

16th AOSM

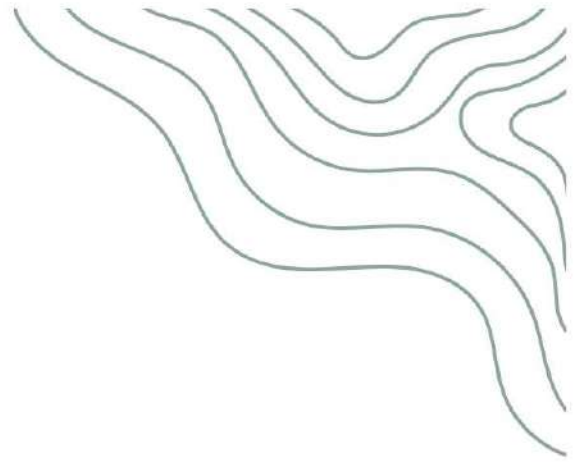
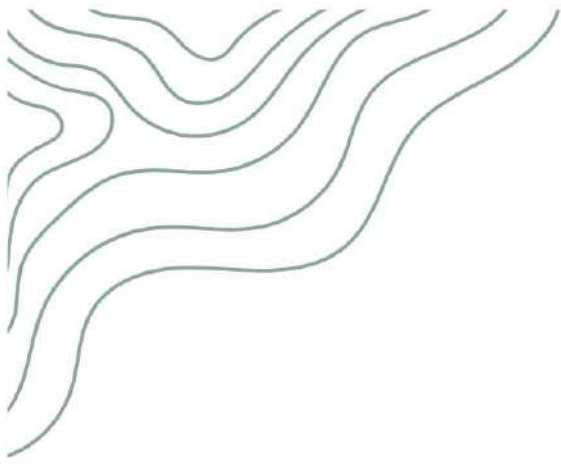
Asia-Oceania Service Meeting



Final Report

ONE MESSAGE – MANY LANGUAGES – ONE FELLOWSHIP

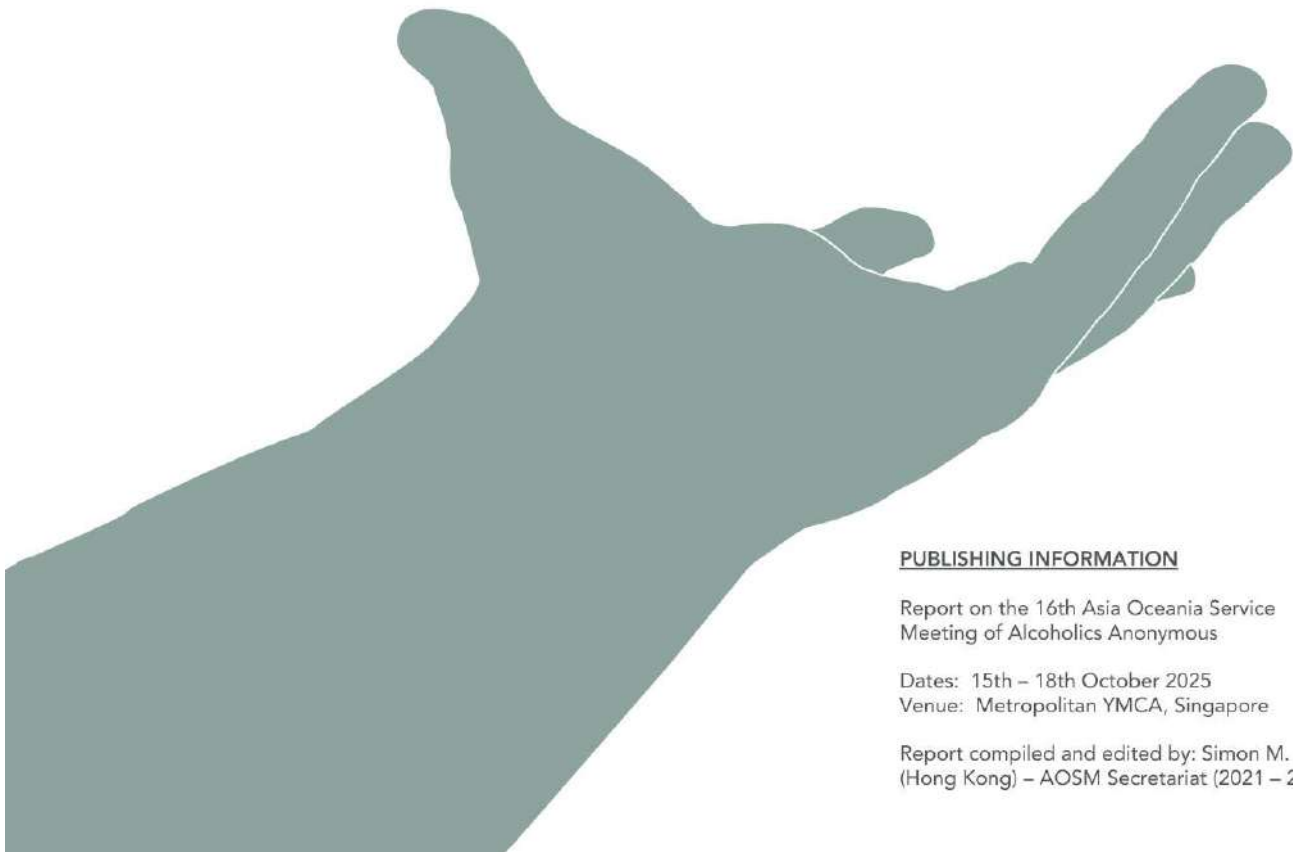
Singapore: 15th - 18th October 2025



I am responsible...

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

... and for that, I am responsible



PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Report on the 16th Asia Oceania Service
Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

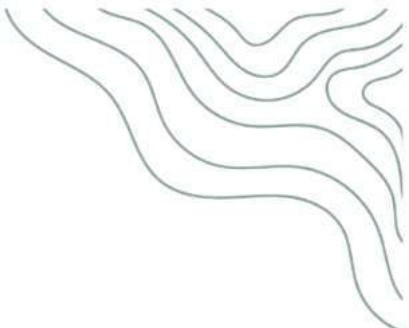
Dates: 15th – 18th October 2025
Venue: Metropolitan YMCA, Singapore

Report compiled and edited by: Simon M.
(Hong Kong) – AOSM Secretariat (2021 – 2025)

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A note about anonymity

CONFIDENTIAL

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).



Opening Addresses



OPENING ADDRESS

SIMON A. (CHAIR – SITE SELECTION AND AGENDA COMMITTEE)

Selamat siang, வணக்கம் (vah-nuh-kum), 你好 (ni Hao), and a warm welcome to all. My name is Simon, I am an alcoholic, a grateful sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous. My home group is the Boat Quay group here in Singapore.

On behalf of our fellowship, it is my privilege to welcome all friends of Bill (in official or unofficial capacity) to Singapore and to the 16th Asia Oceania Service Meeting, 2025. It is indeed an absolute honour to be hosting you all this year and we are so very grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

The presence of each delegate, volunteer, officer, observer, interpreter, note-taker, representative from General Service Office (New York), and friend of Bill here in Singapore is valued deeply. Many have travelled great distances and made significant personal sacrifices. It is this shared commitment that gives strength to our fellowship and ensures that the message of recovery continues to grow across our region.

This year's theme, *"One Message, Many Languages, One Fellowship,"* reflects both the strength and the simplicity of Alcoholics Anonymous. At its heart, our message is unchanged: one alcoholic helping another brings recovery and hope. That message does not change. Yet it reaches people in many languages, through different cultures and across borders. What unites us is far stronger than what separates us. This is evident when I look around the room and see representatives from Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Egypt, Dubai, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.

Singapore, as the host country, provides a fitting setting for this theme. It is a society where diversity is woven into daily life. English, Malay, Tamil and Mandarin are spoken side by side, and different faiths, traditions and lifestyles coexist in a shared

community. This mirrors the miracle we see within Alcoholics Anonymous itself: individuals of many backgrounds, who under ordinary circumstances might never meet, are united in recovery.

Preparing to host the 16th AOSM has coincided with a demanding period in my personal and professional life. At times it has felt overwhelming. Yet the programme has reminded me to take one step at a time, to show up, and to rely on the fellowship rather than attempt to manage everything alone. Service, even when challenging, has strengthened my sobriety and deepened my gratitude. So, it is only fitting that I recognise our wonderful local host committee: John, Ari, Arron, Lish, Johnny and Dane, without whom we would not have this perfectly fitting venue, let alone this opening address (thank you Lish). Thank you so much for your commitment and hard work these last few months.

One of the most meaningful experiences this year has been observing how members in Singapore guide the culture of Alcoholics Anonymous in ways that make the fellowship more open and welcoming to the wider community. We did not simply attempt to translate our message into different languages. Instead, we listened carefully, allowed members to lead, and created space for the fellowship to reflect the sensitivities and realities of the local context. This is vital, because recovery here is not only about personal obstacles. It is also about facing and overcoming social stigma and cultural barriers together. That shared effort strengthens our unity.

The Singapore AA host committee has sought to ensure that our committee reflected the diversity of Singapore itself. Members from different backgrounds and experiences were brought into the planning. The process was not always straightforward, but it was essential. It reminded us that service in Alcoholics Anonymous must continue

to evolve as society evolves. We adapt to new challenges and needs, but the essence remains unchanged: one alcoholic helping another, one day at a time.

It is my hope that delegates will carry this spirit into our discussions over the coming days. We are called to consider questions that affect all of us. How can Alcoholics Anonymous increase its impact in diverse societies? How do we overcome barriers of language and culture so that our message is accessible to all? How do we preserve unity while also fostering inclusion? These are significant questions. Yet with adherence to our principles and traditions, I believe we can move towards a vision of recovery that extends across Asia and Oceania, a region rich in diversity and deeply in need of hope.

For those visiting Singapore for the first time, we trust you will experience what makes this place

unique: a community where diversity is not a barrier but a strength. For those who have supported us through sponsorship and friendship over the years, we offer our gratitude. Without such support, gatherings such as this would not be possible.

As we commence the 16th Asia Oceania Service Meeting, we are reminded once again of the words from the Big Book: *"We are people who normally would not mix."* Yet here we are, different nations, different languages, one fellowship.

Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic shares with another. May our time together strengthen our ability to carry that message faithfully across borders and cultures, to all who still suffer.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

ANDREW B. (CHAIR — INTERGROUP SINGAPORE)

My name is Andrew B. I am an alcoholic. It is my humble privilege to serve Singapore Alcoholics Anonymous as Intergroup Chair.

On behalf of Singapore AA, welcome all of you to Singapore and the 16th Asia & Oceania Service Meeting. Thank you for coming here, and for the tireless work done in your countries to make the hand of A.A. available to anyone who needs it.

I would like to say something of the history of AA in Singapore. I'm sorry to say that for whatever reason (maybe we have been so busy getting on with the business of living one day at a time!) we haven't got an authoritative record of what the ancient days were like.

One quite well-known piece of secondary information is held on the GSO timeline:

"Dick D, who regularly corresponds with GSO New York, writes in March 1958 that the Singapore group, founded in 1957, now has 12 members and 2 likely prospects."

Maybe GSO New York still retains some of the correspondence with Dick- it would be great to discover.

A foundation date of 1957 means that Singapore AA is older than me- I was born in 1959. But much more fascinatingly, Singapore AA is older than the modern state of Singapore itself, which was only founded in 1965. In recent weeks, I've had a chance to speak with two old-timers: the expat Andrew S. who got sober in 1982, and the local Chinese Andrew Q. who got sober in 1985.

The two Andrews' knowledge of the early days is due to those who were old-timers in 1980s. Imagine looking round the table at a meeting to see:

- an American veteran sober from around 1947 "beautiful guy- he had all the time in the world for newcomers" [Tito Bill]
- the earliest Singaporean to achieve long-term sobriety, sober in 1963 [Victor S]
- a Chinese national, sobriety dating around 1970 [Andy W] (I don't know what it is about Andrews in AA Singapore. And there are still a bunch of us around in Singapore AA today.)
- a British female, arrived from UK newly sober in 1976 [Verna]
- an Indian male, sober from around 1977 [Kadjedan D]

Although expats were the numerical majority of the group, there were also solid locals who came to be leaders in the fellowship.

At first, meetings were held in the homes of members. But in 1970, the first external meetings took place, once a week, at YMCA! Not the same building as AOSM has been held in, but in Stamford Rd. I want to acknowledge that YMCA have been very supportive of us in hosting this event, but I'm not sure that anyone on either side was aware that the interaction between our two organizations goes back 55 years. YMCA might even still have some commercial records from those days, which would be interesting to explore? There were two other early venues: Wesley Methodist Church in Fort Canning, and the Church of Sts Peter & Paul in Queen St, which later became the main venue.

Andrew S reported:

"1982 was a vintage year. The three meetings per week rapidly became eight. Sponsorship and the Steps were all the rage! We had Step meetings; Big Book Studies and a few breakaway meetings started to appear in other locations. We had just installed a telephone at Queen St when there was a

programme on TV about alcoholism and AA (with hidden faces and distorted voices, to protect anonymity.) The phone rang off the hook! A few of the people who called in then are still sober. 12th stepping was popular too, as we went all over Singapore trying to sober up everyone who called."

Personally, I've spent a lot of AA service time at meetings in Angsana Home for the Destitute, so it was amazing to discover that AA Singapore for 17 years was visiting Bushey Park Welfare Home for Destitute and Vagrant Men (later moved to Woody Lodge, which was a repurposed leper colony). It was a different age. Every attendee was rewarded with 1 cigarette per meeting, to be smoked or traded afterwards. There was even the occasional riot, and on one occasion a riot stopped when the AA meeting was due to begin but resumed after the meeting was over.

Moving forwards, in about 2000, AA started to hold meetings at Damien Hall, to this day the "centre of gravity" for AA meetings in Singapore. And Mike W reports that by 2008, more meetings had formed, but the website and meeting lists were all managed by Damien Hall. It was around this time that a member raised the idea of starting an Intergroup in Singapore. On 11-Oct 2008, the initial planning meeting for Singapore AA Intergroup took place at the Starbucks in the Capital Tower Building on Robinson Road. Members representing Damien Hall, Serenity Sisters, and Raffles Daybreak, along with an observer, were present.

From the minutes of that 2008 meeting:

"Those present agreed to focus on information exchange between AA Singapore Groups. Intention is to meet monthly to discuss any relevant issues and keep communication flowing as to what each group is up to. Examples of potential topics could be: meeting schedule changes, venue changes, and special events etc. Several group conscience meetings have taken place and Mike W, Lou R and Sarah C represent the groups as noted above."

Attendance grew at subsequent meetings, and in time, Damien Hall added the new meeting information to the website and meeting lists, and eventually transitioned responsibility for those functions (and others) to Singapore Intergroup. In the early days of the Singapore Intergroup, AA members used the Traditions as a guide to establish voting rules, author a charter, and launch committees like HIPI, Treasury, and Events. The Singapore AA Newsletter, Daily Reprieve, was launched in October 2009.

Singapore AA's involvement and cooperation with AOSM was established by a member from Japan named Koh, who frequently traveled through Singapore and attended AOSM, representing Singapore AA and Damien Hall. Eventually, that relationship transitioned over to the Singapore Intergroup as well. It's thrilling to see that cooperation continue to thrive as Singapore hosts AOSM 2025!

Today we have about 65 weekly meetings: physical, zoomical & hybrid, in Singapore. The bedrock of AA, personal recovery based on unity & service, a loving higher power as each of us may come to understand it, remains the same since those early days, but the world around us does change, as it always will:

- Digital revolution: from email in the early days to the internet social media, video conferencing & now AI
- Development in medical and psychological support for alcoholics and addicts, often including medications which are difficult for non-professionals such as us to understand.
- Changes in religious attitudes, particularly in terms of moderate Christianity.
- Adoption by a number of organizations (secular or religious) of a 12-step model to support recovery
- Changes in the form spoken & written English, as reflected in the "Plain English" version of AA.

Also appropriate for the many non-native English speakers who are now joining AA.

- Political and social divisiveness which must not be allowed to come into AA.

In researching this short (and soon to be concluded!) talk, I was struck by the wise words of Scott S who gave the Welcome Address at the 28th World Service Meeting, Oct 2024. He said, in part:

"Thinking that future generations will find A.A. the way we did is naive, at best. We want them to find the same message of love and hope, but we will need to work to be sure it is available where it can be found by those yet to come."

"Bill W. has been described as a man of great vision. If we are to meet our great responsibility to the Alcoholic Still Suffering we must continue to make space in our Fellowship for the expression of new ideas that can be discussed without immediate criticism and judgement. Not all new ideas will be good ones, but it requires considerable humility to remain open to new ideas.

One of the most significant benefits I see coming from a forum like this is the ability to share ideas without criticism or judgment. We can explore not only what each of our structures is doing, but what we might do to manage this colossus of communication unselfishly and well."

I can't find better words than these.

Finally, I would like to recommend to you the Singapore Round-Up, a 1-day convention which will be taking place tomorrow, Sunday 19th Oct, from 10am-4pm at Damien Hall where so many of our meetings take place. Over 100 alcoholics will be attending, from Singapore and overseas, from those with long periods of sobriety to those who are still struggling with the disease.

Again, welcome to the 16th Asia Oceania Service Meeting. I hope to speak with as many of you as possible, individually, tonight or at Damien Hall tomorrow.

Officers' Reports



A.1. CHAIR'S REPORT

DOUG G. — AOSM CHAIR 2023-2025



Dear friends and trusted servants,

It is both an honor and a privilege to present this Chair's Report to the 16th Asia Oceania Service Meeting here in Singapore. As we

gather once again in person, I am reminded that it has now been thirty years since the first AOSM was held in Tokyo in 1995. What began as a vision among a few trusted servants in Japan and New Zealand has grown into a vibrant and diverse fellowship of countries, each with its own service structures, languages, and challenges—but all united in one purpose: to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout our part of the world.

Since our last meeting in Fiji in 2023, we have continued to experience both growth and change. One of the most inspiring moments at the conclusion of that meeting was the **Workshop for Professionals**, attended by many professionals from various backgrounds, including our invited guest **Liliana** — a non-alcoholic social worker and advocate who had heard of A.A. but had never really known what we do. She left that session so deeply moved that she recorded a short video in the parking lot as she was leaving, sharing how profoundly she had been touched by what she witnessed among us. That video has now been viewed more than 3,600 times, giving voice to our message of recovery and hope well beyond the walls of our fellowship in ways we cannot, because of our anonymity. Bless our friends of A.A., whose voices can often reach where ours cannot.

Over the past two years, we have worked to strengthen communication and connection between meetings. We began holding regular meetings among the AOSM Committee Chairs, as well as

between the Chairs and their respective committees. This has been a major step forward in ensuring continuity and accountability between AOSMs.

Sadly, during this time we also experienced the passing of **Anastasia from Russia**, who was serving as Chair of the WLP Committee. Anastasia was a bright star in our fellowship — a passionate and capable servant who embodied the spirit of A.A. service. Her loss has been deeply felt, not only in Russia but across our zone—from Fiji to Egypt. We are grateful to **Masaya from Japan**, her Alternate Chair, who stepped in to continue the committee's important work with the same dedication and grace.

For those attending their first AOSM, it may be worth noting that we did not always meet between gatherings as we do now. One positive legacy of the pandemic is that it opened new possibilities for global communication, allowing us to stay connected virtually in ways we never could before. These ongoing connections have kept our zone vibrant and informed during the two years between meetings. It was also at the last AOSM that we began discussions on how we might make this meeting hybrid, in part or in whole. We will test that this week with one of our sessions, followed by a discussion about what we learn from it.

We have also made great progress in re-establishing contact with countries that had not attended for some time and in opening new conversations with others who had never participated before. Over this term, we reached out to friends in **China, Bhutan, Iran, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, Taiwan, Vanuatu, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, and Cambodia**. It is especially heartening to welcome **Bhutan and Vietnam** back to this AOSM after their long absence. Each new or returning voice enriches

our shared experience and deepens our unity as a region.

This year's theme, **"One Message – Many Languages – One Fellowship,"** reminds us that while our words may differ, the message we carry must remain clear, consistent, and true to A.A.'s principles. It is both a call to maintain the integrity of our message and an invitation to extend its accessibility across cultures and languages—so that the still-suffering alcoholic can find us, wherever they live and whatever language they speak.

Structurally, the AOSM remains unique among zonal meetings. We are not coordinated by a single General Service Office; instead, we rotate both our location and our officers, ensuring shared ownership and responsibility across the region. The Chair rotates every two years, while the Secretary and Treasurer each serve four. In the past, both rotated at the same time, which meant that every four years, we had three new officers—a challenge to our continuity. When our Secretary had to step down in 2021 after only two years, it provided an opportunity to establish a **staggered rotation**, ensuring that at least one officer remains in place through each transition. As Simon and I both rotate out at the end of this week, **Steve will remain as Treasurer** for another two years, providing that much-needed continuity. This is also why we continue to encourage every country to send two delegates, so there is always overlap and shared experience between rotations.

A word about the **AOSM Archives**: several years ago, the New Zealand General Service Board and Conference agreed to act as the repository for our records. While this process has faced some delays due to staff changes and other circumstances, recent discussions with their General Service Office have clarified roles and expectations. They aren't ready to take on the responsibility yet, but I remain ready to assist with the transition of materials when the time is right, as I personally have a considerable

amount of historical and archival material ready to be passed along.

I also wish to thank our officers, committee chairs, and all who have served between meetings for their diligence and good spirit in keeping the work of the AOSM moving forward. In particular, a **special word of gratitude to our Secretary, Simon M.** — without whom none of us would be sitting here today. His professionalism, patience (especially with me), and steady dedication have been remarkable. There's a saying that if you want something done, give it to a busy person. That has certainly been true for **Simon, Steve, and me** these past two years. It's been crazy busy at times, yet I believe our Higher Power has given us just enough extra strength, willingness, and gratitude to carry on—one day, one task, and one act of service at a time.

I would also like to express sincere gratitude to **Morita-san of Japan** and **Steve of New Zealand** for their persistence in resolving our treasury situation. Following the passing of a previous treasurer in 2019, our funds were frozen for an extended period. Eventually, the assets were unfrozen and transferred to Japan while Morita-san was Treasurer. After his rotation, Steve faced many challenges in establishing a new account in New Zealand due to regulatory changes, which meant that Morita-san had to mind our funds for over a year past his rotation while Steve worked tirelessly to find a solution. He finally opened a new bank account in New Zealand, and the AOSM treasury is now in stable standing. This was no small task, especially given international banking restrictions and the reluctance of national GSOs in our zone to hold an account on behalf of the AOSM. We owe both of them deep thanks—particularly Morita-san, who remained available long after his rotation to help complete the transition. Moving forward, we will continue exploring a permanent solution for our banking arrangements, rather than rotating accounts every four years.

Finally, on behalf of all of us, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the **Singapore Host Committee** for their warm hospitality and tireless preparation in welcoming us to this beautiful country. This is the first time the AOSM has been held in Singapore, and your generosity and grace truly reflect the spirit of service that defines our fellowship.

This is my twelfth AOSM. I have attended every AOSM since 1999—except for those held in India and Thailand—first as an interpreter and, more recently, as a delegate and now Chair. This meeting holds a very special place in my heart. Serving as your Chair these past two years has been one of the most humbling and rewarding mountain-top experiences of my 38 years of sobriety. I thank you sincerely for trusting me with this responsibility. I know these three and a half days are going to go quickly, so I’m trying not to blink.

As we look toward the future, I am confident that the experience, enthusiasm, and unity in this room will continue to guide our fellowship in carrying the message ever further across our region.

I will reserve my more personal reflections for my closing remarks on Saturday, but for now, please accept my gratitude for your service, your participation, your fellowship, and your love of A.A. It has been a privilege to serve alongside each of you as we continue our journey of carrying the message—together, across this vast and remarkable zone.

With love and service,

Doug G.

Chair, Asia Oceania Service Meeting

A.2. TREASURER'S REPORT

STEVE K. — AOSM TREASURER 2023 - 2027



AOSM Bank Account in New Zealand

Moving the AOSM bank account from Japan to New Zealand has been challenging and we are incredibly grateful to the outgoing Treasurer Yasuhiko Morita for his continued support over the transition time.

To open an AOSM Bank account in New Zealand and under the International Money Laundering framework you must be one of the following identities:

- Limited Liability Company
- Registered Charitable Trust Organisation
- Personal Bank Account

AA New Zealand is a Charitable Trust, however at this time we were unable to gain the support of The New Zealand GSB to open a dedicated AOSM Group account under their charitable trust status, we will continue to discuss with them.

With this I opened a USD account within my personal banking arrangements which is not ideal as this was the only option available and to date seems to be working well. The downside is that from a taxation perspective I am personally liable for interest on tax and need to declare this in my own annual tax filing.

For the period since the last conference in 2023 there are two spreadsheets accompanying this report, one from Mitsubishi Bank in Japan and ASB Bank in New Zealand.

AOSM needs to consider their banking arrangements as part of voting in their Treasurer.

Current Position as of 16 October 2025

The current financial position of the AOSM is that we currently have USD10,918.38 in the bank. AOSM operates with a prudent reserve of USD 12,000 which leave an available balance of -1081.62

There are two outstanding income streams yet to be realized, being the AOSM dinner, which is hosted by the Singapore Intergroup USD2008.41 (SGD2,602 ex rate .7719) and six Delegate Fees yet to be paid for the 2025 conference USD2340.

Once realized AOSM will have a total cash position of USD15,266.79 including the USD12,000 Prudent Reserve.

Cash Position	
Cash on hand	10,918.38
Prudent Reserve	-12,000
Balance	-1,081.62
<i>Funds to be realised</i>	
Singapore Intergroup Dinner Refund	2008.41
Delegate Fees to be paid x6	2340
Total to be realised	4348.41
Balance excl Prudent Reserve	3,266.79
Balance incl. Prudent Reserve	15,266.79

Income

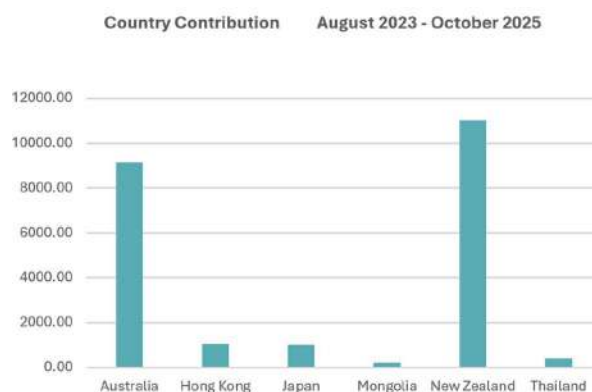
AOSM's primary source of income is Country Contributions. Secondary sources are conference delegates' fees and bank interest.

Income Source	USD
Country Contributions	22,206.98
Interest	414.45
Delegate Fees	6,277.00
Delegate Fees to be Realized	3,510.00
Total	32,408.43

Breakdown: Country Contributions August 2023 – October 2025

New Zealand and Australia have been the two highest contributors to AOSM with USD11,020 and USD9,140.29 respectively – Thank you for your ongoing support.

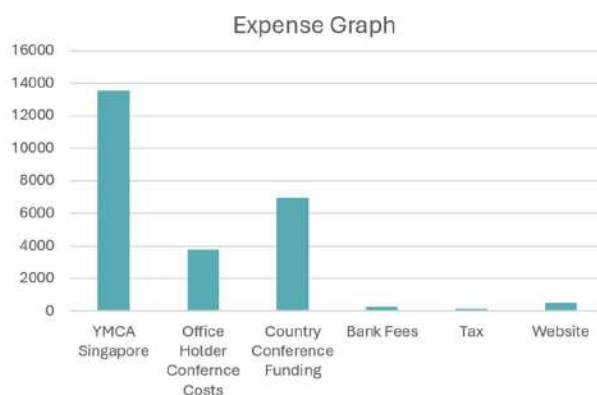
Country Contributions	
Australia	9140.29
Hong Kong	1041.00
Japan	1006.10
Mongolia	200.00
New Zealand	11,019.59
Thailand	390.00
Total	22,796.98



Expenditure

The biggest expense to AOSM is conference expenses followed by minor expenses of running the website, bank and local New Zealand Tax Fees.

YMCA Singapore	13557.38
Office Holder Conference Costs	3761.51
Country Conference Funding	6982
Bank Fees	266.3
Tax	136.31
Website	510
Total	25213.5



2025 Conference Costs- Singapore

Total cost of running the 2025 AOSM Conference is USD26,309.30 which includes the cost of the three Office Holders attendance (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and the hosted dinner by Singapore Intergroup of USD2,008.41.

The cost of the Singapore 2025 Delegates Conference to AOSM is USD26,309.30

YMCA Singapore AOSM	13,557.38
<i>YMCA Singapore Additional costs</i>	<i>2,400.00</i>
<i>YMCA Singapore Intergroup</i>	<i>2,008.41</i>
Country Conference Funding	6,982.00
Office Holder Conference Costs	3,761.51
Total	28,709.3

Documents that accompany this report

- Transactional Spreadsheet ASB Bank – New Zealand
- ASB Bank Statement September 2025 – New Zealand
- Transactional Spreadsheet Mitsubishi Bank – Japan

A.3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

SIMON M. — AOSM SECRETARY 2021-2025



Dear Trusted Servants, Fellow Delegates, Keen Observers and Gentle Friends, serving as your Secretary for the past four years has been the privilege of a

lifetime. As I look out at this gathering of dedicated servants from across our region, I am reminded of our primary purpose: to help the suffering alcoholic, and that every piece of administrative work, every email, and every meeting minute taken has been in service of that singular, vital goal.

First, I must express my profound thanks. An incredible team of individuals have made this journey not only possible but also deeply rewarding. It's a journey that I didn't know I needed and from which I'll benefit from decades to come.

To our Chair, Doug, I am perhaps the luckiest fellow to have taken up this role. Why? Because I've served alongside a Chair with unparalleled experience of AOSM, a deep knowledge of its procedures and protocols, and communication skills which I'm honestly in absolute awe of. Your guidance has been our compass for more than your term as Chair.

To our Treasurer, Steve, thank you for so effectively shielding our funds from people like me, who have no idea how to do simple sums, let alone manage a complex budget. Our finances have been in the best of hands.

My deep appreciation goes to our Committee Chairs—Sarah, Christine, Simon A., and Masaya. You have steered your committees toward ambitious targets with such grace and efficiency, making my support role a genuine pleasure.

To our interpreters, who work so tirelessly in the background of every meeting, thank you for

breaking down the language barriers that could otherwise divide us.

And finally, an immense thank you to the host committee in Singapore and to the Site Selection and Agenda Committee (SSA). You have created the perfect environment for us to conduct the business of the AOSM. We have never had to worry about the logistics of this meeting.

Over the past two years...

...the Secretary has been busy building on the foundation laid at the 15th AOSM in Fiji. My key focus has been on connection, record, continuity and access to information. I have compiled and maintained the live list of over 30 delegates, and key contacts. I've welcomed new delegates and assigned delegates to their committees, and I've felt it especially important to ease delegates into our service structure so they feel less intimidated and more empowered in their roles.

I have encouraged countries to return after an absence and I have nurtured relationships with those countries who may join us in the future; supporting them as they overcome internal conflicts and growing pains.

I have worked to strengthen our document storage solutions and provided administrative support to all subcommittees, ensuring their vital work could proceed unhindered.

In the new future...

... I feel we will certainly maintain our momentum. Our new website is poised to become a true hub for AA service across Asia-Oceania, from Egypt in the West, to Fiji in the East, and from Siberia in the North to New Zealand in the South. Our treasury is on a path to becoming more agile and resilient. Our

subcommittees, brimming with ideas, will continue to set and achieve ambitious targets. Most importantly, the infusion of new blood into our service structure promises fresh perspectives and new opportunities to carry the message.

We are here because the need is great. By expanding the reach of AA through literature and the spoken word, encouraging sound service structures, providing a link to the World Service Meeting, and sharing our experience, strength, and

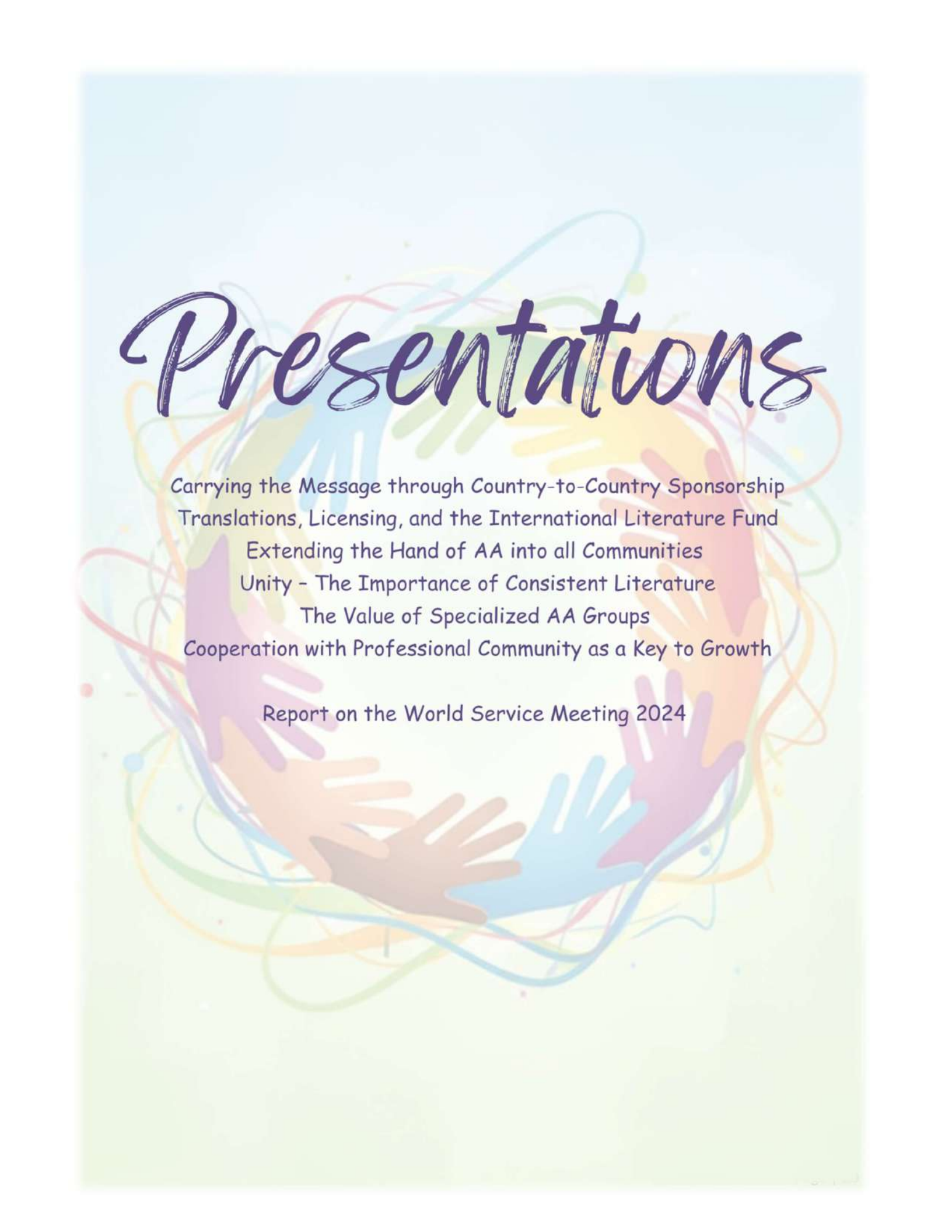
hope with one another, we collectively fulfill AOSM's fundamental purpose. The work we do in this room echoes in the lives of alcoholics who are still suffering in our member countries.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It has been an honor to serve you.

Yours, in the sunlight of the spirit

Simon M.

AOSM Secretary 2021-2025

The background features a light blue to green gradient. Overlaid on this are several stylized hands in various colors (blue, yellow, orange, red, purple, brown) arranged in a circular pattern, suggesting a global or community theme. Swirling, colorful lines in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red are scattered across the page, adding a dynamic and artistic feel.

Presentations

Carrying the Message through Country-to-Country Sponsorship

Translations, Licensing, and the International Literature Fund

Extending the Hand of AA into all Communities

Unity - The Importance of Consistent Literature

The Value of Specialized AA Groups

Cooperation with Professional Community as a Key to Growth

Report on the World Service Meeting 2024

B.1. CARRYING THE MESSAGE THROUGH COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SPONSORSHIP

BRIAN F. (2ND TERM AUSTRALIA)

Hello, my name is Brian F., an alcoholic, I am currently serving as the second term World Service Delegate for Australia. My Home group is the “Early Birds Breakfast Group” which meets on a Wednesday Morning at 7.00am at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast Queensland Australia. I first attended AA in a suburb of Sydney on Easter Monday 1971, but my declared sobriety date is the 18th of August 1985 as I consumed a mouthful of alcohol on that date at a “Vietnam Veteran’s Re-Union”. Today, I am honored and consider it a privilege to have been asked to address this AOSM on “Carrying the Message through Country-to-Country Sponsorship”.

