

“THE GROWING AA FAMILY”



4th

**ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING
Of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Olympia Hotel, Seoul, Korea
October 29 - 31, 2001**

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables the message to be delivered more effectively. The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work. The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself.

Confidential – full names used

Since this report is a *confidential* AA document, for members only, it contains members' full names and addresses just as AA directories do.

This usage – to facilitate communication within the Fellowship – is with the approval of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting. Such confidential use does not, of course, violate in any way our Tradition of anonymity in *public* communications media (press, radio, TV, etc.)

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FINAL REPORT

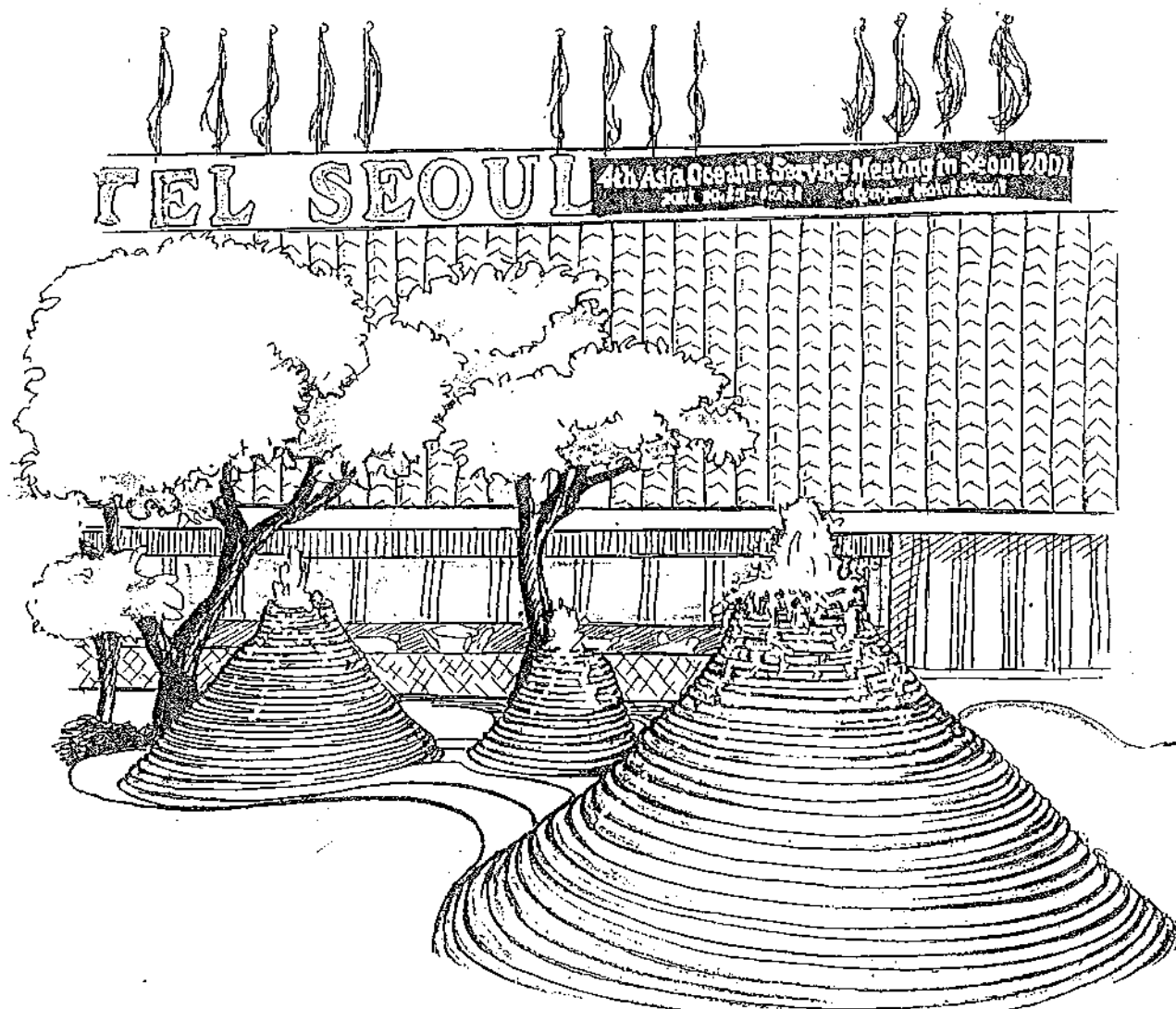


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FOURTH ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING – “THE GROWING AA FAMILY” - AN OVERVIEW

It was a proud moment for the young AA Fellowship in Korea when the 15 delegates representing 10 countries of the Asia-Oceania Zone began arriving in Seoul for the 4th AOSM to be held October 30-31, 2001. There was a warm and joyous greeting for everyone at the Incheon International airport and a quick journey to the Olympia Hotel in the foothills of the mountains overlooking the city.

Delegates came from far and near, from Russia across the vast steppes of Siberia, from New Zealand and Australia in the far South Pacific, the near neighbors Hong Kong, the Philippines and Japan, from the local suburbs of Seoul and from the Southeast Asian countries of Malaysia, Cambodia and East Timor. It clearly demonstrated the Theme of the Meeting: “The Growing AA Family”. Also arriving were two Staff members from GSO New York, our translator from USA, the Secretary from Australia and Chairman from New Zealand.

For those who arrived a day early there was time for a quick visit to the Korean Intergroup Office to sit in time-honored AA fashion with the local members and have a cup of coffee and a chat. Although many had travelled so far the sense of being at home was very strong in the little office surrounded by AA memorabilia and shelves of AA literature and swapping familiar experiences.

In the evening preceding the formal Meeting, all the participants were invited to share a magnificent buffet banquet together with the Korean Host Committee and many of the local AA members and non-alcoholic Friends of AA. The banquet room was decorated with the giant banner: “4th Asia-Oceania Meeting in Seoul 2001”, all the colorful flags of the delegates’ countries and a giant ice-sculpture of a camel, which would have gladdened Dr Bob’s heart. His love for the camel as an AA symbol is well known. A warm welcome was given by members of the Intergroup Committee in both

English and Korean, and delegates were invited to share the reading of "How it Works", the Steps and Traditions and our Preamble in English, which were then read in Korean.

Following the banquet the delegates shared together their experience, strength and hope in a "Get-to-know-you" AA Meeting chaired by Lynne, one of the Australian delegates.

The formal program of the Meeting began next morning in a beautifully appointed setting with national flags, microphones and place names around a large oval meeting table. Translation equipment at a special translators' desk were available for the Japanese delegates, and the several observers from Korea, Japan and USA were accommodated at tables at the rear of the room. A giant banner, "4th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Seoul 2001" looked down on everyone from the front of the meeting.

The meeting opened with all standing together saying the Serenity Prayer in English with many different accents. Bernard Long from Malaysia read the AOSM Statement of Purpose and delegates were formally welcomed first by Jong Young Lee, one of the Korean delegates, and then by the Chairman, Simon Rouch of New Zealand.

Greg M. General Manager of GSO New York, having just arrived after a long, overnight flight from New York, delivered an inspirational Keynote Address on "The Growing AA Family – Our Common Welfare". In his address (in full later in this report) Greg outlined the stunning growth and spread of our message around the world particularly describing the co-operation and assistance given in South Africa by the US/Canada GSO, together with the GSO of UK. He told of many trips by GSO staff to places such as Johannesburg, South Africa, to India and to Beijing, China, to help carry the message of hope and to share experience. He laid special emphasis on the importance of countries sponsoring countries. "Country sponsorship is one of the most inspiring and vital activities we have seen in AA history. This extraordinary Twelfth Step work exemplifies the wonderful spirit and enthusiasm in one country making the commitment to help AA progress in another land. Country sponsorship is a true demonstration of AA Love and Service".

Throughout the meeting the importance of visits, with accompanying professionals, to sponsee countries was stressed as probably the most effective and valuable form of assistance.

In their Service highlights the delegates showed how varied is the experience of service in this Zone of long-established and very new Fellowships. They revealed to us all how much experience and strength some of us have to share and how much assistance is needed. Greetings were received from countries that had hoped to attend but sadly were unable – Saipan, Tahiti, Guam, Tonga, Vietnam and India.

The main business of the Meeting then began with the reporting of the first two and half years of the Secretariat's operation. Delegates listened to how the Secretariat had seen the enormous growth in awareness and communication, mainly through email, of the role of the AOSM, the spread of the AOSM newsletter and the Directory which had been established at the 3rd AOSM. They discussed the challenges that had confronted both the Secretariat and the Chairman in the interim period and saw the need to establish an AOSM sub-committee to research the experience of older Zonal meetings. The new "Working Committee", it was decided, would research, discuss and prepare recommendations on various aspects such as sponsorship, prudent reserves, agenda and themes.

Following the Country Reports, highlighted later in this report, John Smith from Australia made a detailed and fascinating presentation on "International Sponsorship", describing many of the exciting examples and experiences of other countries in their efforts to carry the message of AA. Inspired by the ideas raised and their own countries' needs, the delegates gathered into three mixed groups, small countries with those of large structured AA populations, to discuss and share these needs, sponsees and sponsors face-to-face together. All expressed later the feeling that this opportunity was probably the most satisfying and fulfilling session of the two days.

After the first full day of reports, deliberations and sharing many delegates enjoyed an early night while others with stamina went out together to share the "Language of the Heart" in a local Korean-speaking AA meeting.

The following morning began with an extremely valuable and informative presentation by Bill Archer of the International Desk, GSO New York, on the "Literature Assistance Fund, Copyrights and Translations". There are many hundreds of languages in the countries of this Zone and much translation of the AA message in print is needed. Many delegates had been unaware of the procedures necessary for translation to protect our AA copyrights and the safety of our message, and had not realised how much help was available to the small countries that were already attempting translation.

A Sharing Session was then held giving every delegate the opportunity to outline to everyone the needs they have for literature, the finance and languages they require, or the different kinds of help that they could offer. This gave rise to many ideas for future directions and the awareness of the enormous task before us all.

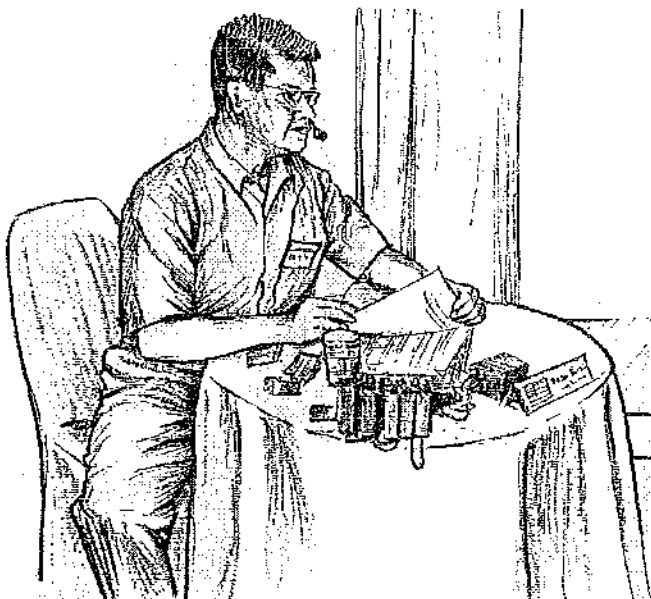
Kevin B. one of New Zealand's World Service Meeting delegates, gave a thorough description of the 16th World Service Meeting held in New York in October 2000. He explained to those countries, which are yet too small to attend it, how the WSM operates and the activities it undertakes to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries of the world.

He shared many of the anecdotes, ideas and inspirational examples of carrying the message that he had learned there.

In the general business session the delegates chose Steve P. [redacted] (New Zealand) to report on this AQSM to the next WSM, and for the 5th AOSM they chose Kevin B. [redacted] (New Zealand) to be Chairman, with John S. [redacted] (Australia) as his Alternate. Hong Kong agreed to host the 5th AOSM subject to the approval of their fellowship, and the Philippines agreed to be the standby host country, proposing Manila as a standby venue. After much deliberation the theme chosen for the 5th AOSM was "*The Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, Service*". The "*AOSM Working Committee*" was established to include the Chairman, Secretary and 2nd-term delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Cambodia. Several guidelines were given to the Secretariat for the interim period to cover such matters as sponsorship, prudent reserve, bids for next AOSM, etc. The AOSM Guidelines were altered to include the expression "AA regional structure" as well as "country" as there are places in the Zone, which could attract serious controversy if "country" was the only criteria allowing attendance at the AOSM.

In their closing remarks all the delegates expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Korean fellowship for their generosity and warmth. Each one acknowledged the great privilege of being able to serve in this way, of having this opportunity to repay by helping to *pass it on* to the millions who are in such need.

This was not the close of all proceedings, however, as the Host Committee on the following day treated all the delegates to a feast of Korean culture with visits to temples and palaces, traditional Korean restaurants with Korean cuisine, the famous Seoul Tower and a river cruise on the Han River. The evening was spent in the bustling market area of the city where the shopping addicts could indulge themselves.



The following day a jolly six-hour bus journey took all the delegates to Kyungju, in the valley of the ancient Kings, to share in the 10th International Korean Convention. Several hundred Korean AAs joined in an atmosphere of joyous sobriety sharing generously with their AOSM guests in AA meetings, entertainment and sightseeing tours. The return trip to Seoul was one of deep reflection for many on the experiences, achievements and growth of this 4th AOSM, on the work that had been done and was yet to be done. Perhaps some of us also recalled the nervousness about international travel in a world of danger and uncertainty which each had faced before leaving our homes. The sense of gratitude and trust in our Higher Power could only have been deepened and strengthened as we boarded our planes for home.

WELCOMING ADDRESS:

It's so great to have all of you here from so many different countries. Although I think that AA everywhere works on the same principles of the Three legacies, I'm sure we will hear very many interesting things that go on in different places. When I read literature from places such as Ireland and Britain, their experiences often add a lot more to the message of the Big Book.

It's also wonderful to have loners here who manage to stay sober for so long on their own.

We had here a fellow alcoholic, a wonderful member, who shared so much of the message with other Koreans and Americans while he was in Seoul. He has now taken up a job in Shanghai and while there he is trying to start AA. The Shanghai group is small in number but is growing.

I know from my own experience that starting Alcoholics Anonymous in a country is very like the same beginning stages that happened in America. Of course, it's wonderful to have the Big Book already and the story of those first experiences but when the language is not English the people go through the same struggles and challenges as they did in America. So I'm sure that we'll share a lot of wonderful experiences together through this event.

