pamphlets (about 1400mm x 1200mm).</p> <p>Saturday & Sunday</p> <p>Three committee rooms (or areas) that can seat 10 people. Each room should have a table that can seat five people. One small administrative room - lockable with a table and chairs.</p>

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.