I believe that before anyone can attempt such an action, there are a couple of things that are almost essential in achieving this. First “What is the message I want to carry?” and second “What is my experience in “Carrying the Message outside the Group”? So, how did I learn about and gain experience in service above the group and carrying an “AA Message to the Wider Community”.

I believe that the role starts by being a member of a home group that is active in service within the service structure of the country where that group resides. During my time as a Delegate within the AOSM I have come to realize how blessed we AA members in Australia are with most members truly not being aware of this. Why do I say this, because AA in Australia, which had its beginning’s in 1945, has been able to establish a service structure that used the USA as a template and was modified to suit the needs of Australia IE: we have a General Service Office with two paid workers, A General Service Board made up of eight Trustees, two Non-Alcoholic trustees and Two World Service Delegates plus a Board Secretary. The Board elects its Chair from the Trustees excluding the World Service Delegates. This all filters down to Areas with a Conference Delegate, Districts with a DCM and Groups represented by a GSR with the only obstacles being the ones that the

members themselves can create. I have in my time in AA served in the Roles of GSR for a group, DCM for a District and within Area as Chair, Secretary, Registrar and Alternate Delegate as well as being very involved in PI work in these structures. I currently am on a prison roster with other members where two of those on the roster attend a local maximum security prison to conduct AA meetings every Friday, except on Easter Friday and Xmas Day. I am also on a roster, from our group only, that attends a substance abuse clinic on Wednesdays fortnightly. It is pleasing that both these activities have male and female members participating.

How does all of this translate to Australia being “Blessed” because AA within this country is like a smorgasbord buffet, meetings everywhere of all types for example Topic meetings, Steps, Traditions, Concepts, Big Book Study, As Bill Sees It, Id, Living Sober, and many other different types of meetings. Unfortunately, some countries have ongoing obstacles such as Culture, and even Religion, with some having their own Government’s intervention on things such as internet and social media usage and finally, language barriers. The translation of literature to the needs of a country is where the Country-to-Country Sponsorship can be best utilized by Countries like Australia, and others, by those countries making financial aid available when and where it is requested mostly for translation or Delegate Fees so that a country can be represented by their Delegate being able to attend either the WSM or the AOSM. Australia has done this on many occasions.

So, where and how did my journey in service above the group begin. It was thirty-eight years ago, when I moved from the capital city of Sydney NSW Australia to a Coastal Rural town on the mid North Coast of NSW in Australia and there I was to meet a man that has really changed my understanding of the service roles in AA. This man’s name was Tom K. or aka

“Tom the Finn”, but he was also quite often called the Godfather of Service in Australia at that time.

The first time I met and spoke to him, and I quote, the conversation went as follows:

“Hey Brian, you do service? I quickly said yes Tom; I stack the chairs and wash the cups. He smiled and replied to me, you sit in the chair and you make the cup dirty so maybe this is just good manners.” He asked me who is the most important person in the meeting. I gave the standard reply of the newcomer, the older person who can no longer drive, yourself and every person in the meeting. Once again, he smiled and said perhaps it is the person who is not here, if they are not here then we are not doing our work. Brian always remember that it is anonymity not invisibility, so our responsibility is to create awareness within the wider community. He then asked what the symbol of AA is, and I said a triangle in a circle (It was at that time). Once again, he said no, it is an equilateral triangle and we should pay equal attention to all three sides, which are “Recovery, Unity and Service.” If you remove one of these, it would be the same as removing a leg from a three-legged stool. You will fall flat on your back.

Over the next few months, he introduced me to service within Districts and Areas in the AA Region where I lived. I became the PI coordinator for the District then the Area. I learnt how to conduct “AA Professional Awareness Luncheons”. Yes, we changed the terminology from “AA PI Meeting” because we did not want the event to sound like an AA meeting to our guests. He stressed AA needs to have a relationship with all the Health Agencies etc. within the community where the meetings are based and how AA can do this. My journey in AA service and various roles had now begun. I would like to explain how AA in Australia developed its own capacity for financial assistance to other not so fortunate countries where financial constraints hindered the growth of AA in their country. In 1994 the then Australian World Service Delegate, we only

had one at that time, Tom became aware that Australia had only donated \$60.40 to what was then known as the Foreign Literature Fund and nowadays known as the International Literature Fund. For the four-year period which ran from 1991 to 1994. Tom along with AA in Australia was not even aware that such a fund even existed except for the people who had made the one-off contribution (see handout sheet). Tom wrote to the District and Area where I lived showing his disappointment in Australia’s effort in funding as opposed to other countries. I suggested to him that perhaps simply a one-off contribution from each group in Australia, by way of donating all the monies collected at their meeting held closest or on the 10th June, known as funders day, could go to the Fund. He embraced this concept and the “AA General Service Board” in Australia took this as a topic to conference which was ratified by all who were in attendance. This now has become known in Australia as the “Brown Paper Bag Appeal” and in the first year, which was 1995, over \$26,000.00 was contributed. Australia conducts this appeal annually in the month of June and where originally all money was for the Literature Fund, it was changed so that now every year 75 per cent of money collected goes to sponsorship in our Region, Asia Oceania, and remaining 25 per cent to the International Literature Fund. So, as it is often said “From Little Things Big Things Grow” (see sample of bags).

Because of modern technology we all can be more regularly informed, and have better contact with each other, as opposed to the AOSM and WSM communications in their earlier days. A great lesson here as to perhaps why Tom was not aware of the “Foreign Literature Fund” because there was a lack of communication. Hence databases of all relevant AA matters can be compiled and become a great AA resource.

To best conduct assisting other persons or countries I truly believe that I should not see them or their country through “My Australian AA Eyes” but rather

listen to their concerns and not try to be a “Mr. Fix-It”. I need to always understand that there may be barriers or obstacles, which I have mentioned previously, that I have no understanding of in relation to AA in their country.

I always strongly suggest that they register themselves and their country with the AOSM because if placed on a database with the AOSM it will remain there forever. But, because the Delegates come and go then sometimes this very important information can disappear with them. In some Asian Countries there are “Ex-Pats” living or working on short or long-term contracts. Often these people are from different Countries and problems can arise because they often have different ideas about how AA should function. Such as how to obtain literature, who best to advise when starting a meeting, where to send money, who to contact EG: USA, Australia, WSM or AOSM.

I believe the role of the AOSM is not so much as to encourage and assist the meetings of AA in these places but rather to help these meetings grow the AA Fellowship in such countries where AA is in its infancy. To encourage a structure, regardless of the size of the Fellowship so that the growth in these countries aligns with other countries thus creating a uniformed structure and a well-informed Fellowship as opposed to un-formed or mis-informed members.

Australia has for many years been able to assist and support countries within our Zone with literature and financial aid. For example, in the past years financial assistance to Fiji to help host a convention and along with New Zealand host an AOSM. Iran and Bhutan were given financial aid to enable Delegates to attend the WSM and the AOSM. We have had regular contact with Indonesia and other Pacific

Countries. Currently assisting Papua New Guinea (PNG) with literature with a goal of AA commencing within PNG soon. We have last month sent literature to Samoa previously translated for them.

In closing I know that I always need to be very, very open-minded in these matters because minds, like parachutes, do their best work when open and are not of much use when closed. I always need to remember that I am not dealing with Australia. When an AA problem or request arises in Australia it is usually resolved with a phone call, an email, or sent to the appropriate Area or District for resolution, sometimes resolved immediately or within weeks. I should never compare my country to the country seeking assistance because of many of the things previously mentioned. I have learnt in my time in this role that AOSM Delegates sometimes, when requests for assistance are made, will just be part of the “AA Road Map” guiding members to the correct pathway for their country to become part of the AOSM and not really having an instant answer. The requests can be things such as financial, individual sponsoring, contact via social media, supplying literature, supplying contact information and simply just being available to assist for the wants and needs of the early growth of AA in more isolated countries. Why do we need to do these things, well because as it is stated:

“I AM RESPONSIBLE. WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE REACHES OUT FOR HELP, I WANT THE HAND OF AA ALWAYS TO BE THERE AND FOR THAT, I AM RESPONSIBLE”.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me to give you a patience and tolerance test and especially to those who extended to me the invitation to speak here today, possibly because they were hard pressed to find a relevant person, so they instead invited me.

B.2. EXTENDING THE HAND OF AA INTO ALL COMMUNITIES

DEEGI M. (2ND TERM MONGOLIA)

Mongolia is landlocked country in Asia 1,5 square km, with 3,25 million population.

The Mongolian Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) NGO established 1998, today working 180 groups and approximately 3500 members.

Mongolian Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) in history first time, Mongolian AA Service Conference held 2009. The conference decided: “We need Mongolian AA General service office. In the beginning we grew up without any structure, only General manager of Mongolian AA and regular members. But Japanese AA hardly worked in country sponsor for Mongolian AA. 1998-2009-year Mongolian AA happy celebrated our National and International Conventions. 2003 first time at the Terelj resort Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia held International Convention were participated foreign AA members. Meantime, Russian AA 15 members joined with big bus and from World General Service Office Inc USA & Canada arrived large trustees, too. During this period, we are biannually celebrated our AA convention with foreign and local AA members. According to the responsibility statement 2007 more than 130 local members celebrated Mongolian AA Convention with 20 foreigners from World General Service Office Inc USA & Canada 2 ladies, and other countries Russia, Japan.

In 2008, we celebrated 10th Anniversary of the Mongolian AA. This convention opened a new list in our history: one Canadian lady helped to work with steps Mongolian AA women. Many female AA members get understood spiritual weakness and start sponsorship communication. The Higher Power knew who is missing at the Fellowship, directly send to the AA. To the AA comes many newcomers with useful qualifications in our knowledge. Once our Convention theme was “Between two steps”.

Mongolian AA understood our members starts from

first step and stopped at the 12th step, without any between steps. Looks funny, but was true. Our sponsor country Japan send AA men to help with working on the program for male AA members. Of cause the language barrier is main problem working with steps, but many male members communicate with him on sponsorship.

The Higher Power built Mongolian AA true train and traffic road. The Mongolian population’s 65% living in capital, and AA groups same percentage is centralized Ulaanbaatar. Whole members wish good luck to fellowship, but we did not forget our traditions.

Today, Mongolian AA service conference meets every year and approved important decisions: Mongolian AA General Service Office, Mongolian AA Service manual with structure, General Service Board, approving International Service Conference Delegates AOSM and WSM. During the pandemic COVID-19 the conference delegates translated and installed own service manual. The virtually, in person many times translated & discussed under translation “A.A. Service manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for Worls Service by Bill W” 2016-2018 Edition. Finally, 2013 we are Mongolian AA approved our Mongolian AA Service manual. According to the rotation of the service position new delegates learn and keep safe 12 traditions.

We are successfully delivery 5 tradition in foreign countries: Russia, China, South Korea, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Turkey, UAE, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, USA, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Australia.

Today Mongolian AA has own AA structure, Service Conference, General Service Board, trustees, AOSM, and WSM delegates.

Mongolian AA delegate of the AOSM /Asian Oceana Service Meeting AA/ since 2013. In 2014 AA Hong

Kong together with AOSM Representatives of AA Australia and AA India are working with the members of AA Mongolia to bring a series of 12 Step and Traditions Workshops to the Fellowship of AA in Mongolia. The objective is to create sustainable 12 Step program understanding and to assist the fellowship in growing through sponsorship of Mongolian AAs by Mongolian AAs. This “12x12” workshops held in Mongolia 3 times (2014, 2015, 2016) according AOSM delegates assistance.

We have received 6 copyrights for translating & printing license from World Service Office AA: where 4 books & 2 pamphlets.

- Daily Reflection,
- As Bill says,
- Living sober,
- 12 Concepts.
- Mongolia AA Service manual
- Pamphlets:
- Twelve traditions illustrated,
- Circle & Love pamphlet onto Mongolian language, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2022-2023
- The 3 hard copies each literature publications delivered to the World General Service Office AA, New York, 26 June 2025. 15:30 local time.

Mongolians are very hospitable and friendly people; we have our National Convention biannually an International Convention once per 5 years.

The Mongolian AA 25th Anniversary International Convention hold at the Steppe Areen, and in “Enkhiig Sakhiulakh” Resort 07-09 July 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This international Convention first time translated in English and Mongolian Languages via virtual platform, were joined 100 AA members from other countries and 700 members in person: were 100 foreigners and 600 Mongolians.

Mongolian AA grew up to organize National conventions it is not only capital Ulaanbaatar in countryside too. Last National Convention held at the Ulaangom city, Uvs province 1500 km far from capital with 350 AA members participants.

The Higher Power always sent friendly AA people with Big heart. The daily sobriety gives to me visit more than 20 countries with uncountable AA members.

Thank you, GOD, to keep, help to our sobriety and wonderful life!

M. Deegi

AOSM 2nd term delegate from Mongolia

B.3. THE VALUE OF SPECIALIZED AA GROUPS

LAURA S. (2ND TERM - SOUTH KOREA)

Hello. My name is Laura, and I am an alcoholic. I have 24 years of sobriety.

Special composition or special purpose groups have been around in AA since the 1960s. These are considered to be meetings, not groups. Any meeting can decide how they run their meeting.

Certain people feel that their situation calls for discretion, such as judges, lawyers, pilots, and medical professionals. If the general public where they work and reside knew about their condition, this could cause them to lose their jobs. This is also true for teachers in Korea.

Entire rock bands have gotten sober, and actors also have private meetings if their condition is not known to the general public. Many of these people take their anonymity very seriously, and although anonymity is part of The Traditions, people do tend to talk about their favorite musicians or actors without thinking about the consequences.

Americans can point to Lindsey Lohan and Britney Spears as examples of this happening in real life. Years ago, one comedian refused to make jokes about these actors' very public falling from grace. He went on to talk about getting sober in a monologue, without mentioning AA and breaking his anonymity. He did mention that there is an organization that can help people that is reachable "in the phone book."

Then there are gay people, women, people of ethnic groups, and other special interest meetings. These people often feel misunderstood and even attacked in society, and possibly even by other AA members. Racial prejudices, misogyny, homophobia, and the like are, very unfortunately, part of the human condition. Throwing alcoholism into the mix means some of these people would be vilified if their condition were publicly known. Also, as we have found with AA in general, only someone who has

the same condition or experiences truly understands you.

In Korea, alcoholics are considered by the general public to be psychopaths, while at the same time there is an incredibly strong drinking culture where colleagues and bosses are forced to drink together. I had to explain that I had a medical condition, and if they insisted on forcing me to drink alcohol, they could call an ambulance to take me to the hospital. That got them to stop trying to force me to drink. I have also had people tell me I could drink again after years of sobriety. The sheer lack of knowledge about alcoholism is astounding in many countries and cultures. Korea also has a hierarchical society, with women as "lesser" than men, as well as the belief LGBTQ people (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and queer) "don't exist" in Korea. If a person is "outed" publicly as gay, most of those people commit suicide due to shame. This is a real problem in Asian cultures.

Women especially have to deal with creeper men who prey on them, called the 13th Step in the USA. Sponsors are quick to call out their sponsees for preying on people early in society, regardless of gender. Many women have been in or are going through abusive relationships in addition to getting sober. They are often terrified. They need to feel safe and protected. There are also meetings that use group funds to hire a babysitter or rotate volunteers so alcoholic parents can bring their children. Moms and dads get sober too, and if they have very young children not in school, they may find it extremely expensive to hire a babysitter for meetings.

Some people join AA groups that specifically talk about a certain religion or spirituality, or lack thereof. I have joined a Buddhist group, and I feel that Buddhist teachings dovetail nearly exactly with the 12 Steps, a wonderful revelation. There are also agnostic and atheist meetings. They follow the 12

Steps that remove “God” from their literature. The atheists and agnostics I have spoken to consider the group and AA structure as a whole to be their Higher Power. They do prodigious acts of service in their communities.

There are linguistic and cultural groups, such as Spanish speaking meetings in Las Vegas, or Deaf meetings for the hearing impaired. Native indigenous groups have their own meetings that include languages, traditions, and stories from their cultures, adding to the rich tapestry of AA.

Then there are people like me who are neuroatypical, or neurospicy as some of us like to call it. Many of us have brain differences. I have ADD, or Attention Deficit Disorder. This is an inability of the brain to regulate dopamine, the brain chemical that helps with focus. It is kind of like having 20 caffeinated squirrels in my head, all running around and chittering. I also have no sense of time or direction. Meditation was extremely difficult for me for a long time.

I was lucky enough to have sponsors who walked me through the program with dignity and kindness, but many people just don’t understand these issues and are unhelpful to neurospicy people. I heard a lot of, “Why don’t you just...” or “You have to..” If doing those things were that simple to use and actually worked, I would already be doing them! Some things are not as simplistic as they seem, but with support rather than judgment can be helped. For instance, one of my sponsors taught me to watch people’s lips while speaking because my brain likes to wander off during meetings. I am so lucky to be sober at this time in history, when I can get real help.

There are also alcoholics with mental disorders, or those who have lost someone who go to grief groups for alcoholics for a season. Many of us initially got into alcohol for self-medication purposes, and might need extra support to stay sober.

Medication can help with many of these conditions. Many old-timers in the program rail against taking “any other drugs,” failing to remember the proviso in AA literature that medicine given by a doctor is not under the purview of AA, unless the person becomes addicted to the substance. My doctor knows about my alcoholism, and the medication I am taking is not an opioid or a stimulant and it is non-addictive. I don’t “feel high” while taking it. This maelstrom of people taking other people’s medical inventory without any medical expertise drives these people to special meetings where they can openly talk about medications, their side effects, and things they have to do to stay sober while also maintaining oversight of their condition(s).

There are also groups of young people, with the appellation of Young People Alcoholics Anonymous, called YPAA. These people have a lot of energy once they are relieved of their cravings, and a lot of time to be of service and to do things together, like hiking and game nights. Many of them seem to be adrenaline junkies, and like bungee jumping and skydiving. In AA in Las Vegas, young members would join a sober “crew” and drive all over, going to meetings, being of service, and taking camping trips together. I think this should be encouraged. They have needs we old-timers have forgotten about, and their restless energy is exhausting to the rest of us, unless you have ADHD. That’s me but with hyperactivity; you can’t sit still. I know many alcoholics who fit that description. There are also AA groups for seniors!

Many of us do not come from healthy, happy homes. Many of us are children of alcoholics or drug addicts. There does seem to be a genetic link, so many of us come from very disturbed families. There is a separate program for this, Adult Children of Alcoholics, which is helpful to deal with the set of behaviors that interfere with normal functioning and even with sobriety. This can help pinpoint the underlying causes of many of our character defects

and disordered thinking, leading to much better program outcomes.

There are also hybrid meetings for cross-addicted people. For me, if it is an addiction and can blow up my life, I tend to invite it into my life and, like a grenade, pull the pin. This seems to happen every 8-10 years. I wake up, realize I've gotten addicted to something else, and have to attend yet another anonymous group. Some meetings merge AA and NA, because they crave both substances and want to talk about either one. That is up to each individual group. I attend a Buddhist group that talks about addiction as a whole being "suffering." I agree with this characterization. Destroying my life and the lives of those around me in the process of chasing my alcoholism or other addictions created suffering for multiple people.

So, special interest groups are here to stay, especially women's, LGBTQ, indigenous and linguistic, and young people's meetings. They add to the rich tapestry of AA. In my personal opinion, there would be fewer of these groups if we were more inclusive, multicultural, protective of those in early sobriety and those needing extra help, more active in protecting anonymity, and far less judgmental. Alcoholics can lay in a gutter and look down on other people. I've done it myself, many times. It took me years to get the medication I

needed for my ADD because I still heard the old-timers in my head railing against taking any medications. That's destructive, not instructive.

I suggest creating meetings that make sense. If you need a women's group and a men's group in your community, do that. If you have LGBTQ people in your community, help them start a meeting. Encourage your young people to get a sober crew. Make sure ethnic, linguistic, and indigenous peoples get the support, such as translation of literature into their languages, they need. Pilots, lawyers, judges, actors, and musicians can create their own meetings. Religious or non-religious people can practice the program while still maintaining their beliefs. And yes, you can attend "regular AA" while still attending your special interest group once or twice a week. More AA is good, provided the Traditions are followed in all meetings.

Thank you.

Any questions?

Resources

"Chapter 19 – Special Composition Groups In A.A." [Silkworth.net](https://silkworth.net). Retrieved from <https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/chapter-19-special-composition-groups-in-a-a/>

B.4. COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY AS A KEY TO GROWTH

CHRISTINE H. (2ND TERM - NEW ZEALAND/AOTEAROA)

When I was asked to do a presentation for this AOSM, my immediate response was Help me God. As usual I received guidance from my Higher Power, and I also talked to other AA members. The topic of Cooperating with Professionals as a key to growth is a talk that could take much longer than 15 minutes!

The most important thing to remember is that any decision at any level of AA is following the same important principle – Our Primary Purpose. Tradition 5 “Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” (12x12 page 190)

A past NZ WSD and previous AOSM Secretary led me to one of Bill W’s letters to Grapevine and, as I love our history, it seemed appropriate to include some of that history in this presentation. After all the 12 Steps arose out of our old-timers writing down what worked for them achieving sobriety and the 12 Traditions arose from the mistakes made in our early days. Non-Alcoholic people have played a tremendous part in supporting AA and its development over many years. Class A Trustees have had a great role in assisting the Fellowship right up to the present and will continue to do so for many years to come I believe. One of their many advantages is that they can talk openly to professionals and the media for us as they don’t have to maintain anonymity at the public level.

Bill W’s letter to Grapevine: October 1957

“Let’s Be Friendly with Our Friends... Press, Radio, Television”

By: Bill W.

Fourth in a Series

“IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1939. A few months before, our alcoholic fellowship, boasting all of one

hundred members, had published a book we called “Alcoholics Anonymous.” But nothing else had happened. Our books, five thousand of them, were piled in the warehouse of the printer, Cornwall Press, and nary a one could be sold.

The much-hoped-for piece in the *Reader’s Digest*--which might have told the public about us and the new book--had failed to materialize. Panic-stricken, we had rushed from one national magazine to another, pleading for help. But this was in vain. Works Publishing, the little company we had formed to launch the book venture, was flat broke and so was everybody else. There was seemingly no place to turn.

But Providence knew better. Just as we hit this new low, Fulton Oursler, then editor of *Liberty*, had a caller--a freelance writer named Morris Markey. From Charlie Towns, proprietor of the hospital where I had once been such a good customer, writer Markey had received a terrific build-up on AA which he now retailed to editor Oursler, one of the most perceptive men I have ever met. Fulton Oursler saw the possibilities in a flash. Said he, “Morris, you’ve got an assignment. Bring that story in here, and we will print it in September.”

Such were the words of AA’s first friend of the press. These words were to save the bankrupt book and they also meant that the public was to have its first view of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Just as promised. Morris Markey’s article, “Alcoholics and God” was printed in *Liberty* magazine. The results were immediate and electrifying. More than eight hundred urgent pleas for help hit *Liberty*’s office. We carefully answered each one, not forgetting to enclose a book order blank. Orders soon began to come in and, helped by still more letters from our little office on Vesey Street, and by travelling AA members, new groups started up.

In February 1940 we got another mighty lift, this time as the result of Mr Rockefeller's famous dinner at which he introduced us to his own friends and held AA up for the whole world to see. Again, the press did a job. This time many newspapers, including the tabloids, said good things about us and the great wire services carried the story worldwide. AA's membership jumped from eight hundred to over two thousand in twelve months.

In the spring of 1941, the same drama was re-enacted on a far larger scale. Mr Curtis Bok, owner of the *Saturday Evening Post*, saw AA at work in Philadelphia and urged his editors to select Jack Alexander to do a feature assignment. When Jack's piece hit the newsstands it brought in a Niagara-like flood of appeals for help. Two years later AA's membership stood at the ten thousand mark."

AA increased one-hundred- fold in four years!

Some of those early non-alcoholic friends went on to become Class A Trustees for AA.

The Readers Digest article did eventually get written. In 1946 Ian McE was detoxing in Nelson, New Zealand and he picked it up in a waiting room and read it. He wrote to that small office that became GSO in New York. He received a letter back and was sent a copy of the Big Book. The date the reply and Big Book were dispatched a pin was set in the world map saying AA was now in NZ. This is New Zealand's founding date, and we will celebrate 80 years of NZ AA next year.

Regarding the growth section of this topic: Obviously an increase in members is ideal as that would mean we have succeeded in carrying the message further to many suffering alcoholics. However personal growth is a factor here as well. As AA members we learn more individually about how a group conscience works and the Traditions as we proceed. Starting a new AA service role ensures that we develop and learn. Remember rotation- we learn as we go along and when we know the role it's time

to rotate out and pass it over for someone else to experience the growth.

When dealing with professionals we should remember that:

"2 A.A. is in competition with no one.

Our ability to help other alcoholics is *not* based on scientific or professional expertise. As A.A.s, *we are limited to sharing our own first-hand knowledge* of the suffering of an alcoholic, and of recovery."

We A.A. members can help best, not by passing judgements, but again simply by sharing our own personal experience."

Above quoted from Page 8 of the pamphlet P-29

HOW AA MEMBERS COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONALS

Some barriers that limit successful communication with professionals

Health professionals can operate from a harm minimisation model. AA of course suggests not putting the first drink in our system and we won't get drunk.

This sometimes causes a clash of philosophies. In this instance we remember Tradition 10. "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy." We speak from our own personal experience and do not attempt to debate the issues.

Requests for data showing success rates.

Professionals usually come from a science-based area and are used to reading about facts and figures when analysing the effectiveness of different options. We need to emphasize the non-professional approach that the Fellowship uses. If your country has done membership surveys the information from those is very useful here to pass onto Health Professionals. Also, we can mention the importance of Anonymity to protect the new

member coming to AA at the beginning of their recovery journey. Anonymity also protects AA from any of us who might be letting our egos run a bit out of control.

“You talk about God” Quietly point out that Step 2 and Step 3 are explaining it is a power greater than ourselves that each individual develops for themselves. Emphasize the spiritual nature of the programme and that it is not religious.

Some comments from Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous P-25 (pp 6 & 7): “Practised as a way of life, the Twelve Steps include elements found in the spiritual teachings of many faiths.”

“A.A. co-founder Bill W related this anecdote from a minister in Thailand: “We took A.A.’s Twelve Steps to the largest Buddhist monastery in this province, and the head priest said,” Why these steps are fine! For us as Buddhists, it might be slightly more acceptable if you had inserted the word ‘good’ in your steps instead of ‘God’. Nevertheless, you say that it is God as you understand Him, and that must certainly include the good. Yes, A.A.’s Twelve Steps will surely be accepted by the Buddhists around here.”

“Muslim faith leaders have also recognized the need to support a concept of spirituality modelled on the Twelve Steps. Says Canadian preacher and imam Dr Shabir Ally, “There’s nothing within the Steps that is contrary to Muslim faith.”

In New Zealand we have had several examples of using Class A (non-alcoholic) people on our Board and Conference. One utilised his contacts with our Police service at the National level and a highly successful initiative was set up where literature was stocked in local police stations and AA members made connections and explained what AA is and what it isn’t. They also did AA meeting demonstrations as a means of increasing understanding. Unfortunately, this was eventually affected by the rotation of staff in different positions and due to the loss of personal connections it lost effectiveness after some years.

Our General Service Delegates attend an Addictions Health professionals conference every 2 years. They have a literature stand and again do a demo AA meeting. While answering many questions they discovered that quite a few had no idea AA existed. One reason for this is possibly that they had done their training during the COVID timeframe and therefore their study was on-line only.

Currently we are developing training tools and videos for professionals explaining What is A.A and How A.A. Works. Our Class A Board member is hugely helpful with the process, so it is attractive to Professionals.

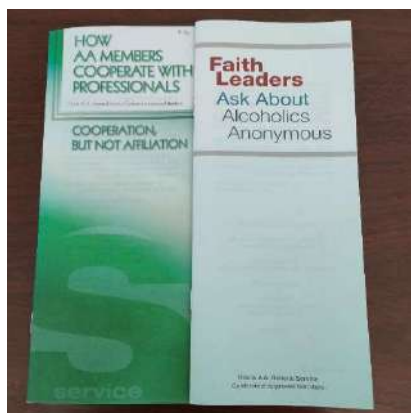
Packs of literature have been made up. These include the pamphlet Letter to Professionals and supporting information. The GSDs have distributed these to local members and CPC Committees. The packs have been given to people like their own Doctor.

For those wishing to have some guidance on how to approach Professionals with an introduction letter, there is a Cooperating with Professionals Kit available in the literature. This a vinyl pack of information, guidelines, pamphlets and sample letters that can be used as base for groups to use. This also includes a workbook which has useful steps and suggestions to assist members with how to proceed.

It can be discouraging doing service sometimes as the results we want don’t always eventuate immediately. Remember that when we take an action, we plant a seed and we never know how far it will travel and what impact it will have later.

I have attached the full text of Bill W’s letter to Grapevine and pictures of the 2 pamphlets used on the next few pages for you. I have also brought a few copies with me if anyone wants to take one away with them. Good luck with your service in this field.

1.1.1. Appendix One: Copy of Pamphlets



Appendix TWO: The full letter from Bill W to Grapevine

October 1957

"Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends... Press, Radio, Television"

By: Bill W.

Fourth in a Series

IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1939. A few months before, our alcoholic fellowship, boasting all of one hundred members, had published a book we called "Alcoholics Anonymous." But nothing else had happened. Our books, five thousand of them, were piled in the warehouse of the printer, Cornwall Press, and nary a one could be sold.

The much-hoped-for piece in the *Reader's Digest*--which might have told the public about us and the new book--had failed to materialize. Panic-stricken, we had rushed from one national magazine to another, pleading for help. But this was in vain. Works Publishing, the little company we had formed to launch the book venture, was flat broke and so was everybody else. There was seemingly no place to turn.

But Providence knew better. Just as we hit this new low, Fulton Oursler, then editor of *Liberty*, had a caller--a free-lance writer named Morris Markey. From Charlie Towns, proprietor of the hospital where I had once been such a good customer, writer Markey had received a terrific build-up on AA which

he now retailed to editor Oursler, one of the most perceptive men I have ever met. Fulton Oursler saw the possibilities in a flash. Said he, "Morris, you've got an assignment. Bring that story in here, and we will print it in September."

Such were the words of AA's first friend of the press. These words were to save the bankrupt book and they also meant that the public was to have its first view of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Just as promised, Morris Markey's article, "Alcoholics and God," was printed in *Liberty* magazine. The results were immediate and electrifying. More than eight hundred urgent pleas for help hit *Liberty's* office. We carefully answered each one, not forgetting to enclose a book order blank. Orders soon began to come in and, helped by still more letters from our little office on Vesey Street, and by traveling AA members, new groups started up.

Other news-hawkers were not long in following the Oursler example. A month later the public-spirited editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer gave writer Elrick B. Davis an assignment to cover AA and to go the limit. For days on end articles about AA in general and about AA in Cleveland in particular were a leading feature of the Plain Dealer.

Alongside these articles there appeared editorial exhortations which in effect said, "AA is good and it works. Come and get it." Again, the deluge. The tiny Cleveland group was swamped. But it happily survived and in a few months its numbers had shot up into the hundreds. Alcoholics Anonymous had started the year 1939 with less than one hundred members and it finished with more than eight hundred of them.

In February 1940 we got another mighty lift, this time as the result of Mr. Rockefeller's famous dinner at which he introduced us to his own friends and held AA up for the whole world to see. Again, the press did a job. This time many newspapers, including the tabloids, said good things about us and

the great wire services carried the story worldwide. AA's membership jumped from eight hundred to over two thousand in twelve months.

In the spring of 1941, the same drama was re-enacted on a far larger scale. Mr. Curtis Bok, owner of the *Saturday Evening Post*, saw AA at work in Philadelphia and urged his editors to select Jack Alexander to do a feature assignment. When Jack's piece hit the newsstands it brought in a Niagara-like flood of appeals for help. Two years later AA's membership stood at the ten thousand mark.

By telling our story to the American public this small band of early friends had increased AA's ranks by one-hundred-fold in the short space of four years, had made AA a national institution, and had laid the foundation upon which our society has grown so mightily ever since.

Today the list of AA's friends in press, radio, and television is legion. At our Headquarters we subscribe to an extensive clipping service. Every week the mass of clipsheets tell us the graphic story of what these friends have said and done. It is a never-ending and always growing stream of life-giving blood which they pump into our world arteries.

While word-of-mouth and personal contact has brought in many a newcomer, we can never forget that most of us are able to trace our chance for recovery back to our friends in communications--we read, or maybe we heard, or we saw. That is why AA now has 200,000 active members.

Sometimes we hear members complain about the press as though we were being exploited for stories and profit. They say, "Well, those writers make a good living out of storytelling and the publishers make their profits. After all, what is so remarkable about that? They are only acting as they normally would."

However, most of us realize that such statements are far less than half the truth.

Practically every writer and editor of our acquaintance has gone far beyond his call to duty or his natural desire for a stirring story.

Years ago, we requested all people in communications to respect the anonymity of our members. This was asking for a great deal because the average reporter couldn't imagine doing business without full names and pictures. But when we explained the "why" of our anonymity--that we dare not allow "big shot-ism" to get going among us--they saw the situation at once; and they have ever since fallen over backward to conform to our needs, despite many a temptation to publicize personally our nationally famous members. On a few occasions, such members have deliberately broken anonymity, but this has seldom been the fault of the press. As a matter of fact, editors have frequently restrained over-eager AAs who wanted their membership made public.

In their continuing enthusiasm for AA many of these friends have gone still further. They have personally dedicated, themselves to our cause. Jack Alexander, for Instance, became a trustee for AA and greatly helped us with our literature; problem, and never missed a chance to give us a boost by word and by pen.

Less well known is the relation we had with Fulton Oursler. His was a most brilliant example of personal dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 1944, it was decided that AA ought to have a monthly magazine. By this time Fulton had seen. AA at work close at hand. A person well known to him had made a remarkable recovery. The moment Fulton heard of our magazine project he volunteered at once and, though never an alcoholic, he became a member of The Grapevine's editorial board and one of its founders. He went into his own pocket for organization expenses, gave advice, scanned manuscripts, and wrote a piece for one of the early issues which he called "Alcoholics Are Charming People." We afterward joshed him about

this title. Grinning, he used to say that the title should have been "Some Alcoholics Are Charming People"!

In the years afterward I came to know friend Fulton very well. A busier man I have never seen. No matter when he went to bed, nothing short of pneumonia could keep him from being at his desk at five A.M. where he wrote until eleven. But his day had then only begun; his countless friends and activities kept him going far into the evening, and I was the one who sometimes kept him up until midnight.

AA was then in the storms of its adolescence. Our Headquarters was just taking on its shape and its responsibility. We needed advice, especially about public relations, and it was to Fulton that I frequently went. It was in this period that Fulton became a Senior Editor of the *Reader's Digest*, where his helpfulness to us was soon reflected in the wide coverage they began, to give us.

Then came the time when we wanted. Fulton as a trustee for AA. Knowing his immense burden of work, I was most reluctant to ask him. But I needn't have felt that way, for when I popped the question, his face lit up and he said, "Why, certainly! When do I begin?" Fulton couldn't get to all our meetings, but he was always on tap. I remember once breaking

into his busy hours with a request that he help us out in Hollywood where we were in a jam with a motion picture producer. He instantly dropped his work and got on the long-distance phone. Within an hour he called me back to say that everything was settled, that we need worry no more.

A few months before he died, we spent one more evening together. It was then that he told me what AA had meant to him. Most humbly describing his earlier life as a time of prideful agnosticism and sophistication which had led him down a blind alley, he went on to relate how the example of AA had affected him; how he had eventually joined the church of his choice, and how these two influences had inspired him to write about the Bible in "The Greatest Story Ever Told." He had done for AA, he went on to say, only a fraction of what AA had done for him, a non-alcoholic.

These, and a host of other experiences with the men and women of press, radio, and television, plainly tell us of what their dedication has meant. In nearly every city where AA grows today, we see our friends in communications following in the footsteps of Jack Alexander and Fulton Oursler.

For all such couriers of good will, let us be everlastingly grateful. And let us always be worthy of their friendship.

B.5. UNITY – THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENT LITERATURE

SARAH N. (2ND TERM MERCAA)

Unity - The Importance of Consistent Literature

Let's imagine something for a moment...