We don't know very much about the business part of how effectively we can carry the message so in your sharing on that we hope you will clear up a lot of our questions.

We believe that, since we are geographically not so far away from each other, we will be able to come closer through this experience together.

Thank you again for being here.

Jong Y. [redacted] – Korea

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

It gives me great pleasure to add my welcome to that of our hosts, and extend it to all assembled here for the 4th meeting of the AOSM. Firstly on behalf of all of the AOSM countries I would like to thank our hosts for their generous and warm hospitality, and also for all the hard work and careful planning that has gone into preparing for this meeting. To all the delegates, - welcome and thank you for being here. It is wonderful that we have several countries represented here for the first time. I would also like to thank the AA fellowships in your respective countries that have made it possible for you to be here. I wish you a fruitful meeting.

I would especially like to thank our guests from the General Service office in New York. It is a great benefit to us to have people with your depth of AA service here to share with us.

I first heard of the AOSM at an area assembly in the South Island of New Zealand in 1993. Our then World Service Delegate, Bob P. [REDACTED] was informing us of plans for a new zonal meeting, and of course the first meeting was held in Tokyo in 1995 attended by 5 countries. The AOSM certainly has come a long way since then. It was my privilege to attend the 2nd meeting of the AOSM in Auckland in 1997. At that meeting the guidelines were ratified and sponsorship regions were allocated. The idea of a newsletter was also mooted. Two years later in Sydney a secretariat independent of any national General Service Office was established, thereby accepting the challenge of becoming fully self-supporting. This was a brave step at the time - we had very little money and there was no-one actually waiting in the wings to fill the vacant position of secretary. However one of the observers at the meeting, Anne O. [REDACTED] took the job on and two donations, one from the USA GSB and one from the Australian GSB opened the cheque account. The fellowship as a whole has responded to the challenge and backed their words with deeds.

In the last two and a half years there has been a marked increase in AOSM activity and awareness within our zone. I believe the two things that have helped to achieve this growth more than anything else have been - communication and responsibility. As AOSM chairman I have been in regular contact with the secretary, and therefore have witnessed the constant stream of mail that has crossed Anne's desk. The speed and efficiency with which new information has been passed around the region has at times been amazing. But more importantly, as soon as a need was identified, it was responded to. It might have been a new group requesting a listing in the directory, a loner looking for contact, or a literature request. The secretary has either responded herself or passed it on to the appropriate country and the hand of AA has been there. I believe this will be borne out in the secretary's report.

Along with increased awareness and commitment to the AOSM has come a surprising amount of money. At the time of writing we have enough funds to finance the AOSM at its present level of activity for the next two years. I am not saying that we have more money than we know what to do with, what I am saying is that if the present level of contributions continues we must have a policy in place for administering it. Whether all international sponsorship should continue to be initiated and funded by the sponsor country - or whether the secretariat should be authorized to allocate funds in certain circumstances is an issue this meeting may wish to address. We are also in a position to consider a prudent reserve.

When Anne and I got back home after the last AOSM and began communicating we soon realized that neither of us had a job description. However we did have an awareness of the Third Concept of World Service - "The Right of Decision". We have exercised that right while at the same time consulting often and widely on many issues. The employees of GSO NY past and present, past AOSM chairmen, secretary, delegates and numerous elder AA statesmen and women, including my sponsor, have all been a great source of help to us.

The bi-annual newsletters have been an invaluable tool for keeping everyone up to date with developments. They have been informative and professionally produced along with the clear financial statements. These kept delegates and General Service Conferences within our zone up to date with our position, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding the AOSM.

Recently someone gave me a tape of the opening ceremony of the 11th World Convention of AA held in Minneapolis last year. The first speaker was Vinnie M. [REDACTED] who works in the publishing department of the General Service Office in New York. Her comments regarding the growth of AA in Europe have parallels within the AOSM zone. Speaking of the spread of AA in Europe she said this, "Today there is an AA presence in 150 countries. Throughout Eastern Europe there are Dr. Bobs, and Bills, Sister Ignatias and Dr Silkworths, with names like Rodika, Cassinia Vetec and Romas and so many other individuals who are on fire with the AA message. Many of you know that in the past 10 years we have sent great quantities of translations to these countries. This is wonderful, and it is unlikely that AA could have survived without the literature. Yet in working with the GSO staff members on the overseas desk and being privileged to visit AA in eastern Europe, it has become so clear to me that we can send tons of translations, but little happens until individuals start working with each other. As one alcoholic patient in rural Slovakia said to our trustee Larry, "Larry I have your book but I have had no one to help me."

When I heard this it made me so pleased that several of the "Dr Bobs, Bills and Sister Ignatias" from our own zone have been able to attend this meeting. They may be the most important people at this meeting.

The last three gatherings of the AOSM have each in their own way provided inspiration and direction for the

participating countries within our zone. It is my wish for this meeting that we can continue in the same spirit, as part of "The Growing AA Family."

Simon R. [redacted] Chairman (New Zealand)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "The Growing AA Family – Our Common Welfare"

Hello, my name is Greg and I am a very grateful alcoholic. I'm blessed to serve as General Manager of the General Service Office in New York City. On behalf on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Canada and the United States, I bring greetings and gratitude to each of you and warm wishes to the Fellowship you serve. Your presence at the Fourth Asia-Oceania Service Meeting is a credit to the members you represent. Dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous assures us that, together, we will continue to fulfill the promise that AA offers to each man or women seeking help with a drinking problem, thus assuring that our Fellowship will continue to flourish.

I hope and pray that the results of our work this week will go a long way to help each participating country to fulfill the vision set before us by our statement of purpose, first spoken at the International Convention in Toronto in 1965, "*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.*"

Today, there are 48 General Service Offices around the world. Cuba and Slovakia may be the newest, and Ukraine is working towards establishing an office in Kiev. Some GSOs are large offices staffed by a dozen or more employees, while others are small one or two person offices. Whether large or small, they have a common mission – to help carry the message of AA love and hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.



Currently, we are aware that AA is present in over 150 countries. Our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, has been translated into 44 languages with progress underway on translations into Cambodian, Slovene, Indonesian and Simplified Chinese. The book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, is published in over 15 languages and AA pamphlets are available in 88 other languages, including the most recent translations in Burmese, Hebrew and Turkish.

Because of dedicated Twelfth Step work and translations of literature, AA in Eastern Europe has grown to include most countries in that Region. Last week I had the great pleasure of participating in the Eleventh European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. There, 40 delegates from more than 20 countries gathered to share experience, strength and hope for the future of AA in Europe. I listened to story after story of how A. A. is flourishing in many of the newly developed structures.

Poland estimates that they have well over 1,500 groups, and the Fellowship there continues to expand. In 2001, Poland celebrated its 27th AA anniversary, Iceland celebrated its 47th, and Ukraine held its 12th celebration. My heart filled with gratitude as I listened to presentations from delegates, workshop discussions and reports from committee meetings, all designed to share the vast reservoir of AA experience gathered from across the European Zone.

As exciting as this decade has been in Eastern Europe, the most rapid expansion of AA seems to be in Africa and Asia. In 2002, Cuba will be celebrating its 9th anniversary where there are over 130 AA groups with approximately 2,000 members. Currently, AA membership outside of Canada and the United States is estimated at more than 800,000 members, and the potential for growth is unlimited.

Today, as we review the growth of Zonal Meetings, we see tangible evidence of AA progress. After discussion during the Fifth World Service Meeting in 1978 in Helsinki, the first Ibero-American Service Meeting (now called the Meeting of the Americas) was held in 1979 in Bogota, Colombia. The initial European Service Meeting took place in 1981 in Frankfurt, Germany. Today, you and I are part of the Fourth Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Seoul.

Last year, representatives from G.S.O., New York, and G.S.O., York, England, traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa to participate in talks with members of the General Service Board of South Africa to discover ways to insure that the AA message will be available in other African countries, where AA is small or nonexistent. We also discussed the possibility of a Sub-Sahara Zonal Meeting in 2003. During the 16th World Service Meeting last October, the Delegate from Poland shared the possibility that one day soon there may be an Eastern European Service Meeting. Truly, these possibilities are a direct result of A.A.'s simple message of hope spreading around the globe.

Earlier this year, Eva S., then Staff member on the International assignment, and I were invited by the General Service Board of India to be guests at their 27th General Service Conference. Our week in India was filled with many moments of joy as we learned how that Fellowship was "coming of age" by reaching out for help to discover new ways to inform the public of AA's desire to help anyone, anywhere, who has a drinking problem. This visit firmly established a link between our two countries that will continue to evolve into a most wonderful sharing to enhance our collective ability to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

Country sponsorship is one of the most inspiring and vital activities we have seen in AA history. This extraordinary Twelfth Step work exemplifies the wonderful spirit and enthusiasm of AA in one country making the commitment to help AA progress in another land. Country sponsorship is a true demonstration of AA Love and Service.

Last August, responding to a request from several doctors in the Peoples Republic of China, our G.S.O. Staff member on the International assignment, together with Dr. George Vaillant, Class A Trustee on our General Service Board, and I traveled to China. There, we met with doctors and hospital administrators who had attended the 2000 International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After returning to China, those professionals started AA meetings in psychiatric wards in hospitals. We learned from those physicians that alcoholism in China had reached epidemic proportions. They said that they had not been able to help their patients to maintain abstinence after discharge until the doctors had started AA meetings for the inpatients.

Our hearts filled with joy and gratitude as we attended meetings with these newly sober AA members, the "founders" of AA in China. Listening to the sharing, I knew that our simple message of love and hope was transcending what had seemed to be insurmountable barriers.

There are no boundaries in the realm of the Spirit. We can clearly see that our job as individuals and as a Fellowship is to keep on growing by constant reliance

on our Twelve Steps and adherence to the Twelve Traditions that assure Unity. I'm reminded of these words spoken by Bernard B. S. Chairman of the General Service Board, U.S. and Canada, 1951-1956:

"But this Third Legacy of Service has a string to it. And the string is that we are granted the use of this legacy for our lifetime upon the condition that we will not only look after it but also increase its spiritual content for the generations that will follow us. Each succeeding generation, as it receives this legacy, must similarly protect it if they wish to employ it and gain life by it and pass it on to the next generation with enriched spiritual content."¹

As long as we continue to stay focused on our primary purpose of helping other alcoholics to find AA, our Higher Power will continue to bless our work, and the AA way of life will flourish, touching the hearts of generations yet to come.

Thank you for my life.

Greg M. General Manager, GSO - US/Canada

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA

In his follow-up, as the result of several delegates' questions, Greg gave an account of the development of AA in China. Initially, he explained, a group of AAs from San Francisco visited China to try to carry the AA message. They returned home with the names of interested doctors who were then invited by the GSO in New York to be special guests at the 2000 International Convention in Minneapolis. The two doctors who attended returned to Beijing and started two AA groups in their hospitals.

Both of these groups are now one year old, a third meeting has started and one of the original members has been sober for one year. Their program is strong, they practise the Steps and are sponsoring others, and will drive 3-4 hours to carry the message to another suffering alcoholic. Several foreign ex-patriates in Beijing attend and sponsor these hospital meetings. Meantime the GSO in New York has maintained an ongoing relationship with the two Chinese doctors and their respective hospitals.

Earlier in 2001, Dr Vaillant, Class A Trustee from the North American GSB, held several seminars with physicians in and around Beijing which were attended and reported on by the media, which was quite amazing. A woman doctor from Manchuria had described how Korea had taken AA into North China 10 years ago and it had flourished for some time until the government had stopped it.

Over 100 doctors who had travelled many hours by train attended the first meeting. The need for AA is so great they are reaching out and it is expected that the growth of AA in China will be very rapid.

One of the two doctors in Beijing, a real *Dr Silkworth*, is encouraging the AA meetings to be held outside the hospital because he recognises that the AA program is healthier that way.

Those who need the contacts with these Chinese AA groups may obtain the contacts from the GSO in New York.

IN AFRICA AND ARABIC COUNTRIES

AA generally starts in a country through foreign expatriates contacting the professional community and doing PI and CPC work. At present there is not much being done in the Islamic world and while there is some Arabic literature, it is important that further resources are made available to enable this CPC work.

The General Service Board of France is doing wonderful work through AA businessmen contacting professionals and giving CPC presentations. GSO New York is now supplying complimentary literature to the French GSB for French-speaking Africa, and a joint mission to Madagascar is being planned for 2002.

The UK and New York are working jointly with resources, finances and experience to assist getting AA on the move in southern Africa, first cataloguing what is available now – meetings, loners, languages and translations. Most texts have to be put on audiotape after translation because there is no written form of many African languages. The Internet, too, plays a very important part in carrying the message in that part of the world.

South Africa has formed an "Into Africa" committee which is now identifying all points of contact. It is hoped that in 2003 there will be a Brainstorming session to see how to go on from there.

Many of the northern African countries are a difficult prospect because of the constant wars. However, Togo is a recent success: a student returning from abroad started a meeting there and in a year and a half they have a phone and an office and now want to start printing literature. When a solution is made available alcoholics are attracted to it.

Trip Reports: Trip Reports, which describe these efforts at carrying the message, are available from the International Desk, GSO New York. Any country seeking experience and ideas for doing some of this work may request copies at any time.

In 10 or 15 years it would not be a surprise if there were 4 or 5 more Zonal meetings established.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNTRY REPORTS

AUSTRALIA

The island continent of Australia is vast but sparsely populated with approximately 18 million people mostly metropolitan dwellers along the coastal fringe. AA began in 1945 in Sydney and has grown slowly to reach 1794 groups today of which 967 are registered with the national office and 298 contribute financially. Overall, 36% of groups financially support some AA service, which is far from ideal.

The structure is adapted from the North American with the Groups being responsible for decisions made about AA. The Group Conscience is expressed through group representatives, GSRs, attending District and Area meetings. Australia is made up of 20 Areas (2 not functioning at present) and each Area is made up of a number of Districts (3 – 7). An elected Delegate who knows the conscience of the Area groups represents each Area at the annual Conference.

At the annual Conference in November the Areas Delegates meet with the twelve Trustees of the General Service Board, the GSO Manager, the 2 AOSM Delegates and the 2 WSM Delegates. Decisions taken are then passed to the Board and the National Office (GSO) to carry out on behalf of the Fellowship.

The Board is made up of 4 non-alcoholic Trustees and 8 alcoholics, 6 of whom come from 6 different electoral regions of Australia. The Steps, Traditions and Concepts are the guiding principles of this structure, which ensure it works well.

There is now a national website established by our GSB PI Committee to provide public information, and the availability of email has made keeping in touch much more efficient.

With a multicultural society we have a lot of work to do reaching all our ethnic communities. There are Finnish and Spanish-speaking groups and we encourage the listing at the many central offices of AA members from different ethnic backgrounds. These can be a valuable resource.

Progress has been slow reaching the aboriginal communities with the AA message but some inroads have been made. Aboriginal meetings are routinely part of the National Convention program and are very popular. Some aboriginal AA members are taking training from government services to help them reach the far-flung communities and are encouraging the forming of AA groups there.

An annual PI Forum is a new addition to the national AA calendar for sharing ideas and experience Australia-wide. A PI Newsletter is circulated quarterly from the national office. The Areas and Districts undertake many PI and CPC activities such as community service announcements on TV and radio, dinners with medical or correctional facility professionals as guests, etc. There is great need to lift AA's profile as a valuable ally in our relations with treatment facilities.

We are now reaching out to the hearing-impaired alcoholics, long neglected. Specific literature has been provided to all the State Deaf Societies and information on what's available, including the New Zealand video, has been provided to all the central offices. We have begun providing translators into sign language for all the main meetings at our National Convention.

Australia carries out an annual collection for the International Literature Fund that is so well supported it indicates the Fellowship's great desire to help carry the message to our international neighbors. 25% of this money is retained to be used by Australia to assist in our Asia-Oceania Zone through literature, sponsorship, etc. Another method used is to supply packages of 12th Step literature in various languages to the Seamen's Missions in different ports around the country. There is a high turnover rate.

Finances are very stretched because of low rate of regular contributions from groups, which is resulting in reducing services and ability to carry our message. One such reduction is the payment of WSM and AOSM Delegates' expenses, limiting this support to one instead of two delegates. No further support will be given to enable these delegates to attend Board meetings to make their reports and share the experiences of the international service.

Another major challenge is the loss of group structure generally and the lack of members' commitment to group membership. This is resulting in a spreading ignorance about our two Legacies of Unity and Service, which may well account for the drop in financial support. We have much work to do in keeping our focus on our Primary Purpose.

CAMBODIA

In 1992, after years of war and genocide, the UN arrived in Cambodia and with them came some sober AAs who started a meeting in Siem Reap. This did not last, however. In 1993 more AAs started a group in Phnom Penh, meeting regularly 3 times a week, and they began to translate the literature into Khmer. Unfortunately the partial translation on the Big Book was lost when the UN left in 1998.

The group struggled to survive with ex-patriate members coming and going but they were never able to retain any local people. By mid 1998 the group had virtually ceased to exist.

In February the following year Curtis W. arrived, expecting to find meetings that were listed in the International Directory, but none were to be found and all the phone contacts were out of date.

Being a relative newcomer and knowing he needed AA support, he sought other members through newspaper ads for "friends of Bill W". Within 3 months there were members sufficient to begin holding regular meetings, firstly in private homes, and finally in the lobby of the building of the Cambodian Committee for Co-operation. This was noisy and not too private but at last, in June or July 1999, a friend of AA offered them the use of his office in the back of a nearby Internet café.

One year later two travelling AAs came looking for the listed meeting, having heard it needed visitors, and after some searching stumbled upon Curtis lying on the floor reading his Big Book alone. They were finally able to start the meeting.

Today, there are 3 meetings a week in Phnom Penh with seven regular members who travel out of town quite a lot. Some newcomers have got sober there but to date no local Khmer people, so some of the AAs are taking classes to learn the local language. The group has answered several calls for help and for information and now is working hard to translate the Big Book with the help of GSO New York. They realise the message is very hard to carry unless it's in the language of the suffering alcoholic.

Because visitors are very important for the health of the group, a website is now being developed to guide visitors to the door.

EAST TIMOR

East Timor is a small territory currently being administered by the UN in its preparation for becoming an independent country. An AA member, Allen C., on duty with the UN has established a single AA group in Dili. On arrival he displayed a sign seeking "Friends of Bill W" which was answered by another UN worker from an outlying region. Shortly after a third AA joined and a regular meeting was started at the City Café. In spite of continued searching no other members have come to light and, unfortunately, one of the original ones has transferred out. However the little group continues with the help of a Higher Power.

HONG KONG

Last year, Alcoholics Anonymous celebrated its 30th year in Hong Kong with a Convention in October.

There are two AA groups in Hong Kong. The main Hong Kong group has over 25 meetings in five locations, the main location being permanent rooms in Borrett Road procured from the Hong Kong Government. The group holds monthly business meetings where Group Committee members and meeting secretaries discuss aspects of business and

twelve-step work in Hong Kong. An improved phone answering service is being established and a web page - <http://hkaa.homestead.com/> has been set up. The web page contains a growing list of contacts and loners in the region, especially in China.

The Hospitals and Institutions Committee of this group has established contact with the appropriate Department Heads of all Public and Private Hospitals and is making further contact with the Clergy and Penal Institutions. Appropriate literature has been distributed. The Co-ordination with the Professional Community Committee has been re-established, contact has been made with mainly English speaking schools and appropriate literature distributed. Follow-up work involves school visits on request. Other approaches to the professional community are being considered, with due regard to the principles of anonymity and attraction rather than promotion. Experience of other groups in the region in this regard is most welcome.

Within this group there is one bilingual meeting, involving Cantonese and English and one Chinese (Cantonese) speaking meeting. The Chinese meeting takes place in Castle Peak hospital with an average attendance of about 10. At any one time there may be 20 members on an on-and-off basis. It is proving difficult to achieve a critical mass of members with long term sobriety. There is reluctance to accept the disease concept of alcoholism and engage in non-directive, self-revelatory sharing. The publication this year of a new beginners' pack in Chinese may help make AA concepts available in the Chinese community.

The other AA group in Hong Kong, the "*Back To Basics*" Group, was established in April 1999. It is English speaking and normally meets once a week, focusing on *Back to Basics Step Workshops*.

The fellowship today still mainly comprises British, North American and Australian members with a small number of local Chinese members and other Asians. There are about 80 English-speaking members on the phone list, plus a number of short-term members and regular visitors - Hong Kong is a transient city for the non-local community.

INDIA

India is a vast country of one billion, divided into 25 States and 7 Union Territories. There are 17 scheduled languages with the official languages being Hindi & English. The Literacy National Average is 52%.

AA began in India in 1957 in Mumbai and the growth centred mainly around Mumbai till the formation of GSO (India) in Mumbai in 1987, i.e. 30 years later. Thereafter, AA has grown mostly in metropolitan towns and cities.

Translation, printing and publication of GSO-approved "*Big Books*" and basic pamphlets in English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi and Bengali languages was undertaken during the past 14 years.

After 44 years AA in India has only 498 Groups in the National Directory 2001. The growth is predominantly in western and southern parts of India and AA has not reached many Indian States in the eastern and northern parts of the country. This alarming, lopsided growth was discussed at the 26th General Service Conference (GSC) last year and also communicated to GSO (NY). The results have been two-fold. Firstly, there has been group level awakening in service to spread the AA message all over the country. Secondly, and more importantly, the presence of two representatives from GSO (NY) at the 27th GSC at Bangalore in 2001, followed by the visit to the July Board Meeting in New York of two of our Trustees.

As a result, the following restructure is presently being contemplated.

1. Committee-type Service structure to be set up where group conscience prevails at Delegate Committee level and in interaction with Trustee Committees, and their reporting to the GSO, Board and Conference. Two Delegate Committees, Conference and PI were formed in May 2001. Two more, Finance and Literature, will be formed at Kolkatta in December 2001.
2. To form a Services Division at GSO, Mumbai to support the above Services.
3. A Publication Division to be formed at GSO, India, Mumbai for centrally translating, acquiring copyright permission, printing, publication, distribution etc., of literature in Indian languages.
4. A sound Service structure to be formed as described in Chapter Eleven of the North American Manual "The General Service Office".

JAPAN

AA in Japan is made up of 7 areas with one Service Office in each area. We have approximately 4000 members in the Fellowship with 370 groups holding over 900 meetings a month. The groups in the countryside which have a small number of members have difficulty in passing on the AA message to sufferers, or securing a meeting-place, but they are doing their best steadily to carry the program of recovery to the people in trouble.

Japan is a long, island country from Hokkaido to Okinawa, but lots of meetings are held everywhere. The 25th Anniversary of AA in Japan was celebrated in March last year attracting 1200 attendants.

The annual General Service Conference of Japan consists of 20 delegates from 7 areas, 8 trustees of the General Service Board, 2 WSM-AOSM delegates, and 3 staff of the GSO. The Conference meets in Tokyo in February every year. Our General Service Board is made up of 2 Class A trustees (one is a psychiatrist and the other is a professor of a social welfare academy), 6 Class B trustees, 2 WSM-AOSM delegates, and 3 salaried staff of GSO, and meets 6 times a year.

The new translation of the Japanese "Big Book" was completed and published in March last year. Although some old members find it hard to accept some of the changes the new translation is easier for newcomers to understand. We are now selecting several new personal stories to add to the old ones in a new hardcover edition next year. The revision of other books and pamphlets is in progress. "12 Steps and 12 Traditions" is published in the new soft cover and two new pamphlets have been translated, "The G.S.R. may be the most important job in AA", and "AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional".

We were sad to lose a splendid staff-member from our GSO, Ms Yukie Y [REDACTED] ex-WSM delegate and AOSM secretary, ex-President of GSO, the efficient staff-member of the Literature Committee, who resigned in February 2001. Although non-alcoholic, she published many AA books and pamphlets and was dedicated to AA. We appreciate her dedication and pray for her health and good luck.

We are now tallying up the results of the 2nd Membership Survey to discover any changes since the last survey in 1997. Carrying the message to the correctional facilities is gradually ongoing and in some areas committees for this kind of activity are forming to develop contacts with the prison officers. The mass media is showing interest in AA, especially NHK, the national news media, which featured AA in its educational program this June. Next day our telephones in GSO were ringing all day.

One of our PI efforts is our website. The number of calls that have resulted is increasing. Our PI committee manages and renews its contents. A newsletter for professionals is published twice a year. One of our Class A Trustees, a psychiatric doctor, wrote an article about "AA and Alcoholism" in this issue. The PI committee will send this newsletter also to doctors of internal medicine to develop our relationship with them. Carrying the message to hospitals is continuing constantly all over Japan.

The numbers of newcomers are increasing but many leave AA after early social recovery, which is a worry. We are studying the reason why they leave so early. All categories of income are down compared with the budget of this year. Maybe the depression of the Japanese economy has influenced this.

We think each member is giving as much as possible but the increase in the number of members is slow and moderate. This is our greatest problem.

Our General Service Office is not yet a legal entity but the structure of General Service is developing well and we are convinced that someday we will have an excellent Service Structure.



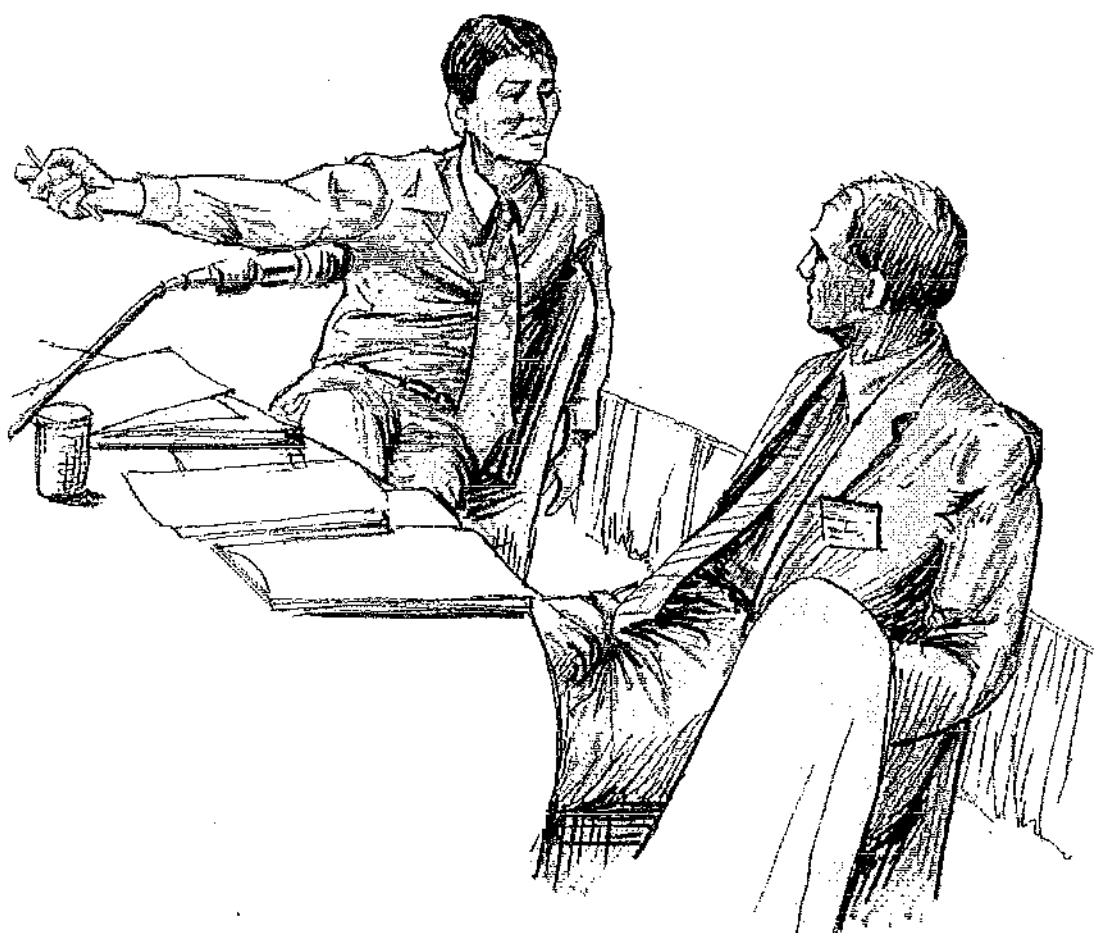
KOREA

In 1982 an Irish AA member started AA with a kind of halfway-house meeting in Sangyedong, Seoul. Later the message was carried at a Catholic Treatment Centre and meetings began to spread till an intergroup office was needed.