- What if you left your very first A.A. meeting without a copy of the Big Book?
- What if you never received those first 164 pages of the Big Book- the part that outlines how we recover?

- How would that impact your understanding of A.A.?
- Would you understand- the body, mind and spiritual malady of Alcoholism with the outlined description in the Drs Opinion?
- How would identification - and ultimately recovery - even be possible?

In A.A., our literature is more than words on a page — it's a shared message, a guiding light, and a powerful tool that connects us all.

Access to A.A.-approved literature fosters unity. It generates harmony- allowing members across the world to work together, recover together, and understand a single, shared solution.

Why Consistent Literature Matters

Consistent literature provides a cohesive and meaningful experience by:

- enhancing understanding
- reinforcing the core message of recovery
- allowing for deeper emotional and intellectual connection

When literature is inconsistent, it causes confusion. It fragments the experience. The message gets blurred- and with it, our unity suffers.

The Role of A.A.-Approved Literature

A.A.-approved literature is not just about being "official" — it's about preserving the clarity of the message. It:

- protects the integrity of our program
- supports individual recovery
- unifies groups under the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- ensures that newcomers and long-timers alike are hearing the same message When we read from the same page — literally- we share the same solution.

Inconsistency Creates Fragmentation

In my experience, when literature is inconsistent, it opens the door to:

- unapproved texts with unclear or diluted messages
- circulating Free PDFs instead of members contributing to literature funds

- loss of the spiritual principle of self-support, as outlined in Tradition Seven

When people rely on unofficial resources, it not only threatens the integrity of the message- it also undermines our group responsibility to be **self-supporting through our own contributions**.

This isn't just about money - it's about the spiritual principle of integrity: putting the group's needs before personal convenience.

Translation Issues: A Global Challenge

Another major concern is **inconsistent literature in other languages**. When translations are not done through official A.A. channels:

- The message can be distorted and diluted
- Cultural misunderstandings arise
- Spiritual concepts can be completely lost

Example

The chapter "We Agnostics," was once translated into Arabic as "The Nonbelievers." Think about the impact of that on a newcomer who already struggles to separate religion from spirituality. When translations are done by non-alcoholics, the emotional tone — the "language of the heart," the alcoholic struggle and dis-ease often disappears.

Who Gets Left Behind?

Inconsistent or inaccessible literature affects:

- People who can't read
- People with learning difficulties
- People whose first language isn't English
- Newcomers who haven't yet found their "recovery language."

These members are often reliant on others to interpret or explain the message - instead of being given the right to read and understand it for themselves.

We must ensure that all voices are heard, and all members are included - especially those who are marginalized.

Unity Is Not Uniformity

Let's be clear - unity does not mean uniformity.

We don't all have to think alike. In fact, our differences in experience, background, and belief are part of what makes the fellowship so strong.

But what unites us is the message — the message that we do recover, and the steps and principles that show us how.

Consistent literature doesn't force conformity - it provides a common foundation, so that no matter where you go in the world, the heart of A.A. remains the same.

Literature Is the Foundation

A.A. literature gives us access to:

- The Twelve Steps — for personal recovery
- The Twelve Traditions - for group unity

- Service guidelines - for spiritual growth and connection

It teaches us how to build **healthy, independent relationships** in all areas of our lives.

It reminds us of who we are, where we came from, and what we're working toward - together.

Final Thought

Consistent literature is essential not just for individual recovery - but for the **unity and survival of the fellowship**.

It is the thread that connects us — across time zones, cultures, and experiences.

It carries the message to the next suffering alcoholic. It makes recovery possible for people who haven't even walked through the doors yet.

B.6. INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FUND & WSM FUND

BOB W. (GM, GSO USA/CANADA)

Since the inception of the International Literature Fund in 1990, the impact on the increase of the reach of our literature into the hands of hopeless alcoholics is incalculable. The generous contributions from around the world since that time are truly amazing and are now in excess of over 2 million dollars.

In 1992, the literature/publishing committee of the World Service Meeting agreed that the International Literature Fund should be under the purview of the World Service Meeting literature/publishing committee. The committee also suggested that *“A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) use proceeds of the International Literature Fund to offset A.A.W.S.’s expenditures for foreign literature assistance, and to reimburse similar expenses incurred by other overseas A.A. offices or boards.”* They further noted that *“A.A.W.S. should have the latitude to prioritize the use of these monies based on the need as expressed by each GSO and World Service delegate.”*

Since that time, the General Service Office of the U.S./Canada has carried out the administration of this fund. Over the years the activity levels of assisting other countries with the cost of translating, producing, and distributing literature have been very robust. To illustrate this point, when the idea of the fund was born in 1990, the Big Book was translated into about 17 languages and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* into 3 languages. Today they are translated into 74 and 52 respectively. And that’s only the translation of two books! There are so many other titles and pamphlets that have been through the same process. You can imagine the hours and efforts that went into making this possible. Without this fund, we wouldn’t have been able to come close to this achievement.

The General Service Office in New York has now implemented detailed guidance to apply when utilizing these funds. We have instituted new accounting procedures that allow us to account for

both inflows and outflows of the fund in full detail. Based on the many activities related to the international literature assistance we provided to other structures for literature, we are certain costs have been well in excess of the funds received. Of particular note is our investment in our technology to track translation and licensing activity, which allows us to assist countries more efficiently.

Accounting and governance policies have now been implemented along with procedures that allow for detailed and transparent reporting which has been asked of us for some time. Of note is the establishment of a separate bank account dedicated specifically to the International Literature Fund. This allows for regular reconciliation of all activity within the fund and assurance of accuracy in our reporting.

We provide interim reports to each of the zonal meetings. Our oversight policy also requires that complete fund activity be reported to the AAWS Board on a quarterly basis for review and be subsequently forwarded to the Trustees International Committee of the General Service Board for their review.

Our office provides a substantial amount services relating to licensing, translation and distribution of AA literature. We have formally updated our policies, standards and processes which have greatly improved our efficiency and ability to carry out these services to structures around the world. Included is the determination that all requests related to international literature that have costs attached are drawn from the ILF.

Since the last report to the AOSM meeting in 2023, contributions the International Literature Fund from July 2023 through June 2025 totaled \$193,813. Outflows during the same period were \$31,474 leaving a balance in the fund to \$196,996.70. The substantial contributions to the fund are extremely

heartwarming and we are very grateful for the generosity of the many structures who contributed.

Each of these funds was created to further advance the ability to carry the lifesaving message of AA around the world through our literature and sharing experience, strength and hope with one another. Upon review of each of these reports, it is clear that more support is needed at the present time for the World Service Meeting. This may change as time goes on but for the time being, there is enough in the International Literature Fund to sustain support requests. Specifically, you will note in the ILF report that withdrawals are substantially less than the contributions. For this specific reporting period, a difference of \$156,000. It would be most helpful to direct your support to the World Service Meeting

Thank you very much.

Fund. If your structure has not considered additional support for this year's meeting, please consider doing so.

I recognize reaching the goal of self-support is challenging but I have faith we can find a way. All of us hold an equal Seventh Tradition responsibility to both the International Literature Fund and the World Service Meeting Fund. That said, the most important aspect of the Seventh Tradition is participation. Contributions to each of these funds, no matter how small, all hold equal spiritual value. With this in mind, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the sacrifices so many countries around the world have made to participate. They have assisted so many counties in carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FUND REPORT - AQSM OCTOBER 2025

	2023		2024					2025					Since Last AOSM Oct 23-Jun25
	Quarter 3 Jul - Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Quarter 1 Jan-Mar	Quarter 2 Apr-Jun	Quarter 3 Jul-Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Full Year Jan - Dec	Quarter 1 Jan-Mar	Quarter 2 Apr-Jun	Quarter 3 Jul-Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Year to Date	
Beginning Balance	34,657.28	35,890.23	49,126.27	50,431.89	87,221.63	153,901.36	49,126.27	178,514.97	186,133.50	196,996.70	196,996.70	178,514.97	34,657.28
Contributions	1,455.55	13,246.04	7,849.97	37,896.53	68,052.73	29,302.61	143,101.84	17,690.57	18,319.19	0.00	0.00	36,009.76	193,813.19
Withdrawn from Fund	(222.60)	0.00	(6,554.35)	(1,105.79)	(1,373.00)	(4,689.00)	(13,723.14)	(10,072.04)	(7,455.99)	0.00	0.00	(17,528.03)	(3,473.77)
Quarter End/Ine Balance	35,890.23	49,126.27	50,431.89	87,221.63	153,901.36	178,514.97	178,514.97	186,133.50	196,996.70	196,996.70	196,996.70	196,996.70	196,996.70

CONTRIBUTIONS DETAIL

CONTRIBUTIONS DETAIL													
COUNTRY	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	FY 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	FY 2025	Oct 23-Jun25
Argentina	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,029.63	0.00	0.00	3,029.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,029.63
Austria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,583.10	0.00	0.00	6,583.10	6,583.10
Brazil	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Bulgaria	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Chile	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Colombia	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Costa Rica	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Czech Republic	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Denmark	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,947.55	0.00	29,947.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,947.55
Ecuador	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	600.00
Finland	0.00	783.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	783.04
France	530.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,039.90	0.00	1,039.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,570.45
French Speaking Europe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,218.11	0.00	3,218.11	0.00	5,125.59	0.00	0.00	5,125.59	8,343.70
German speaking Europe	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,331.85	0.00	0.00	6,331.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,331.85
German speaking Switzerland	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,687.69	0.00	0.00	2,687.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,687.69
Guatemala	225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.00
Hong Kong	0.00	0.00	871.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	871.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	871.12
Iceland	0.00	980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	980.00
India	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Ireland	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,780.53	31,922.84	23,461.40	79,164.77	15,074.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,074.44	94,239.21
Italy	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,575.83	0.00	0.00	1,575.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,575.83
Japan	0.00	683.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	526.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	526.03	1,009.51
Lithuania	0.00	488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	488.00
Mexico	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,990.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,990.00	1,990.00
Mongolia	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
New Zealand	0.00	870.39	0.00	0.00	924.33	0.00	924.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,794.72
Online Intergroup of A.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paraguay	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.00
Peru	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poland	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
Slovakia	0.00	0.00	521.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	521.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	521.52
Slovenia	0.00	497.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,072.50	1,072.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,569.58
Spain	0.00	2,152.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,031.80	2,031.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,184.20
Sweden	0.00	0.00	8,097.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,097.33	0.00	6,310.50	0.00	0.00	6,310.50	12,407.83
Switzerland	0.00	2,191.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,191.65
Group in Netherlands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	486.91	486.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	486.91
Total Contributions	1,455.55	13,246.04	7,849.97	37,896.53	68,052.73	29,302.61	143,101.84	17,690.57	18,319.19	0.00	0.00	36,009.76	193,813.13

WITHDRAWN FROM FUND DETAIL

USE	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	FY 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	FY 2025	Oct 23-Jun25
Literature for Cuba	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,602.04	1,695.99				7,298.03
Kyrgyz language translation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,600.00	0.00			2,600.00	2,600.00
Kinyarwanda language translation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00			4,000.00	4,000.00
Guarani language literature review	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	225.00
Literature sent to Kenya	0.00	0.00	2,114.50	0.00	898.00	0.00	3,012.50	0.00	0.00			0.00	3,012.50
Literature sent to Nigeria	0.00	0.00	592.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	592.85	0.00	0.00			0.00	592.85
Literature translation reviews	0.00	0.00	0.00	432.00	0.00	0.00	432.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	432.00
Haitian Creole translation	0.00	0.00	3,847.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,847.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	3,847.00
Literature sent to other countries	0.00	0.00	0.00	449.79	189.00	0.00	638.79	0.00	0.00			0.00	638.79
Translation into other languages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	286.00	4,869.00	4,975.00	1,870.00	1,760.00			3,630.00	8,605.00
Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Postage Corrections	222.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	222.60
Total Withdrawn From Fund	222.60	0.00	6,554.35	1,106.79	1,373.00	4,869.00	13,723.14	10,072.04	7,455.99	0.00	0.00	17,528.03	31,473.17

WORLD SERVICE MEETING FUND REPORT - AOSM OCTOBER 2025

	2023		2024						2025						Since Last
	Quarter 3 July - Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Quarter 1 Jan-Mar	Quarter 2 Apr-Jun	Quarter 3 Jul-Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Delegate Fee Support	Full Year Jan - Dec	Quarter 1 Jan-Mar	Quarter 2 Apr-Jun	Quarter 3 Jul-Sep	Quarter 4 Oct - Dec	Delegate Fee Support	Full Year Jan - Dec	AQSM Jul23-Jun25
Beginning Balance	37,073.36	37,703.91	62,078.76	62,078.76	64,598.71	73,367.97	0.00	62,078.76	2,000.00	859.84	859.84	859.84	0.00	2,000.00	37,073.36
Contributions	630.55	24,674.85	0.00	2,519.95	17,222.15	75,029.53	0.00	94,771.83	626.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	626.13	120,703.16
Withdrawn from Fund	0.00	(300.00)	0.00	0.00	(6,452.86)	(89,137.89)	(57,259.70)	(154,850.39)	(1,766.29)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,766.29)	(156,916.68)
Quarter End/Ino Balance	37,703.91	62,078.76	62,078.76	64,598.71	73,367.97	59,250.70	(57,259.70)	2,000.00	859.84	859.84	859.84	859.84	0.00	859.84	859.84

CONTRIBUTIONS DETAIL

CONTRIBUTIONS DETAIL										
Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,681.60	0.00	15,681.60	0.00	0.00	15,681.60
Flemish speaking Belgium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,359.53	0.00	1,359.53	0.00	0.00	1,359.53
Bulgaria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Costa Rica	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
France	530.55	0.00	0.00	519.95	0.00	0.00	519.95	0.00	0.00	1,050.50
German speaking Europe	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
India	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Italy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan	0.00	626.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	626.13	0.00	1,309.61
Lithuania	0.00	488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	488.00
Portugal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Slovenia	0.00	497.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,072.70	1,072.70	0.00	0.00	1,569.78
South Africa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,150.20	1,150.20	0.00	0.00	1,150.20
Sweden	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Turkey	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Great Britain	0.00	23,006.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,447.10	64,447.10	0.00	0.00	87,453.39
New Zealand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,540.55	0.00	1,540.55	0.00	0.00	1,540.55
Poland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Russia 2020 delegate fee taken as WSM fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Contributions	630.55	24,674.85	0.00	2,519.95	17,222.15	75,029.53	94,771.63	626.13	0.00	120,703.16

WITHDRAWN FROM FUND DETAIL

WITHDRAWN FROM FUND DETAIL																
Bank Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00
Travel expenses, less reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00		6,452.89	4,515.71	57,259.70	70,238.30		1,766.29					1,766.29	71,994.59
Support to AAWS US/Canada	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,622.09		84,622.09		0.00					0.00	84,622.09
Posting Corrections (ILF-Delegate Fee-WSMF)	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00						300.00
Total Withdrawn From Fund	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	8,452.89	89,137.80	57,259.70	154,850.39		1,766.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,766.29	156,616.68

28TH WORLD SERVICE MEETING
FINAL INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Delegate Fees Received from Countries (74 delegates attended)	102,163	104,000	(1,837)
Delegate Fees Supported by WSM Fund	45,837	44,000	1,837
Country Responsibility Travel (Airfare) Supported by WSM Fund	24,391	13,000	11,391
Meeting Deficit Supported by WSM Fund	88,158	105,079	(16,921)
TOTAL REVENUE	260,549	266,079	(5,530)
EXPENSE			
Professional Fees			
Editorial Services	2,025	13,000	(10,975)
Temporary Help	550	0	550
Translation	17,937	1,000	16,937
Interpretation	13,958	7,800	6,158
Subtotal Professional Fees	34,469	21,800	12,669
Printing, Postage, and Supplies			
Office Supplies	890	0	890
Postage	368	1,200	(832)
Printing	91	0	91
Subtotal Printing, Postage, and Supplies	1,349	1,200	149
Travel and Meetings			
AAWS Responsibility Travel (Ground Transportation)	10,142	47,833	(37,691)
Meals	124,658	116,325	8,333
Hotel	140,882	136,458	4,424
Entertainment	1,654	0	1,654
Audio Visual	75,044	75,000	44
Subtotal Travel and Meetings	352,380	375,616	(23,236)
US/CAN Delegate Fees	4,000	4,000	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	392,198	402,616	(10,418)
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(131,649)	(136,537)	4,888
SUPPORT FROM AAWS FOR DEFICIT	131,649	136,537	(4,888)
Number of Delegates	74		
Cost per Delegate (excluding US/CAN delegate fees)	5,246		

B.7. TRANSLATION & LICENSING REPORT

IRENE D. (INTERNATIONAL DESK; GSO USA/CANADA)

Good afternoon, my name is Irene, I am an alcoholic and Staff Member at the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, US and Canada, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to present the AA World Services Translation & Licensing report.

Starting in 2022 and following the vision of the General Manager Bob Wilcox to provide additional resources and new processes to the international licensing and translation services many changes have been made.

A separate department, Legal Licensing and Intellectual Property Department (LLIP) took over the functions previously under the Publishing Department. Under the direction of Beverly Jones-King the department oversees international licensing and translation services, intellectual property, copyrights, and general legal coordination.

As previously reported at the 28th WSM and in at the 15th AOSM, the implementation of the Translation and Licensing Portal provides AA structures access to the licensing team, the ability to input requests directly and to review the status of each country or AA entity license status. We continue to encourage all structures to register and use TL Connection to request and manage their licenses as this is the most efficient and preferred way to receive licensing requests, see statuses and pose questions. If you have any questions please reach out to the Licensing team by writing to the email tl@aa.org.

Summary of the Activity of Translation and Licensing Services

220 Licenses to reproduce and distribute

The 2025 calendar year began with a strong focus on prioritizing the License Request Process, emphasizing the use of DocuSign, and

strengthening overall relationships with GSOs. The introduction of the new multi-purpose license form significantly streamlined the licensing process by centralizing operations and reducing the need for multiple license types. DocuSign enabled us to process over 200 licenses for at least 30 countries.

Reviews Status

For the period January – June 2025 the total number of translation reviews completed by our independent translation-evaluation services stands at 18 across 11 languages (including those resubmitted for review).

India had multiple projects move forward.

General guidelines for the processes of TL

- AA World Services, Inc. literature can only be offered for sale by an official General Service Office (GSO) and/or General Service Board.
- The standard term of licenses will be issued for 10 years.
- Countries that do not have an established GSO or General Services Board may still be eligible to obtain A.A. Literature translation permissions and print authorization. These authorizations will provide authority that local printers may require to print specific quantities and titles without a license.
- “Translation is an art not a science”. Many factors contribute to a successful translation. The use of AI or on-line or electronic translation tools such as Google translate, Deeple, etc. are helpful to many of us when communicating with each other but is not an accepted method for the translation of A.A. Literature.

- AA World Services, Inc. does not charge for translation rights to the literature they publish.
- The General Service Office in New York handles all copyright registrations for all translations, therefore other structures don't need to be concerned with this process.
- Translations, Licenses, or amendments will be available in print (books or pamphlets), eBooks, audiobooks, and video.

Now here is the activity as reflected in the handouts:

74 Big Book languages total (including English)
The Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* is available in a total of 74 languages, which includes the original English. Fifty-six (56) of the languages are available on our Webstore. Please see the attached chart (1. Big Book by Language – June 2025) for detailed information.

2024 – 73 languages; 2 dropped/removed (from 2023-year count of 75)

(1) Ojibway – Not available

(2) Welsh – Not available

January – June 2025- 74 languages; 1 addition –
Kyrgyz – Kyrgyzstan print authorization granted to printing in Kyrgyzstan to the Literature committee

There are 6 Big Books in translations pending in various languages. The translations are at various stages of completion.

52 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions languages

There are 52 total languages available of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and 1 pending translation. Please see the attached chart (2. 12 x 12 by Language – June 2025) for detailed information.

113 Languages Worldwide

As of June 2025, A.A. items of literature (books, booklets, pamphlets, the Twelve Steps, and so forth) are in 113 languages worldwide. Please see the attached chart (3. Languages World Wide) *Note: this list is a preliminary list of languages currently under review, the goal is to have a detailed list with each language and its exact availability.*

Karen, Somali and Bambara – The pamphlets titled “How It Works” and “This Is A.A.” were translated professionally for each of these 3 languages listed above. They are currently available in our store.

Translations Under Consideration

Translations under consideration consists of translations submitted in the past that were identified during the cleanup process and transition to Translation Licensing Connection (TLC). The International Desk is beginning contact with countries regarding these translations. Please see the attached chart (4. Translations Under Consideration) for detailed information.

Translations in Progress

Please see the attached chart (5. Translations in Progress) for detailed information regarding new translations and retranslations of various titles in progress. Within the items listed are 6 new translations of the Big Book:

1. Haitian Creole / Kreyol – The Big Book translation is under review by a local committee consisting of 3 AA members who speak Haitian Creole from areas around the US.
2. The group reviews the translation of each chapter of the Big Book, including Doctor Bob's Nightmare.
3. Kazakhstan / Kazakh – We are waiting to hear from the local committee regarding further translation (approval of Chapter 5 was given).

4. Mexico / Spanish Sign Language – We are waiting for the digital file from the local committee to submit the translation for review.
5. New Zealand / Māori – The local committee is working on some matters with the reviewers of the translation. They hope to send the completed translation in the near future.
6. Rwanda / Kinyarwanda – We have a new contact (from Rwanda) for this project. Support is being offered by GSO to help with the final polishing phase of the translation.

Appendices

Please contact AOSM Secretary or Irene D. or GSO International Desk for copies.

We are exploring options with our vendors to assist with the completion of this project.

7. Serbia / Serbian – Local committee Continuing working on translation and will send to us when it is ready for printing.

Lastly and as requested by 15th AOSM included in the handouts please see summary of the Translation and Licensing processes and the TL Frequently Asked Questions document.

I will be happy to respond your questions during the weekend.

Grateful for your service and love of AA.

-  1. BB by language comparison 2020-2025 (1)
-  2. 12x12 by language comparison 2020-2025
-  3. Languages World Wide
-  4. Translations Under Consideration
-  5. Translations in Progress
-  6. TL Process Flow
-  7. TL_FAQ.EN_Rev.2023

B.8. WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPORT

MASAYA O — 2ND TERM DELEGATE - JAPAN

I am Masaya, Japan's 2nd-term delegate. It is an honor to serve in this role, entrusted by AOSM. This is my report on the 28th World Service Meeting (WSM), held in New York City, October 27–31, 2024.

The WSM convenes every two years, with New York typically hosting every four years. When WSM is held in New York, the program includes the main sessions plus a visit to the U.S./Canada General Service Office (GSO). Optional activities after WSM included a bus tour to 'Stepping Stones' on November 1 and observer attendance at the U.S./Canada General Service Board meetings, November 2–4. I arrived two days early and participated fully, spending 10 nights/12 days in total—a valuable learning experience.

This was the first in-person WSM since 2018.

Seventy-four delegates from 49 countries/structures attended (24 women; 4 Class A/nonalcoholic). From the Asia–Oceania Zone, 10 delegates participated from Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia. Iran's originally designated delegate was unable to travel due to visa issues, so a replacement stepped in.

Regarding participation requests reviewed by the Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee (PAF): MERCAA (Middle East Regional Committee for A.A.) was gratefully reviewed and recognized as still developing at this time; Fiji was also reviewed with appreciation and, based on current guidelines and the information shared, was found not to qualify at

this time but encouraged to apply in the future. Honduras's request was approved. We believe sharing experience within the Zone can help these structures move forward.

The meeting theme was "Three Legacies in the Digital Age: Our Great Responsibility to the Alcoholic Being Born Today." Co-chairs were Bob W. (General Manager, GSO U.S./Canada) and Scott H. (Chair, General Service Board U.S./Canada). English and Spanish were the official languages; interpretation was also available in Japanese and Hungarian. We opened with a moment of silence for delegates Anastasia (Russia) and Giovanni (Italy) who recently passed.

Country reports and presentations focused on the growth of online/hybrid groups, anonymity and safety on the internet, experience with e-literature and audiobooks, online contributions, and strengthening unity and participation in service. Many structures reported revitalizing service sponsorship and offering concrete, early, shared roles to new and younger members.

Workshops discussed whether our groups truly practice the Traditions; how we live the Seventh Tradition in a digital era; and the future of online groups worldwide—practical discussions with many transferable examples.

On literature/licensing, the Translations Licensing Connection (TLC) portal and organizational improvements have cleared previous backlogs in

translation and intellectual property processing. Fifty-one service structures are now actively using the portal. The "Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous" became available on November 1, 2024.

The WSM Fund—created at the 2018 WSM—supports WSM operations and participation. An in-person WSM costs approximately USD 300,000–400,000. A concern was raised about long-standing overreliance on contributions from the U.S./Canada structure. The recommended actions were to maintain the participation fee at USD 2,000 per delegate for the next WSM and to invite financially able structures to contribute more to the WSM Fund—strengthening self-support in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition.

In closing: In 2025, A.A. marked its 90th anniversary. Sixteen countries attended the first WSM in 1969; fifty-six years later, the 28th WSM gathered 49 countries. AOSM began in Tokyo in 1995 (aligned with A.A. Japan's 20th anniversary), and now marks its 30th. Japan first attended the WSM in 1986; learning from others, we spent nine years building our current general service structure with the Board and Conference. Through steady sharing at AOSM—one of the Fellowship's four zonal meetings—we have seen messages carried and unity strengthened across the Asia–Oceania Zone, including newer or developing structures such as Mongolia, MERCAA, and Fiji. With gratitude to our predecessors and hope for the next generation, I conclude this report.



Outcomes and Recommendations

C.1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

See Appendix D for qualifications and criteria for each position.

C.1.1. AOSM Chair

The meeting elected Simon A. (Singapore) to the position of AOSM Chair for a two-year term. Five 2nd Term Delegates stood for election.

C.1.2. AOSM Secretary

The meeting elected Laura S. (South Korea) to the position of AOSM Secretary for a four-year term. No other delegates stood for election.

C.1.3. AOSM Treasurer

The meeting reaffirmed Steve K. (NZ) in his position of AOSM Treasurer for the remaining two years of his four-year term.

C.1.4. World Service Meeting Report

Delegates selected Steve H. (New Zealand) to give the report from the 16th AOSM (2025) at the 27th World Service Meeting (2026), and to present a report from the 27th World Service Meeting (2026) at the 17th AOSM (2027).

C.2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (PASSED)

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

C.2.1. Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee

		Yes	No	Abs
PAF#1	The committee recommends that the AOSM Treasurer be funded to attend the AOSM meetings if the AOSM financial situation allows this and the 16 th AOSM affirms the payments already made.	19	0	0
	Discussion Steve asked whether the costs for the current treasurer were included in the costs for this AOSM.			
PAF#2	The committee recommends that AOSM approves the acceptance of AOSM Service Manual as presented and incorporating any changes suggested at the 16 th AOSM.	19	0	0
	Discussion Bob asked how we can approve something that has not yet been approved by GSO. Christine explained that the only thing that GSO needs to approve are the copyright statement. We are approving provisionally now. Andy asked who put the manual together. Was it individuals or the committee. Christine explained that the chapters were approved at the 15 th AOSM. After that, the committee worked on it. They sent drafts to the AOSM Officers.			
PAF#3	The committee recommends that once the AOSM Service Manual is approved, it will be forwarded to the Website Literature Publishing (WLP) Committee for uploading to a secure, ring-fenced section of the AOSM website. Ongoing content updates and editorial changes will remain under the responsibility of the PAF Committee.	19	0	0

The overall management and maintenance of website content are overseen by the WLP Committee.

Discussion

Doug, as a voting member, suggested that the PAF committee judges whether each suggested change warrants presenting to the AOSM body. Andy suggested that we sign off on the service manual at every AOSM. Masaya asked whether the WLP has to edit the manual. The answer was that they do not. The PAF committee edits it.

PAF#4	The committee recommends that AOSM approves the temporary 2023 cost breakdown policy for hosting AOSMs as a permanent policy.	19	0	0
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Discussion

Doug pointed out that the cost breakdown policy was on p74 of Delegates' Kit.

Brian asked whether the table would be updated after the decision to include payment for the Treasurer. Doug confirmed that it would.

PAF#5	The committee recommends that AOSM covers Officers' attendance at AOSM with the following: payment of Registration fee, airfares pre and post meeting, accommodation and meals for the days AOSM is being held. The number of nights' accommodation may be adjusted depending on available flight schedules. Extra night's stay and meals outside that timeframe is a personal responsibility.	19	0	0
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No Discussion

PAF#6	The committee recommends that we increase the number of observers and volunteers to adequately meet the needs of the host country. The host country shall be responsible for managing observers and volunteers to ensure that their activities do not interfere with the conduct of meetings. All costs associated with observers and volunteers from the host country shall be borne by the host country, at the discretion of the PAF Committee.			
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Discussion

Doug asked what the policy had been to date. Christine explained that the number had been 25 until the 14th AOSM. In Mongolia, it was observed that the observers became enthusiastic about AA and thus AA grew afterwards. At 15th AOSM, it was raised to 50.

Andy asked whether we have had 'Guidelines for Conduct' for observers.

Bob asked whether all costs associated with observers and volunteers from the host country will be borne by the host country

Steve K shared that the host committee's responsibility is to give guidelines to the observers. He said that technically, the policy is that if observers take up 25% of the room, they pay for 25%. The host is responsible for the difference in the cost accrued by allowing a high number of observers e.g. hiring a larger room.

Masaya pointed out that 12th AOSM they capped the number of observers at 25 so that the cost of hosting would not be affected by that number. At the 15th AOSM, we increased the cap to 50. He has heard that the reason they removed a cap was that they'd seen so many observers in Mongolia who benefitted from observing.

Christine said that they did discuss this with the chairs of AOSM and SSA to ensure that the venue could cope.

Deegi shared that that the 300 observers in Mongolia did not all ill at the same time. She shared that she was confident that the facilities in Mongolia could cope with a high number of observers.

Andy felt that there were three points in this recommendation and that he disagreed with the first point. He did not recommend an amendment.

Steve said he was happy to vote on all three. He shared that he was aware (through hearsay) that only one member of AOSM was unhappy about the number of observers.

Doug asked to make an amendment by changing the wording from, 'The PAF Committee recommends *increasing* the number of observers and volunteers to adequately meet the needs of the host country.' The PAF

committee recommends *removing the limit on* the number of observers. Bob seconded the request for an amendment.'

Amended Recommendation

17 0 0

The PAF Committee recommends *removing the limit on* the number of observers and volunteers to adequately meet the needs of the host country.

The host country shall be responsible for managing observers and volunteers to ensure that their activities do not interfere with the conduct of meetings.

All costs associated with observers and volunteers from the host country shall be borne by the host country, at the discretion of the PAF Committee.

C.2.2. Website, Literature and Publishing Committee

		Yes	No	Abs
WLP#1	The committee recommends that countries submit only the links to their official websites for posting on the AOSM website.	19	0	0
	Discussion The current website links to Thailand's literature but the recommendation is that it links only to their website. Masaya explained that they are recommending that we do this because each country is responsible for their own literature, we are not. Bob asked where delegates would send their countries' URLs. Masaya said that David would gather that information. John asked whether any countries had more than one website. Bob shared that the Thai website does show links to other countries websites. Andy urged delegates to send their links to David P.			
WLP #2	The committee recommends that the current personal Google Drive account be replaced by a Microsoft 365 account as the AOSM's data-sharing platform.	19	0	0
	Discussion			

Simon A. asked whether USD360 was an annual fee. He shared that a Microsoft 365 account would allow us to use MS Teams rather than fellows' personal Zoom accounts. Laura asked why we should spend money when we are already using Google Drive. Simon A explained that Google Drive is difficult for people to use. Bob asked why we should subscribe to 5 accounts rather than 7, to include everyone who would need access. Doug asked whether we could subscribe to 7 accounts. Masaya responded that we can add accounts but that they had decided to start off with the minimum number. Steve K agreed with that approach.

C.2.3. Site Selection and Agenda Committee

		Yes	No	Abs
SSA#1	The committee recommended that we send the bid form out immediately after the AOSM for the AOSM four years hence. Discussion Steve H clarified that we would send the form out at intervals after we send it out the first time.	17	0	0
SSA#2	The committee recommended that the Bid Form includes a question about whether there are any visa restrictions that would potentially exclude some delegates. The committee recommended that the Bid Form include a question about whether there are any visa restrictions that would potentially exclude some delegates. Discussion Christine asked what action would follow if a country does in fact have visa restrictions. John clarified that the answer to that question would be for information purpose only. Laura suggested that we add to the recommendation that the request would be only for information purposes. Deegi shared her challenges in getting a visa to go to Fiji. She needed to go to Japan to apply in person and to go to Japan, she also needed to apply for visa	17	0	0
SSA#3	The committee recommends that we maintain the current Themes Suggestions Form as it is, just update to 18th AOSM.	17	0	0

	No Discussion			
SSA#4	The committee decided in a separate meeting to select Mongolia as the host for the 17 th AOSM in 2027.	17	0	0
	No Discussion			
SSA#5	The committee recommends that we hold the AOSM on 12-15 August 2027.	17	0	0
	Discussion Andy asked why the committee chose dates in August. Deegi answered that the weather is good and that these dates would avoid the peak tourism season. Christine clarified that we were only holding the AOSM this year in October to avoid the International Convention this year.			
SSA#6	The committee recommends that we adopt the theme: "Serving from the heart: Strengthening our Unity and my Recovery"	17	0	0
	Discussion Andy asked why it says 'our' unity and 'my' recovery. Steve clarified that this was intentional. It focuses on attracting newcomers into service because service will benefit that newcomer.			
SSA #7	The committee recommends that we adopt the following topics for presentations and workshops:			
	Presentations 1. "Unity from Differences: Many Hearts, One Purpose" 2. "From Me to We: How Service Deepens my Recovery" 3. "Making Service More Attractive" 4. "How Service Structures Support 12th Step Work" 5. "Love and Service: The Right Kind of Attraction" 6. [suggestions welcome] Workshops 1. "Service: What's In it for Me?" 2. "Creating 12th Step Opportunities through Service Structures" Discussion			

Laura suggested a workshop or presentation on Country-to-Country sponsorship. Brian suggested a workshop or presentation on the Equilateral Triangle. Duc suggested another title for, “Service: What’s In it for Me?”, along the lines of ‘Giving and Receiving’. Simon A explained the concept behind some of the titles; in that they focus people on sharing how they’ve benefited in terms of spiritual growth. Andy suggested a topic related to the impact of social media. Steve K refined the topic towards ‘The impact of social media on AA’.

We agreed that the committee will accept suggestions later.

Andy suggested we workshop the topic today if we have time.

Steve H fleshed out the concept alluded to in the “Love and Service: The Right Kind of Attraction”. The presentation will allude to 13th stepping.

Duc suggested an amendment to the title for “Service: What’s In it for Me?” to “Service: Giving and Receiving” Brian seconded that motion. Simon A suggested that rather than amending the title of this presentation, we could create a sixth workshop. Steve H shared that he understood that the title included an idiomatic phrase which may not translate well into Vietnamese. He suggested to Duc that he explain the meaning of the idiom to his fellowship. Brian shared that we are communicating with different languages and cultures. He supported Duc’s amendment. Mele also shared that some ideas may be lost in translation. She said that they can explain the meaning to their own fellowship.

On the amendment to the recommendation (1st Vote)

8 10 0

On the amendment that we change the title of the first workshop: “Service: What’s In it for Me?” to “Service: Giving and Receiving”

Minority Opinion

Duc shared that he is concerned that we may not cover the sense of ‘giving’.

Simon shared that he had changed his vote.

John felt that the title was only for us, not for a wider audience.

Vincent stated that a workshop is where we solve problems.

Andy felt that the use of 'me' was inappropriate because AOSM is country to country.

	On the amendment to the recommendation (2nd Vote: after hearing the minority opinion)	10	8	0
	On the amendment that we change the title of the first workshop: "Service: What's In it for Me?" to "Service: Giving and Receiving"			
	On the amended recommendation that we adopt all but one of the original topics and that we adopt one amended topic	18	0	0
	Discussion			
	Steve H asked whether we can include the explanation of topics in the minutes of the SSA committee? Doug asked whether he would accept the committee later explaining to the presenters what that presentation should cover.			
SSA #8	The committee recommends that a committee meeting only proceed at the AOSM with a quorum of 75% (of those preset at the AOSM).	18	0	0
SSA #9	The committee recommends that the host committee of the 17th AOSM in 2027 explores the possibility of conducting a hybrid section, preferably a one-hour session to include the country highlights.	17	0	1
	Discussion			
	Laura agreed in principle but expressed concerns that it may go on too long i.e. beyond one hour. Doug clarified that one hour was an approximation.			
SSA #10	The committee recommends that we defer the discussion about hosting a fully hybrid AOSM until AOSM has an appetite for it.	18	0	0
	No Discussion			

C.2.4. Working with Others Committee

The Working with Others Committee submitted no recommendations.

Discussion

Andy asked whether the committee had set a schedule for the release of the newsletter. Nori responded that they hadn't fixed a schedule for it yet because they have just rotated key personnel. He'll meet with past Chair, Sarah, soon to lay down that schedule.

C.3. COMMITTEE REPORTS IN FULL

C.3.1. Policy, Admissions and Finance

Attendees:	4 Voting Members	*Chair / **Alt. Chair	
	Christine H *	Australia	2 nd Term
	Laura S **	South Korea	1 st Term
	Mele W	New Zealand	2 nd Term
	N Duc	Vietnam	1 st Term
Absent:	Yisrael C	Israel	1 st Term
Ex Officio:	Steve K (Treasurer)		
Minutes:	Diane F.		
Scope:	The purpose and function of this committee is to review and initiate recommendations involving policies, finances and requests for admission (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM.		
Composition:	The Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 9th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong. The Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote. Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chair and Secretary of the AOSM.		

Agenda:	1. Review minutes from 15th AOSM meeting in Fiji 2. Matters arising and Correspondence: WISE Account was unable to be set up. Explanation included in financial report 3. Old business 4. New Business 4.1. Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Policy, Admissions, and Finance Committee 4.2. Review the Treasurer's Report Steve K talked to this report; Motions re Treasurer attendance at AOSMs 4.3. Review policy and admissions requirements for countries 4.4. Review policy and admissions requirements for delegates 4.5. Review new requests for admission 4.6. Review the financial reporting format: Current format discussed 4.7. AOSM Service Manual: 4.7.1. Response from New York Y/N 4.7.2. Motion to main meeting re acceptance of this 4.7.3. Motion for process if additions/alterations required 4.7.4. Discussion re final product if manual accepted 4.8. Expense responsibility for Hosting AOSM: Confirm a temporary process Instituted in 2022 and which has been used ever since as the "norm" A motion will be require here. 5. Additional items to be discussed Motion formalizing what AOSM covers for officers to attend the AOSM. 6. Election of PAF Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17^h AOSM 7. End with "Responsibility Statement"						
Recommendations:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="440 1367 602 1560">PAF#1</td><td data-bbox="602 1367 1359 1560">The committee recommends that the AOSM Treasurer be funded to attend the AOSM meetings if the AOSM financial situation allows this and the 16th AOSM affirms the payments already made.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="440 1560 602 1713">PAF#2</td><td data-bbox="602 1560 1359 1713">The committee recommends that AOSM approves the acceptance of AOSM Service Manual as presented and incorporating any changes suggested at the 16th AOSM.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="440 1713 602 1906">PAF#3</td><td data-bbox="602 1713 1359 1906">The committee recommends that once the AOSM Service Manual is approved, it will be forwarded to the Website Literature Publishing (WLP) Committee for uploading to a secure, ring-fenced section of the AOSM website.</td></tr> </table>	PAF#1	The committee recommends that the AOSM Treasurer be funded to attend the AOSM meetings if the AOSM financial situation allows this and the 16 th AOSM affirms the payments already made.	PAF#2	The committee recommends that AOSM approves the acceptance of AOSM Service Manual as presented and incorporating any changes suggested at the 16 th AOSM.	PAF#3	The committee recommends that once the AOSM Service Manual is approved, it will be forwarded to the Website Literature Publishing (WLP) Committee for uploading to a secure, ring-fenced section of the AOSM website.
PAF#1	The committee recommends that the AOSM Treasurer be funded to attend the AOSM meetings if the AOSM financial situation allows this and the 16 th AOSM affirms the payments already made.						
PAF#2	The committee recommends that AOSM approves the acceptance of AOSM Service Manual as presented and incorporating any changes suggested at the 16 th AOSM.						
PAF#3	The committee recommends that once the AOSM Service Manual is approved, it will be forwarded to the Website Literature Publishing (WLP) Committee for uploading to a secure, ring-fenced section of the AOSM website.						

		Ongoing content updates and editorial changes will remain under the responsibility of the PAF Committee. The overall management and maintenance of website content are overseen by the WLP Committee.
	PAF#4	The committee recommends that AOSM approves the temporary 2023 cost breakdown policy for hosting AOSMs as a permanent policy.
	PAF#5	The committee recommends that AOSM covers Officers' attendance at AOSM with the following: payment of Registration fee, airfares pre and post meeting, accommodation and meals for the days AOSM is being held. The number of nights' accommodation may be adjusted depending on available flight schedules. Extra night's stay and meals outside that timeframe is a personal responsibility.
	PAF#6	The committee recommends that we increase the number of observers and volunteers to adequately meet the needs of the host country. The host country shall be responsible for managing observers and volunteers to ensure that their activities do not interfere with the conduct of meetings. All costs associated with observers and volunteers from the host country shall be borne by the host country, at the discretion of the PAF Committee.
Minutes:		1. Reviewed minutes from 15th AOSM meeting in Fiji The committee reviewed the report 2. Matters arising and Correspondence The Treasurer explained why we hadn't been able to set up a WISE account. 3. Old business There was no old business. 4. New Business 4.1. Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Site Selection and Agenda Committee The committee reviewed the CSP and made no changes. 4.2. Review Financial report and reporting format: The committee thanked Steve (Treasurer) for a detailed report. Steve reported

that he believed that the Prudent Reserve figure of USD \$12,000 was sufficient.

RECOMMENDATION #1: The AOSM Treasurer should be funded to attend the AOSM meetings if the AOSM financial situation allows this and the 16th AOSM affirms the payments already made.

- 4.3. Review policy and admissions requirements for countries: No changes
- 4.4. Review policy and admissions requirements for delegates” No changes
- 4.5. Review new requests for admissions: No new requests
- 4.6. Review financial reporting format: No changes to the already comprehensive report.
- 4.7. AOSM Service Manual: Bob W is looking into the issue of reply regarding copyright statement for the committee.

RECOMMENDATION #2: PAF recommends that AOSM approve the acceptance of AOSM Service Manual as presented and incorporating any changes suggested at the 16th AOSM.

The Committee also discussed disposition of the final product if Service Manual approved. The placement of the Manual on the ASOM website in a secure area was discussed with the WLP Chair.

5. Additional items to be discussed

Motion formalizing what AOSM covers for Officers to attend AOSM

RECOMMENDATION #3: PAF recommends that once the AOSM Service Manual is approved, it will be forwarded to the Website Literature Publishing (WLP) Committee for uploading to a secure, ring-fenced section of the AOSM website.

Ongoing content updates and editorial changes will remain under the responsibility of the PAF Committee.

The overall management and maintenance of website content are overseen by the WLP Committee.

The committee discussed the Hosting Cost responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION #4: PAF recommends that AOSM approve the temporary 2023 cost breakdown policy for hosting AOSMs as a permanent policy.

The committee discussed the Officers’ expense payments to provide clarity

	RECOMMENDATION #5: AOSM covers Officers’ attendance at AOSM. This includes costs for registration fee, airfares pre and post meeting, accommodation, and meals for the days AOSM is being held. The number of nights’ accommodation may be adjusted depending on available flight schedules. Any extra night’s accommodation and meals outside that timeframe is a personal responsibility. The committee also discussed at the request of SSA and AOSM Chair a possible change to <u>Host Country Observers/Volunteers</u> numbers at AOSMs. RECOMMENDATION #6: The PAF Committee recommends increasing the number of observers and volunteers to adequately meet the needs of the host country. The host country shall be responsible for managing observers and volunteers to ensure that their activities do not interfere with the conduct of meetings. All costs associated with observers and volunteers from the host country shall be borne by the host country, at the discretion of the PAF Committee.		
	7. Election of Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17th AOSM The committee elected John V (Singapore) as Chair, and N <u>Duc</u> (Vietnam) as Alt. Chair.		
	8. Ended with Serenity prayer at 1015am		
Elections:	Chair:	John V (Singapore)	Alt. Chair: Duc (Vietnam)

C.3.2. Site Selection and Agenda

Attendees:	4 Voting Members		*Chair / **Alt. Chair
	Simon A. *	Singapore	2 nd Term
	John K.	Israel	2 nd Term
	Anoop D.	India	1 st Term
	Deegi M.	Mongolia	2 nd Term
Absent:	Anoop D.	India (Session 1 and part of Session 2)	
Scope:	"The purpose and function of this committee is the Selection of the site for each AOSM and wording of the agenda, with input from the Chair and Secretary, between AOSM meetings" and to review and initiate recommendations (if this is felt necessary by the meeting) to the AOSM."		
Composition:	The Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong.		
	The Site Selection/Agenda/Website Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote.		
	Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chairman and Secretary of the AOSM.		

Agenda:	1. Review minutes from 15th AOSM meeting (held in Fiji) 2. Matters Arising and Correspondence 3. Old Business 4. New Business 4.1. Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Site Selection and Agenda Committee 4.2. Review hosting country bid forms and supplementary information 4.3. Review AOSM theme request form 4.4. Review potential dates for the 17th AOSM 4.5. Review theme suggestions for the 17th AOSM 4.6. Review presentation/workshop topics for the 17th ASOM 5. Other Issues 5.1. Discuss the following request “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.” <i>(This is a withdrawn recommendation from 2021 AOSM PAF Committee)</i> 5.2. Additional items to be discussed? 6. Election of Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17th AOSM 7. End with “Responsibility Statement”												
Recommendations:	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1104 553 1213">SSA #1</td><td data-bbox="553 1104 1370 1213">The committee recommended that the bid form go out immediately after the AOSM for the AOSM four years hence.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1213 553 1367">SSA #2</td><td data-bbox="553 1213 1370 1367">The committee recommended that the Bid form include a question about whether there are any visa restrictions that would potentially exclude some delegates.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1367 553 1476">SSA #3</td><td data-bbox="553 1367 1370 1476">The committee recommends that a committee meeting only proceed at the AOSM with a quorum of 75%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1476 553 1585">SSA #4</td><td data-bbox="553 1476 1370 1585">The committee recommends that Mongolia host the 17th AOSM in 2027</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1585 553 1694">SSA #5</td><td data-bbox="553 1585 1370 1694">The committee recommends that we hold the AOSM on 12-15 August 2027.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="423 1694 553 1841">SSA #6</td><td data-bbox="553 1694 1370 1841">The committee recommends that we maintain the current Themes Suggestions Form as it is, just update to 18th AOSM.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	SSA #1	The committee recommended that the bid form go out immediately after the AOSM for the AOSM four years hence.	SSA #2	The committee recommended that the Bid form include a question about whether there are any visa restrictions that would potentially exclude some delegates.	SSA #3	The committee recommends that a committee meeting only proceed at the AOSM with a quorum of 75%	SSA #4	The committee recommends that Mongolia host the 17th AOSM in 2027	SSA #5	The committee recommends that we hold the AOSM on 12-15 August 2027.	SSA #6	The committee recommends that we maintain the current Themes Suggestions Form as it is, just update to 18 th AOSM.
SSA #1	The committee recommended that the bid form go out immediately after the AOSM for the AOSM four years hence.												
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SSA #6	The committee recommends that we maintain the current Themes Suggestions Form as it is, just update to 18 th AOSM.												

	SSA #7	The committee recommends that we adopt the theme: “Serving from the heart: Strengthening our Unity and my Recovery”
	SSA #8	The committee recommends that we adopt the following topics for presentations and workshops: Presentations 1. “Unity from Differences: Many Hearts, One Purpose” 2. “From Me to We: How Service Deepens my Recovery” 3. “Making Service More Attractive” 4. “How Service Structures Support 12th Step Work” 5. “Love and Service: The Right Kind of Attraction” 6. [suggestions welcome] Workshops 1. “Service: Giving and Receiving” 2. “Creating 12th Step Opportunities through Service Structures”
	SSA #9	The committee recommends that the host committee of the 17th AOSM in 2027 explores the possibility of conducting a hybrid section, preferably a one-hour session to include the country highlights.
	SSA #10	The committee recommends that we defer the discussion about hosting a fully hybrid AOSM until AOSM has the appetite for it.

Minutes:

1. Reviewed minutes from 15th AOSM meeting

Chair, Simon A, read out the recommendations from the 15th AOSM in Fiji. The meeting accepted the recommendations.

2. Matters arising and Correspondence

Simon shared that all those who had been asked to present had responded positively and submitted their presentations.

3. Old business

Simon shared that he'd brought to the chair committee that we need to discuss whether we conduct a hybrid AOSM. He shared that the Chairs' Committee had recommended that the entire AOSM meeting discuss the issue, as a whole, at this 16th AOSM.

Simon clarified for Deegi that the decision to conduct a short hybrid session at this 16th AOSM had been taken by the Chairs a few months ago.

Deegi asked whether the SSA would have a bigger say in whether we conducted the entire AOSM online. Simon shared that all delegates would discuss it.

John brought up the issue that if we run a hybrid AOSM, very soon after, it would surely become a purely virtual AOSM. He shared that Israel became engaged into AOSM when they attended the virtual meeting in 2021, and that a virtual AOSM would be much cheaper for them.

John asked whether anyone had mentioned the possibility of holding two AOSMs; one in-person and one virtual. Steve mentioned that it would be a struggle for most countries' WS delegates to attend both since the AOSM alternates with the WSM.

4. New Business

4.1. Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Site Selection and Agenda Committee

Simon shared that the committee had spent some time reviewing CSP at the last AOSM. The meeting reviewed them again and suggested no changes.

4.2. Review hosting country bid forms and supplementary information.

Steve H. suggested that the bid form go out four years before the AOSM that counties would be bidding for. Deegi suggested that at least the AOSM should request bids.

SSA needs to send the form which asks for suggestions for presentations to the AOSM Secretary so that s/he can send that out together with the Bid Form.

John suggested that we add to the Bid Form,

RECOMMENDATION #1: The committee recommended that the bid form go out immediately after the AOSM for the AOSM four years hence.

RECOMMENDATION #2: The committee recommended that the Bid form include a question about whether there are any visa restrictions that would potentially exclude some delegates.

4.3. Review AOSM theme request form

4.3.1. Simon A asked Simon M to source a copy of the form which requests themes and topics for presentations.

4.3.2. The committee affirmed that the form was fit for the purpose.

RECOMMENDATION #6: Maintain the current form as it is, just update to 18th AOSM.

4.3.3. The committee agreed to request themes and topics for presentations from all the delegates by WhatsApp.

4.4. Review potential dates for the 17th AOSM

Mongolia suggested 5-8 August 2027

RECOMMENDATION #4: The committee recommend that we hold the AOSM on 5-8 August 2027.

4.5. Review theme suggestions for the 17th AOSM

Deegi suggested a theme 'The Three Legacies from the Heart'

Simon and Steve extended that theme to include the concept of thinking about service outwards. Selling the idea of service to the newcomers. After throwing ideas around, the meeting focused on two options:

Serving from the heart: Unity and Recovery in Action

RECOMMENDATION #7: Serving from the heart: Strengthening our Unity and my Recovery

4.6. Review presentation/workshop topics for the 17th ASOM

Presentations

- Unity from Differences: Many Hearts, One Purpose
- From Me to We: How Service Deepens my Recovery
- Making Service More Attractive
- How Service Structures Support 12-Step Work
- Love and Service: The Right Kind of Attraction
- [yet to be confirmed]

	Workshops	
	• Service: Giving and Receiving • Creating 12th Step Opportunities through Service Structures	
	4.7. Other Issues	
	RECOMMENDATION #3: The committee recommended that a committee meeting will only proceed at the AOSM with a quorum of 75% Steve H suggested the SSA Chair kick off the discussion about hosting a hybrid AOSM by mentioning the outcomes of our casual discussion today. 5. Election of XYZ Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17th AOSM The committee elected Steve H [REDACTED] (New Zealand) as Chair, and Anoop D [REDACTED] (India) as Alt. Chair. 6. End with “Responsibility Statement”	
Elections:	Chair: Steve H (New Zealand)	Alt. Chair: Anoop D (India)

C.3.3. Website, Literature, and Publishing

Attendees:	4 Voting Members	*Chair / **Alt. Chair
	Masaya O**	Hong Kong 2 nd Term
	Andrew P	Australia 1 st Term
	David P	Hong Kong 1 st Term
	Vincent R	MERCAA 1 st Term
Scope:	The purpose and function of this Committee is to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and views related to the AOSM website (https://aosmaa.org/), translations, licensing, and publishing of AA approved literature of the AOSM member countries. If necessary, recommendations and/or motions may be forwarded to the AOSM delegates for further action.	
Composition:	The Literature/Publishing Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong. The Website, Literature and Publishing Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote. Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chairman and Secretary of the AOSM.	
Agenda:	1. Opening Briefing: Overview of WLP Committee 1.1. Member introductions 1.2. Overview of the WLP Committee's purpose, history, and background 1.3. Reference: WLP Committee Briefing (Aug 29, 2025) 2. Review of Minutes from the 15th AOSM (Fiji, 2023) 2.1. Summary of previous discussions and adopted recommendations (#1–#6) 2.2. Document: 15th AOSM WLP COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 3. Matters Arising / Follow-up on Previous Recommendations (#1–#6)	

	3.1. Review the status of each recommendation and classify as Reconfirm / Revise / Withdraw / Completed 3.2. Record decisions in the Recommendation Review Sheet 3.3. Items marked as “Continue” will be discussed further under Old Business 4. Old Business 4.1. Progress and current issues in website updates since 2023 4.2. Development of Country and Literature pages 4.3. Members-only database operations (Teams / Drive transition) 4.4. Review of a secure data-sharing platform (e.g., Microsoft 365 – progress report) 4.5. Translation & Licensing FAQ provided by AAWS – report and discussion on how to share it among AOSM members 5. New Business 5.1. Proposal: Adoption of Microsoft 365 / SharePoint as AOSM’s data-sharing platform 5.2. Discussion: Clarifying the purpose, responsibility scope, and direction of the AOSM website - What content should be hosted and what should remain under each country’s responsibility (e.g., links only) - Balance between transparency and national autonomy - Continuity across rotation terms; information updates and freshness management - Discussion: Scope of “Publishing” within WLP – what falls under AOSM vs. GSO NY - Review of the committee’s composition, scope, and procedure for the next term 6. Other Issues 6.1. Exchange of information and issues related to national publishing activities 6.2. Preparation of WLP report for the plenary session 6.3. Additional topics raised by members 7. Election of WLP Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for the 17th AOSM 8. Responsibility Statement
Recommendations:	WLP#1 The committee recommends that countries submit only the links to their official websites for posting on the AOSM website.

	WLP #2 The committee recommends that the current personal Google Drive account be replaced by a Microsoft 365 account as the AOSM’s data-sharing platform.
Minutes:	The chair reviewed the events since the last meeting including the circumstances around the expiration of the website contract due to non-payment of domain fees after the treasurer’s passing. The website is in the process of being rebuilt and is under the responsibility of this committee. 1. Reviewed minutes from 15th AOSM meeting The committee reviewed the minutes from the 15th AOSM and made no changes. 2. Follow up on past recommendations from the 15th AOSM Recommendation #1: “The committee recommended that the WLP committee coordinate with the AOSM Secretary to gather country information through outreach to complete country profiles & request permission to their link their URL/website to the AOSM website as well as determine their desire to list their free literature on the AOSM Website.” The committee agreed that every participating country should have the opportunity to provide its own website link. Participation should be voluntary, and each country can decide what information to make public. Recommendation #2: “The committee recommended that AAWS provide a flowchart outlining the licensing process.” The committee noted that the flow chart provided by AAWS has been included in the 16th AOSM background material. Recommendation #3: “The committee recommended that the AOSM website serve as an option for posting literature for countries within the AOSM zone.” The committee noted that this recommendation could not be implemented, as the AOSM is not authorized to post literature on its website. Instead, the committee suggests that each country posts its own literature on its own website, in accordance with the individual licensing agreements that each country obtains prior to posting. Recommendation #4: “The committee recommended that the WLP committee develop standard operating procedures (SOP’s) for updating and entering data into the private database area of the website.”

The committee suggested that the Australian Delegate obtain the SOP template from the Australian Webmaster to use as a reference in developing the AOSM's SOP for the website.

Recommendation #5: "The committee recommended that the WLP committee create a password protected database accessible through a login function on the AOSM website to replace the current Google Drive folders."

The committee noted that no further action was required, as login functionality already exists within the current website but has not yet been implemented.

Recommendation #6: "The committee recommended that the WLP committee create the following new sections to the AOSM website:- A password protected database accessible through a login function on the AOSM website to replace current Google Drive folders.- A Country Section including country profiles and links to country specific websites.- A literature section that may include free country specific literature and links to country specific website literature pages."

The committee noted that this recommendation remains under development. To support secure data management and collaboration, the committee recommended adopting Microsoft 365 / SharePoint as the AOSM's data-sharing platform to replace the current Google Drive.

3. Old business

The committee discussed the progress of the following old business:

- 3.1. Progress and current issues in website updates since 2023
- 3.2. Development of Country and Literature pages
- 3.3. Members-only database operations (Teams / Drive transition)
- 3.4. Review of a secure data-sharing platform (e.g., Microsoft 365 – progress report)
- 3.5. Translation & Licensing FAQ provided by AAWS – report and discussion on how to share it among AOSM members

4. New Business

- 4.1. Proposal: "Adoption of Microsoft 365 / SharePoint as AOSM's data-sharing platform"
- 4.2. The committee recommends that Microsoft 365 replace the current personal Google Drive.
- 4.3. Discussion: In an effort to provide access to each country's individual structure and literature without infringing upon intellectual property laws or individual licensing agreements, the

AOSM website will host links to country websites only, without a dedicated literature tab. The discussion included the following:

- 4.3.1. **Balance between transparency and national autonomy:** Each country can determine the level and nature of accessibility on its own terms
- 4.3.2. **Continuity across rotation terms:** Ensuring that information remains current through regular updates and effective management of data continuity.
- 4.3.3. **Email standardization:** New email addresses have been created for all service positions without personal names. Each account will be transferred to the incoming trusted servant upon rotation, maintaining access to historical information.
- 4.3.4. **Scope of “Publishing” within WLP:** Clarification of responsibilities between AOSM and GSO New York.
- 4.3.5. **Licensing procedures:** GSO New York has provided a flowchart outlining the procedure for obtaining licenses to translate, print, and distribute AAWS-published literature.

5. Other Issues

5.1. Exchange of information and issues related to national publishing activities

The committee ran out of time and was therefore unable to discuss updates and issues relating to each country’s publishing activities and ongoing literature projects at this meeting.

5.2. Preparation of WLP report for the plenary session

The committee reviewed and finalized the WLP report to be presented at the plenary session.

5.3. Additional topics raised by members

- 5.3.1. The current Webmaster has been serving for approximately four years. The committee discussed whether rotation should be considered.
- 5.3.2. If the Microsoft 365 account is approved, the cost will be US\$360.00 for five accounts.
- 5.3.3. Going forward, the WLP Committee, in coordination and consultation with the Secretary, will handle administrative issues, while the Treasurer will oversee financial matters.
- 5.3.4. All data from the AOSM Secretary will be migrated to Microsoft 365.

	6. Election of WLP Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson for the 17th AOSM The committee elected Andrew P [REDACTED] (Australia) as Chair, and David P [REDACTED] (Hong Kong) as Alt. Chair. 7. End with the Responsibility Statement	
Elections:	Chair: Andrew P (Australia)	Alt. Chair: David P (Hong Kong)

C.3.4. Working with Others

Attendees:	3 Voting Members *Chair / **Alt. Chair		
	Martha W *	Fiji	1 st Term
	Brian F **	Australia	2 nd Term
	Irina Va	Russia	1 st Term
	Bob M	Thailand	1 st Term
	Nori I	Japan	1 st Term
Absent:	Sarah N *	MERCAA	2 nd Term
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.		
Composition:	The Working with Others Committee of the AOSM was formed at the 5th AOSM in 2003 in Hong Kong. The Working with Others Committee will have the same number of members (or as near to this as possible) as the other committees conducting the business of the AOSM. Each member has a vote. The secretary assigned to the committee does not have a vote. Members of the committee are selected, if possible, geographically. Consideration will be given to the balance between 1st and 2nd term delegates to try and provide continuity. The exact time of where and when the selection will be made, will be decided after the information concerning the new delegates has been received by the Chairman and Secretary of the AOSM.		
Agenda:	1. Reviewed minutes from 15th AOSM meeting 2. Matters arising and correspondence 3. Old business - Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Working with Other Committee and made my changes. 4. New Business 4.1. Review Guidelines created by WWO group in 2024 4.2. Review the Newsletter 1st edition 4.3. Review Newsletter 2nd edition including brief update from each country's WWO local committee 5. Other Issues		

	5.1. Discuss how to better reach out to non-participating countries. 5.2. Additional items to be discussed? 6. Election of Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17th AOSM 7. End with “Responsibility Statement”
Recommendations:	None
Minutes:	1. Reviewed minutes from 15th AOSM meeting The committee reviewed the report and made no changes. The committee also noted that the Committee Consideration from the 15th AOSM to create an “AOSM—Working with Others” service piece had not been addressed over the past two years, but the committee will pick up that work over the next two years and either provide a draft or progress report at the 17th AOSM. 2. Matters arising and Correspondence There were no matters reported. 3. Old business Review Composition/Scope/Procedure for Site Selection and Agenda Committee The committee reviewed the CSP and made no changes. 4. New Business 4.1. Review Guidelines created by WWO group in 2024 The committee discussed the draft guidelines created by the WWO committee and noted that additional work is needed on it. The committee will continue to work on the Guidelines and provide a draft or a progress report at the 17th AOSM. 4.2. Review the Newsletter 1st edition The committee reviewed the 1st edition of the Newsletter published in July 2025 with deep gratitude to Sarah N., Chair of the WWO Committee, for compiling all the content so beautifully and publishing the document to the AOSM countries and posting on the website. 4.3. Review Newsletter 2nd edition including brief update from each country’s WWO local committee 4.3.1. The committee discussed the initial framework for the next newsletter based upon the committee minutes from August 2, 2025. 4.3.2. In order to share the burden of gathering content for the newsletter, the 1st Term Delegates agreed to each reach out to particular countries:

- Nori: Japan, Korea, Mongolia
- Bob: Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar
- Irina: Russia, Nepal, China, Kyrgyzstan
- Martha: Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand

Other countries will be considered at future committee meetings.

4.3.3. Editing the newsletter will be the responsibility of the Chair of the WWO Committee and will facilitate the publishing of the newsletter.

5. Other Issues

5.1. Discuss how to better reach out to non-participating countries.

The committee reflected that more work needs to be done to reach out to non-participating countries and will continue to discuss ways in the committee.

5.2. Additional items to be discussed

5.2.1. WWO Service Piece noted as a Committee Consideration from the 15th AOSM. The following was discussed.

5.2.1.1. The Committee agreed that it is important to create a Service Piece. A question was raised about whether it should be developed for Public Information (PI) or Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).

5.2.1.2. Fiji AA has been working to share information about A.A. with approximately 60 organizations. While personal anonymity remains essential, it can also present barriers. A radio PSA and a newspaper announcement were produced, but their effectiveness has been limited. Presentations to medical associations have encouraged some doctors to refer patients to A.A., though the overall impact has been minimal. Members cannot use personal names when applying for grants. Public information work has been less effective than CPC efforts. Fiji is also collaborating with the Salvation Army, which serves street children and operates in the same location as A.A. meetings.

5.2.1.3. The Service Piece is envisioned as a set of guidelines. In Australia, A.A. members may meet with professionals and use their full names, provided the information is not made public. Luncheons with professionals have been effective, and it has been helpful to host focused groups monthly. Providing professionals with business cards containing QR codes has proven more effective than

distributing pamphlets. During luncheons, members often share their personal mobile numbers to keep the contact personal. Radio announcements have also worked well—often reaching family or friends of those who need help. Cards in Australia include both national and district phone numbers.

- 5.2.1.4. Since there is only one combined PI/CPC Committee in Thailand, the Service Piece should address both areas. Business cards are placed in tourist areas, police stations, and hospitals. Cultural barriers exist: doctors are viewed as authority figures and are difficult to approach. Two pamphlets for healthcare professionals have been translated and distributed to doctors. Thai treatment centers occasionally hold “round-up” style events where A.A. makes presentations, though measuring success has been difficult. Radio PSAs have been used. Thai members tend to prefer meetings where food is served. Many A.A. groups meet online using LINE, with 40–50 participants per group. Information about A.A. is also posted in expat-focused chat groups, which tend to reach English speakers more effectively than Thais. One Thai member handles local inquiries. The national website is bilingual (English and Thai). A YouTube video narration was removed for copyright reasons but was replaced with *Big Book Online*.
- 5.2.1.5. Fiji currently has only one pamphlet translated into the iTaukei language, but it has not yet been approved by GSO New York. The fellowship in Fiji is approximately half expatriate and half local members. Despite challenges, members were reminded not to be discouraged—growth has continued since the 2016 Australian convention held in Fiji.
- 5.2.1.6. Because standard medical checkups rarely include questions about alcohol use, Australia has focused outreach efforts on physicians who specialize in alcohol-related issues rather than general practitioners.
- 5.2.1.7. The Thai translation of *Living Sober* has recently been completed and approved by GSO. The book is often easier for newcomers to approach than the *Big Book*. Copies are given free of charge, and newcomer packets—modeled on those used in Japan—are now distributed. These starter packs have proven helpful for

individuals completing treatment programs, who often relapse shortly afterward.

5.2.1.8. The content of the Service Piece should reflect the size, scope, and culture of each country. Gathering data from each nation would be useful. Japan, with 50 years of A.A. history, shared its experience: relatively few doctors treat alcoholism, and psychiatrists who do are sometimes viewed as less respected by their peers. Two major sobriety groups exist in Japan—A.A. and Danshukai. Because doctors are busy, inviting them to meetings has not been effective. Instead, A.A. needs to provide professional materials, which are still under development. Japan is currently preparing a CPC workbook for members and often adapts good ideas from other countries for local use.

5.2.1.9. In Canada, some medical students are required to attend A.A. meetings as part of their training. In the United States, nursing students are also required to attend meetings. Such initiatives are not yet common in Australia.

5.2.2. Internet Groups for those in remote areas

5.2.2.1. There is a Russian government project which is called “Challenge” to return children to their families. Often, those children are separated due parental alcoholism. Due to the remote nature, newcomers are joining via online meetings. AA members cooperate with government projects without affiliating with them.

5.2.2.2. There are 6 social organizations in Moscow district providing assistance to the homeless (providing overnight accommodation, distributing food on the street, laundry, shower, medical assistance, providing clothing and shoes, legal assistance, assistance with employment, etc.) with which the AA Fellowship cooperated, and there were 9 opportunities for the 12th Step weekly. During the period from March 2022 to August 2025, the number of places to deliver the AA message among social institutions increased, and as of August 2025, there are already 18 personal 12th Step opportunities for AA members in Moscow district weekly.

5.2.2.3. In Russia, AA online groups are being adding to the AA service structure and have elected delegate.

	5.2.2.4. One delegate noted that there has been significant shared experience in country-to-country sponsorship with many success stories throughout the AOSM, but that the AOSM hasn't collected those stories. It was suggested that the WWO committee might try to gather such experiences and give them the AOSM archives—excerpts could be shared as a standing section of the AOSM newsletter or posted to a section of the AOSM website.	
	6. Election of WWO Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson for the 17 th AOSM The committee elected Nori I (Japan) as Chair, and Martha W (Fiji) as Alt. Chair.	
	7. End with "Responsibility Statement"	
Elections:	Chair: Nori I (Japan)	Alt. Chair: Martha W (Fiji)

C.4. WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

How did we conduct the workshops?

We divided delegates into two groups for each workshop. Delegates in each group discussed their answers to the questions below.

Workshop 1	Workshop 2
Experience of country-to-country sponsorship	Cultivating unity within a country
• How has your country or group participated in country-to-country sponsorship, either as a sponsor or a recipient? What worked well and what lessons were learned? • What challenges have you faced in starting or maintaining a country-to-country sponsorship relationship? How were these challenges overcome? • How are needs identified between countries? What processes or communication channels are used to match countries that have resources with those that need support? • What kinds of support have been most effective in helping other countries strengthen their services and structures? Is it mainly financial, literature, training, or something else? • How do we ensure that sponsorship relationships remain aligned with AA's Traditions and avoid creating dependency or imbalance? What safeguards or principles guide your country's approach? • What role could the region play in improving coordination and sharing information about country-to-country sponsorship? Are there ways we could make the process more transparent and effective for everyone?	• What does "unity" mean in the context of AA within your country? How is it reflected at the group, intergroup, and national levels? • What challenges have you faced in maintaining unity among groups, districts, and service structures? How have these challenges been addressed in your country? • How does your country encourage effective communication between groups and service bodies? Are there any tools, forums, or practices that have worked well? • How do we balance differences in opinion, culture, language, or approach within a country while keeping our focus on AA's primary purpose? • What role do national or regional events, service workshops, or conferences play in building unity? Are there examples where such gatherings have improved collaboration? • How can we better support isolated groups or regions within a country so that everyone feels connected to the wider AA community?

1. How has your country or group participated in country-to-country sponsorship, either as a sponsor or a recipient?

1.1. What were the key themes?

Delegates shared ideas related to:

1.1.1. financial support

Countries like Australia and Japan have created specific "International Cooperation Funds," separate from regular contributions, to support literature, delegate travel, and regional activities. One example is setting aside a specific annual budget (e.g., \$1,500 for AOSM literature and \$1,000 for other country initiatives).

South Korea highlighted its role as a recipient, noting that members often rely on financial support from others to attend international events, as local resources are limited.

1.1.2. translations

Groups participate by sending literature and information to help other countries start their service structures, such as helping islands around New Zealand. Japan received crucial early support from the New York GSO for publishing its first Japanese Big Book. India, which started with U.S. help in 1955, has grown significantly and now sponsors neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

1.1.3. long-term relationships and historical reciprocity

Fiji expressed gratitude for consistent support from Australia and New Zealand since 2016, including help with hosting conventions and literature translations. Australia acknowledged its historical debt to the U.S. for early support and now "pays it forward" through significant initiatives, such as sending delegates to India and relocating its convention to Fiji.

1.2. What has worked well?

Delegates shared that successes were related to:

1.2.1. direct communication and personal outreach

Countries have identified needs through personal contact, conventions, and direct communication was effective.

1.2.2. fundraising initiatives

Countries have launched initiatives like "gratitude week" are used to collect money for outreach to specific communities, such as the Pacifica community in New Zealand.

1.2.3. non-financial support

Countries have provided literature, shared experiences, and helped to build service structures (e.g., via Zoom).

1.2.4. cross-border collaboration

Countries have built relationships with neighboring countries that share languages or borders (e.g., Mongolia with China and Russia) proved beneficial.

1.2.5. fundraising for specific causes

Countries have raised funds specific communities or projects.

1.3. What lessons were learned?

Delegates shared that it is important to:

1.3.1. avoid dependency

We need to provide support in a way that encourages autonomy rather than creating dependency. This includes giving recipients meaningful roles and responsibilities.

1.3.2. translate literature accurately

We need to provide correctly translated literature. An example was given of outdated translations in Fiji, which hindered progress.

1.3.3. understanding needs vs. wants

We need to distinguish between what a country genuinely needs versus what it may simply want, ensuring resources are used effectively.

1.3.4. overcome cultural and logistical barriers

We need to be more aware of language barriers, strong drinking cultures, stigma, and financial constraints (e.g. high travel costs, difficulties in international money transfers).

1.3.5. share information

We need to coordinate and document our sponsorship activities more effectively.

Suggestion

- to create a centralized system on the AOSM website to track these relationships and share best practices.

2. What challenges have you faced in starting or maintaining a country-to-country sponsorship relationship?

2.1. What were the key themes?

Delegates shared ideas related to:

2.1.1. social stigma

The stigma of alcoholism is seen as a cultural taboo or problem.

2.1.2. competition with local institutions

The church may prefer to handle alcoholism within its congregation.

2.1.3. lack of local representation

Representatives are often expatriate rather than people born in the country.

2.1.4. misunderstanding of AA's purpose

AA is sometimes treated as a social or hierarchical group focused on comradery rather than on working the steps.

2.1.5. lack of group autonomy

Some groups do not practice rotation of leadership, which may risk the group's demise when the leader is no longer present.

2.1.6. strong drinking culture

In South Korea, not drinking can lead to job loss, though this is starting to change.

2.1.7. gender inequality

Women may be vilified for drinking in ways that men are not.

2.1.8. dogmatism in meetings

Some language translations imply there is only one interpretation of AA concepts, such as a Higher Power.

2.1.9. LGBTQ+ prejudice

Members of the LGBTQ+ community may have been taught that they should kill themselves.

2.1.10. shame

Alcoholics may carry a deep shame about asking for help.