There are about 70 registered groups now with 1500 members throughout Korea. These groups are divided into regional areas and those areas with few members, such as Cheju Island, Kangwon Province, are receiving special help to carry the message. An active Hospitals Committee carries the message regularly every month into hospitals and discusses ways to co-operate with treatment centres. There are also committees for Literature and Public Information.

Groups are structured and send representatives to quarterly assemblies and the annual conference. The Conference elects its office-bearers who rotate after a two-year term.

More women and young people are seeking help and some women's meetings have been started although women members are few as yet.



In 1985 the *Big Book* was translated into Korean, followed by *12 & 12*, *Living Sober* and many pamphlets. The *Big Book* and *12 & 12* are soon to be revised.

An International Convention has been held annually since 1992 with this year's 10th being held in Kyungju following the AOSM being hosted in Seoul. Next year for our 20th Anniversary of AA in Korea we are planning to hold a very big International Convention to celebrate and make Korean AA known more widely.

MALAYSIA

Two distinct and autonomous groups exist in Peninsular Malaysia – one in Kuala Lumpur, the other north in Penang. There have been several attempts to start regular meetings in Kuching, in Sarawak in East Malaysia but meetings were abandoned once the expatriates who started them left the state. No information is available about the other East Malaysian State in Borneo – Sabah.

AA began in Kuala Lumpur in 1973 with one group started by two ex-patriates. Today there are three meetings, one of them Tamil-speaking, with an all over membership of about 25 – 30. There are 6 – 7 ex-patriates and 4 – 5 Chinese besides the majority who are Indian. Up to 5 are women.

AA is listed in the phone directory and runs a weekly ad in a local paper. Some hospital visits have been made and referrals have come from the main government hospitals. There have been items in papers and magazines and two radio announcements. More work is needed to carry the message of Alcoholism, the Disease, and that it is not confined to "Western" people. The cultural attitude of "keep it in the family" is also difficult to overcome.

AA in Penang has had difficulty staying alive since it began with two ex-patriates in 1991. After a break when all the members had left, it was reopened in 1993 by two more ex-patriates that were attracted to it by the listing still in the International Directory. Two meetings are held each week with four core members and several others coming and going.

Several attempts have been made to start AA in Kuching, Sarawak, as yet with no success. Since 1999 the resident loner, Bernard L, has given talks to the specialist hospital, university, Rotary and Toastmaster Clubs and on the radio, and a newspaper article was printed. Some meetings were held with 2 ex-patriate members visiting temporarily.

Alcoholism is a serious problem throughout all ethnic groups, Chinese and Malay, and the indigenous Dayak population, although it is not readily admitted by the

authorities when dealing with the Malays who are Muslim. Language is also a challenge as there are many distinct indigenous languages.

NEW ZEALAND

With approximately 5500 members in 550 groups AA in New Zealand is maintaining the status quo. In a country of 3.75 million there is much work to be done reaching the suffering alcoholic.

New Zealand's structure is based on three Areas, Northern, Central and Southern. There are two Conferences each year attended by three delegates per Area, 4 non-AAs, a Chairperson, 2 WSM/AOSM delegates, GSO manager, secretary and Chairperson of the Management Committee. This Committee oversees the running of the GSO, finances, PI, Literature supply and sales and the monthly magazine, *Mainstay*.

The spread of AA into the Maori community is very pleasing due especially to the example of earlier Maori members. Public Information committees throughout New Zealand conduct an annual public awareness week and their efforts have been encouraging, but much more is needed. Professionals are often asked to speak at public meetings and are also taken to regular AA meetings. Members carry out speaking engagements with professional bodies such as medical and nursing students, probation and police officers, schools, colleges and the Armed Forces.

Literature is obtained from North America and distributed through the GSO. Several Polynesian pamphlets, the 12 Steps and Serenity Prayer in Maori, have been translated and special literature is available for disabled members. Many ethnic communities from various Asian and Pacific origins need to be reached as we have few, if any, AA members representing them. Alcoholics from these communities will be invaluable in our efforts to carry the message to the countries in our neighborhood where it is a struggle for ex-patriates to break through to the local indigenous people.

Offers of literature and literature packs have been sent to these smaller countries and this work needs to continue.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A single group meets intermittently in Port Moresby, supported mainly by the ex-patriate community that is becoming more and more transient. Loners here and there in far Provinces are also rather mobile, so that Papua New Guinea is a "bit of an AA desert". Alcoholism is a big problem here.

PHILIPPINES

In the early 70s four or five foreigners, recovering alcoholics who were living in Manila, began to meet in the Makati Medical Centre and formed an AA Group.

While there had been some "loners" in the country before, this was the first group that met and survived as a group. It seemed, fortunately, that whenever a member left the Philippines, another came and somehow the group hung on. Some Filipino alcoholics came to the group but most left. However, after a couple of years some Filipinos have stayed and the group has become stronger.

A few newspaper articles about alcoholism and the presence of AA in Manila appeared in the 1980s and a couple of alcoholism rehabilitation centres were opened in the city. The meetings began to expand and grow until today there are several meetings a day in different parts of Metro Manila with up to 30 alcoholics attending some meetings. Over the succeeding years people came to these meetings and, having obtained sobriety, returned to their various places to start new groups, e.g. in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Bacolod. Other groups were formed near US military bases.

Although there is an annual Convention to help bring the members together, there is yet no structure or group conscience to enable the groups to work together in unity to spread the message more effectively. It is hoped that attendance at the AOSM will help the members to learn how to begin to build a united and active fellowship. The need for this is great because alcoholism is a major problem in the country.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

This year the AA Fellowship of the Russian Federation participates in the AOSM for the first time. At present more than 270 AA groups meet regularly in more than 100 cities and localities of Russia including the Far East and Siberia. An Internet Russian-speaking AA group has been working for two years. Contacts with Russian-speaking AA groups in Belarus, Baltic Countries, Moldova, Ukraine, Israel (Haifa), USA (LA and SF) are strengthening and developing.

Last Spring the General Service Foundation of AA in Russia was legally registered to be our official body taking care of legal matters such as taxation, banking, signing contracts, etc. Our regional AA services, committees and central offices continue to form. Today we can tell you about eight general service structures in various cities of Russia, including the GSB of AA in Siberia, which was established this year in the city of Tomsk.

In the Far East Region we have AA groups in Blagovestchensk, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Yuzno-Sakhalinsk and five of them in Magadan and Magadan Province.

To help bring AA strength and experience from the cities to regions of early development, several special teams of experienced AAs have been formed. These groups travel there to conduct workshops sharing experience of the Program of 12 Steps – a very effective activity. Also, a Traditional All-Russian Convention is held each December, which moves around the vast country to cities where AA is beginning to grow. This year it will be in Omsk (Siberia). A new form of Automobile Convention ("Forum on Wheels") has been started, which travels along the highways carrying dozens of AAs to various cities to hold meetings and share experience there.

Four AA groups now meet regularly in prisons in St Petersburg, Ryazan, Ekatherinburg and Chita (the last 2 in Siberia), while soon it is hoped to have a meeting in a women's prison near Moscow.

The General Service Conference meets annually in Moscow for three days. One delegate from each group and Intergroup meet with members of the GSB and the GSO to discuss service problems and share experience on general service topics. However, at this stage not all these delegates can afford the travel expenses to attend.

GSB members, elected by the Conference, meet monthly in Moscow while those unable to attend express their opinions by mail or email. For more than three years Russia has been publishing the Russian language *Big Book*, *12 & 12*, *Living Sober*, *Came to Believe* and several pamphlets. *Daily Reflections* is nearly ready for printing. There is also a national magazine and a newsletter.

The GSO is located in Moscow and is carrying out all the functions of an AA GSO, with the groups gradually providing more financial support. We communicate regularly with international contacts and our members travel widely to international round-ups and conventions. Whenever we are able we attend the WSM and the ESM and we try to support the growing fellowships in neighboring Eastern European and Asian countries such as Mongolia.

As it nears its 15th Anniversary the AA Fellowship in Russia continuously grows in spite of difficulties and, we hope, is coming of age.

SAIPAN

The Saipan Group of AA was founded in 1987 by an ex-patriate American and a local indigenous member and has remained open since then in spite of a constantly transient membership. There are now two meetings a week with a core of about 6 members. New prospects have, till now, been directed to the group through a crisis line service that the group has paid for. However efforts are now being made to establish the first AA phone with the number listed in the Directory which will hopefully bring greater exposure.

The Group is active with PI work, having 12th Step lists and literature available with the police, churches, courts and legal and medical professionals. They are also actively involved in the courses for drinking drivers, explaining AA, sharing experience and providing contacts. An information meeting about AA is held at the Community Guidance Centre during daytime hours.

Some difficulty is encountered with reaching across the cultural attitude of Denial and "keeping it within the family" when alcohol problems are present, but the group keeps trying. There is also a large Korean community so Korean AA literature would be very helpful.

TONGA

At present there is one only AA meeting in Tonga with two members who are ex-patriate volunteers of the US Peace Corps. It is held on Monday nights in Nuku'alofa. Prior to the establishment of this group there had been another, which had closed in 1999, and AA has not been available for the suffering alcoholic since. Alcoholics have been directed in the meantime by the courts and other professionals to the Salvation Army, which was providing some recovery fellowship, under the mistaken impression that this constituted AA.

It is difficult for ex-patriates to reach across the cultural barriers, as Tongan men are uncomfortable talking about their problem in front of strangers. Both AA members believe it is the most important issue to find one active Tongan member to carry the message of the Twelve Steps here.

(Note: Since this report was written it is unfortunate that both volunteers have been transferred out and the group has closed.)

PRESENTATION "International Sponsorship"

John S. [REDACTED] (Australia)

Sponsorship - A dictionary definition of sponsorship is "a person or group that promotes either another person or group in an activity or the activity itself."

In AA's view the process of sponsorship is when "An alcoholic who has made progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous,

individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through AA."

Although Bill W considered Ebby as his sponsor the first sponsorship in the AA fellowship occurred in 1935 when Bill, after only a few months sober, was stricken with a powerful urge to drink and realised he needed another alcoholic to talk to. He found Dr. Bob who had been trying desperately and unsuccessfully to stop drinking and out of their common need AA was born.

International or country sponsorship is a similar reaching out by one country to help another country to travel along a similar path to the one the original country has already journeyed. It knows the route, the problems and pitfalls and can advise and assist the sponsored country to reach their goal.

World Service Meetings and Zonal Meetings

Country sponsorship is well documented in World Service Meeting (WSM) reports. The establishment of zonal service meetings also provided forums for the initiation and growth of country sponsorship.

As far back as 1978 some European countries were inviting observers from neighboring countries to attend their service conferences. The European Service Meeting (ESM) first met in 1981 and by 1982 reported that attendance at one another's Conferences was a well-established practice beneficial to all parties.

REDELA (the Meeting of the Americas) was established before the ESM and practised exchanging Conference delegates and sponsoring countries.

Some Successes

U.S.

Australia was one of the first countries to be assisted, if not sponsored, by the U.S. In 1942 Dr M. wrote to Bobbie at the service office, New York, who was at the time General Secretary. She wrote to Australia repeatedly since and her advice and wisdom over the years contributed immensely to the starting of AA in Australia.

Mexico

One of the best examples of country sponsorship would be Mexico's sponsorship of Cuba.

Following visits by individuals, in 1992 two AA members presented a proposal to Cuban authorities to provide information about AA - "a program without Nationality, with no political agenda or hope of financial gain." AA was immediately given access to Cuban institutions and a Group was formed a couple of weeks later.

Soon 56 Mexican AA's arrived in Havana where a number of Cuban AA pioneers launched a Co-operation with the Professional Community project, Public Information and Institutions service projects. Within three years there were more than 40 Groups.

In the hope of providing better and more effective sponsorship to Cuba, the Mexican General Service Board created a sponsorship committee to share general service experience via service trips. Every three months, members of the Board visited Cuba, taking literature each time. Today, Cuba has 130 groups, a General Service Office and a Conference.

France

At the 15th WSM in 1998 Jean-Yves Moreau told of another successful example of country sponsorship:

Cameroon is a country in French Equatorial Africa situated between Nigeria and the Belgian Congo. There are not many Europeans in Cameroon. There are very few flights in and out of the country and visitors usually bring their own food and water. Conditions are primitive with an illiterate and poor population.

In 1996 a Cameroon prison guard, in a deep coma following a heavy drinking session, was placed in a small church room to recover by a local priest. When he did begin to recover he found a small book beside his bed, which contained the address of Alcoholics Anonymous in Paris, France. In his desperate state he was motivated to write to the French General Service Office (GSO), which responded with information about the AA program. By late 1996 he found he was unable to stay sober on his own and again wrote to Paris. He was advised to try and start up an AA Group in Cameroon so he could share his sobriety. The man started a Group in the local prison, which soon had 20 members. The Prison Director was so impressed with the effect AA had on his formerly hardened criminals he telephoned GSO in Paris to ask why and how AA worked. He invited a representative to come to Cameroon to talk to Prison and Government Officials.

France had been setting aside special funds to assist neighbors and decided to use them to help AA in Africa. In 1997 they sent an AA member to Cameroon. He visited the Group, which had increased, to 54 members. A meeting was held between this AA member and local Cameroon police, schoolteachers, doctors and staff from the local hospitals. Of the 95 teachers present it was found that 30 were alcoholics. They founded the second Cameroon Group.

The French visitor then spoke to a gathering of 3000 people at a Fiesta Mass inviting attendees who were interested to attend an open AA meeting. At the end of the week 6 more groups had been formed.

There are now 14 AA Groups in Cameroon and 8 neighboring countries have written to France requesting similar assistance.

Australia and New Zealand

More recently New Zealand and Australia surveyed Asian and Pacific contacts and groups with a questionnaire asking how we could best help. Australia even provided reply paid vouchers but only received one response from all of SE Asia. New Zealand received only one response also. Australian AOSM Delegates have made contact with active AA members in most Asian countries and have continued to offer assistance and encouragement. Unfortunately there seems to be a lack of willing local AA members to do organised 12th step work and our offers of assistance have not been well utilised. We hope this AOSM can resolve this issue.



Australia had established a special fund for sponsoring and assisting neighboring countries. When we had such a poor response to our survey we sought Conference approval to use these funds for developmental projects such as assisting some AOSM countries participate in this AOSM. This was approved and we have three more Delegates here as a result. We hope that this will encourage the development of organised service work and growth of AA in the countries concerned.