2.1.11. cultural conflict

A culture focused on "money, property and prestige" may conflict with AA principles.

2.1.12. language barriers

Delegates frequently mentioned such barriers.

2.1.13. logistical and geographic hurdles

India faces difficulties in reaching rural areas. Mongolia highlighted high transportation costs.

2.1.14. financial constraints

Lack of funds affects literature distribution and delegate participation in international meetings.

2.1.15. communication issues

Japan struggles with communication among expatriate communities.

2.1.16. specific demographic needs

Mongolia noted a need for female-focused program components and fellows.

2.1.17. international fund transfers

Martha from Fiji highlighted difficulties in transferring funds internationally.

2.1.18. creating dependency

A group in Thailand has been repeatedly requesting financial sponsorship to attend service events, risking dependency.

2.1.19. outdated resources

Delegates frequently mentioned the importance of accurate literature translations. Fiji shared their example of being given outdated translations.

2.2. How are we overcoming these challenges?

Delegates mentioned that they had overcome challenges by:

2.2.1. collaborating with institutions

Some groups work with churches to say, "if you can't help them, send them to us."

2.2.2. communicating privately with individuals

Some groups use online communications where individuals can ask questions privately. This was a good way to help newcomers overcome shame and take a "brave" first step.

2.2.3. engaging in grassroots advocacy

Some mothers are standing up for their LGBTQ+ children, saying "no, you need to be whatever you are," which is helping to change attitudes.

2.2.4. doing direct outreach

Some groups identify needs through personal outreach, conventions, and direct communication.

2.2.5. dedicating funds

Australia and Japan established 'International Cooperation Funds', separate from regular contributions, to support literature, delegate participation, and regional activities.

2.2.6. collaborating cross-border

Mongolia benefits from relationships with China and Russia due to shared languages and proximity.

2.2.7. structuring processes

Australia emphasized membership oversight, clear processes, and distinguishing between "wanted" versus "needed" requests to ensure tradition compliance.

2.2.8. adhering to guidelines

Mongolia follows World Service recommendations regarding donation limits for new fellows.

2.2.9. providing roles

To avoid dependency, it was suggested to give roles to delegates and participants to ensure they contribute meaningfully.

2.2.10. understanding sponsee needs more precisely

This was suggested so that sponsor countries can avoid unnecessary donations and ensure effective support.

2.2.11. sharing information

The role of delegates reporting back to their regions and the potential role of a website in providing information were highlighted as ways to improve coordination.

3. How are needs identified between countries? What processes or communication channels are used to match countries that have resources with those that need support?

3.1. How are needs identified between countries?

Delegates mentioned that potential sponsees most often reach out directly to potential sponsors.

Delegates shared that potential sponsors identify needs by asking individuals what their country needs, and by making contacts at international meetings such as conventions and conferences.

Examples:

- Australia and New Zealand providing consistent support to Fiji
- India sponsoring Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal
- Mongolia benefiting from cross-border relationships with China and Russia due to shared languages and proximity.

4. What processes or communication channels are used to match countries that have resources with those that need support?

Delegates mentioned that they:

4.1. dedicate funds

Australia and Japan established 'International Cooperation Funds', separate from regular contributions, to support literature, delegate participation, and regional activities.

4.2. set up ad-hoc committees

Groups, not necessarily organized by the GSO or Intergroup, sometimes form their own committees to visit remote areas and bring literature and information.

4.3. liaise with the General Service Office in New York (GSO) and International Desk

The GSO's International Desk plays a role in gathering and sharing common experiences and providing accurate information. Historical examples include the New York GSO supporting Japan's first Big Book publication.

4.4. organise workshops and international meetings.

Events like the AOSM workshop itself serve as a channel for sharing needs and successes, as seen when Duc from Vietnam received travel funds and Martha from Fiji discussed translation needs.

Suggestion (same as above)

- to create a centralized system on the AOSM website to track these relationships and share best practices.

5. What kinds of support have been most effective in helping other countries strengthen their services and structures? Is it mainly financial, literature, training, or something else?

Effective support was not presented as being “mainly” one type. Instead, it was presented as being a combination of financial aid, literature provision, and practical/relational support, such as training about service structures, fellowship, and direct communication. Delegates emphasized the importance of understanding specific needs to provide appropriate support.

Delegates mentioned:

5.1. literature and informational support

Delegates often mentioned that the primary form of support is in providing literature. This included translating and supplying key texts like the Big Book (e.g., Japan's first Japanese Big Book, India's translations into 14 languages).

5.2. financial support

Delegates mentioned that direct financial sponsorship is a primary method of sponsorship. This includes setting aside specific budgets (e.g., \$1,500 for AOSM literature, \$1,000 for other initiatives) and fundraising through events like a 'gratitude week'. Delegates described how financial support is used for literature, delegates' travel (e.g., Duc from Vietnam received \$540 for travel), and various in-country initiatives.

5.3. practical and structural support

Delegates mentioned that a core part of country-to-country sponsorship is in helping the sponsee country create a structure of service. Singapore shared that this kind of support had been very successful. Delegates mentioned that they had formed committees to visit remote areas to provide literature and information. Australia mentioned that they had hosted their convention in another country (Fiji) as a form of practical support.

5.4. non-financial / fellowship-based support

Delegates shared that activities like participating in other countries' zoom meetings, providing emotional support to individuals in other countries, and attending international meetings like the AOSM, all constitute country-to-country support. South Korea mentioned the value of closer relationships between language-based meetings (e.g., English and Korean).

6. How do we ensure that sponsorship relationships remain aligned with AA's Traditions and avoid creating dependency or imbalance? What safeguards or principles guide your country's approach?

Topics included careful assessment of requests by the sponsoring group's membership, adhering to service guidelines, maintaining clear communication to understand real needs, and ensuring recipients have active roles to foster mutual contribution rather than dependency.

Australia felt that it was important to distinguish between 'wants' and 'needs', and to nominate members who oversee relationships and ensure clear processes.

Mongolia had experienced that was important to adhere to 'World Service Recommendations', especially regarding donation limits because newcomers had lacked experience.

Delegates felt that it was important for a sponsoring country to reflect on how effective their support had been.

7. What role could the region play in improving coordination and sharing information about country-to-country sponsorship? Are there ways we could make the process more transparent and effective for everyone?

Delegates felt that the primary role for AOSM is to act as a central hub for information, primarily through a dedicated website feature, to enhance transparency and to share best practices. A secondary role is to facilitate and reinforce the reporting and coordination efforts of delegates from the member countries.

Delegates suggested that AOSM should:

7.1. create a centralized documentation system

Delegates suggested creating a centralized documentation system on the AOSM website to track country-to-country sponsorship activities. The purpose of this system would be to improve transparency and enable knowledge sharing. Delegates stated a need for widespread distribution of the information in an efficient and effective manner so that best practices can be duplicated, if appropriate for other countries.

7.2. act as a platform for delegates

The importance of delegates reporting back to their regions was discussed as a key part of the information-sharing process. A suggestion was made for reinvigorating the role of delegates and offering support to other countries in the region.

7.3. improve overall coordination

Again, the discussion revealed a need for better coordination and documentation of sponsorship activity within the AOSM region.

1. What does "unity" mean in the context of AA within your country? How is it reflected at the group, intergroup, and national levels?

1.1. Meaning

Unity is consistently defined as working toward the best outcome for the greater good and the common welfare, rather than for personal preferences. It is "singleness of purpose" and "cooperation, not conformity."

1.2. Group Level

Groups exercise autonomy but adhere to the Twelve Traditions. In small or developing fellowships (e.g., Fiji), unity is experienced as a close-knit community supporting each other.

1.3. Intergroup Level

Intergroups (or similar structures like Area Assemblies in Thailand) coordinate groups, provide essential services (helplines, websites), and organize local events like Unity Day (Hong Kong) to foster cooperation.

1.4. National Level

National structures vary. Some countries have a General Service Office or National Conference (Australia), while others use a National Committee (Israel) or Intergroup Conference (Japan). National conventions held every few years (Japan) are a key manifestation of national unity.

2. What challenges have you faced in maintaining unity among groups, districts, and service structures? How have these challenges been addressed?

2.1. Challenges

2.1.1. Structural & Personality Conflicts

Competing service structures (Russia), personality clashes leading to collapse (Thailand), distrust between service boards (US/Canada), and friction from newcomers imposing foreign models (Singapore).

2.1.2. Geographical & Cultural

Vast distances (Australia), diverse languages and cultures within a country (India, Israel), and cultural differences around sharing (Indigenous communities in Australia).

2.1.3. Language Barriers

Division between native language and English-speaking groups (Thailand, South Korea, Hong Kong).

2.1.4. External Factors

COVID-19 disrupting membership (South Korea), legal/banking problems for non-profits (Israel), and a stronger presence of other fellowships (NA in Israel).

2.2. Solutions

2.2.1. Emphasizing Traditions & Group Conscience

Returning to the Twelve Traditions and using group conscience processes to resolve conflicts and make decisions for the greater good.

2.2.2. Forming Unifying Structures

Establishing intergroups (Israel) or National Committees to create a platform for consensus.

2.2.3. Adapting Structures

Creating flexible models that fit the country's size and culture rather than imposing rigid ones.

3. How does your country encourage effective communication between groups and service bodies? Are there any tools, forums, or practices that have worked well?

3.1. Forums

3.1.1. Intergroup/District Meetings

The primary forum for group representatives (GSRs) to communicate.

3.1.2. Area Assemblies & National Conferences

For broader debate and decision-making.

3.1.3. Service Workshops & Conferences

Held annually or regionally (India, Japan) to share experience.

3.2. Tools

3.2.1. Digital Communication

Widespread use of Zoom, WhatsApp groups, email lists, and country-specific apps like Line (Thailand) and KakaoTalk (Korea).

3.2.2. Newsletters

Publications like the "AA Around Australia" newsletter.

3.2.3. Websites and Helplines

Central hubs for information (Singapore).

3.3. Practices

3.3.1. Joint Meetings

Having board members and delegates meet together (New Zealand) improves financial and strategic communication.

3.3.2. Direct Communication

Emphasizing direct lines between groups and the General Service Office (Mongolia).

4. How do we balance differences in opinion, culture, language, or approach within a country while keeping our focus on AA's primary purpose?

4.1. Guiding Principles

The primary purpose of carrying the message is the central focus. The group conscience process is paramount for resolving differences.

4.2. Practical Approaches

4.2.1. Inclusivity and Participation

Ensuring everyone has a voice (New Zealand) and making political decisions within the National Committee to guarantee inclusivity (Israel).

4.2.2. Translation and Materials

Translating AA literature into local and regional languages (India, New Zealand) and providing multilingual support.

4.2.3. Face-to-Face Communication

Prioritizing personal interaction to build understanding (Singapore).

4.2.4. Respect for Autonomy

Allowing for different types of groups (e.g., women-only groups in Hong Kong) to create safe spaces while remaining under the AA umbrella.

4.2.5. Patience and Principles

Relying on patience and adherence to AA principles to overcome distrust and historical conflicts.

5. What role do national or regional events, service workshops, or conferences play in building unity? Are there examples where such gatherings have improved collaboration?

5.1. Role

These events are critical. They are described as essential for improving unity, providing a platform for better communication, and allowing members to connect personally.

5.2. Examples of Success

5.2.1. Japan

Holds conventions every five years and general service forums in eight cities to foster unity.

5.2.2. India

Uses annual service workshops and conventions at the regional, state, and national levels to promote unity.

5.2.3. Fiji

Hosts national events and professional workshops to "get the word out."

5.2.4. New Zealand

Improved financial decision-making and collaboration by having board members and delegates meet together during conferences.

6. How can we better support isolated groups or regions within a country so that everyone feels connected to the wider AA community?

6.1. Active Outreach and Visitation

6.1.1. "Tagalongs"

Taking AA to remote communities through travel and outreach programs (Australia).

6.1.2. Visiting Speakers and Workshops

Sending trusted servants and workshops to isolated areas.

6.2. Leveraging Technology

6.2.1. Virtual Meetings

Using Zoom and other platforms to connect remote members and allow participation in service meetings.

6.2.2. Phone and Online Communication

Utilizing 12-step calls, WhatsApp groups, and online meetings to maintain contact, including for transient populations like those in labor camps (Israel).

6.3. Inclusive Events

Encouraging and supporting attendance from isolated groups at national events (Mongolia).

6.4. Respectful Autonomy

Respecting the autonomy of groups that choose not to be formally part of the AA service structure, while still making resources available to them (Mongolia).

Country Reports



D.1. AUSTRALIA

BRIAN F. — 2ND TERM DELEGATE

History

Alcoholics Anonymous came to the shores of Australia in 1945 thanks to a couple of our nonalcoholic friends acquiring copies of the Big Book from the Office in New York and, along with a few struggling alcoholics, establishing an AA group here .

It was in March 1945 that (Sydney) Rex A first wrote to the AA's General Service Office in New York to introduce his new group as the first in Australia. Rex remains acknowledged as Australia's first 'official' sober member.

Importantly, the fledgling local fellowship had readymade support from several key figures of influence in Sydney: Rydalmere Hospital psychiatrist Dr Sylvester Minogue, Boys Town founder Father Tom Dunlea and psychiatric nurse Archie McKinnon. Hearing of the early successes of the US fellowship founded 10 years earlier in Akron, Ohio, all were keen to put its principles to the test locally. All had contacted the New York office of their own volition and were duly put in contact with each other.

Studies estimate that since its first meeting in Sydney in March 1945, the fellowship has helped at least 50,000 Australians find recovery. At present it is estimated Australia has more than 2,100 AA meetings and over 23,000 members. A survey of membership in Australia is currently under way and once finalized more accurate figures will be available. Some of the preliminary results show that 19% reported sobriety of between 10 and 20 years and 5.75% less than three months. The average member attends between 2 and 4 meetings per week. Women are increasing in numbers, accounting for 49% of the membership.

Since 2020 the Corona Virus has caused havoc for our entire world but our Fellowship in Australia, as in most other countries, has met the disruption and embraced the technology which has enabled the

message of hope and recovery to continue to be spread.

Structure

The Conference structure of AA in Australia is based on the US/Canada model, reflecting our close association with AA's roots. While North America's Conference trial started in 1951 and was confirmed by Resolution in 1955, Australia's first Convention was in Melbourne in 1959. Then followed a combined Convention and first Conference in Sydney in 1961, with Conferences annually thereafter. GSO and AA Publishing started in the 1960s, and the establishing Australian Conference 'Resolution' was endorsed at the Sydney Conference in 1970, when 'Plan 76' for the General Service Board was born.

Voting members of the annual General Service Conference include Area Delegates (3-year terms; currently 19 active Areas), the General Service Board and GSO Manager, and two World Service Delegates (now elected by and answerable to Conference, for four years with overlapping terms). These World Service Delegates also attend the World Service Meeting, the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting and General Service Board meetings, and are important as AA bridges. This provides the Fellowship with the opportunity and means to be better informed about Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide. Australia has attended every World Service Meeting since its inception in 1969.

The Australian General Service Conference formed a Conference International Committee in 1998. This was to parallel the Trustees' International Committee and so enabled the Area Delegates to have direct input.

Our Conference this year, in November, will be our 67th Australian General Service Conference and will be conducted face to face.

Our full General Service Board comprises twelve Trustees. Six Regional and two General Service Trustees who are alcoholics and who serve for four years. We have allowance for two nonalcoholic Trustees who serve for a term of five years (plus up to another five by annual review). We also have a non-alcoholic Trustee Emeritus, a lifetime appointment, who attends Board meetings as a resource, but does not vote. The two World Service Delegates, the GSO Office Manager and the two GSO Staff also participate (non-voting) at Board Meetings. Some Board positions are currently vacant.

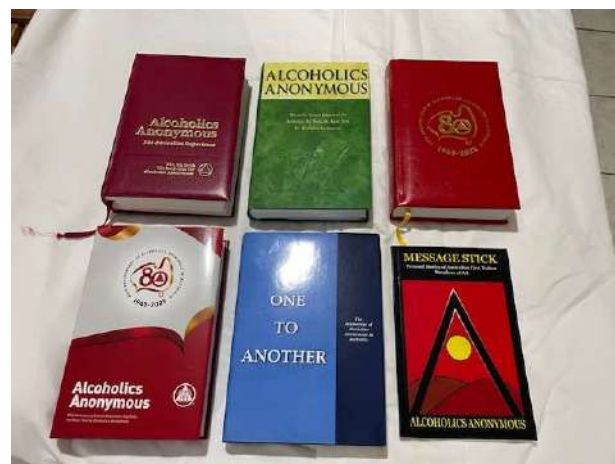
To meet the challenge of modern technology and on-line meetings, Conference Recently approved Guidelines for Virtual Areas. Already we have a virtual Area attending Conference and an application for a second virtual area.

Finance

About 40% of the groups contribute to the general service structure. Donations can be split between the General Service Office, Central Service Offices (C.S.O.s), areas and districts. Literature and CD sales contribute around 48% of our income.

In 1995 our Conference put forward that all groups contribute any surplus funds from one meeting per year — during the week nearest to Founders' Day (June 10th) — to the National Office for the International Literature Fund, originally called the Foreign Literature Fund. The Collection is known locally as "The brown Paper Bag Appeal".

In
2002,



Conference changed the name of this yearly collection to the Founders' Day International Sponsorship Fund because some of the funds were being used to help struggling A.A. groups in the Asia/Pacific Region. In 2003 Conference recommended that 75% of the fund should be used on International Sponsorship projects and that 25% be sent to the International Literature Fund. Australia also provides financial support to the Secretary of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting.

Literature/Publishing /Communications

Australia publishes most of its own literature, importing from the U.S. only those items for which there is little demand and which would not be economical to produce locally. The General Service Office publishes a quarterly newsletter "A.A. Around Australia". The General Service Board also produces a Quarterly Newsletter containing information about Board happenings and a page from the World Service Delegates. Many C.S.O.s produce a monthly magazine and several areas and districts produce a monthly newsletter.

Australia has a national website which is a sophisticated tool for communicating with the Fellowship as well as with the general public. The website lists every meeting which is extremely helpful for members who are traveling and would like to organize a list of meetings for their trip. Information about A.A. is also provided for the newcomer, media and the medical profession. In 2011 a national helpline number was established.

This has extended our capabilities for connecting anyone who needs help with a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. The website also contains an online literature shop and pictorial presentation.

In 2014 we published “One To Another”, a 450-page book outlining the beginnings of AA in Australia. The Fourth Edition Big Book and our own Big Book (First edition 1997 and second edition 2015) are now printed in Australia. To celebrate Eighty Years of AA in Australia a limited Commemorative second Australian edition of the Big Book and also a “Book Jacket Cover” stating 80th Anniversary edition were made available for sale.

A booklet entitled “Message Stick” which includes 15 stories of AA journeys and recovery was launched at the 2024 Convention held in Adelaide South Australia during Easter this year. The authors of these stories are “First Nation Indigenous AA Members” and are a great example to the communities they are from. The Book is currently being created in “Audio” to allow for those with literacy issues to be able to listen to this valuable resource.

An innovation recently introduced is a 24-hour chat line manned by AA members on a roster compiled by the chat line Coordinator. This chat line is proving very popular with younger people seeking information about AA and how to attend meetings.

Service

Australia is roughly the same size as the United States but is sparsely populated. About 90% of its 25 million population is concentrated in a narrow strip along the east coast. This makes for a very uneven service structure. While the major population centers (Australia’s capital cities) have many active groups and districts, there are vast tracts in the “Outback” where A.A. groups may have as few as two or three members and may be separated from each other by hundreds of kilometers. The “tyranny of distance” means that many groups find it extremely difficult or impossible to participate in the

service structure except, perhaps, by gathering at an annual roundup hundreds of kilometers away.

We hold a National Convention every year. The Convention usually rotates around the country, with the host city determined by a bidding process through the areas at our annual Conference. Weekend Rallies are common in many regional towns.

Our World Service Delegates also serve as our Zonal (AOSM) representatives and are at present in negotiations to financially support Bhutan in attending the 2025 AOSM and thus spreading the AA message to our Zone neighbours.

In 2025 we celebrated our 80th Birthday and a number of events were held, including the Convention, to mark this significant milestone.

PI & CPC and Correctional Facilities.

In 2021 The National PI/CPC Forum and the Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum were combined on the one weekend and will be held every second year.

We currently have National PI/CPC Treatment and Correctional Facilities coordinators who help coordinate communication and activities at a National level.

There has been a more concentrated effort by members on carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities. A National Correspondence Service for inmates is being established for those who identify as alcoholics and for those whose incarceration has alcohol as a contributing factor. Two Intergroups have been established, one in Sydney and the other in Melbourne. The aim of these Intergroups is to coordinate Twelfth-Step work, provide literature to inmates and support them upon release. A.A. groups behind the walls in Australia cannot be self-supporting, so the outside groups make financial donations to support the purchase of literature.

D.2. BHUTAN

SONAM T — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

introduction

I am honored to participate in the upcoming ASOM conference in Singapore, which will be my first experience at this event.

National focus on well-being

Bhutan prioritizes Gross National Happiness (GNH) as its guiding philosophy. The government is increasingly worried about the growing addiction problem in the country. The Ministry of Health reports that most deaths are tied to alcohol use. In response, the government has started initiatives to tackle this issue.

Alcohol use and youth challenges

We are witnessing a growing number of substance and alcohol misuse cases, particularly among young people. This trend poses serious concerns for social stability, family health, and overall public well-being. Among youths and students, alcohol consumption is on the rise, influenced by changing environments, lifestyle trends, and, most importantly, the widespread social and cultural acceptance of drinking, even at the community and government levels.

Community-based support initiatives

Local groups, like the Jurwa group, are providing peer support, counseling, and awareness programs. Jurwa engage schools, Institution and communities, and vulnerable populations in prevention and recovery efforts. Awareness programs are conducted every year in all the schools and Institution.

Prison outreach and rehabilitation

Support groups are extending services to correctional facilities for inmates in the prison through the support of our law and Police department. We conduct awareness, recovery and

prevention sessions with inmates. These efforts aim to reduce relapse, improve rehabilitation, and address the connection between crime and alcohol addiction.

Awareness and advocacy efforts

Public discussions and awareness campaigns have grown. Government has started taking initiative by providing training for the counselor and supporting outreach activities. This helps reduce stigma around addiction and encourages people to seek help. Families, society and communities receive education to support recovery rather than isolate affected members. Now even Government has also planned to increase the numbers of Rehabilitation center in the country and make it affordable or at some point provide free treatment.

Partnerships and collaboration

The Jurwa group collaborates closely with schools, communities, Hospitals, law enforcement and relevant agencies to strengthen preventive measures. We focus on creating a sustainable support system through peer mentoring and recovery networks.

Financial and resource limitations remain major challenges for Jurwa community groups. Rising youth unemployment, along with the easy availability of substances and alcohol, continues to fuel the problem. The unrestricted access to alcohol in the country has led to growing misuse, particularly among youths and students. As a result, incidents of violence and crime are steadily increasing.

Looking forward

We must continue to prioritize prevention, rehabilitation, and aftercare. Stronger collaboration among the government, non-governmental organizations, schools, families, and support groups

is essential to effectively address addiction and its social impacts. The number of rehabilitation centers in the country must also be expanded to reach all regions, ensuring services are both affordable and

accessible. For this to happen, strong government support and initiatives are crucial, and support groups as well as NGOs are consistently appealing to the government for action.

D.3. CHINA

ALEX L (NON-DELEGATE PRESENTING BY ZOOM)

In 2000 a group of doctors, mainly Mental Health experts, visited the Betty Ford Foundation (now Hazelden Betty Ford) and was subsequently introduced to AA through one of the Class A Trustees. Key representatives from GSO were invited to Beijing as a result of that trip. Hence AA was actually formally introduced into China directly into the leading Mental Health Hospitals. There were some AA meetings in China prior to this event.

Today there are 152 in-person meetings per week in 103 venues spread across 82 cities. As a side effect of COVID online meetings have surged to over 200 meetings a week with the earliest starting at 5am and the last one starting at midnight.

In the last few years there has been a notable increase in Regional Quarterly Roundups. These mini conventions can attract as many as 100 people and attendees are not limited to the area. There are about 10 quarterly events all over China today. These meetups have greatly increased the flow and exchange amongst members.

In 2016 we held an AA convention in the city of Kunming. That convention had grown over the years and is now widely recognized as the national convention, And the attendance of the event went from just 80 in 2016 to a record-breaking 460 in 2024.

As the overall AA community makes progress, other 12 Step groups benefit as well. One such example is the establishment of Alateen meetings this year.

Growth and meetings aside, China AA continues to face one of the most stubborn growing-up issues. That issue is the awareness of the need for a general service office. Or, in simpler terms, a service structure above the Group level. At the moment, there is only one Intergroup.

And because of the lack of a central service office, any amount of HIPI work or literature distribution or translations can only be managed best-effort at the individual or group level.

For example, one group started posting TikTok-like short videos (no faces or names) about alcoholism and recovery and attracted 1,500 inquiries in 2024 alone.

While the expat AA community in China is only about 100-200, they remain active and are constantly contributing. One contribution is the completely 7th Tradition funded website chinaaaloners.com. This website provides an entry point for anyone who may be traveling to China.

Despite all the challenges and growing pains, we believe China AA is trudging on the right path as we witness the increasing number of recovering alcoholics.

D.4. FIJI ISLANDS

MARTHA W — 1ST TERM DELEGATE & MELE W — 2ND TERM DELEGATE

Acknowledgements

The AA Fiji fellowship has benefited tremendously from country-to-country sponsorship. We wish to thank both the Australian and New Zealand General Service Offices for their generosity. Their sponsorship has enabled two delegates from AA Fiji to participate in the 16th AOSM in Singapore. We sincerely appreciate the significant support received and are honored to participate in the meeting with delegates representing the Asia-Oceania region.

Background and History

Fiji is a Pacific Island country made up of 330 islands including the two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Our members are in Suva and four other islands. To maintain our sobriety and carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers, we have since the 1990s relied on a virtual platform, mainly because our membership span across the islands. Those that lived in Fiji as expatriates and returned to their home countries continued to stay connected through this platform. The role of technology has been a vital tool in reaching out and staying connected. The fellowship has continued to grow to our current 14 members, 11 of whom are permanent residents or citizens of Fiji.

In 2016, through the support of GSO- Australia, the Australian National Convention was brought to Fiji and created an opportunity for the Fiji Ministry of Health to bring in 140 ministry officials to be part of an AA information day.

In 2023 AA Fiji hosted the 2023 Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) from 6-9 July 2023 at the Novotel Hotel, Nadi. The day following the Service Meeting, AA Fiji held a Professional Workshop which was attended by representatives from medical, religious, governmental, and various other organizations. Important connections were made throughout the

Fiji community, increasing our network of support and collaboration.

General Service Structure

The General Service Structure for Fiji is relatively new and evolving. Fiji AA has been added to the International website in [‘AA near you’](#). Our fellowship is small, so the meetings are close to the General Service Office currently with only two levels in the structure:

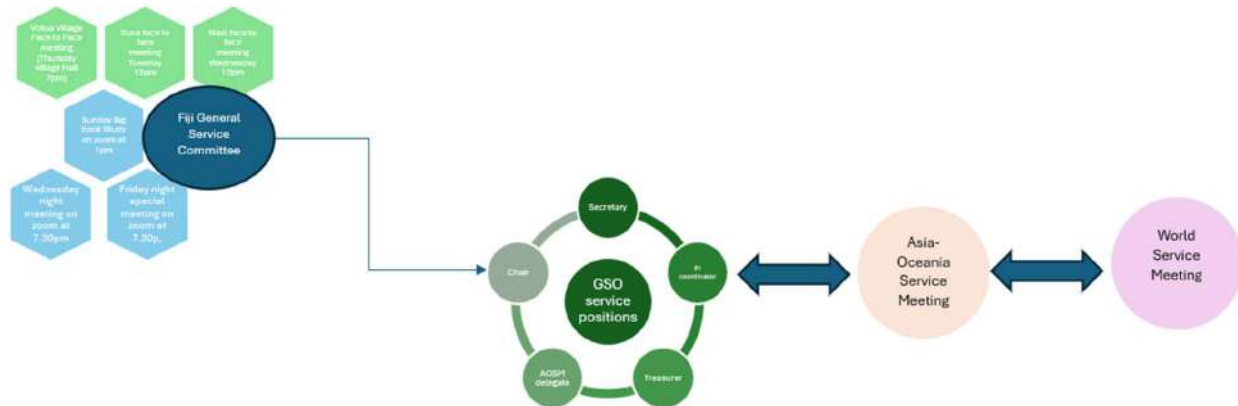
Meetings

Three face to face meetings, one in Suva (Central) and one in Votua (about an hour and a half drive from Suva), and Nadi on the West Coast .

General Service Office

The General Service Office (GSO) conducts its business meeting once a month and has done that since its inception in 2018. The Inaugural Meeting was held on 7 November 2018. When this report was written, 65 meetings have been conducted with a set agenda including Finance Report, Public Information, Hotline Services, Meetings, AOSM updates and other business. The service positions include Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and PI coordinator which cuts across our social media work, website, literature, and hotline services.

The GSO has a draft service structure guideline which is available upon request



Asia-Oceania Delegates

Fiji has been fortunate to be represented and undertake service work outside our National Service Structure through the AOSM for 7 years now (2019 in Hong Kong, 2021 virtually and 2023 in Fiji). AOSM is a gateway where we are able to access support and updated information, share our experience and where our voice is included in decisions.

The AOSM Delegate is elected at the GSO and is typically chosen from members holding a current service position, such as Chair or Secretary. According to AA traditions, decisions are made by group conscience.

AA Services

Virtual meetings

We use the Zoom platform to encourage optimum participation and access throughout the world. The details of our meetings can be found in Appendix 1.

Hot-line service

Our 24-hour hotline number (+679 939 2190) has been operational since 2018 and has helped carry the message of recovery. GSO has developed Hotline guidelines which are available upon request.

Educational Materials

The PI Committee has achieved significant progress in revising and publishing educational materials in

the past four years. Major revisions have been made to the following:

- Women's Poster (English and I-Taukei/Fijian versions)
- Mens Poster (English and I-Taukei/Fijian versions)
- Stickers
- Business cards

A major piece of work developed has been a (Canva) presentation that includes audio recordings of shares from members.

Website

(<http://aafiji.org/>)

We continue to update our [website](#) where appropriate, particularly the meeting times and venues. There are plans to build content, a work in progress as part of our outreach and public information.

Facebook Page

(<https://www.facebook.com/Alcoholics-Anonymous-Fiji-109129457537429>)

A Facebook page increases awareness and is another platform to carry the message of recovery. It's a closed platform that features our 24-hour hotline number (+679 939 2190) as a cover page and has increased its number of followers/members. We have also utilized the Facebook messenger

platform as a way in which our members can keep in contact, study the Big Book, carry the message, and receive updates/news. Our Facebook page now has over 550 followers and weekly engagements on the page for meeting times, monthly messages for general enquiries via FB Messenger as well as the Hotline phone. Our Facebook messenger chat groups are organized as follows:

- Bula women's chat group – share daily reflections and share.
- Bula blog – mixed chat group, share readings, updates including meeting times.
- Big Book study chat – Members share their experience strength and hope on 12 steps and 12 traditions.

Phone Directory

Our hotline number is registered in the National telephone directory as the first number to appear and with our outreach to the Ministry of Health and the Fiji College of General Practitioners, our hotline number is now featured on the Ministry of Health website and the [Fiji College of General Practitioners](#) website.

Community announcements through local radio stations – a local radio station (Legend FM) is now announcing our Tuesday and Wednesday face to face meetings through buzz messages, throughout the week.

Collaboration with External Partners (Non-AA Affiliates) – This section describes our partnership with the Salvation Army, which involved facilitating an awareness session and distributing educational materials to prisons. We also collaborated with the Drugs and Alcohol Substance Abuse/Recovery Network, establishing a connection with a Clinical

Psychologist at Lautoka Hospital for referral purposes related to detoxification. Through these networks, pamphlets and books were distributed, and we worked alongside non-AA affiliates to share information about recovery.

Banking and Seventh Tradition

Our bank account remains operational, and we have a healthy prudent reserve which the GSO strives to maintain to support carrying the message of AA to those who still suffer. We have included ongoing deposits from our face-to-face meetings. The support from our AA friends around the world (particularly from Australia and New Zealand), and country connections through the AOSM has been a tremendous help toward our aim to be fully self-supporting. Still a work in progress, but we are grateful.

Conclusion

Our Fiji fellowship 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 by the grace of God.

Vinaka vakalevu and loloma levo from the Fiji Islands!

Fiji included the following appendices. Please ask the AOSM Secretary of the delegates from Fiji to share these with you directly.

- Appendix 1: Meeting List
- Appendix 2: Educational Materials
- Appendix 3: Fiji General Service Office Manual
- Appendix 4: AA Hotline Guidelines

D.5. HONG KONG

DAVID P — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

History

Alcoholics Anonymous in Hong Kong began in 1969 at the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui with two British expatriates. The first Chinese member joined shortly after. As of 2025, our fellowship has grown to 15 groups across Kowloon, Hong Kong Island, the New Territories, and outlying islands.

Groups and Meetings

We currently host over 40 weekly meetings in both English and Cantonese. While maintaining our traditional face-to-face format, we've integrated virtual options that have proven valuable. In 2024, 867 of our 2,000+ annual meetings were conducted online, either as virtual-only or hybrid gatherings. This flexibility connects former residents worldwide and accommodates busy professionals.

Service Structure

Our groups maintain autonomy while sending representatives to the Hong Kong Intergroup Committee (HKIG), which coordinates essential services including:

- Centralized hotline management
- Literature distribution
- Website administration
- Public information outreach (through our HIPI committee)

Literature

Hong Kong literature is all sourced from the General Service office in New York, with the HKIG serving as the central literature purchaser for groups here, leveraging free international shipping on orders over US\$500. We've translated conference-approved literature into traditional and simplified Chinese,

with all three versions of the Big Book (English, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese) available in public libraries. We also source literature in Hindi, Sinhalese, and Urdu for the South Asian community.

Digital Presence

Our website provides meeting schedules with clear in-person/online/hybrid designations and free AA literature. Recent improvements focus on:

- Newcomer engagement- Creating relatable content and diverse personal stories
- Professional resources- Information on outreach programs and evidence-based effectiveness of AA

Community Outreach

The HIPI committee (Hospitals and Institutions and Public Information) expanded outreach in 2024 to include the LGBTQ+ community, corporate sector, construction industry, and social workers. Established partnerships continue with:

- KELY Support Group (reaching 200+ secondary school students across 6 schools)
- Chinese University of Hong Kong (hosting 38 medical students at 8 meetings)
- Additional initiatives include MTR advertising campaigns, Hong Kong Police Force cooperation, and public service announcements.

Challenges

We successfully navigated the complex process of obtaining charitable status in Hong Kong, opening doors to government-supported media. Ongoing challenges include the transient expat population and working closely with the Cantonese-speaking fellowships.

D.6. INDIA

ANOOP D — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

India History of AA India

The fellowship of AA in India is in its 69th year. It has been a long journey, with diverse culture, multiple languages and uneven growth of AA at the pan India level. 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 at the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. He arrived in India on 12th January 1957. He then began to post ads in local newspapers offering help to those who had 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 along with the literature given to him and stopped drinking from 5th May 1957. He remained sober till his death on 5th June 1967.

Structure

Out of approximately 3000 groups, West and South India has about 2200 groups and North and East has about 800 groups. We have very minimal presence in North-east region of India.

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by four Working Trustees: Vice Chairman/Chairman-Public Information, Treasurer, Literature

Chairman and the General Secretary. A coordinator and three assistants are there to manage the office.

The General Service Board has 9 Class-A nonalcoholic trustees and 18 Class-B alcoholic trustees. Out of the 18 Class-B trustees, 4 trustees serve as working trustees, namely Vice Chairman/ Public Information Chairman, Treasurer, Literature Chairman and the General Secretary. They shoulder the responsibility of the General Service Office as managing trustees.

73 delegates represent all parts of the country. We have had 55 conferences so far. Our 55th GSC was held physically last November at Bhopal, India. We still do not have District Committees or Area Committees throughout India even though we adopted the idea at Conference in 2004. However, recently, a few regions have begun to implement these. Group services are largely provided through more than 100 service entities, including Inter-Groups, District Committees and Area Committees across the country.

The Trustee Committee for Charters & Reports has undertaken an uphill task of updating the Charter and Byelaws and the GSC-53 in 2023 has adopted the revised and updated General Service Manual.

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.

Literature

We publish and distribute AA books and pamphlets in 16 languages, and we publish ‘The Twelfth Step’ magazine bi-monthly. Apart from the national magazine, regional fellowships publish periodicals. GSO India publishes a newsletter occasionally.