Australia was heavily involved with peacekeeping and re-establishment in East Timor. Many UN and military personnel passed through Darwin on the way to the capital Dili. AOSM Delegates saw this as an opportunity to get AA started in East Timor for the first time.

We had copies of some AA literature in Bahasa Indonesian sent to us from Bill in Penang. We copied these and some simple literature in English and passed it on to Defence Padres, Priests social workers and members passing through Darwin with encouragement to do what they could to start a meeting.

Many members were given this treatment including a member from Queensland, Australia, who was passing through with a van and intentions of selling meat pies to Westerners in Dili. He and a member from Canada agreed to meet up and start a meeting. Several months later there was no meeting in Dili.

Several more months passed before Alan came to Darwin meetings on his way to work in Dili. He was given the literature and the usual encouragement, which he followed through, found some other members and the Dili Meeting has had several members for over six months at the time of writing.

Persistence paid off on this occasion and we hope the new group will be successful in carrying the message to the locals. Their favored language is Tetu and AA does not have any literature in this language yet.

In my view the work that lead up to the commencement of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting is another example of country sponsorship. Following discussions after the WSM in 1992 between Bob P. (NZ), Yukie Y. (Japan) and Alan N. (NZ), persistent efforts were made by New Zealand to encourage Japan to host the first ever AOSM. In 1994 a group of New Zealanders including Bob and Alan visited Japan and held a preliminary meeting with AA representatives. From this meeting it was decided to hold the first official meeting of the AOSM in March 1995 in Tokyo on the day prior to Japan's 20th Anniversary Convention.

Much Work To Be Done

It has been estimated that there are over 300 million suffering alcoholics awaiting the message of AA across the vast Asia Oceania Region. It is a Zone with more languages, people and cultures in any other region around the globe.

Country sponsorship has been very successful in other Zones, especially where AA's have travelled in person to talk to those in authority who have an interest in encouraging the establishment of our groups (i.e. Cuba, Russia and Cameroon). Depending on the results of our efforts to assist smaller countries attend the AOSM personal presence of some members in some countries may be our next step.

Really all we can do is our best at any given time and hope our sponsorship "seeds" takes root. If the time is not right the AOSM will ensure there are more "sowers" to plant more "seeds" in the future.

The final paragraph of Mexico's report, by Thomas Hernandez Gomez, to the 16th WSM of October 2000 expresses well the spirit of country sponsorship:

"My dear friends, I hope this sharing will be useful for all of us and that this experience may be of service to countries in order that our beloved fellowship may grow. I must mention that the costs are high in these efforts but saving a life is beyond cost. Millions of human beings are dying, victims of the terrible disease of alcoholism; but the hand of AA should always be there and for this we are responsible."

Following the presentation on International Sponsorship the delegates divided into three groups to share their experience on this topic.

WORKSHOP REPORTBACK

"International Sponsorship"

As a smaller or newer country, how do you think a sponsoring country could best assist you?

It was universally agreed that assistance in acquiring a skill, expertise or an understanding that facilitated development was preferable to assistance with money, etc.

With literature and PI material:

- The straightforward gift of literature ought to be avoided in preference for subsidized literature that can be sold to make money, or by providing literature loans.
- It would be helpful if lists are obtained of literature in all languages, including PI items, in different forms (audio, video and written), to copy where appropriate and to make it readily available.
- One small country described its situation as having so little literature it is used very sparingly, and it has no PI literature available at all.
- Information about the ILF and the process of translation and publishing should be broadcast and encouragement given to smaller countries to take action on translation
- Displays of literature of all languages and forms at Conventions, Forums and Assemblies are valuable for information and awareness.
- Encouragement is needed for all groups, especially in the larger countries, to support an annual collection of funds for the International Literature Fund.
- Even where basic recovery literature is available in a language, e.g. Tagalog of the Philippines, help with PI material is generally needed.

With personal visits:

- This was generally thought a particularly useful form of assistance as it promoted understanding and personal sharing. The value of the outsider was recognized as often more effective than homegrown expertise. Also it gave the local membership a sense of the size and power of AA and was a living example of the three legacies. It is probably more useful in carrying the message than "all the literature in the world".
- Visits which combined experienced AA members from outside who were accompanied by members of the professional community was thought to be most effective, especially if these professionals could also meet members of the local professional community. Medical people were felt to be particularly welcome as they help the medical community appreciate the 'disease concept' of alcoholism. The method of "professionals talking to professionals" was considered an important way of preparing the groundwork and getting referrals.
- Discussion of local issues is more effective when conducted in the local environment with the appropriate people present to give support.
- Smaller countries need help and guidance on how best to approach the professionals in their community, how to access the prison systems and to implement the PI policies.
- Visits by service personnel to a country's convention, e.g. Philippines, Thailand, can be valuable if pre-planning can set up a workshop on establishing structure, etc., in conjunction with it. Then these matters can be discussed together with the local representatives.

With invitations to Conferences/Forums:

Anything that promoted person to person contact and identification was felt to be preferable to supplying material resources. However, it was recommended that such invitations not be issued to the smaller or newer countries. The reason for this is that as with any newcomer to AA, a country which is new to the Fellowship needs to learn the basics well. They need to experience what works for them and get a solid platform in place first. Certainly they should then participate outside their own country to reinforce their needs and to discuss any problems that they may be having with their own structure. This is an area in which the sponsoring country can best be utilised.

It was agreed that the attendee needed to be self-supporting and that these visits do provide inspiration to smaller countries.

With assisted travel to the AOSM:

- This can be useful, but not as valuable as assistance with visits from outside, which can help set up PI meetings.

- It was suggested that this support should not be provided until such time as a country has established an AA structure, however there is also a need for such support, particularly in the case of a medium-sized fellowship such as the Philippines. It was felt that the priority for these countries is to get AA established and to put in place some form of structure that can co-ordinate AA activities and liaise with countries within the region. It was also felt that AOSM business is at a much higher level than the need to get AA established.

Other:

The gift of computers to Russia was considered a good example of genuinely facilitating support.

It has also been beneficial for Korea to have the opportunity to host the AOSM because it can help to build unity and involvement in a new structure.

Support for the AOSM Secretariat, the Newsletter and Directory, with finance and information, is another way to help.

What is your country doing to sponsor AA in countries where AA is new or struggling?

This depended largely on the stage of development of AA in the country. Some countries were struggling to set up one group, others were well developed and had large resources. However the principles of 12-step work remain the same – one alcoholic talking to another from common suffering and experience.

With large countries like China where separate inroads are being made by GSO New York, GSO Korea and Hong Kong coordination is necessary and the sharing of experience and contacts.

New Zealand is striving very hard to build contacts in Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia where the main difficulty is finding permanent rather than transient contacts. Many are expatriates who are often not close to the local culture of the communities in which they live.

The Philippines are inspired by the larger active sponsoring countries to follow their example and reach out now to some of those smaller ones nearby.

The main challenge has been to determine the needs.

What are the first steps or priorities in setting up a service structure in a country where AA is small?

It was agreed that the priorities and principles should be:

- First things first.
- Learn to take responsibility and avoid hierarchical leadership.
- It is important that previous AA experience as laid out in pamphlets is sought and read by local members.
- Support with literature, personal visits from AA members skilled in service work accompanied by helpful professionals.

Early steps would be:

- In simple terms: "Connect the Groups" – invite groups to elect representatives and invite the representatives to a meeting.
- Begin with a District to deal with all aspects of Carrying the Message and sharing experience, rather than simply establishing an office and office committee. The knowledge and experience gained is much more valuable for future growth. This will enable the Group Conscience to expand to encompass area and national affairs as the structure grows.
- Set up committees, e.g. PI, institutions, office, 12th Step, and ask for and involve your human resources.
- A small office with one paid worker and several volunteer AAs. These would be responsible to a committee of elected group representatives who met regularly, monthly, to conduct the business of AA.
- The elected representative committee should deal with, not only the office, but also PI, Institutions and other 12th Step activities. It would need to be a District, part of a national structure, rather than just a local committee running an AA office.
- A smaller country could operate a small office with one worker, which could be responsible for literature supplies and for the organisation of conventions, conferences, assemblies, workshops, etc. Its supervising committee might consist of AAs and non-AAs.
- The principle of regular rotation should be the basis.
- Any new structure needs to have both the mandate from the groups and communication with AA overseas.
- Look at the US/Canada structure, then adapt it to your own needs.

It was agreed that it was very important for any first-stage committee to be a District committee, which would be part of a national structure, rather than an office committee.

How do you establish contacts in countries where there is no AA? Co-operation with professionals, Public Information, etc.

- This applies particularly in the small countries in the Pacific.
- Professional information packs with introductory letters can be sent to relevant bodies – doctors, clergy, policemen, etc. These contacts can be found through such sources as international phone directories and government departments. A follow-up letter offering contacts for literature and further information may follow these. The third stage would be in the form of personal visits by AAs and non-AA professionals to the professionals of that country.

- Listing loners on WebPages and the AOSM directory can help. Communicating with these loners, directly and through the "Loners Internationalists Meeting", and seeking information from them can open up more channels. Providing assistance and encouragement to loners to translate literature can be helpful in the longer term. Direct phone calls may be useful.
- Be aware of all resources of the Fellowship, both material and human, and be prepared for "unexpected" opportunities

What is your experience using the Internet and email to communicate with other countries?

Sometimes this is the only source of contact with other AA members and groups. A new and very powerful tool that can give useful information about meeting schedules and locations, as well as other contacts and links to the main AA websites and Service Directories.

When developing a website care should be taken in the design to fit in with our Traditions. It is noted that the FAQ page on the US/Canada site, www.aa.org, gives some wise suggestions.

Care must be taken with issues like trademarks and copyrights. It has made the development of the AOSM possible, inexpensive and more rapid than if it had relied on snail mail and fax.

We need to be aware that reliance on it may neglect the indigenous or poorer sections of the communities involved, where email and the Internet are inaccessible. For service activities it is invaluable being able to email documents and other material in preparation for such events as the AOSM. It can foster greater unity.

How do you carry the message to indigenous people or ethnic groups in your own country?

This has proven difficult and often unsuccessful. Translation of literature is a priority although the initial connection may be in the commonly used second language, e.g. English, or Portuguese (East Timor). The message that is heard from a person of one's own ethnic group helps dispel problems of identification and cultural incompatibility. Follow up work is necessary as local or indigenous people, although attending meetings and seeking recovery, do not always want to carry the message.

In New Zealand where the Maori people have become one with the general population there is no barrier. Where ethnic or indigenous groups are separate from the general community problems arise and awareness in AA of the need can be poor.

In Australia urban Aboriginal members are forming "Koori" (Aboriginal) groups to assist with identification and as the language is generally English it is not a problem. Some of these urban Aboriginal members are being encouraged to attend AA weekends in the more isolated Aboriginal communities of northern Australia. There are hundreds of Aboriginal languages/dialects,

most of which have no written form, so focus is now on simple English pamphlets with more graphics and video productions in simple English which most understand. Some efforts have been made in co-operation with the Catholic Church but have been generally unsuccessful. Taking service meetings into ethnic communities and involving AAs of that group can draw these members into the service structure.

In some places there was difficulty with cultural attitudes restricting women from attending meetings but with time these problems of gender, language and culture are being overcome.

How does your country maintain a balance between providing local services and helping emerging countries?

This is often a question of money and other resources and it depends on the state of AA development in the country.

- *First things first - encourage sending money to the International Literature Fund. This is a "once a year" event only so that local services are not affected.*
- *The principle should be that money is sent to where the provider of the required services is, whether GSO New York or AOSM. This should be reviewed regularly so members have a sense of participation in the work and knowledge of what contributions are being used for.*
- *When a need arises, whether local or international, communication is needed. "If AAs know there's a need they'll generally respond". This is a better principle than robbing one area to cover another. The challenge is to communicate the need on both sides.*
- *Communication of the need for international help and constantly updated information to the local membership is vital, through forums, assemblies, convention and written reports.*
- *Where the structure in a country is properly and well established and the WSM and AOSM delegates are given full support in their responsibilities a problem in maintaining the balance does not seem to arise.*

When carrying the message and/or distributing literature what difficulties, if any, do you encounter because of governmental restriction?

This is not a major issue with most groups, even in Russia. However, where one works with official approval in a country that monitors activities closely it is necessary to play by the rules. Sometimes it is a matter of sending literature in small packages rather than large one to attract less notice. Caution is needed in sending unsolicited material into "restricted" countries, for we could close the door for the future. It is best to identify the proper channels and start off on a good footing. It may be prudent to investigate beforehand a country's tax laws regarding literature imports.

PRESENTATION

Literature Assistance Fund, Copyrights and Translations

Bill A. — International Desk, GSO, US/Canada

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the organisers and members of the 4th AOSM for their warm welcome and generous invitation for me to attend and participate in these three wonderful days of AA sharing and caring. You should all have a written handout to enable you to better follow what could be a long and winding road for some of us. In addition, I have more detailed explanation packages ready for those of you who feel that they would like to have more details for your report back to your countries.

Literature Assistance Fund

The 16th World Service Meeting in 2000 marked 10 years since the 10th WSM recommended that the WSM Secretary "write to all participating countries for the specific purpose of seeking co-operation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translation and acquisitions."

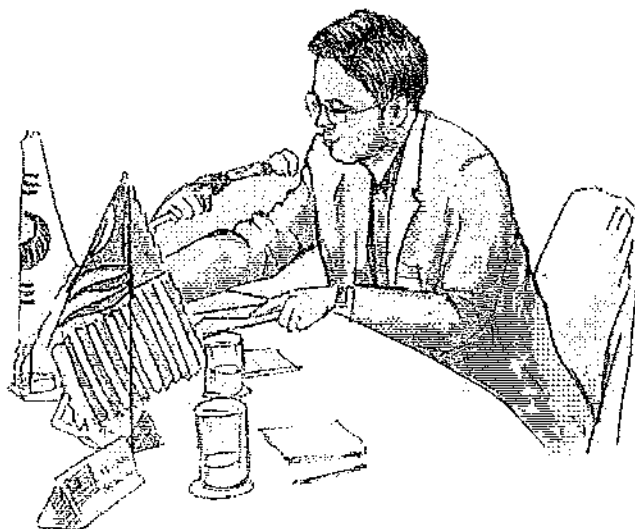
The response from countries around our AA world has been heart-warming and most gratifying. At the 11th WSM in 1992, the Literature/Publishing Committee reported that the committee had agreed that the International Literature Fund should be under the purview of the World Service Meeting Literature/Publishing Committee. The committee requested that A.A.W.S. use these funds to offset their expenditures for foreign literature assistance, as well as to reimburse other AA entities for similar expenses. Further, "A.A.W.S. should have the latitude to prioritise the use of these monies based on the need as expressed by each G.S.O. and World Service delegate. While we recognise that these monies will not be set up in a separate fund for legal purposes, but will be included in the operating funds of A.A.W.S., we ask that A.A.W.S. provide each World Service Meeting with an accounting of the receipts and disbursement of these monies."

The attached report (see the Appendix) reflects the tangible expression of the outpouring of AA love and support for the International Literature Fund from 20 or so countries from around the world. The many sacrifices made by these countries to help defray the cost of translations and literature assistance have meant countless lives saved by making literature in many languages available to alcoholics around the world.

The impressive total of this generous support as of June 30, 2001 is approaching U.S.\$ 200,000, which has made it possible to translate, print and distribute literature in approximately 50 languages, some of which

are Croatian, Greek, Russian, Tagalog, Latvian and Swahili to name a few. We are currently working on Simplified Chinese and Cambodian versions of the Big Book.

Some of you may have heard the story of the Mongolian Big Book, which has made the importance of translations so clear. We were asked to produce a Mongolian translation of the Big Book to help in carrying the message into that part of the world. The same day that my predecessor Eva S. received the first copy from the Publications Department, she received a call from an AA member from Washington State asking whether we had any material in Mongolian, to help in carrying the message to a Mongolian-speaking alcoholic with whom the member had come into contact. Eva sent out a copy the same day and, at last reports, the new member is committed to sobering up all the Mongolian drunks in the world. It just goes to show that you will never know when the work we do intended for others will help us to do our own Twelve-Step work.



Each year A.A.W.S. reviews the International Literature Fund and transfers approximately 50% of the fund balance to their operating account to offset annual assistance costs. This year we anticipate a transfer of \$15,000.00 at year-end.

Expenditures at A.A.W.S. for International Literature Assistance since 1991 are just over US\$ 1.2 million. This year, through September, we have spent approximately US\$126,000 on translations and reprints. It is clear that the help from the International Literature Fund has permitted us to offer more help to more and more countries.

In addition, I believe that it has underlined that the AA Fellowship is truly worldwide, this spiritual message is perhaps as important as the physical presence of materials.

Translations

The Big Book is currently available in 46 languages and we are working on others. In the year 2000, A.A.W.S. furnished over 40,000 pieces of translated materials in 13 different languages. The translation of our AA literature is a vital service, which is facilitated, in part, through the generous assistance of the WSM International Literature Assistance Fund.

Translations came about in two basic fashions. Occasionally, we are asked by professionals or small AA groups in other countries to translate materials for them, as was the case in our recent trip to the People's Republic of China. More commonly, bilingual local AAs begin the task of translating vital AA materials such as the Preamble -The Twelve Steps -The Twelve Traditions and other key recovery materials. They then move on to larger projects, such as our basic texts.

Before local AAs begin translating any materials, they need to contact our Publications Department to request permission to translate our copyrighted works. (See attached form) We usually ask that a few sample chapters be submitted so that we can have them checked for clarity and their adherence to the original sense of Bill W's words. It is a better idea to have this done before a lot of effort is expended on something, which will not be acceptable to the fellowship in the long run.

We do not proof read or copy-edit all the material. This is the responsibility of the country, which is making the translation. We see our role as advisory in nature. The final verification of locally translated materials is best accomplished by a translation committee of locals who are familiar with AA and hopefully bilingual members who have read the original text. It is important that we are furnished with a final draft with all the copyright permission requirements in place to assure that there will not be any problem with the protection afforded this material

We have come to understand that translation is more of an art than a science. Different translators will choose different words or expressions to express the original concept. Usually, each translator is convinced that theirs is the best. The decision rests with the group conscience of the country, usually delegated to a Translations Committee. Sometimes, individuals are so convinced that they are right that they go against the group conscience and create an alternative text. A.A.W.S., of course, can grant only one licence and we always accept the group conscience.

Copyrights

A.A.World Services Inc. currently holds more than 650 copyrights on AA literature. These include literature prepared by A.A.W.S. plus those copyrights assigned to us by other General Service Offices and license holders. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc. is the owner of the copyrights (in most of the world) for Bill W's writings and for literature approved by the General Service Conference of the US/ Canada, and has the responsibility for licensing service structures outside of the United States and Canada with permission to translate and publish this copyrighted material.

Historically, A.A.W.S. has guarded the copyrighted material in order to protect the integrity of the AA message as expressed in this literature and to enable established AA service structures to control the publication and distribution in their own country. Since services structures other than the US/ Canada first began publishing this literature, our policy has been to grant exclusive licence to only one established service entity per country. There are many reasons for this policy, including the desire to ensure the accuracy of the translations and to help newly formed General Service Boards in their efforts to achieve unity and offer services in their countries.

This exclusive licence policy authorises the service entity that has been given the licence (the licensee) to protect the copyright and their licence in their own country. Prior to 1986 the licensing policy was rather informal and not always terribly consistent. Since that time our Conference has reaffirmed this policy on several occasions. In the late 1980s we developed a standard licensing form and copyright assignment form.

It is critical that those countries doing translation fill out these forms (See in the Appendix). Our licence agreements are good for ten years after which time a new agreement needs to be executed. In addition, these agreement forms need to be renewed every time a translation is updated or reprinted.

The importance of having these agreements in order is critical, not only protecting the integrity of the AA message, but as we have seen it is critical in the development of unified AA structures.

We are always available to assist you in these procedures and encourage every one who is working on or considering translations to contact the Publications Department of A.A.W.S. We also hope that the current licence holders keep us apprised of all changes and reprints, as any change needs to be filed on our behalf. You also need to file updated registration in your own countries.

The key to the worldwide growth of AA has depended greatly on having the message available in the native language of the majority of a country's inhabitants. My own AA service in the province of Quebec has given me first hand experience of this fact. My service sponsor is a French Canadian, who, though bilingual, is unsure of whether he would have felt as strongly a part of AA, if the message had not been available in his native language. I shudder to think of the loss this would have been to me. More importantly, it would have deprived the fellowship of one of its most devoted trusted servants.

In conclusion, having noted the importance of translations to the effectiveness of carrying out our primary purpose, it follows that we need to do everything required to make sure that this process is carried out to the letter. In doing so, that is, protecting the integrity of the message and preserving the unity of our beloved fellowship I remain convinced that with the effective communications that zonal meetings such as this promote, the task can be accomplished in an effective and harmonious fashion.

NOTE: As a further illustration of the crucial importance of preserving our copyrights, Bill mentioned an Indonesian pamphlet translated locally which was not copyrighted from the beginning. It is not now possible to copyright the text, which is now in the public domain and could endanger other pamphlets containing our message.

Several questions were raised by delegates and were answered as follows:

When a country is beginning translation work, having first notified AAWS, it needs to be self-supporting as far as possible. If some financial assistance becomes necessary it can be sought from the International Literature Fund in GSO New York, first making application to identify what the need is. If the group wishes to apply to GSO for a loan to cover the translation work, a loan agreement will be entered into. This is then paid back "down the track". Or sometimes

GSO will purchase the finished item at cost, which is a way of paying back the debt.

The International Literature Fund was never meant to detract from home service needs and your own requirements should be taken care of first.

When there are several "branches" of one language, e.g. Chinese (Mandarin, Simplified, Old-Style Characters), separate Big Books, etc., may be produced if they are considered functionally different languages. There would not be two versions of the one language, however.

Photocopying of literature breaches the copyright restrictions and is illegal. International law governs our international copyrights even when an individual country does not. If a group is struggling for literature supplies it should approach GSO New York or its sponsoring country who will be happy to supply all needs.

Licence-holders generally cannot give translating or printing permission, which can only come from AAWS.

Copyrighted material on the Internet:

When this is found we usually write to the webmaster informing them it is not permissible, and they usually desist. When the person continues to offend we commence legal action which doesn't usually get to court, but when it has to, it does.

Another possible action when an individual refuses to act legally is to contact the service provider and alert them that they are allowing copyrighted material to be posted. They are informed that they can be held accountable if they knowingly allow it, which usually resolves the matter.

Other licence holders, e.g. the GSO in each country, are encouraged to take the same action, letting the offender know you have exclusive rights and they need to request permission. Permission may be granted if the proper credits are posted and AAWS needs to be notified.

(NOTE: Relevant documents for obtaining permission to translate, assign copyright or reprint can be found in the Appendix at the end of this Report.)

SHARING SESSION "Literature Needs"

Korea

We believe the priorities for translation are the "Big Book" first, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", "Living Sober" and "Daily Reflections". We have translated much of the "12 & 12" but not all the pamphlets are translated yet. Great care is taken to translate accurately and the principle of translation by committee rather than individual is followed to ensure that Group Conscience is reached. Some women have found the male-oriented text is difficult. The concept of "God as we understood Him" is difficult to translate

and to be understood by many Koreans who can confuse it with the Christian ideas. There are several religions in Korea including Christianity, Buddhism, etc. and non-Christians can sometimes fear it may require them to attend Christian church.

When new groups start up they are given a set of books as a gift. Also books are given to hospitals where patients use them in their hospital therapy.

(- Delegates: Jong Y. [redacted] Hawk C. [redacted])

Australia

Some translation into Aboriginal dialects, of which there are scores, has been attempted with little success as there have been too few in the population speaking those dialects. The procedure followed a request from an Area to the Conference which assigned money for it and sought input from the fellowship. A banner of the Twelve Steps in illustrated form was produced for aboriginal groups, and audio/video tapes are being considered, as many of the languages are oral only. However the same problem arises of the small numbers that speak each dialect. There has been some difficulty arising with the translation of AA concepts when a non-AA translator is used. More emphasis is now directed to the illustrated pamphlets with simple forms of English, such as "Is AA For Me?" and "12 Steps Illustrated".

We consider priority needs to be given to the "Big Book" first, then "Living Sober" and PI literature. Literature is needed for all cultures in Australia. And efforts have been made to gather literature for the needs of hearing-impaired alcoholics.

Australia could assist the smaller countries it sponsors by financing their translation efforts. We might also seek among our own fellowship bilingual AAs who could assist with translation, e.g. Australian-Vietnamese AA members. We have asked our sponsee countries about their PI needs, etc. but have had no response so far.

(-Delegates: John S. [redacted] Lynne H. [redacted])

New Zealand

In the late seventies six pamphlets were translated by an experienced individual into languages of the Pacific, with fellowship and GSO NY approval, and with financial support from a Pacific islands AA Group. They were printed with both an English text and an Islands text and covered Fijian, Samoan, Tongan, Niuan, Rarotongan and NZ Maori. The text contained the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Questions ("Is AA For You?"), "How It Works" and the Serenity Prayer. They are still in use today particularly in New Zealand, although there have been some arguments over differing interpretations by groups of the same language. We find that it's almost impossible to put AA spirituality into translated text, which usually will attract questioning. When this happens it is suggested the questioner be asked to produce an alternative translation.

In New Zealand priority is given to pamphlets first, PI and CPC particularly, plus the 12 Questions, 12 Steps, AA Preamble and Serenity Prayer, with a personal story or two. These are the easiest and cheapest to produce for sponsee countries. It is felt that, for Pacific island countries, the Big Book is not needed yet.

It is important to sort out which are the best value and greatest use before starting and to target the right areas for the best effect.

We produced a video for the Deaf that explains Chapter 5 from the Big Book but now more is needed for an earlier stage of identification.

(-Delegates: Kevin B. [redacted], Steve P. [redacted])

Hong Kong

We've been very fortunate having Peter W. who has done a translation of the Big Book in the old traditional Chinese characters, which are still relevant in several places today. There have been some problems with material for newcomers. We are also concerned that translations are being done without reference to one another, e.g. in Taiwan the "12 & 12" is being translated, we believe, but we need more information about that. The AOSM is a good forum for facilitating communication between translating groups that will avoid awkward duplication. We hope to be able to co-ordinate these efforts and to involve Peter and his experience.

(-Delegates: Seán O' [redacted] Deborah L. [redacted])

Malaysia

There are 40 distinct, unrelated languages in Sarawak alone and Malay is spoken from Sumatra to the Philippines across 30,000 islands, each with its own dialect. The Big Book that's being translated into Bahasa Indonesian is not necessarily appropriate for Malaysia. There is a big need for the book, our first priority, and other literature in Bahasa Malaysia, but I'm unaware of any translating being done yet. It's valuable having the information about copyright requirements because there may already be translating activity happening in mainland Malaysia.

(-Delegate: Bernard L. [redacted])

Japan

We have had a problem with newcomers finding identification difficult because the experiences are of "drunks in America" and "my story is different". The letters "AA" also cause confusion - "Is this an Asian-African society?"

We have created illustrated pamphlets (comics) for treatment centres/prisons to tackle any literacy problems and these have been well received. We are now converting the "12 Steps Illustrated" to having Japanese illustrations by Japanese artists. We have also published three books of recovery stories by Japanese AA members and, as well as these accounts of our own

experiences, our publications department is continuing to improve the accuracy of earlier translations. There has been a problem finding a Japanese word equivalent to "alcoholic", with the Conference arguing at length over four different words. The final decision was to use the English word, and members in meetings use a variety of terms to identify themselves as alcoholic.

We believe that the highest priority items for translation should be the "Big Book" and the "12 & 12". We have completed the "Best of Bill" and are nearing completion of "As Bill Sees It". After that it is hoped to translate "Pass It On".

(-Delegates: Junji Y. [REDACTED] Hiroyuki N. [REDACTED])

Russian Federation

When AA was new to Russia our experience proved that the highest priority for literature was the "Big Book", then simplified literature for the newcomer and then literature for the professional community to make them aware of what AA is.

In the last 2/3 years we have translated "Come to Believe", "Daily Reflections" and ten or more pamphlets including "Self-Support", "Do You Think You're Different?" and leaflets such as "Problems Other Than Alcohol". This year we have completed "Best of Bill" and are soon to finish "As Bill Sees It". Experience has shown us that the translator needs to be an AA or at least an Al-Anon member, otherwise it will be no good - even super-professionals cannot understand some things. Our Literature Committee always includes 2 or 3 translators.