Cooperation with Government agencies:

- **Defense:** As per the current information received, more than 40 AA meetings are held weekly at base stations of the Army, etc. Air Force. Because of security reasons, participation is restricted. Paramilitary forces (SSB, CISF, CRPF, BSF) keep on inviting AA for awareness sessions.
- **Railways:** Indian Railways is the largest employer in the country. After we received permission from Rail Board, we were able to conduct awareness sessions in many railway workshops and railway premises and Railway hospitals.
- **Govt Hospitals:** The Health Department of the Central Government and various state governments has given us permission to conduct awareness sessions and to put up information boards and banners in all government run and aided hospitals and primary health Clinics. Recently, our Karnataka fellowship has entered into an MoU with the State health Department where the services of entire primary health workers would be available for carrying the message of AA even to the most interior part of the state. Of course, the said workers would be trained and imparted basic knowledge by AA members.
- **Treatment Facilities:** Nowadays, nearly half of the patients from treatment facilities are coming to AA. AA members at local level are regularly taking sessions about AA at Treatment facilities. The TF committee is exploring ways to further bridge the gap.
- **Media:** Another great friend of AA is the media. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our needs. Newspapers have been particularly cooperative with us by highlighting various facets of our program and carrying stories of recovering alcoholics in a series of articles.
- **Corporate sector:** The Corporate sector has come up in a big way under their CSR schemes and are regularly inviting AA to conduct

awareness programmes for their employees. It has been a welcome development.

- **Online Meetings:** We were able to hold 200+ online meetings in more than 10 languages through different online platforms to keep our fellowship united during the pandemic. Still today, we have several online groups covering practically every hour of the day.

Carrying the Message Online

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

- **Conventions** Annually, conventions are held in different regions and cities within India and close to 15 to 20 National and International Conventions are held annually.
- **PI Conference:** The fellowship had its 4th National PI seminar, organized by General Service Office in 2024 at Guntur. One representative from each service entity participated to share our collective experience and wisdom. and shared their experiences for the benefit of others.
- **Reaching Where A.A. is not there.** In the year 2010, we began efforts to carry the message to alcoholics in areas where A.A. does not exist. Towns were selected on the basis of population, 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 and States like Ujjain, Lucknow, Rajkot, Indore and Roorkee, Chhattisgarh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Kanpur, Andaman Nicobar have been covered and A. A. meetings have been started. Last year the GSB and GSC has approved a new scheme for 'Development of New Areas' with financial support.
- **Literature to Gulf Countries** GSB India regularly sends literature in Indian languages to expats in Gulf countries.

Country to Country Sponsorship

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

Challenges

Perhaps the greatest challenges facing A.A. in India are the social stigma surrounding alcoholism and the concept of woman alcoholics. Due to changing social conditions, the number of women alcoholics in India is rising 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 concern for the fellowship to approach them with the message.

Following a visit of AA Women through an initiative from AOSM, there was sudden impact on fellowship

and many women came forward. But reasons best known to them, again there is apathy in suffering women to come forward and seek help.

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

The major challenge still remains of reaching the couple of Northern states majority of and Eastern states, where nearly 40% of the population resides and the fellowship has virtually very limited existence. Many alcoholics still die for want of message. With the collective efforts, we are sure that the fellowship will reach all those who need it.

Thank you, "GOD be with Us All"

D7. INDONESIA

GREG C AND EMMI D (NON-DELEGATES PRESENTING BY ZOOM)

History of AA in Indonesia

The earliest Indonesian AA meetings took place in Ubud, Bali in late 1990, through the efforts of Bob D, an Australian with many years of sobriety, and Made J, a Balinese friend of AA, who were desirous of creating an AA fellowship in Bali. Over the next five years, Bob, Made and several others (Nadina, Katarina, Logan) worked diligently to expand AA across Bali, and by the end of 1994, there were several active groups and meetings across the island. Little is known in the current local AA community about how and when AA operated in Indonesia between 1995 and the present time, but an initiative has been launched to collect more information, and hopefully our 2027 report will have more to say on the history of AA in Indonesia.

Active Groups

At present, there are nine active groups in Bali (eight in-person groups and one online) and more than 60 in-person and zoom meetings per week). More information on Bali meetings can be found [here](#). There are also five weekly in-person and online meetings in Jakarta and one weekly meeting in Surabaya. More information on non-Bali Indonesian meetings can be found [here](#). Although no precise numbers are known, it is estimated that there are approximately 300 active members of AA in Indonesia, of which more than 90% are located in Bali.

Bali Intergroup

One of the most significant challenges facing AA in Indonesia is attracting Indonesian members. Of the approximately 300 active program members in Indonesia, only a handful are Indonesian; the rest are ex-pats and long-term visitors. Almost all Indonesian meetings are in English.

With that in mind, Bali Intergroup was formed in January 2025 as a local partnership of Bali AA groups

(since expanded to Jakarta as well). Bali Intergroup acts as a general service office for AA groups in Indonesia; as such the purpose of Bali Intergroup is to carry, and help individual groups carry, the message to the still-suffering alcoholic in Indonesia, with particular focus on native Indonesians.

Bali Intergroup is comprised of intergroup representatives from each group in Indonesia. In all matters, Bali Intergroup functions in accordance with the Bali Intergroup Charter and the traditions and principles of AA. All funding for Bali Intergroup comes from donations from groups and individual members.

Bali Intergroup's responsibilities include:

- a. Maintenance of the Bali AA website and AA Meeting Guide meeting list
- b. Oversight for the annual Bali Roundup
- c. Translation of AA literature into Bahasa Indonesia (see below)
- d. Outreach to the professional communities (doctors, priests, judiciary)
- e. Service for hospitals and institutions
- f. Importation and sale of AA literature, medallions & other AA materials
- g. Operation of Bali AA Helpline

Literature Translation

Prior to 2025, the only AA literature available in Bahasa Indonesia were the Big Book and several AA pamphlets. However, in early 2025, Bali Intergroup launched an initiative to translate the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB), along with several additional AA pamphlets, into Bahasa Indonesia. After soliciting proposals from numerous translation services, a Jakarta-based translation service was contracted to provide the translation; in addition, Bali Intergroup formed a committee of Indonesian program members to review and provide feedback

on the translation. In order to manage costs, Bali Intergroup is translating one chapter of the PLBB at a time, and is looking forward to receiving the first translated chapter later this month. Bali Intergroup expects that the PLBB translation will be completed by the middle of 2026 (subject, of course, to licensing and approval from AAWS).

Annual Conference

Every year in early June, Bali AA hosts the annual Bali Roundup, a three-day conference in Sanur Beach, Bali. In 2025, the Bali Roundup featured speakers from Australia, the US and around SE Asia, and the conference had more than 500 attendees. All are welcome for the 2026 Bali Roundup!

District Update

In 2024, Bali District AA became Indonesian District AA with the addition of members from Jakarta, Surabaya and Lombok.

Challenges

The key challenge facing AA in Indonesia is carrying the message to native Indonesians. To date, the membership of AA Indonesia is almost exclusively ex-pats and visitors, and the fellowship takes place almost entirely in English. The challenge faced by AA in Indonesia is no different than the challenges faced in other countries: lack of knowledge of the disease of alcoholism and of the solution we have found, strong societal norms which prevent people from talking about alcoholism and a lack of support from the government and professional communities. The solution? Bali Intergroup and Bali District are pursuing a three-part approach: (1) ensure sufficient AA literature is available in Bahasa Indonesia, (2) continue expand awareness in the medical, judicial and religious communities through public information initiatives, and (3) encourage Indonesian members to create Indonesian-speaking groups and meetings. More funding and more work is required!

D.8. IRAN

IRAJ N. — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

History of A.A. Iran

- The first informal meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the early nineties was held in English in Tehran and at the home of one of the members who was held abroad, in which several members from abroad came to Iran.
- After a few years of hiatus, the first informal meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Iran was organized in the spring of 1999 in the house of one of the members, and the first official meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous was held in the autumn of the same year in Tehran, but in the year 2006 AA meetings in Iran started to be expanded in many cities.

The Beginning of the General Service Conference

- In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the General Services Conference of Iran was held in the form of a delegation and rotated in several cities of Iran. After a few years, due to lack of unity, the meeting of the Council was dissolved, and finally, the first meeting of the General Services Conference of Iran was held on Friday, June 10, 2011 __coincident with the 76th anniversary of A.A.__ with the presence of Alcoholics Anonymous members from all over the country.
- It is worth mentioning that there are currently two service structures in Iran, and the mission of our structure from the very beginning is to be connected with the world service structures and to follow the policy of material and intellectual rights of publications and obtaining licenses.

Over the past years, several meetings have been held with a parallel service structure, and our only condition to achieve this goal is to stop unlicensed publications by a parallel service structure, which unfortunately has not been successful in maintaining the first tradition.

Service Structure

- Currently, there are 19 service areas in our General Service Conference that two delegates from each area participate in.
- We have completed our service manual.
- Our General Service Board consists of 8 class B trustees, the conference chairperson and one former trustee that the places of there are three Class B (alcoholic) and two Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees vacant in our General Service Board.
- Our General Service Conference meetings are held three times a year in April, August and December.
- According to service manual, the number of voting members of the conference is 50, and the area delegates have 38 votes, 76% of the votes of the conference.
- Our General Service Office is in Tehran and we have three Intergroup (Central Office) in Iran, one in Tehran, Kerman and Yazd.
- Today, the A.A. program is very active in Iran. We have more than 400 in-person and online groups in 19 areas which are allied to the service structure of A.A. Iran. Before the pandemic, we had only one online Skype meeting. But now we have more than 55 online groups on Skype, Free Conference Call and Zoom.
- We estimate our membership to be about 8,600 members. A.A. Groups include men only, women only, and some groups that welcome both men and women together in their meetings.

Literature

The translation committee is very active in our structure. Currently, we have 18 Literatures that we have licensed from A.A.W.S. and published, which are:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- As Bill Sees It
- Living Sober
- Our Great Responsibility
- Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.
- Is A.A. for You?
- This Is A.A.
- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship
- The A.A. Group
- The Twelve Steps Illustrated
- The Twelve Concepts Illustrated
- A.A. in Correctional Facilities
- The Problems Other Than Alcohol
- Self-Support Where Money Mixed With Spirituality
- Women in AA
- The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
- GSR

Also, some books are under the processing of translation which are:

- AA Comes of Age
- Came to Believe
- Pass It On
- PI Workbook

- AA in Treatment Centers Workbook

Information Technology- Website and application

Currently, the A.A. website of our country, whose address is www.iranaa.org, has undergone extensive changes and is being updated regularly. Also, we have launched the Iran application in 2024, which is currently available on the domestic platform of Iran at https://amp.cafebazaar.ir/app/ir.iran_aa.main.twa and soon it will be uploaded on Google Play.

In addition, in the past few years, we had three international and trans regional conventions that were held online in the Zoom environment; In these conventions, we have used members from other countries and servants of older structures as speakers

International Meetings History

Our attendances in international meetings started formally in 2014 :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. 2014 23rd WSM Poland | f. 2020 26Th WSM New York (Online) |
| b. 2015 AOSM Dubai | g. 2021 AOSM India |
| c. 2017 AOSM Magnolia | h. 2022 27Th WSM Japan(Online) |
| d. 2018 25Th WSM Durban South Africa | i. 2024 28Th WSM New York |
| e. 2019 AOSM Hung Kong | |

D.9. ISRAEL

JOHN K. — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

With the aid of Canadian AA members who were part of the UN forces in the region, the Shalom Group was formed in Jerusalem in 1975. The next year, member Jay S. reported to GSO New York that twice-weekly AA meetings were held in Tel Aviv as well as Jerusalem in both English and Hebrew. Consequently, Israel is celebrating 50 years of AA this year, with the anniversary being a central theme to the conference held this past May and the round-up to be held this coming November. Such gatherings attract about 200 AA members, indicating that AA Israel is still small compared to other nations, but very active. The AA service structure in Israel is still in the process of formation. It began informally as the chairs of meetings from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa would meet over coffee during the annual May conference. In 2010, time was set aside at both the May and November gatherings for representatives to sit and discuss

national matters, and a decision was made to form a national committee. The primary motivation was AA unity: members could imagine that AA in Israel could split into English, Hebrew, Russian, and eventually Arabic sections. The national committee was seen as a forum for reaching national consensus on AA issues. The second motivation was to provide a legal framework in which groups could operate if the need arose. In 2012, with long-term members as signatories, Alcoholics Anonymous Israel Central Services (AAICS) was registered as a legal non-profit organization. From a combination of imperfect transition in leadership rotation, and limited access to legal advice, the non-profit fell into non-compliance with government regulations limiting its scope of action. For example, for a few years, AAICS could not perform banking, but it could support groups by being an official signatory on leases with municipalities for AA meeting spaces. Because of

more stringent rules, some municipalities required that only non-profits could use municipal spaces such as bomb-shelters. Even with its limited abilities, the formation of AAICS prevented some groups from being evicted from their meeting places. In Israel, public bomb-shelters often double as community meeting places. With the help of pro-bono legal advice, pro-bono accounting services, and a hired “non-profit organization” consultant, AAICS became fully compliant with government regulations about 5 years ago and obtained full banking privileges. It was always understood by AAICS that in principle, all services should be paid for, but without voluntary help a functioning national service structure in Israel might still not exist. Regardless, currently AAICS has a healthy budget pays for professional services it receives. AAICS budgets for, and continues to consult with a “non-profit” expert to ensure governmental compliance. The expert requested that the officers of the registered non-profit not rotate for a few years, to facilitate compliance. Consequently, AAICS has 2 parts: a legally registered entity which includes 3 officers with signing authority: 2 former chairs of the AAICS and the AAICS accountant. Any legal and/or banking action requires 2 signatures. Its mandate is to implement the instructions of the AAICS national committee. The second part is the AAICS national committee which consists of a rotating chair (4-year term: 2 years as deputy chair and 2 years as chair), treasurer, sub-committee chairs, delegates to AOSM, comptrollers, intergroup representatives, and group representatives. Most positions are 2-year terms. Groups may be represented by a group representative and/or an intergroup representative. Meetings are held by Zoom once per month and in person once per year. AAICS is funded primarily through donations from the largest groups in Israel and from a small sum per sale of each Hebrew translation of the Big Book. AA in Israel has obtained a license from AA World Services for the local printing of the official Hebrew translation of the Big Book, the 12 & 12, and several pamphlets.

Historically, the largest groups have acted as “intergroups” and as mentioned above and informally provided a national consensus. As yet, some of their intergroup functions have not been formally incorporated into the national service structure. The Shalvah Group in Tel Aviv prints AA approved Hebrew literature. Some of their members have worked tirelessly in obtaining AAWS approved translations, and in receiving permission to print copyrighted material. Seen as a potential source of income, some AAICS representatives have pushed to have this function as an official part of AAICS. Others have the “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” approach. Periodically, this has been a contentious issue. Regardless, Shalvah members fully participate in AAICS and a percentage of literature sales is regularly transferred to AAICS. It seems likely that such responsibilities will evolve into a more formal structure. The Tikvah Group in Tel Aviv, to some extent, acts as an English intergroup for central Israel. For example, they have a stock of English AA literature available at cost. The Jerusalem groups have formed an organized intergroup, which is currently almost entirely English speaking. The Russian groups have organized a formal intergroup. They are particularly active in outreach through anonymous “attraction not promotion” advertising in newspapers, online, and elsewhere. About 5 years ago, the Annvah group formed as a formal online group, not merely as a group with some online meetings (as was more common during corona). Currently, they have daily meetings and are the biggest AA footprint online with respect to online meetings. All these intergroups, formal and informal, regularly participate in AAICS meetings and their members have often served on the AAICS executive and on AAICS committees.

AAICS has committees for outreach to professionals and for carrying the message into jails and rehabilitation units. Currently, these activities are quite limited and are primarily in the Tel Aviv area. Corona curtailed some activities: e.g. regular visits to the jails have not recommenced since. AAICS supports a website to provide basic information

about AA in Israel. There are meetings in 10 cities and online, with 51 English, 26 Hebrew, and 34 Russian meetings per week. These numbers are in flux. Although Israel has had Arabic speaking members, to date there has been no one with sufficient commitment to establish an Arabic meeting or provide regular 12th step work in Arabic. One of AAICS's main motivations for participation in

AOSM is to establish good relations with any Arabic speaking AA member who would be interested in aiding AAICS in fulfilling the need for Arabic AA in Israel. Another motivation is to enable Israel's participation in the World Service Meeting. The AAICS consensus is that AA's survival depends on remaining apolitical and that Israeli international participation will help to maintain that stance.

D.10. JAPAN

NORI I. — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

History

The history of A.A. in Japan formally began on March 16, 1975, when the first Japanese-language Step meeting was held in Kamata, Tokyo. There are two main paths leading to this beginning.

One path traces back to the early 1950s, when U.S. military bases and central Tokyo hosted A.A. groups of Americans. In 1967, the "Far East Round-Up" was held at the Minami-Tama Air Base, and by 1972, there were about 20 English-speaking groups across the country. These English-speaking groups have continued fellowship and exchange with Japanese alcoholics to this day.

Meanwhile, efforts were also made to establish Japanese A.A. groups. In the late 1950s, with the support of medical professionals, the "Mukogawa A.A. Group" and the "Kochi Alcohol Problem Research Institute" were established. However, the former discontinued its activities, while the latter, differing from A.A. principles, continues today as a separate self-help fellowship (see *A.A. Comes of Age*, pp. 123–124).

The direct trigger for today's A.A. in Japan was the arrival of Father M., an American priest, in June 1974. He attended a Japanese sobriety school meeting and shared his A.A. experience. Eight months later, on March 16, 1975, the first Japanese-language Step meeting was held in Kamata. The Kamata Group continues to meet today. Father P., a

Japanese priest fluent in English, also attended this meeting and later led the Big Book translation project for four years. Details are recorded in *20-Year History of A.A. Japan*, pp. 1–14.

The Beginning and Development of the General Service Structure

In 1985, the 10th Anniversary of A.A. Japan was celebrated with the first National Delegate Assembly, attended by over 100 groups from across the country. At this assembly, Mr. S. was elected as Japan's first World Service Meeting (WSM) delegate, and he attended the 9th WSM in Guatemala in 1986. His exposure to international examples led him to propose the establishment of a nationwide service structure for A.A. Japan, called the "Establishment of the Service Structure of A.A. Japan."

Subsequently, seven preparatory General Service Meetings (GSM) were held. In 1995, the National Group Delegates' Assembly approved the establishment of the General Service Board (GSB). In March 1996, the historic first General Service Conference (GSC) of A.A. Japan was held, marking A.A. Japan's coming of age at its 20th anniversary.

Most recently, the 30th GSC of A.A. Japan was held in February 2025.

General Service Structure



As of February 2025, A.A. Japan comprises 8 regions, 47 districts, and 560 groups, with an estimated membership of 5,300, about 30% of whom are women. Between 2015 and 2022, the number of groups remained stable at about 600. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number decreased by 40 groups (7%), marking the first significant decline in A.A. Japan's history. The largest age demographic is members in their 50s, comprising about one-third of the total. In rural areas, many small groups have fewer than 10 members, with some prefectures having only two or three groups.

The General Service Conference (GSC) of Japan is held annually in February over three days. It consists of 20 delegates from 8 regions, along with 13 GSB members (2 Class A trustees, 6 Class B trustees, 2 WSM delegates, and 3 GSO staff). There are three standing committees. From 2021 to 2022, the entire event was held online due to the pandemic. In 2023, it was held in hybrid format (Day 1 online, Days 2–3 in person). In 2024, it was again fully online due to financial constraints. While methods of meeting vary with financial conditions, in-person conferences remain the priority.

General Service Office

The General Service Office of Japan (JSO) was established in Tokyo in 1981 and is officially registered with the New York GSO. It currently has three full-time staff, all of whom are alcoholics. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the JSO implemented remote work, staggered shifts, and shortened office hours.

In August 2025, the JSO relocated from Tsuchiya Building in Ikebukuro to the Rinya Kaikan in Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku. The move was necessitated by a sharp rent increase at the former office (from ¥394,000 to ¥600,000–¥750,000) announced in February 2025. The new office rent is ¥275,000.



Central Offices

At one time, there were seven central offices. In 2024, one office closed. Other central offices face financial difficulties, staff shortages, and operational challenges (e.g., Hokkaido has no paid staff, is volunteer-run, and open one day per week; the KCO has no director). Additionally, there is an Intergroup supporting English-speaking groups and the “Japan Online Intergroup (JOI),” which supports online groups.

Finance

The 2025 annual budget is approximately ¥48 million (about USD 348,000). This represents a ¥6.6 million increase from the previous year, mainly due to the 50th Anniversary Convention, the publication of a commemorative history, and the new edition of the Big Book.

Income sources:

- Group and individual contributions: 49%
- Literature sales: 26%
- Monthly magazine *BOX-916*: 25%

The JSO relocation costs greatly exceeded estimates, reaching about ¥7 million. As of October, the JSO operating reserve will fall to ¥5.5–6 million, about half of the prudent reserve target of ¥10.5 million (three months' operating expenses). In response, the GSB sent a “Seventh Tradition Letter” to groups, appealing for increased contributions, including individual giving.

The GSB recognized that the ability to make the relocation decision was supported by the prudent reserve principle—maintaining three months’ operating expenses. The financial principle of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, has been reconfirmed as vital for stability in General Service.

Literature and Publications

The first Japanese edition of the Big Book, including personal stories of Japanese members, was published in 1979. Since then, the JSO has translated AAWS publications and produced original Japanese publications, including audio versions of the Big Book, making about 70 titles available. Not all AAWS publications have yet been translated. Books and pamphlets are distributed through the JSO, local central offices, and now also via Amazon (currently 7 titles available). In 2019, the price of publications was revised, with the hardcover Big Book reduced to ¥3,000 (about USD 26.10).

In 2016, the GSC recommended revising the “personal stories” section of the Big Book. In 2022, 53 translation updates were approved.

- In March 2025, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary Convention, the Japanese 4th edition of the Big Book (including 20 personal stories) was published, in four different sizes.
- In July 2025, the Big Book was also released in Kindle format, the first electronic edition in Japan.

BOX-916 is our monthly magazine, with a circulation of about 1,800 copies in 2025, distributed not only to A.A. members but also to hospitals and professionals. It accounts for about 25% of JSO revenue. However, subscriptions are slowly declining. To address this, the GSB formed the *BOX-916 Promotion Committee* in 2020. Since 2021, subscriptions and back issues, including audio versions of articles, have been available through the JSO website. The JSO also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Public Information and Correctional Facilities

Japan has a population of about 120 million. According to a 2013 Ministry of Health survey, 10% were at risk for problem drinking, and 1% (over one million people) were estimated to have alcohol dependence. Only about 50,000 were in treatment. In 2014, the Basic Act on Measures Against Alcohol-related Health Problems was enacted, and A.A. has since been introduced as a self-help group in government and municipal publications.

Public Information (PI) activities include the production of an official A.A. Japan YouTube video in 2023, along with four AAWS-produced PI videos with Japanese subtitles, available on the JSO website:

- Official A.A. Japan YouTube Channel
- AAWS PI Videos with subtitles

A.A. is active in 37 prisons (out of 75 nationwide) and 26 correctional facilities. Since 2022, the GSB has hosted a rotating annual Correctional Facilities Forum across the 8 regions.

In 2022, the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee was newly established. It participates in medical conferences, prepares educational materials, and builds networks with professionals.



Technology Committee

During the COVID-19 pandemic, A.A. Japan established a Technology Committee under the GSB to support digital activities, including a national online meeting portal.

In 2023, the Japan Online Intergroup (JOI) was formed, now registering 70 groups and listing 130 weekly online meetings. This allows members in remote, rural, or overseas locations to participate.

With support from the U.S./Canada GSO, the Japanese version of the AAWS Meeting Guide app

was introduced. It is now operational through JOI and the Kansai Central Office. This international collaboration has strengthened the sense that “A.A. is connected worldwide.”

The Technology Committee also supports online contributions, PI videos via YouTube, and provides online support for the GSC and other committees. Notably, Japan’s technology team assisted in online operations at the 2021 AOSM held in India.

50th Anniversary Convention

In March 2025, the 50th Anniversary Convention of A.A. Japan was held over three days in Omiya City, with 2,300 participants, including international



members and domestic friends of A.A. It was a joyful gathering, filled with laughter, warmth, understanding, and fellowship.

Highlights included:

- Publication of the 4th edition of the Big Book (Japanese)
- An archive corner exhibition
- Entirely self-supported through Seventh Tradition contributions
- Nationwide coverage in the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper

- Simultaneous interpretation in two languages for all main speakers
- Clear guidance against photography and social media posting
- Four special programs hosted by the GSB committees

Reflections

One blessing from the pandemic has been the development of a nationwide communication network beyond time and distance through online tools. This includes nationwide sponsorship, service study sessions, Traditions and Concepts meetings, and service workshops. Importantly, A.A. meetings can now be carried to hospital bedsides via online means.

Ongoing Challenges

Relationship with AI-Anon

There is little ongoing communication. The fellowship of the 12- Step family is not functioning effectively in Japan. Very few family members of A.A. members are also members of AI-Anon.

Message to non-Japanese residents

Japan currently has about 2.9 million foreign residents (Immigration Services Agency, 2025). A.A. Japan has not yet effectively reached out to them, including English-speaking intergroups. At present, the International Committee functions mainly as a Secretary for sending delegates to WSM and AOSM. Looking forward, it is hoped that the committee will take leadership, that the JSO will serve as an information hub, and that A.A. Japan will be able to carry the message in multiple languages.

D.11. KYRGYZSTAN

ARI D. (NON-DELEGATE PRESENTING BY ZOOM)

Dear friends, brothers and sisters!

Today, with great joy and excitement in our hearts, we share with you the story of our young, yet faith-filled and vibrant AA community in Kyrgyzstan.

From a Spark-- to a Flame

In 1996, a precious spark was brought to our mountainous land – the news of AA. For many years, it glowed like a solitary candle. But even the smallest flame is enough to kindle a fire of hope. And that fire has grown! Today, in the capital city, Bishkek, 5 groups are burning brightly, carrying the light of recovery to all who suffer.

In 2024, our community took an important step by creating a new structure – an Intergroup with 6 committees. Now, service is carried out by representatives from all groups, making our unity even stronger!

When the "Big Book" Spoke in the Language of Our Ancestors

One of our most significant and exciting achievements has been the work on the 'Big Book'. Imagine: in 2024, we not only completed its translation into the Kyrgyz language but also received an official license from GSO! And by God's grace and with the help of the World Literature Fund, that same year, the first print run of this Book went to press.

Now, the words of recovery will sound in the native language for thousands who have been waiting for them just like that. This is not just a translation – it is a bridge thrown across the chasm of despair to hope.

Carrying the Message to the World: From Hospitals- to Prisons and City Buses

We firmly believe that our message must reach those who need it most. Therefore, we work closely with the Narcology Center, rehabilitation centers, and since 2024 – we have been carrying hope behind the high walls of correctional institutions.

Our Public Information Committee performed a small miracle: now, public service announcements about AA travel the streets of our cities on public transport! And in 2025, we created a public service video for the media. Thus, step by step, we fulfill our Fifth Tradition, carrying the message to the world.

Legal Foundation and First Fruits of Service

In 2023, we registered a Public Foundation, which gave us a solid foundation for dialogue with the state. And this year, our Intergroup, with pride and gratitude, made its first contribution according to the Seventh Tradition to the International Literature Fund. From being recipients of help, we have ourselves become those who can support others!

We Are Part of the Global AA Family

Our motto is: "Always ready and open to new experiences! Always ready to be useful to other countries!" We are deeply honored that the communities of Russia and Uzbekistan have already reached out to us to learn from our humble experience. This proves that we are all one big family.

An Invitation to a Country of Mountains and Hospitable Hearts

And finally – the most joyful news! In 2026, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of AA in Kyrgyzstan and will hold a large forum. We wholeheartedly invite each of you to visit our sunny country, to share together the joy of recovery and our common service!

Our website: aaorg.kg, and for those who are far away, an online group is open.

Thank you for being there. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve. Your faith inspires us to make this world a brighter place!

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.

- The Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA) incorporates:
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Kingdom of Bahrain
- State of Qatar
- Sultanate of Oman

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 decades now, the UAE claiming to have started its first AA meeting in excess of 40 years ago. The spread and growth of AA in these countries has been encouraging although COVID has impacted many areas regionally. The attempt to carry the message into new areas has

also been somewhat impacted. The region's fellowships support a predominantly Western and Asian expatriate population, as well as a large transient/ traveler population.

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 18th 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 hosted the AOSM in 2015.

Structure of MERCAA

Membership of Countries

- Lebanon
- State of Kuwait
- Kingdom of Jordan
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- Egypt
- Sudan

In most 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.

MERCAA Trusted Servants

MERCAA has had a consistent format of elections since its inception. The structure of MERCAA is as follows: Each position has voting rights; each country delegate also has voting rights.

- Chairperson & Alt Chairpersons: two-year terms.
- Treasurer - two-year terms.
- Secretary - two-year terms.
- Translation & PI Committee Chairperson - voluntary
- Web Servant - voluntary.
- Current MERCAA Trusted Servants

MERCAA's current trusted servants are:

- Chairperson: Bertie S.
- Secretary: Doaa
- Treasurer: Alfred
- Translation & PI Chair: Tamim

Activities

2025 MERCAA Annual Convention

Bahrain hosted the two-day convention, which took place on the 18th and 19th of April 2025. The atmosphere was one of gratitude at being together to celebrate solid recovery and fellowship.

During the Convention the Service positions were rotated, and a first term delegate to AOSM was elected.

Qatar has been selected as the venue for the next MERCAA Convention.

Translation Committee- Arabic Translations

MERCAA, with the help of Intergroup Bahrain, has so far translated the following literature, which has been revised based on an approved Arabic Glossary

Index by GSO New York:

- Big Book
- 12 X 12
- Living Sober
- A Newcomer Asks
- This is AA
- Is AA For You?

The MERCAA translation committee is currently translating other literature as well and coordinating the official approval and licensing with GSO."

2025 update

The Arabic Big Book translation has been in the process of revision by the committee. Tamim, the committee chairperson, has reported that drafts of the first 5 chapters of the

Big Book have been completed. It has been suggested that a professional translator be assigned to translate then the text be reviewed by the members of the committee. There was a rotation of service positions- with Faeq and Bertie reinstated into the Committee.

Recovery Workshops in the Region

Recovery workshops in the region were halted.

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 and Sudan. 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.

Our sister fellowships in the region have grown and organized immensely which has impacted

attendance and growth of AA in the region. Increase in recovery-based meetings have increased, which has positively encouraged AA members to study AA traditions to maintain our primary purpose.

The MERCAA Annual Convention remains the high point 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.

D.13. MONGOLIA

DEEGI M. - 2ND TERM DELEGATE

On November 28, 1998, it was started in room 35 of the Department of Narcology of the State Medical Center, with the participation of 3-4 people who had participated in Minnesota-style treatment. On that day, the first "We" group of AA was formed, and twice a week.

The Mongolian AA General Service Office working in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, since 1998. Now, Mongolian Alcoholic Anonymous NGO has 3.500 members in 180 groups (statistic data from XVI conference Mongolian AA 10 January 2025)

During this historical time:

- Mongolian AA has nine times convention and 16 times conference
- Mongolian AA General Service Office: 1 full time employment working. The address is 9 khoroo, Altain street, TUSHIG BAGANA LLC bld, No 401, Sukhbaatar district, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Phone: +976-1135-1056; E-mail: gso@aa.mn; Web page: www.aa.org.mn; Postal address: P.O.B 26/48 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Mongolian AA member of the AOSM /Asian Oceania Service Meeting AA/ since 2013. In 2014 AA Hong Kong together with AOSM Representatives of AA Australia and AA India are working with the members of AA Mongolia to bring a series of 12 Step and Traditions Workshops to the Fellowship of AA in Mongolia. The objective is to create sustainable 12 Step program understanding and to assist the fellowship in growing through sponsorship of Mongolian AA's BY Mongolian AAs. This "12x12" workshops held in Mongolia 3 times according AOSM delegates assistance.
- The XIII conference held twice, one 13 January on – line Zoom meeting and 24-25 April in person. Due this conference with 74 delegates decided AA SERVICE MANUAL of Mongolian AA.

- During pandemic infection do not disturbed AA Service Conference



- On this service manual approved structure of the Mongolian AA. /Group-G.S.R.s-District and province committees- 3 Area (WEST, EAST, SOUTH)/ Committee has chair & secretary
- We have received 2 approvals license for printing /Alcoholic Anonymous- Big Book, and Twelve steps/ in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2017



- We have received 4 copyrights for translating & printing /Twelve traditions illustrated, As Bill says, Living sober, Circle & Love pamphlet/ onto Mongolian language from World Service Office AA, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2022-2023. In Mongolian language translated 4 books /Daily Reflection, Living Sober, As Bill says, 12 Concepts/ and 2 pamphlets /12 traditions illustrated, Circles of Love and Service/ and applied for copyrights to the World Service Office AA. A.A. World Service Office New York, 26 June 2025. 15:30 local time.
- According to the SERVICE MANUAL structure the General Service /trustees/ Board with 2 A, and 5

B trusts. With nominating, finance, professionals working 3 committees.

- We have made a contribution 100 USD to AOSM every year since 2017, and World Service Office AA 100 USD 2 years.
- The Mongolian AA Conference approved this structure. Today, Conference has 4 Committees:
 - a. Agenda & Nominating
 - b. Literature & International Relationship
 - c. Finance & archives
 - d. Cooperation with the professional community & professionals
- General Service Executive Board working with 7 “B” class trustees, and 1 “A” class trust. Every month there is the Executive Board meeting at the Central office.
- Mongolian AA has AA World Service Meeting, and Asian Oceania Service Meeting AA delegates.
- As the sponsor country Japanese AA all the time assist to Mongolian AA, especially service staff informed official procedures

- We would like nominate next 17th AOSM host country Mongolia from 5 August to 9 August 2027 in Ulaanbaatar, at the Aurora Hotel.



- Mongolian AA biannually celebrated National Convention, and every 5 years International Convention. The last 25th Anniversary International Convention hold at the STEPPE ARENA & “Enkhiin tuluu tsogtsolbor” Camp in 07-10 July 2023. The convention first time used virtual platform to transfer convention in English & Mongolian Languages. In person participants 700, virtually 100 equal 800 AA members from all around the World.

Thank you so much to my Higher Power for keeping me sober.

D.14. NEW ZEALAND (AOTEAROA)

STEVE H. — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

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

Brief Historical Summary

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

Current A.A. Structure

The Aotearoa (New Zealand) Service Structure begins with the individual A.A. groups, which elect

general service representatives (GSRs) to represent the views of the groups at the district committee and intergroup level and the three area assemblies. The area assemblies elect three delegates each to represent them at the General Service Conference (Conference) keeping in mind that they must act for A.A. as a whole.

This Conference structure is how A.A. functions nationally in Aotearoa (New Zealand). It is a framework whereby the collective group conscience of our A.A. 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 reorganized to operate separately from Conference. The Board operates under the statutory legal framework of an Incorporated Society, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of A.A., and the board bylaws. It is the legal arm of the Fellowship and has the ability to contract on behalf of A.A. The Board produces policies and guidelines to allow A.A. 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 bylaws 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 Fellowship's behalf. It provides a vehicle for selling A.A. 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, controls the management and operation of the General Service Office (GSO); and carries out all instructions from Conference to enable it to achieve its objectives. The Board membership consists of a maximum of two nonalcoholic (Class A) members and a minimum of six ex-alcoholic (Class B) members, a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. The class B members can be appointed for a required skill set but there is always a number who have previous Conference experience.

Recent NZ legislation means we will have to increase the Board members to 10 people, which means the Board will outnumber the Delegates at Conference.

It should be noted that the Board members do not have voting rights, with the exception of the Chair and Class A delegates.

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. As a result of the WSM in New York, a working committee was established to investigate how Conference and the Board could assist the growing number of online meetings, by setting up a Zoom account available to all AA meetings online and also to survey the needs and wishes of online meetings and their connection with the Service Structure.

The Board meets before each Conference. It holds its Annual General Meeting (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. Online meetings 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 meets biannually and is composed of nine elected area delegates, eight (soon to be 10) board members (two Class A and six (8) Class Members), the two World Service delegates, the Conference chairperson and the Conference secretary. The only Conference members with voting rights are the nine area delegates, the two Class A Board members, and the chairperson of the General Service Board. The Conference Chairperson has a casting vote only. All members of Conference have speaking rights.

Gratitude Month

Gratitude Month this year has as its goal to raise funds to reach out to our Pasifika and Indigenous

Māori community, who we believe might be underrepresented in our rooms.