(-Delegate: Konstantin K. [REDACTED])



Philippines

We have done no official translation, but I have assisted an AA friend to translate the Big Book into the Visayan (Cebuano) language, which has included my story. We have also translated the "Big Book", "12 & 12" and a Hazelden book. Our procedure was to have a professional do the initial translation and then we two AAs proofread and adapted the text to the proper expression of AA principles, which seemed to work well.

Now we need to establish a formal AA committee among the Philippines AA groups to revise the Tagalog "Big Book" and the "12 & 12" for greater accuracy. The priority for a country should be the "Big Book" followed by pamphlets for newcomers, which we need in Tagalog and Visayan. It is important that the literature and artwork is suited to the local culture. We could use illustrated comic forms of our literature and also "Bill's Story" on video translated and dubbed.

(-Delegate: Bobby S. [REDACTED])

East Timor

New translations would not be necessary at this time in East Timor as we could manage with Portuguese and Indonesian. Bahasa Malaysian is understood orally. The focus needs to be on bulk supplies of basic 12th Step pamphlets rather than large numbers of "Big Books". Distribution could be via Darwin as the distribution centre and through the UN military, but it is important to act soon as UN numbers are to be reduced in the near future.

(Delegate: Allen G. [REDACTED])

Cambodia

We naively undertook translation of the "Big Book", unaware of copyright requirements at the time. We don't have a sober Cambodian to help so we're not sure of the purity of the translation.

There is an enormous need for larger supplies of 12th Step literature and material for professionals in order to carry the message effectively. Currently our supplies are so small we tend to hoard them, and we now understand that photocopying is inappropriate and endangers our copyright. So we definitely need help with supplies.

As there are large groups of Vietnamese, Chinese and French-speaking Cambodians, we need literature in these languages to be available, as well as PI and CPC material. People in Cambodia watch a lot of television so it would be very useful to have some of the AA PI videos dubbed that we can put onto the TV. This is so exciting and stimulating to participate in this forum.

(-Delegate: Wayne W. [REDACTED])

Following the sharing of all the delegates some further information and suggestions were offered as the result of office experience:

- Sponsor countries might make themselves aware of all the languages used in their sponsee countries and research any sources for these.
- Local GSOs might keep on hand PI and CPC packages in the languages of sponsee countries. As an example, Midway Island requested literature in Tamil, Japanese, Tagalog, Thai and Indonesian.
- Committees in sponsor countries might develop illustrated posters, simple 12 Step pamphlets, tapes and dubbed videos for oral-only languages.
- For those seeking Tamil literature – there are several titles available in this and other languages used in India that can be obtained from the GSO in Mumbai, India. A list may be obtained via email.
- It was explained that, apart from AA's "Big Book" which is an historical document and needs to be preserved as such, all AA's literature is now gender-neutral.
- It was pointed out that India's PI Committee has decided to voice-over several of AA's videos, using AA members, which is a very inexpensive and wonderful way to get the message out.
- Anything that can be done to help the helpers, GSO New York is committed to do this.

Service Highlights

USA - Bill A. [REDACTED] GSO New York

At present I'm a member of the Night Light Group in New York and serve as International Co-ordinator at the General Service office there. I am touched to be here and gratified to have the chance to serve in this way. I started my AA Service as coffee maker in my home group in Montréal and have served variously in the SouthWest Québec Area of the US/Canada structure, where there are two countries in the one structure. I've been GSR, a DCM, Alternate Chair, then Chairperson for the Area, Alternate delegate, then Delegate to the Conferences of '96 and '97. While in Japan teaching English I was again a coffee-maker for the Nagoya International Group, before returning to take up a position at the GSO in New York. I had a period working on the Loners and Treatment Centres and then a two-year assignment on the PI Desk before my present International role.

Australia - John S. [REDACTED]

I'm a member of the Casuarina Group in Darwin in the far north of Australia. I feel I'm very fortunate to have started my AA life in a small place, which gave me more opportunity for service than I might have had in a more populous area. There was very little AA service being done so I had plenty of scope. I was a group Secretary and then joined the new District Committee where there was no Area Structure in effect. I became the first Conference Delegate and then the first Regional Trustee for Northern Australia on the General Service Board in our country. These positions were great learning experiences for me to take back home to share with my fellow members. Now I'm one of Australia's AOSM Delegates at my second AOSM, which is also bringing me much personal growth. After I have rotated from this position I shall go back to serve at my group level.

Australia - Lynne H. [REDACTED]

My Group is the Monday Night Steps Group at Southport on Australia's Gold Coast. In all my 17 years

of sobriety I have always been a member of a group and have taken turns at being Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson, sandwich maker and dishwasher. Beyond the group I have been a GSR, DCM, Alternate Delegate then Delegate to the General Service Conference, Area Chairperson and Regional Trustee attending Board Meetings and the Conference. As Trustee I chaired the organising Committee for the Australian International Convention in 1999 and now I am first-term AOSM Delegate for my country.

New Zealand - Kevin B. [REDACTED]

I have been continuously sober since March 1st, 1980 and currently am serving as New Zealand's second-term WSM and AOSM Delegate. I worked on the planning committee for the 2nd AOSM, which was held in Auckland in 1997 and was Chairman for the 1995 New Zealand Convention. Prior to this I served as Conference Delegate from '91 to '94 and shared on the Auckland Service Centre Committee during '89 and '90. I helped set up District Committees throughout the Northern Area of New Zealand and have regularly attended the Northern Area's Assemblies during 1998. I have been a GSR for various South Auckland Groups since 1985 and have served in several other groups outside the Auckland area as secretary, treasurer and 'tea person'.

New Zealand - Steve P. [REDACTED]

One of my most important jobs is doing the dishes at the Thursday Night Beginners' Meeting, and at present I'm treasurer for my home Group. I have been a GSR for various groups, a member of the Auckland Service Centre committee, a DCM, Intergroup Chairman, Chairman of PI and CPC committees and member of various sub-committees. I was a Conference Delegate for the Northern Area and am now the first-term WSM and AOSM Delegate for New Zealand.

I also find it very rewarding to be a Prisons and Institutions Sponsor, and I hold two commitments in my home group which keeps me at the important "coal face" of AA.

Hong Kong – Deborah L

Hong Kong, where I got sober, is unique in that it has only one Group, and so I have not a long list of jobs behind me. I have served in various positions, as greeter, coffee maker, secretary and a member of two convention committees. I always keep involved in some way, as this is one way to keep the sobriety so freely given to me. I am a first term AOSM Delegate for Hong Kong and it is an honor to be here,

Hong Kong – Seán O

I am delighted to be here as one of Hong Kong's first term AOSM Delegates. I have been sober for eight years, all of them in Hong Kong and the main area of my service has been involvement on the first Convention committee. I also have been involved in PI, carrying the message through sending out literature and giving talks on AA in schools. Service to me means I always reach out my hand to the newcomers as they come into the rooms.

Korea – Won K

I am very grateful to be here and it is an honor to represent the Korean fellowship at this AOSM. I have been sober for 7 years and I am here to learn about the AOSM and to carry what I learn back to the Korean members.

Korea – Jong Y

I am very grateful to have known AA from its beginnings in Korea. There were very few people in AA then and they entrusted the money to me. I was treasurer for the Korean Intergroup for 7 years, and because of my level of English, I have been responsible for a lot of translation work, having helped with translating the "Twelve and Twelve". I am fascinated by AA and have enjoyed service work so much going to jails and to hospitals. I was Chairperson of the Korean Intergroup for four years and then stepped back to make room for others. Everything I know about life I've learned through AA and I am very grateful that God brought me into service so early.

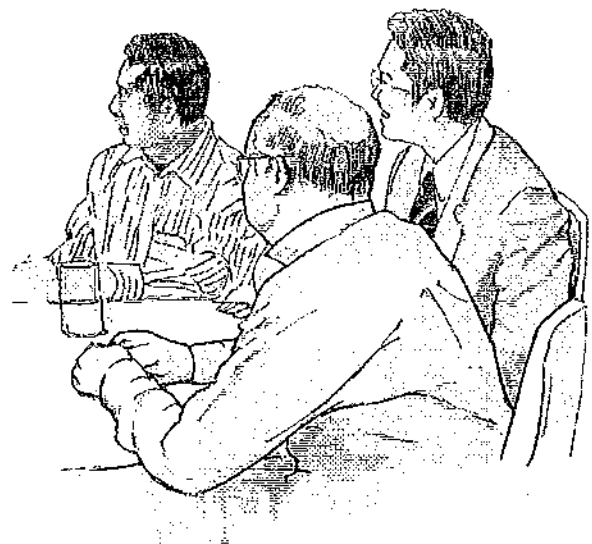
Malaysia – Bernard L

My home group is probably Hong Kong where I got sober 20 years ago and where my service history started. It was a very small group with only five meetings a week. I was responsible for taking care of the messages on the answering service tape each morning. Two and a half years ago I moved to Sarawak as a loner and today I'm the first-term delegate representing the KL groups and a small group in Penang. My service now is mainly via the Internet providing information about AA in SouthEast Asia.

I have given PI talks to Rotary Clubs, hospitals and universities but so far without apparent results. I am very grateful for this opportunity to give something back.

Japan – Junji Y

I am currently the second-term Delegate for Japan but my service began as GSR for two different groups, a DCM and then an Area officer. I also served as the first editor for "Box 916", our Japanese magazine for sharing experience, strength and hope. At our 10th anniversary convention I heard about the World Service Meeting and the need for a General Service structure in Japan. I shared with several others in a lot of hard work travelling around Japan and talking to the members and groups, so that, at the 20th Anniversary Convention members from all over Japan gathered and voted to hold the first General Service Conference. We then moved forward to create our structure. I was Chairman of the committee for this 20th Anniversary Convention and also served as Chairman of the first General Service Conference. Presently I have the honor to be WSM and AOSM Delegate for Japan and will be fired at the end of this year.



Japan – Hiroyuki N

Eighteen years ago I served as DCM for the Kansai region of Japan and was also on the committee for the Kansai Central Office for five years. I was privileged to be the first Kansai Delegate to our first Conference, and last year was elected WSM/AOSM Delegate 1st-term. I worked on the translation of the "Best of Bill" into Japanese and am presently translating "As Bill Sees It". Hopefully this will be completed and published next year. I look forward to working diligently with all of you for the next two years.

Russian Federation – Konstantin K

I have worn various service hats since I sobered up eight and a half years ago, among them Delegate to the European Service Meeting.

I am now serving as the Co-ordinator of the International Desk at our GSO, and Vice Chairman of the GSB. Today I have the privilege to be AOSM delegate. Russia has vast territories and a big alcohol problem. Because three-quarters of our country is located in Asia we consider it very important to establish links with Asia-Oceania countries to bridge the gap, improve contacts and share experience. We have about 300 AA groups mainly in Asia along the Trans-Siberian railway and on the Pacific coast. We hope to be of assistance and help to the post-Soviet countries in Asia, such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, mainly through the professional communities. We have established a group in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. I hope my participation here will improve contacts between Russian and Asian AAs for our mutual benefit and the benefit of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Philippines – Bobby S

It is a breakthrough to be representing the Philippines for the first time at the AOSM. My service experience began when I joined AA 14 years ago. I always came early to arrange the chairs and even today I help wash coffee mugs and clean up and am the last to leave. I have served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Manila Intergroup but now, as I am a travelling AA I sponsor people by correspondence and by *World Hello* and the Internet. It was through the Internet that I heard about the AOSM. We have no structure yet in the Philippines – I was endorsed by the Angeles City Group to be the Delegate. Our AOSM Statement of Purpose describes the importance of structure and I have come to learn how we can set up our structure in the Philippines so we can carry our message better to the local people.

East Timor – Allen C

My sobriety date is 27 June, 1993, and I am the first-term delegate for East Timor. I have not had a great deal of service generally but I started a group in Cambodia in 1992 that has been resurrected three times since then and still exists today. I also started the East Timor Group last year with 2 members. In Paris I chaired meetings while I was living there.

Australia – Anne O *AOSM Secretary*

Service has been a major feature of my sobriety for 32 years – at three weeks sober I became my group's treasurer, though not a very good one, because I so much wanted to give back to these people who were giving me life. There have been many highlights – I was a Conference delegate before our structure was set up in Australia and was involved in the beginnings of Area structure and group representation. I was a World Service Meeting Delegate for Australia in 1978 in Finland and 1980 in New York. During that term I served as the Chairperson of the WSM Literature/Publishing Committee where I learned the importance of true spiritual translation of our literature and the copyright for its preservation. When I was a

Regional Trustee on the GSB I was once again asked to chair the Board's Literature Committee where I was able to give back, to pass on the experience I had gathered. Today I am once again my group's treasurer, a little more efficient than the first time. I am also AOSM Secretary and Treasurer and therefore obviously more trustworthy with the money now. This AOSM job is probably the emotional pinnacle for me and I am so grateful – it is such a thrill.

GSO – US/Canada – Greg M *General Manager*

I became sober on February 14, 1978, in Maui, Hawaii, having run away from home and the law in L.A. I have now been General Manager of the GSO in New York since 1999. There was no general service structure in Hawaii when I got sober, only one based on Intergroups. A Conference Delegate suggested we would be better served aligning ourselves with the Conference Charter so we moved from the Intergroup to the Conference Area structure. We all practised the Three Legacies from the very beginning and never knew there was any other way of practising AA. I have come through the ranks of coffee maker, secretary, treasurer, GSR, DCM, Area Committee, Delegate to Conference to Regional Trustee to the GSB for 4 years for the Pacific Region, Elder Statesman and now the GSO job. I feel very blessed to be able to work on the mission of our single purpose: when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help

GSO – US/Canada – Bill A *International Desk*

At present I'm a member of the Night Light Group in New York and serve as International Co-ordinator at the General Service office there. I am touched to be here and gratified to have the chance to serve in this way. I started my AA Service as coffee maker in my home group in Montréal and have served variously in the SouthWest Québec Area of the US/Canada structure, where there are two countries in the one structure. I've been GSR, a DCM, Alternate Chair, then Chairperson for the Area, Alternate delegate, then Delegate to the Conferences of '96 and '97. While working in Japan teaching English I was again a coffee-maker for the Nagoya International Group, before returning to take up a position at the GSO in New York. I had a period working on the Loners and Treatment Centres and then a two-year assignment on the PI Desk before my present International role.