Services

The Conference currently has five subcommittees:

- Public Information (PIC) – coordinates the Public Awareness Week and liaises with national media organizations to ensure A.A. gets maximum value for media placements. PIC is always seeking input and initiatives from local PIC and area assemblies. 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 centers 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 A.A. 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 healthcare professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders and those working in the field of alcoholism. Sample pull up Banner: We have 4-2 male and 2 female figures. Each has one with English phrase and also Te Reo Māori phrase
- International – This committee makes suggestions to Conference regarding the regular contributions that NZ makes to the World Service Meeting, International Literature Fund and Asia Oceania Service meeting (AOSM).
- Convention – Three Delegates- 1 from the host planning committee in each area – and the Board member responsible for overseeing the Annual Convention.

- District, intergroup and area meetings generally have PIC, TCF and CPC service committees.

General Service Office (GSO)

Our GSO is in Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara Wellington, Aotearoa (New Zealand)’s capital city, and is staffed by one paid employee, who is assisted by voluntary A.A. members. The office services a Fellowship of an estimated 5,000 members and 549 registered groups. There are also 88 online meetings registered. The office is open daily from Monday to Friday and outside these hours, a telephone answering service operates.

Literature

Our GSO carries most books and literature published by A.A. World Services, Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Aotearoa (New Zealand) no longer publishes a bi-monthly meeting in print entitled Mainstay but old copies are available through the website.. An occasional newsletter is also sent out to the Fellowship. GSO has published translations of the Serenity Prayer and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in Te Reo Māori, one of Aotearoa (New Zealand)’s three official languages. Conference has authorized the further translation of the first 164 pages of the Big Book into Te Ro Māori and this is well underway. A reprint of the booklet containing stories from members who received the message of A.A. in prison was considered but no new stories were supplied.

Information Technology

In 2019, A.A. Aotearoa (New Zealand) conducted a website redesign, and you can see this at www.aa.org.nz. The money for the redesign was raised during our Gratitude Month. The website served us well during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and all our meetings were moved onto an online forum. A redesign has been proposed, and the Board is working on the parameters of this now. There remains a permanent online meeting community in New Zealand that attracts local and overseas visitors We have had amazing stories

where people have come to A.A. through this online community and have found sobriety.

D.15. PHILIPPINES (THE)

PRESENTED BY SAMANTHA T OF CENTRAL-NORTH DISTRICT - (NON-DELEGATE PRESENTED BY ZOOM)

Summary of The Philippine Context

The Philippines is a diverse archipelago composed of three major island groups-Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Each island cluster is separated geographically, making national coordination of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) an ongoing challenge. Yet, despite this separation, AA has maintained a steady presence in the country for over 40 years.

Growth of AA in the Philippines

AA in the Philippines traces its roots back to the early 1980s, though the exact circumstances of its founding remain undocumented. What is certain is the strength of its continuity: in **2026**, the fellowship will celebrate its **41st AA Philippine Convention in Digos City (Mindanao) on February 6-8, 2026** - a first for a Group outside of Davao City

- The first AA Philippine Convention was hosted in Siquijor, a small island in the Visayas, before beginning a tradition of rotating the convention among the major islands.
- Cebu has become a frequent host, attracting a blend of Filipino and foreign members. Cebu also serves the fellowship nationwide by distributing and selling AA literature.
- In Angeles City, the "Alcoholics for a Mission" group has thrived for 32 years, now the VFW Group, co-organizing annual AA Fall Roundups every October. In August 2024, the 23rd Fall Roundup was successfully held, which reached approximately 178 participants.
- Baguio City played a historic role by hosting the 22nd Fall Roundup and, significantly, the 40th AA Philippine Convention-the first time a Luzon group organized the event. Over 212 members from across the islands attended, both Filipinos and foreigners, marking the highest number of attendees for the past 40 years.

- Davao City in Mindanao and Dumaguete and Bacolod in the Visayas have also been important centers, with groups composed mostly of foreigners but increasingly welcoming Filipino members.

The pattern is clear: AA's story in the Philippines is one of resilience, expansion, and a slow but steady rise in Filipino participation.

Developments

The fellowship has experienced both promising beginnings and setbacks:

- In the **1980s**, a **General Service Office (GSO)** was briefly established but dissolved within 2-3 years, leaving the fellowship without national service coordination.
- Repeated attempts to form intergroups failed to sustain momentum.
- Yet, from the **2010s onwards**, groups formed with renewed vitality and remain active to this day.
- Public Relations (PR) efforts were discreet-often house-to-house visits, with foreigners accompanying Filipino members to carry the **Big Book** and other AA literature into homes, hospitals, and institutions.

This persistence, though quiet and largely volunteer-driven, has been the backbone of AA's survival in the Philippines.

Groups

Growth of Filipino Participation

During the **late 1990s (1997-1999)**, Filipino members began attending meetings more actively, marking a turning point in the fellowship's identity.

Today's Landscape

- Numerous groups now exist across the islands, many with their **own service structures**.
- The **COVID-19 pandemic** accelerated the creation of **Zoom meetings**, providing access to both closed and open meetings. Even clients from institutions were able to join, broadening participation and outreach.
- *50 Groups: 20 meetings in Luzon, 17 meetings in Visayas, and 13 meetings in Mindanao.*

Discussion on GSO

In **2023**, the question of re-establishing a **General Service Office (GSO)** re-emerged. Groups from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao participated in discussions to weigh the pros and cons.

- At present, no GSO has been formed—discussions remain exploratory
- A member proposed structuring AA Philippines into **three areas**, corresponding to the three island groups, with each area subdivided into **districts** to accommodate the growing number of groups

This conversation is ongoing and represents a significant milestone in AA Philippines' journey toward national unity and service.

Formation of District

In 2024, a breakthrough occurred in Luzon. Groups from Northern and Central Luzon reached a group conscience and formally established a **district service structure**.

Key service positions were elected:

- District Delegate
- Alternate District Delegate
- Secretary
- Alternate Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Relations (PR) Chair
- Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Chair
- Merchandise Chair

- Special Needs Chair

This new district demonstrates the maturity and organizational commitment of AA members in the Philippines, particularly in Cen-Nor.

AA Philippines Website

The digital presence of AA Philippines has also evolved:

- An **informal website** was created in the late 2010s, mainly to share meeting lists.
- In **2023**, members from across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao collaborated to **revamp the website**. Volunteers contributed time and service to maintain updated information, particularly **meeting schedules**, ensuring accessibility for both newcomers and long-time members.
- There are approximately 8 online meetings, 20 meetings in Luzon, 17 meetings in Visayas, and 13 meetings in Mindanao.

The website (<http://www.aaphilippines.com>) is now a critical bridge for the fellowship, uniting geographically separated groups.

Key Takeaways

The story of **Alcoholics Anonymous in the Philippines** is one of perseverance, adaptation, and service across islands. From the first Siquijor convention to the AA Fall Round-Ups in Angeles City, to the historic Baguio hosting, from failed attempts at a GSO to the successful birth of a Central-Northern Luzon (*GEN-NOR*) District, the fellowship has consistently demonstrated resilience.

As AA Philippines looks ahead-toward its **41st National Convention in 2026** and the possible formation of a GSO—the Gen-Nor District stands as an example of unity in action. Its structure, service, and spirit reflect the core truth of AA: **together, one day at a time, recovery is possible**.

The Philippines included a long list of meetings. Please contact AOSM Secretary or Philippines AA for that list.

D.16. RUSSIA

IRINA L. — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

History

The AA movement in Russia began in the late 1980s. The first meeting in Moscow was registered with the G.S.O. U.S./Canada in 1987. As on August 2025, around 1200 groups are registered in the General Service Office in Russia (hereinafter referred to as the GSO). Most group meetings are held in large cities, but the geographic presence of AA is expanding to small towns and rural areas. Some of them hold their meetings every day. About 50 groups hold online meetings (Zoom, Telegram). An AA group for people with hearing problems and AA group for combatants have been registered.

Structure

The AA Russia General Service Conference (GSC) is held annually in Moscow in early April and lasts for

- Public Information Committee
- Finance Committee
- International Committee
- Committee for Work with Treatment Settings
- Committee for Work with Correctional Facilities
- Committee for the Russian AA Conference

The General Service Conference (GSC) currently serves 35 Delegate Districts, including the Delegate District of the Russian-language Internet and one Region “Eastern Siberia and the Far East”.

The 36th meeting of the GSC Russia was held April 03-06, 2025, under the motto “AA Unity is Everyone's Responsibility”. The Conference meeting

four days. Participants of the Conference with voting rights are:

5. Delegates (GSDs) from AA groups, registered with the GSO, where there are no local AA Service Committees
6. Delegates (GSDs) from AA Delegate Districts
7. members of the AA Russia General Service Board (GSB)
8. Executive Director of the GSO (Executive Director of the Fund “Unity”)
9. Russian Delegates to International AA Service Meetings
10. editor-in-chief of the AA magazine.

Observers are welcome at the Conference.

The AA Russia General Service Board includes the following Committees:

- Committee for the Russian AA Forum
- Charter Committee
- Literary Committee
- Archive Committee
- Committee for the AA Russia Magazine
- Information Technology Committee.

was attended by 67 voting AA members, of which 53 were delegates (GSDs) representing 992 AA groups, 10 members of the GSB, 2 international delegates, Executive Director of the GSO AA Russia and the editor-in-chief of the AA magazine “JAAR”.

At the Conference meeting, more than sixty issues were discussed and a number of important decisions were made.

Key Updates

- A decision has been made to conduct a legal and financial analysis of the possibility of distributing AA literature in regions/districts at a unified price, including delivery to local AA offices
- A decision has been made to include the AA Russia Nationwide Telephone Helpline number 800 234 9920 in AA literature. The helpline operates 24/7 across all time zones
- The work has been completed on the Russian retranslation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The previous translation dates back to 1989
- Work is underway to add a new section to the website (in the “About AA” tab): “FOR PROFESSIONALS,” “FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES,” on <https://aarussia.ru/>, following the example of such sections on <https://www.aa.org>
- Work has been carried out to create a Correspondence Service at the AA Russia GSO
- The Russian AA General Service Board was elected to consist of 9 members.
- The next 37th meeting of the General Service Conference, under the motto “Service – Gratitude in Action,” will take place in Moscow, April 2–5, 2026.

Finances

Russian AA GSO Budget 2024-2025

Expenses – RUB 18 928 823.

Income – RUB 18 928 823, including:

Group donations – RUB 5 260 023.

Literature sales – RUB 11 220 000.

Conference fees – RUB 2 000 000.

Return from AA Forum – RUB 448 800.

Literature

In addition to the main popular editions of the AA Fellowship literature, the following in Russian have been published in recent years:

- “12 Traditions Illustrated + Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine”
- Brochures: “My group is my fortress. Safety in AA”, “Handbook for Those Going to Treatment Settings”, “Handbook for Those Going to Correctional Facilities”, “Let’s Be Friendly with Our Friends”, “Women’s Stories” from the series “AA about Itself”, “Speaking at Meetings Outside AA”, “Women in AA”, “The AA Member — Medications and Other Drugs”, “AA for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues- and their sponsors”

An information leaflet has been developed for groups about working with the 7th Tradition, as well as a postcard for a newcomer with large margins.

The translation of the book “Pass It On” has been completed, the final text is being edited.

The Big Book “Alcoholics Anonymous” is being translated into Bashkir, Yakut and Tuvan languages.

Work is underway to coordinate licenses and printing of AA literature with AAWS.

AA Russia website- aarussia.ru- contains information for Russian-speaking groups outside Russia about the possibility of paying for literature and sending donations to the GSO account.

An online store has been opened on the website www.aarussia.ru

Twice a year the Russian-language magazine of AA Russia “JAAR” is published with the supplements: “Women’s Stories” and “Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”. Regular sections of the magazine include: AA News, 12 Traditions, Crossroads of Opinions, Group/meeting/experience, My History, Book Reviews, AA Archive. Work on the second issue of the appendix to the JAAR, “And in war, as in war...”, has been completed.



Public and Professional Relations

Information AA products (stands, booklets, business cards) are placed in hospitals, specialized medical organizations, rehabilitation centers, pharmacies of various forms of ownership, police precincts.

Members of the Russian AA Fellowship participated in the following events:

- May 14–16, 2025 – the anniversary of the Forum «The Nation’s Health – the Foundation of Russia’s Prosperity», where a video presentation was delivered in cooperation with the AI-Anon.
- April 11–13, 2025 – the 7th International Practical Conference «Psychology of Addiction: Contemporary Challenges».
- April 21, 2025 – the Scientific and Practical Conference «A Multidisciplinary Approach to Providing Addiction Treatment at the Present Stage».

As a result of a meeting with the staff of the Unified Support Center for Participants of the Special Military Operation and their families, options for further cooperation were identified.

A response was received from the Society of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, confirming their readiness for collaboration.

On April 4, 2025, during the GSC, a workshop was held on the topic Experience of Cooperation with Institutions for the Homeless in the Moscow Delegate District.

A new group has been established in St. Petersburg for participants with combat experience. Meetings are conducted in person with simultaneous online access.

Gradually, more and more prisoners are receiving AA message in Russia. Local service structure committees provide the 12th Step opportunities for those suffering in correctional facilities, as well as AA books and brochures.

AA Events

Traditionally, the AA Russia Fellowship holds large annual holidays dedicated to the founding dates of AA in its regions. Local AA Forums are held in many cities of Russia, “August Meetings” are held in Moscow, and “White Nights” are held in St. Petersburg.

In addition to large celebrations, AA holds mobile round tables to spread the AA message. Clergymen, doctors, representatives of law enforcement agencies and administration, social workers, etc. are invited to such events.

The 35th All-Russian AA Forum was held in Saratov in December 2024. The next AA Russia Forum is scheduled for 2025 in Yekaterinburg.



Cooperation with Other Countries

GSO Russia is in contact with AA structures in Moldova, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, Estonia, Great Britain. We remain in constant contact with GSO in New York.

The international delegate from Russia, Andrei M., participated in the WSM in 2024 in New York and in

the International Convention in 2025 in Vancouver. The “Final Report of the 28th World Service Meeting” has been translated into Russian.

A team of translators (English and Spanish) has been formed to carry out the translation of documents, announcements, and other materials received by the International Committee of the Russian AA.

Since its establishment, the team has translated into Russian the following materials: the newsletter

about the 16th AOSM, the AOSM Welcome Pack, the program guide of the International Convention held in Vancouver on July 3–6, 2025, and the Guidelines for European Service Meeting.

Speaker meetings on AA service structure have been organized with invited speakers from different countries.

D.17. SINGAPORE

SIMON A. — 2ND TERM DELEGATE

Singapore AA is privileged to host and participate in AOSM 2025, as our nation proudly celebrates 60 years of independence.

The AA message first arrived in Singapore more than 66 years ago, when it was still a British colony. In 1957, when the population of Singapore was ~1.45 million, Dick M, who regularly corresponded with GSO New York, wrote to advise that Singapore had formed a fellowship with 12 members and two prospective ones. Just two years later, on December 8, 1959, Singapore AA officially registered its first meeting with the Records Department. That was the same year that Singapore attained self-government status but had not yet achieved complete independence.

Today, the population has surpassed 6 million people and is wholly independent; our fellowship has grown to an estimated 300 members. Meetings take place every day of the week across the island, which we fondly call **THE LITTLE RED DOT**.

While we saw an exodus of expats return to their countries of origin, we didn't necessarily see a decline in overall membership. Many meetings

sprang up online, not only here but globally, and served as a much-needed lifeline during times of restricted movement and gatherings. With the return of expatriates to Singapore and increased involvement from local newcomers, we have seen a revitalized energy, and the spirit is strengthening our fellowship as we move forward.

Our fellowship's service structure is supported by an active Intergroup, meeting six times a year. Alongside representatives from each group, Intergroup includes chairs for Hospitals & Institutions/Public Information (HIPI), AOSM, Newsletter, Website, Hotline, Round-Up, Literature, Treasurer, and the Social Committee.

One of our highlights is the annual **Singapore Round-Up**, which attracts not only local members but also friends from neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and beyond. We also open the Round-Up to the Al-Anon fellowship.

This year's Round-Up will take place on the Sunday after AOSM, and we warmly invite delegates who have come to AOSM 2025 in person to join us in meeting the wider fellowship here in Singapore.

D.18. SOUTH KOREA

LAURA S. — 2ND TERM DELEGATE

Brief History of AA in South Korea

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

In the early 1980’s, some AA groups were established in Seoul and Kwangju City. The Gyeoja-si (Mustard Seed Group) started the meeting in Bapo-dong in Seoul and “An Shinbu” was a member of this group. The Go-ma-um (Thankfulness) Group was established in Sang-gye-dong in Seoul. The 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 Gwangju City as its meeting place in 1984. These three groups are the oldest groups in South Korea and are still functioning to carry the message to suffering alcoholics.

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

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

The English AA is independent but in cooperation with the Korean AA Organization. We often have Korean members in English AA meetings. In fact, some English-speaking meetings have Korean speakers for nearly half their attendance. Many Koreans seem to like the more relaxed style, and our commitment to using the AA Traditions in all our affairs.

Groups and Members

In **Korean AA** there are 3,000 members in 203 groups in 11 districts.

- There are 272 meetings each week, available every day.

- This is significant growth in just two years: Two more districts, a lot more members, and more meetings as well. Korean-speaking AA is doing very well. I hope they do vote to bring a delegate to AOSM in the future.
- The Korean International Convention will be held this year from November 7-9 in Buramon in Chungchongbukdo. More information can be found on the Korean speaking website.
- The Korean GSO office is located in Yeong-deung-po-gu in Seoul and has an English-speaking full-time manager, Mr. Kim.

In **English AA** there are about 60+ members in 16 meetings in 3 districts. We used to have 200 members, but COVID made this a much smaller number. It is hard to get an exact accounting.

- Korea has always been transitory for English speaking AA members. Some travel for work. Many are either military or teachers, so there is turnover there. Korea has fallen off a population cliff. So, schools are closing and even universities are laying off staff, unheard of in Korea in the past. So, there are less and less teachers.
- There are 6 Zoom meetings and 3 face-to-face meetings; the Saturday night meeting is hybrid (online and face-to-face) meetings each week, available every day, twice on Sunday in Seoul. There is 1 for Busan, 3 hybrid Pyeongtaek meetings, 3 meetings a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) with an average of 6 attendees for Osan, and 1 monthly for Keyo. That makes 16 meetings a week, and 1 monthly. We generally have people from the USA in our Zoom meetings, specifically the Friday morning Zoom meeting.
- The English GSO office was located in Osan City in Gyeonggi Province but is now in Seoul.

Service Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Korea (AAIGK) is the equivalent of: a) District Office b) Area Committee c) GSO (AA New York) and d) Intergroup Office. We provide services to the expat communities in Seoul and all other parts of South Korea. We run a volunteer telephone answering service; keep and update a list of AA meetings; maintain an inventory of AA literature (or individual groups ask the former USO group to order for them); and organize AA-related events that groups may not have the resources to do themselves. We try to keep track of meetings in the following places: Seoul; Osan; Pyeongtaek; Busan; and Keyo (the hospital for alcoholics).

I have been elected to a 4-year term as Delegate for Korea to attend the AOSM this year, my final year.

The other positions we maintain, in accordance with The AA Service Manual, are: Chairperson; Secretary; H & I; Literature; PI; Treasurer. We used to have a Roundup Committee each year, but no longer have a roundup after 40+ years. Unfortunately, AAIGK has not met for many months, but AA is active on KakaoTalk, a chatting app.

Public Information; Hospitals & Institutions, Co-operation w Professional Community

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

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

International Efforts to Carry the Message

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

Translation & Literature

We are currently working with the Korean GSO Office to print publications & information pamphlets in both Korean and English. We are also creating coins that are printed in both languages to distribute. We also completed a huge project to make a Meeting in a Pocket in both languages.

AOSM Participation

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

This will be the fourth time that English-speaking AA will be in attendance as our representative. Peter J was both blessed and excited to have been chosen to have the honor and the responsibility to come to Hong Kong with his wife, Lisa. He attended Hyderabad remotely, then I (Laura S.) took over. I went to Fiji, and now hope to attend in Singapore.

Any Other Comments & Needs

This year we are not having a face-to-face Roundup. We have had it online for the last few years.

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

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

I am really excited to meet as many of you good people this summer in October. After all, you are my family of choice. I have loved being on the policy committee and I look forward to seeing you soon!

I am grateful to have alcoholism because it used to run my life. Now, it has created a life full of meaning, purpose, and fellowship.

In The Fellowship of The Spirit & The Spirit of The Fellowship.

D.19. THAILAND

BOB M. - 1ST TERM DELEGATE

The history of AA in Thailand dates back to the 1950s and has been functional in various forms since that time.

Structurally we have divided the country into 5 Districts and have an Area Assembly for the country as a whole.

The Districts are:

- a. Central comprising mainly Bangkok – 38 meetings
- b. Eastern Seaboard comprising mainly Pattaya/Jomtien – 54 meetings
- c. North comprising mostly Chiang Mai – 35 meetings
- d. South comprising mostly Phuket and Hua Hin – 44 meetings
- e. North-East although geographically the largest – 11 meetings

Only the Central and South have functioning Districts the rest rely on Area.

AA in Thailand is still unfortunately mainly English-speaking expats who have come to Thailand to retire and that seems to be their mindset towards AA as well. It has been difficult to recruit people for service even in the English-speaking community but there are a few committed alcoholics.

Outreach to the Thai speaking community is being done by a few Thais and a few bilingual expats but is slow and not always available where the need is greatest. The Area Translation committee has done an amazing job translating Books and pamphlets to try to carry the message even more. So far we have, with AAWS approval, translated the Big Book into more local Thai language than the version done by

AAWS and we have done the 12 and 12 and recently completed Living Sober. All were translated and printed in Thailand so much cheaper to produce so easier for Thais to buy them. We recently translated 3 pamphlets directed specifically to the Health Care professionals to try to improve our presence through doctors etc. We have also uploaded pdfs of the Big Book and 12 and 12 to our website to easily download.

The Thai speakers have a Line group as well as a few face-to-face meetings and also a Zoom group.

There are 4 roundups being held through Thailand. The oldest and largest is in Pattaya normally held in February and also one in Chiang Mai held in December. These are mainly English speaking with some Thai language participation/translation. There are also 2 “roundups” held in Thai hospital treatment centres – one in Khon Kaen and the other in a village called Kut Chum. this will be their first one on Oct 24th and these are both Thai language with some translation and outside AA members are not only welcome but encouraged to attend. At the Thai language treatment centres, we have been donating books and literature and encouraging participants to return to their villages and start a meeting to stay sober.

The South District has been running a service workshop for the past 2 years and it has been welcomed and successful. They are the most active district.

Our CPC/PI Committee has been working on updating a start-up meeting guide with some literature for Thai language meetings. We plan to give that out at the treatment centres. The committee has also started a Bridging the Gap

program in 2 Chiang Mai treatment centres with plans to expand elsewhere in Thailand. Most attendees are foreigners who return to their home countries, mainly in Europe, but we do encourage them to go to AA and give them the website from their home community or country.

We do stock virtually all AAWS English language literature in a central location as well as all Thai language literature. The inventory levels and costs and titles are available via a link on our website. There is an e mail address that people can use to place an order for delivery to anywhere in Thailand they want mainly via Thailand Post. We sell at cost plus postage.

On January 1, 2024, we introduced a newly designed website but under the same domain name www.aathailand.org. This was done by an outside contractor in conjunction with our website

committee. The implementation was very smooth and so far well received. It is bilingual. Additions and changes can be requested via an easily filled out form and the website committee replies to all inquiries and requested changes or additions of meetings.

On a personal note, I reviewed our country's reports for 2015 and 2017 and I am disappointed to see how little we have progressed since then. We have many of the same shortcomings. There has been some progress but not as quickly or extensively as I would wish but I must admit patience is not one of my virtues.

I hope to listen and learn from other delegates how they have carried the message in their localities, especially if you are an expat.

I am personally happy that Thailand is back and active in AOSM.

D.20. VIETNAM

N. DUC — 1ST TERM DELEGATE

Xin chào — which means hello in Vietnamese. I'm Duc and I'm an alcoholic, grateful for the hand of AA in welcoming me with love since the first day I walked into the room. I'm a young person in my twenties, and I could not forget how the old-timers treated me as an equal and a fellow traveler.

History

I often went to AA Hanoi, which is located in Northern Vietnam. From what I heard, in the early days about 30 years ago, AA started in a casual setting with two friends gathering together to discuss recovery. Two contractors were living and working in Hanoi and would, every couple of weeks, head to Bangkok to attend a few meetings. They met in Bangkok and realized that they needed to start their own meetings in Hanoi. In the beginning, the meetings took place in a member's house, and then they grew. Over time, things changed, and now people mostly meet in coffee shops. Sometimes, to

recognize each other, I like to ask, "Are you a friend of Bill?" At first, some people seem confused, but then they often respond with a good laugh.

General Information about AA in Vietnam

In Vietnam, there are generally 3 regions of meetings. The service structure is mostly group-based with service coordinators, rather than a full General Service structure. Meetings in Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City happen almost every day of the week. Attendance varies from meeting to meeting and also fluctuates throughout the years. Numbers can range from 3 to 20. The majority of attendees are said to be expats and travelers. Most meetings are held in English.

Literature and Materials

Efforts to support the distribution of literature have been made by the intergroup. Currently, however, literature and materials coordination is group-based.

There is a Vietnamese translation of the Big Book, which was published about 34 years ago.

Events & Conventions

To my knowledge, no conventions have been held in Vietnam. However, there have been Founder's Day events in local groups.

Unique Aspect

Ho Chi Minh City AA offers a women & non-binary open meeting, which is relatively rare in Southeast Asia. The communities are mostly English-speaking in predominantly Vietnamese-speaking cities. Using local coffee shop spaces could be an opportunity to understand and interact with the local culture — to be in the world and of service.

Challenges

- Literature translation
- Some fellows expressed concern that foreigners doing outreach in hospitals could be seen as 'foreigners influencing' local people (e.g., religious converting). Gathering together and saying prayers out loud in public spaces could be misunderstood as 'organizing.' Cultural resistance, such as alcoholism and addiction are sometimes seen as moral failures.

Contact and Website

<https://aavietnam.org>

For me, it was a very nice feeling to go through the day knowing that somewhere in the country an AA meeting was happening, even though each meeting may have its own unique way of sharing the message. And I am grateful to have learned to see my country differently through the lens of AA.

Reflections

E.1. OUTGOING CHAIR – DOUG G.



Serving as Chair of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting has been one of the most meaningful spiritual experiences of my thirty years in General Service.

As I shared in my opening remarks, it felt like the natural closing of a long chapter—one shaped by the guidance, patience, and kindness of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Japan. Without their trust and support over the years, I would never have had this opportunity for growth, nor the privilege of witnessing what unity looks like across such diverse cultures.

This AOSM in Singapore was filled with a quiet, steady sense of purpose. From the first session, there was a spirit of engagement, respect, and awareness of why we were gathered. We even saw how gracefully we could handle a minority opinion—unity in action, expressed not as agreement, but as shared humility. The delegates trusted the officers, and I felt my role was simply to be a “crossing guard”: stop the traffic when needed, signal when to proceed, and help newer participants step forward at the right moments. That kind of leadership, as Bill wrote in Concept IX, is more about example than authority.

Hosting the meeting in Singapore for the first time was a joy. As we rotate the AOSM around the zone, each fellowship receives its own form of a Twelfth Step call. I sincerely hope the Singapore fellowship felt strengthened by the experience, just as they strengthened us through their thoughtful preparation and warm hospitality.

This meeting also deepened my awareness of the challenges we face in carrying the message across the most culturally and linguistically diverse zone in

the world. Yet the bonds we saw among countries—the willingness to share, to listen, to guide—show that diversity can be our strength. We witnessed many examples where country-to-country sponsorship could grow, and I hope each fellowship considers how they can contribute so the responsibility does not rest only on the large, established structures. When we share the load, we move forward together.

To all delegates, especially those in their second term, I encourage you to return home and offer a full report of what you saw, heard, and felt. Your fellowship entrusted you with this responsibility. And as you prepare your successors, please give them the benefit of your experience. I also hope that some fellowships will feel ready to apply for seating at the 2026 World Service Meeting in Portugal. Your voices, shaped by the AOSM experience, would be a welcome addition to our global conversation.

As I rotate out of the Chair’s role, I take my place on the porch—just as our past trusted servants once did. We sit there not to direct, but to remain available. The porch is where we watch, listen, and speak only when asked. It is a reminder that our experience is a gift we pass on, never something we impose.

I leave this service deeply grateful and full of hope. The unity I witnessed in Singapore, and throughout this term, convinces me that the AOSM’s future is bright. Please give your full support to the newly elected officers as they guide this meeting forward. May the spirit of unity and service continue to bless our zone and each of our fellowships.

E.2. INCOMING CHAIR — SIMON A.



As the 16th Asia–Oceania Service Meeting in Singapore has come to a close, I find myself filled with a mixture of gratitude, humility, and a healthy sense of awe at the responsibility that lies ahead. To be entrusted with the role of Chair for the 17th AOSM, to be held in Mongolia in 2027, is both an honour and a privilege, and not one I take lightly.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the officers of the 16th AOSM — Steve K, Simon M, and Doug G. Their steady leadership, experience, and calm presence throughout the planning and delivery of this meeting were evident to all who attended. They demonstrated, in very practical ways, the spirit of Tradition One and Tradition Two: unity of purpose and trusted servants guided by a loving Higher Power. I am also deeply grateful to the Singapore AA host committee, whose commitment, attention to detail, and quiet efficiency created an atmosphere where service work and fellowship could flourish side by side.

My own role at this AOSM was twofold. I served as Chair of the SSA Committee and also as a member of the Singapore AA host committee involved in organizing the venue. These roles gave me a valuable perspective — not only on the discussions and outcomes within committee work, but also on the many unseen acts of service required to bring a meeting of this scale to life. From early planning meetings to last-minute adjustments, I was reminded again that AOSM succeeds not because of any one person, but because many trusted servants show up, often anonymously, willing to do whatever is needed.

Like many who have stepped into service before me, I do feel somewhat daunted by the shoes I am being asked to fill. When I look at the dedication, wisdom, and lived experience of those who have chaired AOSM before me, it is impossible not to feel a sense

of humility. At the same time, I take great comfort in knowing that I do not walk this path alone. I know that the committee chairs and officers — Steve H, Nori I, Andy P, John V, Laura S and Steve K — quite literally “have my back.” That shared commitment to mutual support and collective responsibility is one of the great strengths of our zone.

The 16th AOSM itself was a powerful reminder of why these meetings matter. Bringing together delegates from across the Asia–Oceania region, each carrying the voice and conscience of their own fellowship, reinforces the reality that while our cultures, languages, and circumstances may differ, our primary purpose remains the same. The conversations, workshops, and informal exchanges — whether in meeting rooms or corridors — reflected a deep desire to learn from one another and to carry AA’s message more effectively to the still-suffering alcoholic.

Singapore proved to be a fitting host for this gathering. Its accessibility, diversity, and spirit of service mirrored the inclusive and outward-looking nature of the AOSM zone itself. The warmth extended to delegates, the smooth organisation of events, and the sense of welcome experienced throughout the meeting all contributed to an atmosphere in which trust and openness could grow.

As I look ahead to Mongolia in 2027, I do so with both excitement and respect for the work ahead. Mongolia presents unique opportunities, as well as challenges, and I am keenly aware that successful preparation will depend on listening, collaboration, and a willingness to ask for help — values deeply rooted in AA service. If the experiences of recent AOSMs have taught us anything, it is that faith, humility, and cooperation can carry us through circumstances that might once have seemed impossible.

On a personal level, stepping into this role is another reminder of how far AA service can take us when we simply remain willing. Like so many others, I did not come to AA seeking responsibility or leadership. I came seeking help. That I am now entrusted with this role is a testament not to my own abilities, but to the generosity of this Fellowship and the principles that guide it.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 16th AOSM - the officers, committee members, delegates,

interpreters, and volunteers. I encourage all who read this Final Report to do so with care, as it contains a wealth of shared experience, strength, and hope. I look forward to working alongside you in the coming years as we prepare for the 17th AOSM, trusting that, together and guided by our Higher Power, we will continue to serve AA's primary purpose across our region.

"Serving from the heart: Strengthening our Unity and my Recovery"

E.3 OUTGOING SECRETARY

SIMON M.



Serving as Secretary for the Asia Oceania Service Meeting has been an utter privilege. This role has also been a profound period of growth in my personal recovery.

Initially, the role seemed simple. It involved taking minutes and managing documents. However, it quickly revealed itself as a greater opportunity. It became a chance to develop my sense of service and some personal courage.

Long ago, I was intimidated by almost everybody. I was a chronic people-pleaser who avoided all conflict and decision-making. This position gently but firmly demanded that I change. It taught me that I can take my seat at the table.

The role became an anchor. It grounded me in the practical application of the Twelfth Step. This responsibility forced me to look beyond my own insecurities and to focus on the greater good of our regional Fellowship. I came to appreciate that I am but a small part of a much larger whole.

I want to thank Doug for his solid support. He has been a model of tolerance throughout my term. Doug, you have taught me to live with integrity. You have also strengthened my sense of duty.

I want to thank members of the host committee: Simon A, John V, Lish, Ari, Arron, and all other helpers.

We successfully staged this AOSM with their help. I also acknowledge the YMCA. They were incredibly helpful along the way.

I want to thank the Committee Chairs, too. I consider myself very lucky, at only 11 years of sobriety, to get such exposure to these models of service.

I am unsure if this is for me to say. However, I would like to urge the incoming Chair and Secretary, and the WWO committee, to nurture relationships. Please continue connecting with the five countries who dialed in yesterday.

Also, please connect with countries not here now. This includes past participants or good future candidates, like Malaysia, Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Central Asian nations. Observe them as they develop and unify. Then, invite them to send a delegate when they are ready.

To individual delegates, please carry our message to every group. Your fellowship needs to see the benefits that AOSM can bring so that they continue to send delegates. By sharing, you will create a pipeline of dedicated servants and you will be amazed at how you can inspire people.

To the incoming Secretary, I promise my full support. Your work transitioning to Microsoft 365, or any other similar solution, will improve access to information. It will also significantly enhance AOSM's archiving.

To the WLP committee, the website is poised for growth. Under your leadership, it will become a true hub for our region.

Sometimes, our tasks appear insurmountable. Yet, we are always supportive of each other. We are also forever forgiving. As Doug said, our Higher Power gives us just enough strength. We carry on one day, one task, and one act of service at a time.

Ultimately, my time as Secretary taught me to journey with people. This journey has changed me profoundly. Thank you, wholeheartedly, for the opportunity.

E.4. INCOMING SECRETARY

LAURA S.



Several years ago, my good friend Peter, the AOSM delegate for South Korea, asked me to be an alternate delegate.

The one we had was moving to Germany. I agreed, and went to Hyderabad virtually, because of Covid, as an observer. I loved the enormous amount of positivity during a global crisis; the willingness of people to step up and try to help alcoholics all over the globe, and the interesting times we had learning to navigate online meetings.

Those online meetings saved me during Covid. It wasn't because the thought of drinking ever occurred to me. I was so badly burned by my last experience that I had no urge to do that. No, I needed meetings. We were all so alone in our homes...but we were not alone. Those voices on the other end of the line, both in Hyderabad and elsewhere, kept us all going, I think. I have heard alcoholics talk about getting sober during Covid times...and they're still sober! This proves that AA works any way it can to help us all help one another.

I was elected as the new delegate for South Korea. Then it was time for me to go to Fiji. I was terrified. But I found a very special committee and great people to work with. Christine has become a close friend, and we compiled and edited the AOSM Service Manual over 2 years! It was a lot of work, but we had a great time doing it.

I barely got to Singapore; one member paid for my flight and another my hotel. I was a bit dazed at first, then loved being with everyone and having delicious dinners with my mates. We had an amazing time! Plus, there were such great groups, discussions, meetings, committee work, and voting.

When I was asked whether or not I would stand for Secretary, at first I was shocked and stunned. Then I teared up. What an honor to be of service! Then my ADD and my fear of failure kicked in. I looked up the duties, and realized I could do them. Then the elections came, and I was elected by default. I am still getting my sea legs and stumbling a bit (I am at the end of the teaching semester and taking my own classes as well), but I'm learning to walk a little bit at a time.

I take Step 12 very seriously. I am at the BOTTOM of the upside-down triangle. We support AOSM in whatever ways we can. The meetings must remain open, and AA needs all the help it can get, especially in struggling countries.

Two nights ago, I had a 4:00 AM call from someone who was terrified of going to his first meeting. He was very clear that he was an alcoholic. I explained that we are here to support him, not judge him. That he has a disease, and we can tell him how we treat our disease, one day, one hour, one minute at a time. I hung up half an hour later, hoping I had helped, and was able to fall back asleep. That guy, the still suffering alcoholic, is the reason for all of this.

A few years ago, I had a similar call from a girlfriend who was certain her boyfriend was going to die. His confused and highly concerned parents called me for Al-Anon help, and his sister came all the way to Korea to help her very sick brother. He got to a treatment center, started attending our meetings, moved back to the US, then came back here and attended our meetings again, then moved back to the US again...still sober. This new person could have the same story...if

we show up for them. All of them. If anything, I do as the Secretary of AOSM helps a single meeting stay open, a group handles some issues better, a country gets a link to get some literature, two countries get in closer contact...whatever I can do, then that's awesome.

It is awesome and an enormous honor to be of service to the AOSM. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

E.5. DELEGATES

SIMON A (SINGAPORE) - OUTGOING 2ND TERM DELEGATE AND INCOMING CHAIR



My name is Simon A. and I am an alcoholic. I am the second-term delegate from Singapore. I began my four-year term as AOSM delegate in 2022.

My time in AOSM has been spent as part of the Site Selection and Agenda Committee (SSA). My first AOSM was in Fiji in 2023. My introduction to this service was greatly eased by the wonderful orientation sessions carried out by Simon Miles. And once again, for this 16th AOSM, Simon rolled out the red carpet with excellently crafted orientations for both new and returning delegates.

When I was elected as Chair of the SSA Committee in Fiji, I felt the role was quite daunting. I knew I had big shoes to fill, as the previous Chair, Doug Grude, had done such an outstanding job. I am deeply grateful for the ongoing support of the AOSM Chair, Doug, the Secretary, Simon, the treasurer Steve, and all members of the SSA Committee. Their collaboration, encouragement, and sense of unity have made the experience both productive and rewarding.

As I shared in my opening remarks on Wednesday, the lead-up to this AOSM — and the AOSM itself — have coincided with some personally and professionally challenging times. There were moments when I didn't always feel willing to

schedule the next online meeting or face the workload that comes with service. But, as I was taught early in recovery: *suit up and show up*.

I'm reminded, too, of something my friend John Vincent often says: "Service work needs to be inconvenient." How true that is. Through these moments of inconvenience, I've experienced incredible support from the officers and committee members, and I've heard stories of hope from delegates that have deeply inspired me. I wouldn't have missed this experience for the world — and I'm very glad I didn't blink.

I would like to thank the officers — Doug, Steve, and Simon — for their leadership and dedication. My thanks also go to the SSA Committee for their excellent work; the committee is in very good hands for 2027. I am always in awe of the interpreters beaver away all day.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the Host Committee here in Singapore for their wonderful work in organizing this event. Their efforts have allowed me to focus fully on my role as a delegate and to truly experience the spirit of AOSM in my own home country.

My service as an AOSM Delegate has strengthened my sobriety and opened my heart to the universal

spiritual fellowship that continues to grow — and
save lives — one day at a time.

Thank you for the privilege of serving.

LAURA S. (SOUTH KOREA) - OUTGOING 2ND TERM DELEGATE AND INCOMING AOSM SECRETARY



My Serving on the Policy, Administration, and Finance (PAF) Committee was an incredible learning experience. Christine guided us through the Service

Manual with care and precision, editing line by line and helping us shape meaningful contributions. I truly enjoyed working alongside Duc, John, and Mele—our teamwork made the process both productive and uplifting.

Attending the AOSM in Fiji was eye-opening. I gained a deeper understanding of how we help

others, carry the message, and engage in CPC work. The Singapore AOSM was equally unforgettable — filled with food, fun, fellowship, and a LOT of work! It was a joy to be part of such a vibrant and committed community.

In a completely unexpected turn of events, I was elected to serve as your Secretary for the next four years. So, the fellowship, service, and joy won't be stopping anytime soon! I'm deeply grateful to everyone who supported me along the way- which, honestly, was nearly everyone. I've made new friends for life.

BRIAN F. (AUSTRALIA) - OUTGOING 2ND TERM DELEGATE



Now that my term as a World Service Delegate for Australia is coming to a finale, I would like to share some of my personal

thoughts with all of you. I commenced my role on the first of January 2022 and “role off” on the 31st of December 2025.

In my first six months I fell into a trap of looking at Alcoholics Anonymous in the Asia Oceania Zone through my Australian AA eyes with no thought or understanding of the barriers that other fledgling countries go through in establishing AA in their respective countries. Some of these obstacles can be Language, Culture, Religion and even Government. Language can be overcome with translation but even with translation, different words can have different meanings in various countries.

As Australia is the “Older Sober Country” in the AOSM with that comes a huge responsibility to assist and not try to influence decision making in some of the countries involved. Our role is to encourage and help these countries and members to grow the structure not just create more meetings, that is their role. I had to learn to listen with a different attitude to these people from the OASM

zone and on occasions explain why we need to do certain things in AA rather than how to do it, they will often find their own how when they know why it needs to be done.

I was a member of the Working with Others (WWO) committee and learnt more about the inner workings of AA in some countries compared to Australia. I came to realise that AA in Australia was like a smorgasbord where I can pick and choose what I want, Topic meeting, Steps, Traditions, ID, As Bill Sees It, Living Sober, Recovery, Beginners, Old Timers and many more. Learning the importance of service through District, Area, Round ups and finally Conference.

I think a great lesson was learnt at the AOSM in Singapore when the delegate from Vietnam, Duc, explained that the wording being discussed did not make sense to him whereas those more fluent in English thought it was so very obvious in meaning. A great example for all delegates to listen to another person's perception, to be truly open-minded when working with other countries and their members.

It has been a privilege and honour to represent my country but more important to observe the way other delegates deal with the obstacles facing them in some countries. To all of you that I have met,

observed, listened to and talked with. You all have in different way enhanced my recovery, taught me to

I wish the AOSM and all involved continued success and may our paths cross again as we “Trudge the Happy Road of Destiny”

count my blessings not me problems IE: living in Australia.

CHRISTINE H (NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA) - OUTGOING 2ND TERM DELEGATE



My first service was an on-line World Service Meeting (WSM). I joked that I was probably the only one who was happy it was on-line. I had recently had a second heart

attack and wouldn't have been allowed to fly! It was a surreal experience as for New Zealand the timings meant we were up all night, and my city Christchurch had a Spring snowfall one night!

AOSM in Fiji was next and I still look back on this amazing experience with great fondness.

Then I got the joy of a WSM in New York last year. During which I visited GSO New York and Stepping Stones. I walked everywhere! Watching the staff at GSO New York interact with all of the Delegates attending the WSM was a very spiritual experience.

This year however has been much harder for me personally. Back in February, I had another heart attack and, as it was quite a large one, it took me

some time to recover. However, my Higher Power timed things so I could travel from mid-year.

I do love the spiritual experiences I get from service in AA. When I look back at my first service job being wash the dishes because I don't want to talk to anyone! – and now here I am concluding my four-year Term as WSD/AOSM Delegate despite the health issues and losing my sister last year as well. I do have to say that the belief my Higher Power will give me the strength to do what I need to do was just a little bit tested since July 2024. However, recovery continues to show me time and time again that I do get through the tough times sober.

Once again, the principle of rotation applies. Once you start feeling like you know the job it's time to rotate and say Bye and hand over to the next person.

Best wishes to all of you in your journeys.

SARAH N. (MERCAA) - OUTGOING 2ND TERM DELEGATE



Beginning the Journey

My name is Sarah, and I am an alcoholic. When I began my term as the MERCAA Delegate to the Asia–

Oceanic Service Meeting (AOSM) in 2023, I had no idea how profoundly the experience would shape my recovery, my identity, and my understanding of service.

The welcome pack from the AOSM Secretary outlined expectations, but nothing could prepare me for the spiritual journey that followed. This service became far more than a responsibility—it became a path of healing, connection, and transformation.

Fiji: A Return to My Roots

Traveling from Egypt to Fiji for the 2023 AOSM was emotional. Though my mother grew up in the South Pacific, I had never visited the region sober, or as an adult. Being there felt like stepping into a part of my heritage I had never known. With the support of AA, this experience was deeply healing.

It was also the first in-person AOSM after years online. Surrounded by members from so many cultures, I realized: the world is vast, but AA's hand is even more far-reaching—sometimes it feels infinite.

Representing the Middle East

Before Fiji, I prepared a MERCAA country report summarizing AA in Middle Eastern countries. It mattered to me deeply that our region's voices were represented, especially given cultural sensitivity.

The AOSM's theme- cultural boundaries- was meaningful, and I was honored to share our experiences and challenges. Specifically with accessing literature and translations that carried the message without dilution.

Becoming a Committee Chair

I was assigned to the Working With Others Committee and later was voted in as Chairperson. Our committee met monthly, created guidelines, shared ideas on reaching alcoholics across cultures, and worked on a newsletter for AOSM members and their host countries.

This role taught me assertiveness balanced with flexibility. Service stretched me in ways sobriety alone had not yet touched.

The Power of Unity

A wise member often reminded us: "Always leave a chair empty for the most important person in the room—the alcoholic who hasn't found us yet."

This grounded me whenever discussions grew complex. In AA service, unity is practiced—not just spoken.

Contributing to the 2025 Singapore AOSM

One of the greatest honors of my service was being asked to write a presentation on unity for the second AOSM in Singapore in October 2025. Although I was unable to attend in person, contributing to that presentation kept me closely connected to the heart of the work.

Even from afar, preparing the unity presentation, the country report, and committee updates allowed me to reflect deeply on everything our committees, regions and delegates had accomplished. While I felt disappointed about not being there physically, the sense of involvement and purpose remained strong. This experience reminded me that unity stretches across borders—even when we cannot be present in the room.

What I Gained

Over four years, I grew as a delegate and as a person. I learned to listen deeply, appreciate cultural richness, embrace humility, trust the process, and to show up while releasing the results. Service became love in action.

Healing, Growth, and Gratitude

Representing the Middle East, reconnecting with my heritage, leading a committee, writing newsletters, contributing to the Singapore unity presentation, and participating in the AOSM's collective wisdom—all contributed to healing I did not expect. Recovery expands us beyond our borders, spiritually and emotionally.

I leave this term with compassion, confidence, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to AA principles.

Closing Reflections

This service term has been one of the greatest gifts of my sobriety. AA is a global family united by hope. Service didn't just help me give back—it helped me find parts of myself I didn't know wanted light.

With gratitude, I continue to keep the chair open for the alcoholic who has not yet found us. Thank you- in service,

Sarah Alcoholic, MERCAA Delegate

A Heartfelt Reflection on the Asia Oceania Service Meeting



This year's Asia Oceania Service Meeting was more than a conference—it was a reunion of hearts, a gathering of hope, and a reminder of the strength we share

when we come together. Seeing **18 delegates from 14 countries** arrive, greet one another, and sit side by side was profoundly moving. Each face carried a story, each voice carried a purpose, and together we created a moment that felt bigger than all of us.

There were times during the meeting when you could feel the energy shift—when laughter filled the room, when honest conversations opened doors, when quiet moments of understanding reminded us why we serve. It was a beautiful experience to witness this circle of nations connected by shared passion, humility, and love for our communities.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the Site selection & Agenda team hard working in Singapore.

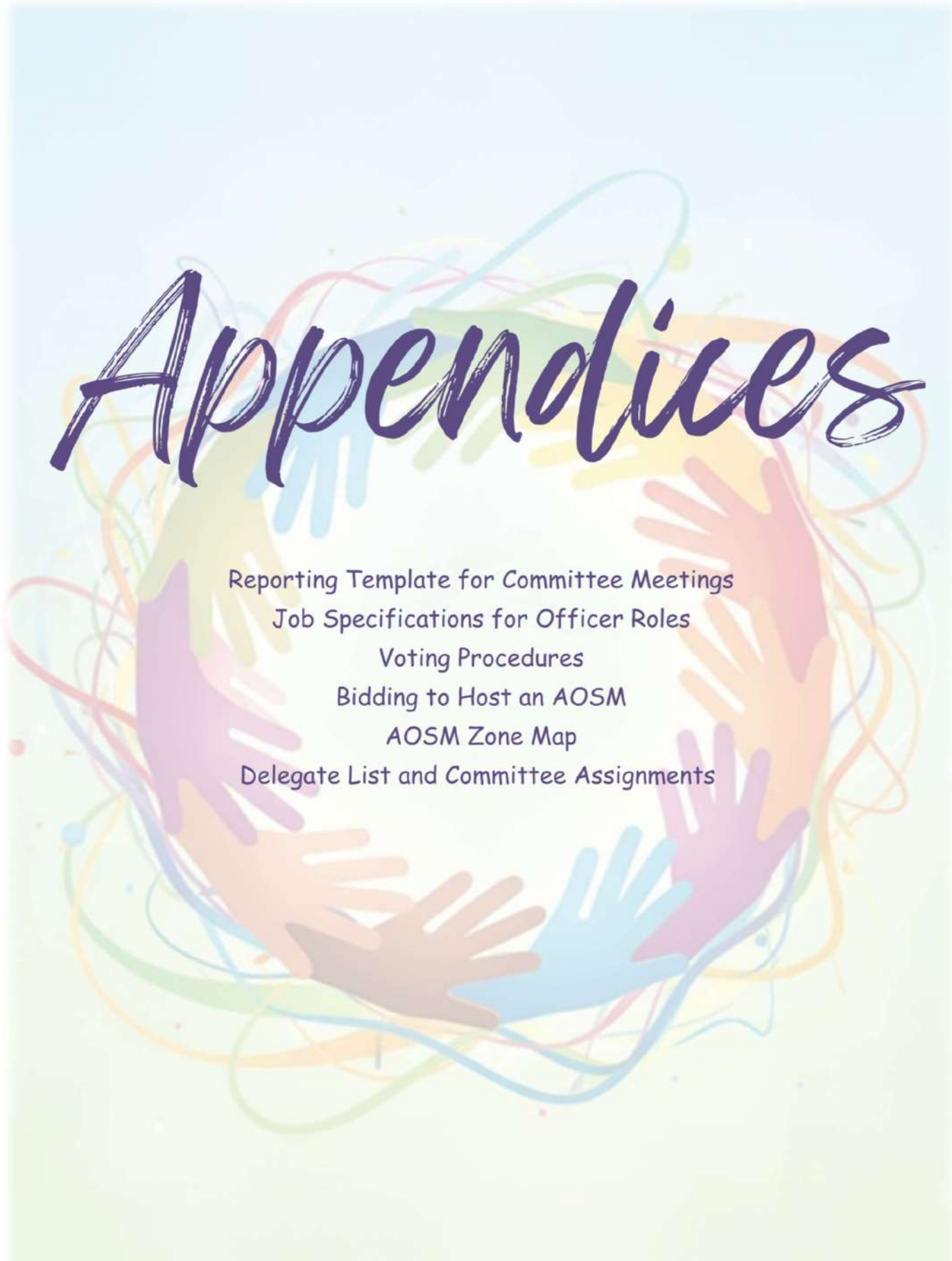
Their care, discipline, and dedication were felt in every detail of this gathering. They didn't just prepare a meeting; they created a safe and welcoming space where unity could grow. We are truly thankful.

And then came the news that touched every heart—the announcement of the **17th Asia Oceania Service Meeting**, to be held **12–15 August 2027 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. The joy in the room was unmistakable. For Mongolia, this is a moment of pride and a celebration of their steadfast commitment to service. We cannot wait to walk once again on Mongolian soil, embraced by their kindness and culture.

As we part ways this year, we carry with us not only the decisions we made, but the feelings—warmth, gratitude, courage, and renewed connection. The Asia Oceania region grows stronger each time we come together, and this meeting reminded us of the beauty of unity, the power of shared purpose, and the hope we create when we say "yes" to serving together.

Until we meet again, may this spirit remain with us and guide our steps forward.

Thank you, Higher Power, for keeping me sober and for allowing me to be a small piece of the big fellowship circle.

The background features a light blue to green gradient. Overlaid on this are several stylized hands in various colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red, purple, brown) arranged in a circular pattern, palms facing outwards. Interspersed among the hands are colorful, swirling lines in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange, creating a dynamic and artistic feel.

Appendices

Reporting Template for Committee Meetings

Job Specifications for Officer Roles

Voting Procedures

Bidding to Host an AOSM

AOSM Zone Map

Delegate List and Committee Assignments

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Officers					
Japan	Doug G.	Chair			
NZ / Aotearoa	Steve K.	Treasurer			
Hong Kong	Simon M.	Secretary			
Delegates					
Australia	Andy P.	1 st Term	Mongolia	Deegi M.	1 st Term
Australia	Brian F.	2 nd Term	New Zealand	Christine H.	2 nd Term
Fiji	Mele W.	2 nd Term	New Zealand	Steve H.	1 st Term
Fiji	Martha W.	1 st Term	Russia	Irina V.	1st Term
Hong Kong	David P.	1 st Term	Singapore	Simon A.	1st Term
India	Anoop D.	1 st Term	Singapore	John V.	1 st Term
Israel	John K.	1 st Term	South Korea	Laura S.	1 st Term
Japan	Masaya O.	2nd Term	Thailand	Bob M.	1 st Term
Japan	Nori I.	1 st Term	Vietnam	N. Duc.	1 st Term
MERCAA	Vincent R.	1 st Term			
Guests					
US/Canada	Irene D.- US/Canada General Service Office: International Desk				Presenter
US/Canada	Bob W. - US/Canada General Service Office: General Manager				Presenter
Interpreters					
Atsushi W (Japan)		Takashi I.(Japan)		Lei M. (Japan)	
Recording Secretaries					
Debbie D., Kent D., Jim J., Simon M., Doug G., Diane F.					
Host Committee					

APPENDIX B: LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Policy, Administration and Finance			Website, Literature and Publishing		
New Zealand	Christine H.	2 nd Term	Japan	Masaya O.	2 nd Term
South Korea	Laura S.	2 nd Term	MERCAA	Vincent R.	1 st Term
Fiji	Mele W.	2 nd Term	Australia	Andrew P.	1 st Term
Singapore	John V.	1 st Term	Bhutan	Sonam T.	1 st Term
Israel	Yisrael C.	1 st Term	Iran	Iraj N.	1 st Term
Vietnam	N. Duc	1 st Term	Hong Kong	David P.	1 st Term
Site Selection and Agenda			Working with Others		
Singapore	Simon A.	2 nd Term	MERCAA	Sarah N.	2 nd Term
Mongolia	Deegi M.	2 nd Term	Australia	Brian F.	2 nd Term
New Zealand	Steve H.	1 st Term	Fiji	Martha W.	1 st Term
India	Anoop D.	1 st Term	Russia	Irina V.	1 st Term
Israel	John K.	1 st Term	Japan	Nori I.	1 st Term
			Thailand	Bob M.	1 st Term

APPENDIX C: AGENDA

Wednesday, October 15

Thursday, October 16

8:00		AA Meeting (optional)
8:15		
8:30		
8:45		
9:00		Committee Meetings #1
9:15		<i>(Policy, Admissions, Finance)</i>
9:30		<i>(Website, Literature)</i>
9:45		<i>(Site Selection & Agenda)</i>
10:00		<i>(Working with Others)</i>
10:15		
10:30		Break
10:45		
11:00		Presentations:
11:15		#4 Unity – the importance of consistent literature
11:30		#3 Extending the hand of AA into all communities
11:45		
12:00		Lunch
12:15		
12:30		
12:45		
13:00	Red Ball Meeting	Workshop 1: Experience with country-to-country sponsorship (break into three groups)
13:15		
13:30		
13:45		
14:00	Break	Break
14:15		
14:30	Opening Address: Host Committee, Singapore	Country Highlights #1- In Person
14:45	Orientation, housekeeping, meeting procedures, committee structures, voting procedures etc.	(4 min each) (not the full Country Report)
15:00		
15:15		
15:30	Keynote Address: Andrew B. (Intergroup Chair, Singapore)	What's On Your Mind?
15:45		
16:00	Break	Break
16:15	Officer's Reports: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer	
16:30		Presentation: 2024 World Service Meeting Discussion/Q&A
16:45	Q&A:	
17:00	Presentations:	Bid Presentations for the 17th AOSM
17:15	#1 Carrying the message through country-to-	(SSA Committee and bidding countries only)
17:30	country sponsorship	
17:45	#5 The value of specialized AA groups	
18:00	Dinner	Dinner
18:15		
18:30		
18:45		
19:00		
19:15		
19:30	AA Meeting (optional)	AA Meeting (optional)
19:45		
20:00		
20:15		

Friday, October 17

Saturday, October 18

8:00	AA Meeting (optional)	AA Meeting (optional)
8:15		
8:30		
8:45		
9:00	Committee Meetings #2	Workshop Report Backs
9:15	<i>(Policy, Admissions, Finance)</i>	
9:30	<i>(Website, Literature)</i>	Committee Reports & Recommendations
9:45	<i>(Site Selection & Agenda)</i>	
10:00	<i>(Working with Others)</i>	
10:15		
10:30	Break	Break
10:45		
11:00	Workshop 2: Cultivating unity within a country	Committee Reports & Recommendations
11:15	<i>(break into three groups)</i>	
11:30		
11:45		
12:00	Lunch	Lunch
12:15		
12:30		
12:45		
13:00	Presentation #2 Translations, Licensing, and the	Committee Reports & Recommendations
13:15	International Literature Fund	
13:30	Country Highlights #2- Hybrid	
13:45	<i>(4 min each) (not the full Country Report)</i>	
14:00	Break	Break
14:15		
14:30	Topic for Discussion: Fully Hybrid AOSM	Committee Reports & Recommendations or
14:45		<i>What's On Your Mind?</i>
15:00		Break
15:15		
15:30	Break	Elections: Chair and Secretary
15:45		Affirm: Treasurer
16:00	Presentation #6 Cooperation with Professional	Farewell Remarks from 2 nd Term Delegates
16:15	Community as a key to growth	<i>(reflections from 1st Term as time permits)</i>
16:30		Closing Remarks from Chair and Treasurer
16:45	Q&A:	
17:00	<i>What's On Your Mind?</i>	
17:15		
17:30		Close with Serenity Prayer in languages present
17:45		
18:00	Dinner	Gala Dinner hosted by Singapore Committee
18:15		
18:30		
18:45		
19:00		
19:15		
19:30	AA Meeting (optional)	AA Meeting (optional)
19:45		
20:00		
20:15		
20:30		

APPENDIX D: JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Terms

- Chair serves a two-year term
- Secretary and Treasurer serve four-year terms
- Secretary and Treasurer terms overlap by two years
- After the first two years, the Secretary or Treasurer is affirmed to continue for the remaining two years

Agreed at the 10th AOSM (Irkutsk, Russia) unless otherwise stated

	Eligibility	Voting Procedure	Primary responsibilities
Chair	Must have attended two previous <i>consecutive</i> AOSM meetings and be present at the AOSM at which the vote is held.	Third Legacy	• Chairs AOSM meeting. • Works in coordination and consultation with Host Committee, being mindful of and working within the guidelines and traditions of AA. • Receives and follows up on reports and communications from Committee Chairpersons, to encourage completion of action items required prior to next AOSM. • Publishes bi-annual updates of committee Action progress reports. • Encourages consistent implementation of AOSM guidelines and concepts. • Calls for items for Agenda for AOSM meeting. • Liaises with Agenda Committee and AOSM Secretary when preparing AOSM Agenda. • Acts as custodian of AOSM bank account password.
Treasurer	Must have attended one AOSM and/or one WSM as a delegate or alternate delegate.	Third Legacy	• Guards AOSM funds. • Receives and administers funds. • Sets up bank accounts. • Sends password of bank account to AOSM Chair. • Advises the account pin number to Finance Chair.

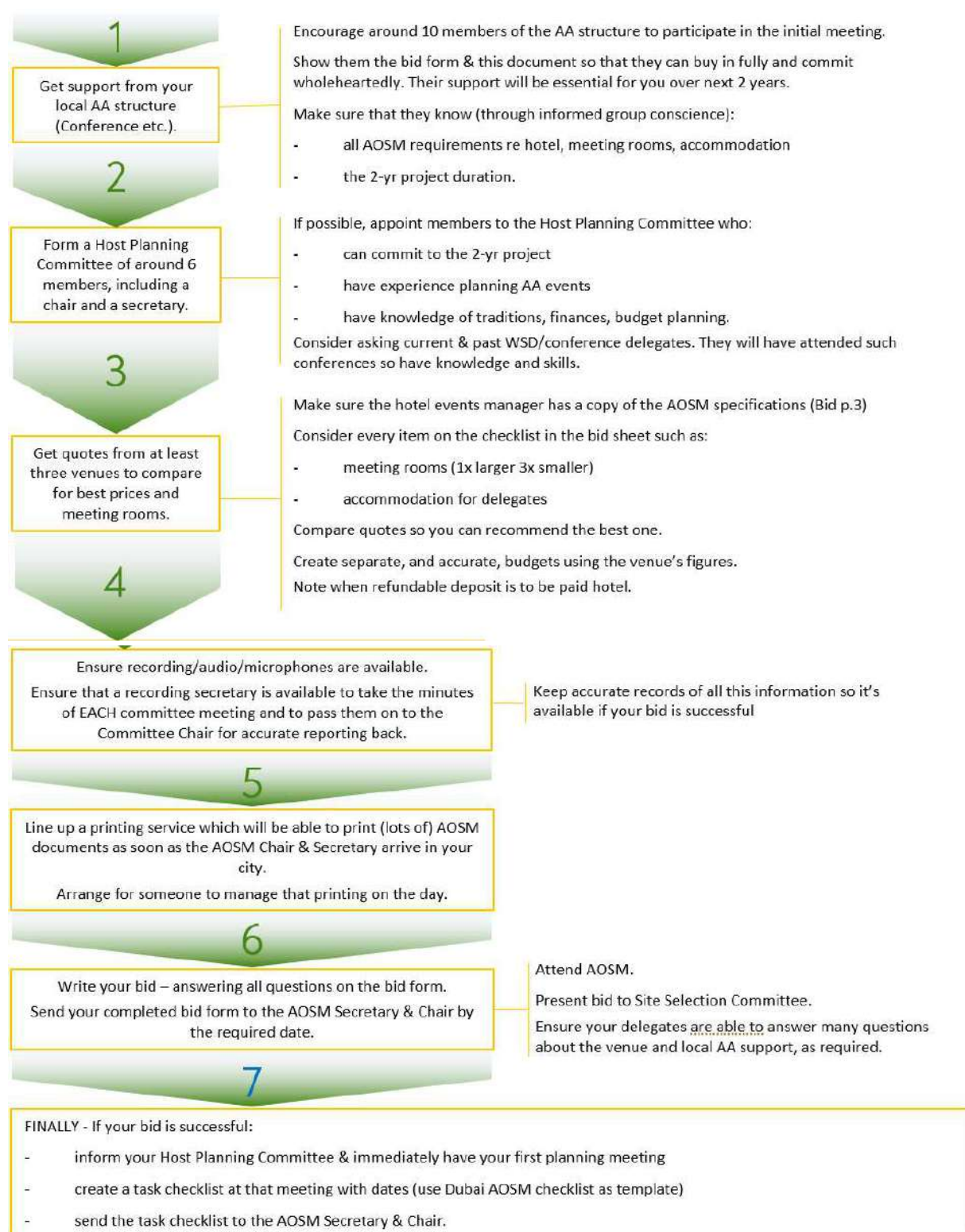
	Does not have to be present at the current AOSM in that role. Notes: ¹ From 16th AOSM (2025), the Treasurer is funded to attend AOSM meetings, subject to the financial position of AOSM (see #PAF1; p44)		• Maintains electronic and hard copy of any transactions made whether incoming or outgoing expenditure. • Publishes finance reports bi-annually. • Sends report for inclusion in AOSM Final report. • Confers with AOSM Secretary on any transaction required.
Secretary	Must have attended one AOSM and/or one WSM as a delegate or alternate delegate and be present at the AOSM at which the vote is held.	Third Legacy	• Administers and keeps safe all AOSM documents, including Treasurer's reports. • Assists in archiving certain documents and completion of service. • Acts as liaison between delegates, host committee, and AOSM Chair – ensures correct communication channels are followed, including for information sent to web master. • During AOSM, records motions made and minutes agreements reached. • Collates minutes of meetings • Obtains prior email approval for expenditure from AOSM Chair and Finance Committee Chair. • Writes AOSM Final Report, incorporating changes and addendums, and circulates it to delegates. • Maintains a list of country delegates and their contact information.

Confirmed at the 16th AOSM (Singapore)

AOSM covers all officers' attendance at AOSM with the following: payment of Registration fee, airfares pre-, and post-meeting, accommodation and meals for the days AOSM is being held. The number of nights' accommodation may be adjusted depending on available flight schedules. Extra night's stay and meals outside that timeframe is a personal responsibility.

¹ Agreed at 16th AOSM

APPENDIX E: AOSM HOSTING - BIDDING FLOWCHART AND BIDDING FORM



Flowchart passed at AOSM Ulaanbaatar 2017

BIDDING FORM

This form is for reference only. Please ask the AOSM Secretary (secretary@aosmaa.org) for the latest version.

Note: Please ask the facility's function manager to read the specifications on Page 147 and carefully explain any variations before you fill in this form.

City:

Country:

Delegate 1:

Delegate 2:

Email:

Email:

Host Country Support

Approximately how many AA members are there in your country?

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

Is your bid supported by your Fellowship?

☐ YES ☐ NO

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

General Service Board

☐

General Service Conference

☐

General Service Office

☐

Intergroup Committee

☐

Area Office

☐

Area/District Committee

☐

Other (please describe)

Has your country hosted the AOSM before?

☐ YES ☐ NO

How will hosting the AOSM benefit your fellowship?

Contact Details for the Chair of your highest level of service structure (e.g. GSB, GSC, GSO, Intergroup etc.)

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

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

1. How far is the conference venue from an international airport? (km)
2. Airport's name?
3. Which major airlines service the airport?
4. What transportation (airport to venue) is available?
5. Cost of airport shuttle, per person (US \$)
6. Is the accommodation within easy walking distance of the conference facilities?
11. If not, how will you transport the delegates to the meeting facilities?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Facilities

Name of hotel:

Website:

No. of rooms:

Does it provide all the required facilities listed in the specifications?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If not, where will the meetings be? Please give full details and a website if possible:

--

How do the facilities vary from the specifications?

--

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?

- 1 Meeting Facilities (Item 7 in the specifications on p4)

If 25 people attend:

US\$

US\$

per person

If 35 people attend:	US\$	US\$	per person
If 55 people attend:	US\$	US\$	per person

2 Accommodation

What will the room rate be for each of the four nights of the meeting?

US\$

What will the room rate be for each extra night if a guest wants to extend their stay before or after the meeting?

US\$

How will the hotel require us to book and pay for accommodation?

- ☐ Delegates will book and pay for their own accommodation. Hotel will provide a booking website with booking code that honors the conference rates.
- ☐ Hotel will provide an email contact for delegates to book their reservations through. Delegates will pay for their own accommodation.
- ☐ Hotel will require AOSM to pay for all accommodation and meeting room space. Delegates will book their accommodation through the AOSM Secretary and will pay the AOSM directly.

3 Methods of Payment

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| How will AOSM settle our bills with the venues? | ☐ credit card | ☐ US\$ cash | ☐ cash in local currency | ☐ PayPal |
| How will delegates settle their bills with the hotel? | ☐ credit card | ☐ US\$ cash | ☐ cash in local currency | ☐ PayPal |

4 Summary of Costs to AOSM

What will be the total cost to AOSM of all items listed in the specifications

US\$

Any other comments?

Specifications for the 17th AOSM [Date to be confirmed]

These are the preferred specifications for an Asia/Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Any variations should be carefully noted on page 2 of the bid form.

1.	Time:	Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon			
2	Deadline:	The completed form must be sent to the AOSM Secretary by 15-September 2025.			
3	Attendees:	25 to 35 delegates; Up to 50 observers. If a larger room is required to accommodate extra observers, the cost difference for the larger room would be the responsibility of the host country.			
4	Accommodation:	Attendees will stay for four or five nights: Wednesday (maybe), Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All guest rooms should 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.			
5	Business Centre:	We will need to print materials and make photocopies, possibly at short notice.			
6	Meals:	Ideally, all attendees should be seated together, particularly at lunch and dinner. On Friday evening, we will require a private dining room with a sound system, for 40 people.			
		Thursday	lunch and dinner		
		Friday	breakfast, lunch and dinner		
		Saturday	breakfast, lunch and dinner		
		Sunday	breakfast, and lunch		
7	Refreshments:	Thursday	mid-afternoon		
	Tea, coffee, iced water and pastries (or similar)	Friday	mid-morning and mid-afternoon		
		Saturday	mid-morning and mid-afternoon		
		Sunday	mid-morning and mid-afternoon		
8	Meeting facilities:	Note: Wi-Fi access is required in all rooms.			
	Number required:	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Main Room	1	1	1	1
	Breakout Rooms	-	3	3	3
	Admin Room	1	1	1	1
	Content of Rooms:				

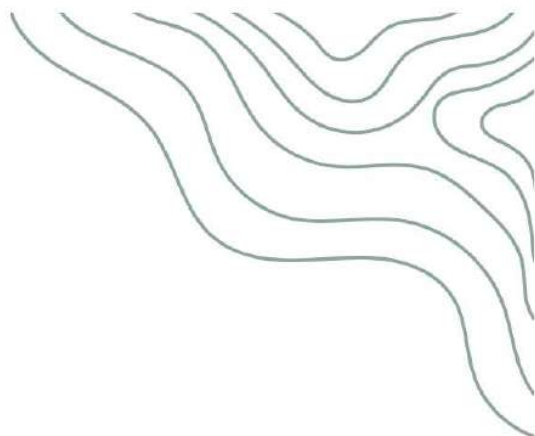
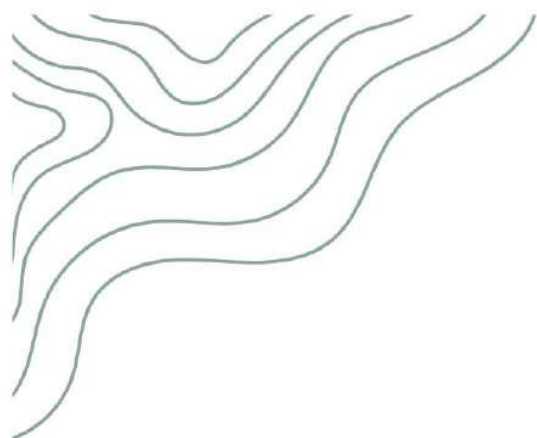
Main Room:	For 35-70 people, with: 28 chairs around the main conference table (round rectangular or hollow) up to 50 chairs elsewhere in the room, for observers a table and chairs for four translators a sound system with at least 10 microphones on the main table a whiteboard a data projector and screen a display table for books & pamphlets (about 1400mm x 1200mm).
Breakout Rooms:	Each for up to 10 people, each with: a table for 5 people
Admin Room:	Lockable with a table and chairs.

Breakdown of Responsibility for Hosting an AOSM

The 16th AOSM (Singapore) formally agreed to adopt this cost breakdown (see #PAF4; p45). This breakdown had been used for previous AOSMs, except that the Treasurer had not been included in the first expense item.

Expense Item	AOSM Delegates, Fees	AOSM General Fund	AOSM Countries	Host Country
Chair's, Secretary's and Treasurer's Travel/Meals/Accommodation		✓		
Delegates' Travel/Meals/Accommodation			✓	
Delegate Airport Greeting, etc.				✓ ^a
AOSM Venue (incl. sound equip.)	✓			
AOSM Venue (additional space for observers)				✓ ^d
AOSM Closing Dinner/Entertainment				✓
AOSM Copies/Prints/Booklets, etc.		✓		
AOSM Final Report printing/mailing		✓		
Recording Secretaries for Committees (if possible)		✓ ^b		✓ ^b
Interpreters (incl. travel/meals/equip)			✓ ^c	
Other administrative items (bank charges, phone, etc.)		✓		

- a) Many countries greet delegates at airport. Transportation to venue is often covered by host country, but delegates should be prepared to pay for their own bus/train/taxi expenses, if necessary.
- b) It is helpful if host country can provide volunteers who can serve as secretaries to take the minutes for the committees and workshops. If there are insufficient local members with adequate English skills available to serve, please let the Secretary know so other arrangements can be made. Meals should be covered by AOSM General Fund.
- c) If a country requires interpretation, they are responsible for making those arrangements themselves and for covering the costs.
- d) The venue should be large enough for the delegates and support staff members to work comfortably. If local observers wish to attend, and there is additional cost to rent a larger space than required just for the delegates and support staff, the difference in the room fee is covered by the host country.



I am responsible...

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

... and for that, I am responsible