New Zealand – Simon R *AOSM Chairman*

My first job in AA was secretary for a new group where I was given the key to open up – the first unstolen key I'd ever had. I feared that the place might be burgled and that I would be blamed, as I had lived a very colorful life, so I passed the key to a helper to mind for me. The greatest highlight of the many jobs I've had has been when I was WSM Delegate for New Zealand. That was the greatest honor anyone has given me. And now I am AOSM Chairman.

REPORT ON 16th WORLD SERVICE MEETING

NEW YORK CITY OCTOBER 22 -26, 2000

Kevin B. [REDACTED] - New Zealand

Introduction

What a truly amazing experience to have the privilege of attending the 16th World Service Meeting in New York City. To be able to share experience, strength and hope with AA's from around the world and to be able to visit the home of Bill Wilson and to visit the General Service Office in New York has given me an extension to my sobriety that I shall remember for the rest of my life.

The theme of this meeting was "Our Future Is Our Responsibility" and was a very timely one for this Meeting, which is the first of the new Millennium.

The same indescribable feeling of awe surrounded the participants of this Meeting as that which surrounded the Meeting in Auckland two years ago. There were many new friendships made during the course of the week and AA worldwide is clearly in good health. I was particularly overcome by the display of love of this fellowship that was shown by Delegates and their desire to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Of course there are challenges being met by many countries but with the changes taking place in Society it is natural for AA to have to deal with new issues from time to time.

Gary Glynn, the non alcoholic Chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous for the United States and Canada, welcomed the Delegates and, in his opening address, he expressed his gratitude for what AA has done for him and his wife and pointed out that AA world-wide now has valuable wisdom and experience to share with each other in forums such as the WSM.

The week long meeting started with the Twelve Traditions Play, a Red Ball AA meeting and then the usual pattern of workshops, country reports, presentations, committee meetings and unstructured sharing sessions.

My presentation today will cover three main areas:

FORMAT - Workshops, Country Reports and Presentations

STANDING COMMITTEES - Agenda, Literature Policy and Admissions

POT POURI OF INTERESTING COMMENTS

I have been allocated twenty minutes and therefore I refer you to the official Final Report for amplification of what I am about to say.

I have also prepared some short articles on some presentations and these will be available after my presentation.

Please also take some time to note the Zonal Regions that have been drawn on the map of the world. I think you will find the information very interesting.

FORMAT

WORKSHOPS

In AA and elsewhere today workshops continue to be a wonderful way of discussing topics and obtaining a number of different perspectives.

There were three different workshops dealing with three separate issues. These related to

- Resolving Difficulties in the Development of Service Structures;
- Communication Between Countries and
- Is AA Still Attractive?

The Delegates were split into three groups and each group attended each of the workshops. After the workshops were completed the minutes of each group were collated to form a report from the meeting on each topic.

COUNTRY REPORTS

Each country is invited to prepare a report on AA in their country and in most cases this responsibility is that of the First Term Delegate.

The report includes such things as structure, services, finance, literature and publishing.

Each report was fascinating and shows how the AA structure in each country is adapted to suit local conditions.

The size of AA in some countries is huge and the number of delegates is enormous. It is also fascinating to see how each country handles issues like Delegate voting rights and Delegate participation.

PRESENTATIONS

Second term delegates are invited in advance to prepare and present a paper to the meeting on a pre-selected topic. Each World Service Meeting selects a range of topics that are then passed to a Delegate to share on.

The following papers were presented at this Meeting:

- The Flow of Information Within AA
- Making Service More Attractive Through Improving Communication.
- How Can We Better Carry the Message in a Changing World?
- Changeless Message in a Changing World.
- United for Those yet to Come.

COMMITTEES

For me the most challenging sessions throughout the week were the committees.

Each of the four standing committees met twice and discussed the topics stipulated on their agendas and any new topics that arose.

The four committees made recommendations as follows:

Agenda Committee:

The theme for the 17th WSM (*The AA Message - A Message Without Borders*) and various presentation and workshop topics were recommended and after discussion by the Meeting were approved.

Literature Committee:

It was unanimously agreed to reaffirm the 1998 statement regarding the preservation of copyrights. The committee discussed the challenge of providing literature to African countries with over 200 languages and emphasised the importance of one country helping another. For example, South Africa are attempting to establish a Sub-Sahara Zonal Meeting. Mexico is helping Cuba and Sweden is providing support for Estonia.

This committee also requested that Bill Wilson's essay, "*AA's Legacy of Service*", be translated and made available to emerging countries or countries with troubled service structures.

Policy & Admissions Committee:

The committee unanimously approved Peru's request for participation at the 16th WSM, however their request was withdrawn. The committee encouraged Peru to reapply to be seated at the 17th WSM in Spain in 2002.

The committee considered the applications by Seccion Mexico and Native American Indian Nations, and it was agreed that neither met the qualifications. Both were to be encouraged to participate in their own Service Structures.

Although it was agreed that costs were rising, an increase in Delegate fees may perhaps prohibit some nations from attending the next Meeting. In order to avoid that happening, the committee recommended that the Delegate fees remain at US\$2,800; however countries that can be asked to support the meeting with additional donations.

Working With Others:

This committee shared on topics related to:

- co-operation with the professional community;
- the carrying of the message into correctional facilities;
- the activities in each country on the use of public information over press, radio and television;
- ways to improve reaching newcomers coming out of treatment and how to help them stay in AA

In general it was considered that AA service workers had more difficulty understanding the difference between co-operation and affiliation than did the professionals.

CPC is still the singular most effective way of carrying the message to the professional community but this takes time to develop a step at a time.

Most countries reported that AA meetings are held in correctional facilities and many experience problems from time to time. One common theme was that rotation is necessary to prevent the establishment of harmful long-term relationships and "burn-out".

Many countries agreed that the use of National television for public information was limited because airtime was too expensive. Newspapers have become the principal medium for carrying the message to the public.

It was interesting to note that countries have become aware of an influx of immigrants creating a new segment of the population which is difficult to reach.

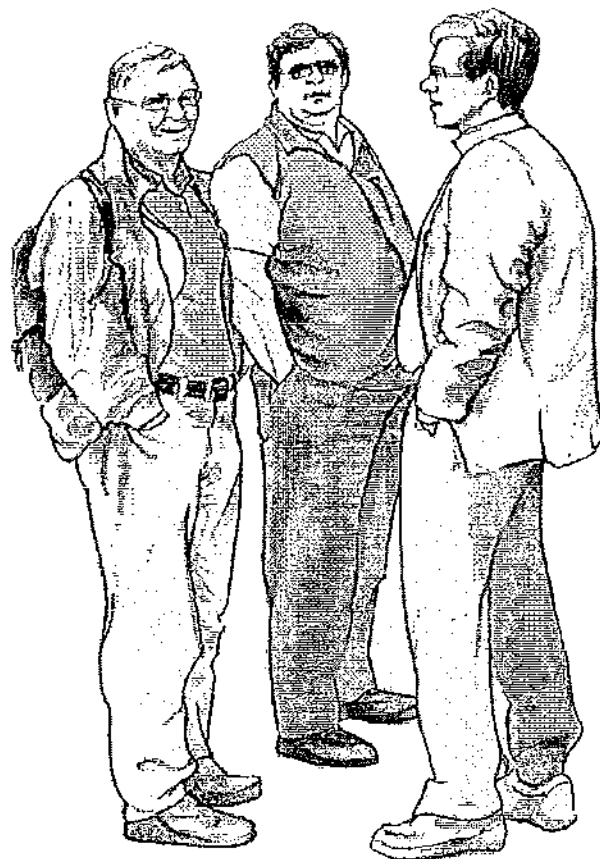
There were a number of suggestions made on how to improve reaching newcomers from treatment centres. These included:

- the providing of contacts;
- good sponsorship by groups;
- the supply of information to the treatment facilities;
- perhaps transport to the meetings; and
- regular contact between AA and the treatment facility about what AA is and is not.

GENERAL MATTERS

Some interesting tit bits:

1. One country recently reviewed ninety resumes to fill two Class A Trustee positions.
2. Mexico's biggest challenge has been to provide the Cuban Government with information on AA's Twelve Traditions.
3. For some reason the Cuban authorities will not now recognise AA. There is confusion about how much literature Havana will allow into the country. Immigration are causing problems for AA's visiting Cuba. The Cubans think that Mexico is teaching some new kind of religion.
4. Early in the development of AA in Poland, government officials sat in on AA meetings. On one occasion the Polish General Service Office was summonsed by the Government who had decided to help them out. AA Poland considered that this was an attempt by the Government to control AA and it took many hours of discussion for AA to convince the communist regime that AA could function without the help of the Government.
5. There are tax and insurance problems in Spain and the Spanish are have difficulty gaining access to Prisons.
6. France is facing the challenge of conveying the spirit of the traditions, particularly self-support, to groups in Africa with major cultural differences.
7. Some countries will leave a service position vacant if a suitable servant cannot be found. It is vital that we find the right servants for the right jobs.
8. Some countries hold AA meetings with a "Service Comer" to discuss and encourage AA's into service.
9. Few countries are doing anything for those who are deaf, blind, illiterate or hard of hearing. Most of us are unaware that there is a problem.
10. In 1999 Switzerland established a single AA telephone number for the whole country.
11. Copies of a pirate translation of the Big Book were taken to Russia and distributed free of charge among AA groups. This has seriously undermined unity in Russia.
12. It is estimated that visits to the General Service Office website this year will exceed one million.
13. The GSR has the task of keeping the group's spirit alive.
14. A group alone, as an alcoholic alone, inexorably dies.
15. The greatest gift that we can pass on is our enthusiasm and love for AA service together with a positive attitude, kind words and encouragement to others.
16. The latest AA survey in Spain indicates that for the past ten years efforts to bring recovery through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous to the younger generation has been at a virtual standstill.
17. The loss for the World Convention in San Diego was US\$600,000, but the profit in Minneapolis was US\$900,000.
18. There was a suggestion that a manual be developed to provide guidelines for websites and email behavior but it was recognised that this area of development will take time.
19. USA is discussing the merits of providing facilities to download the Big Book.
20. Some sites already have chapter 5. There are concerns about finance and copyright infringement. Caution is the watchword.



21. At an AA meeting in Cuba a state Security Official turned up. He attended the meeting as a spy for the Government. Surprise, surprise, he stopped drinking and resigned from his job. Now he is sober 6 years (AA has been in Cuba for 7 years) The Vice Chancellor for the Catholic Church in Cuba is a Class A Trustee.
22. In Mexico there are organisations charging AA members US\$100 each to hear their 5th Steps. The General Service Board has published that these organisations are not AA but it has had little effect.
23. In a Mexican newspaper there was a picture of a dead man, bound hand and foot. The headlines read "AA killed this man". Again the General Service Board responded.
24. Sexual harassment in AA has become an issue in UK. They provided delegates with a handout on how they intend to cope with the problem.
25. The topic of self support was raised a number of times. This concerned the sale of literature and the WSM costs.

26. Delegates were reminded that any dollar paid to AA whether it is for literature or a donation will always be used somewhere for the good of AA as a whole.
27. The US is not concerned that the WSM is not self-supporting. They are not concerned that many countries depend upon literature profit for their source of income. Bill W recognised in the Concepts that literature profits may be made on Conference Approved literature.
28. Countries must decide for themselves what support they will give AA. What attracts each country? Is it the provision of translated literature, or sponsorship for other countries? Perhaps it is carrying the message within the Zone or even in its own country.

SUMMARY

So in summary, there is a set **FORMAT**, which includes workshops, country reports and presentations by individual AA Delegates. This is a very structured part of the Meeting and Delegates are given ample time to prepare for each section.

There are **COMMITTEES** that have often been working throughout the 2-year period since the last WSM and these committees concentrate on specific areas of service need.

The **unstructured** part of the Meeting takes place throughout the week and can take place either in session or in a casual setting. AA's getting together and sharing their experience, strength and hope.

CONCLUSION - PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

One of the most fantastic adventures during my trip to New York was to visit "Stepping Stones", the home of Bill and Lois. What an awe-inspiring place! The trees displayed the beautiful colors of Autumn and the atmosphere was electric. I have never experienced anything so emotional in my life.

Another inspiring occasion was our visit to the Archives at the General Service Office. The entire history of AA is stored here and the displays are a wonderful collection of memorabilia from the early days of AA.

During the last weekend the General Service Board for United States and Canada met and the WSM Delegates were privileged to observe their committee meetings. The wealth of experience in USA is truly breathtaking. The experience of the Class A trustees and the time that they commit to AA is unbelievable. The weekend was truly a privilege that is available to too few of us in AA.

SOLVING DIFFICULTIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE STRUCTURES

During the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, Delegates were asked to share about the difficulties experienced in their countries in the development of service structures.

The first question related to whether there was a difficulty with rotation of AA members or non-A.A. board members and how these trusted servants were encouraged to rotate.

Although most shared that they had no difficulties with rotation of AA members and non-A.A. board members, some had experienced problems. In one instance, a non-alcoholic chairperson had served on the board for decades and was not yet ready to rotate. Another non-alcoholic trustee had to insist on rotating after eleven years of service but the Fellowship did not want to let him go. Many delegates felt that rotation at the group level was a problem -some groups are small and it is hard to get someone to serve as G.S.R. and one member will serve year after year.

One delegate related that in an area where he lives they had elected alternate GSRs to provide depth of service and continuity of rotation. There were several delegates who shared that it was not always easy to find non-alcoholic trustees to serve on boards. Also it works best to have specific job descriptions of service spelled out in a country's service manual.

IS AA STILL ATTRACTIVE ?

During the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, Delegates participated in a series of workshops. One of those workshops asked Delegates to share what their countries are doing to attract young people, older members and women to AA ? Into Service?

All shared that their countries had published AA literature for young people and women; some countries had published AA literature for the older member. In a few countries, the service office had produced a video for young people. AA continues to attract the younger member by including young people in the service structure, by assisting in starting young people's Conventions. P.I. committees send AA speakers to schools and universities to talk about AA where young people are in attendance. Radio and TV spots help attract young people to AA.

Older members are harder to reach and there is only one AA pamphlet "Time To Start Living" that is directed to the older person. Several Delegates stated that their countries had been remiss in reaching out to the older person since some do not come back. Through C.P. C. committees and Special Needs committees, AA 's visit senior homes where AA members are happy to have contact with the outside. Some AA 's take meetings to seniors who are shut in, or help to drive the older member to a meeting.

Women are being attracted to AA in most countries. Some countries have women's groups and a few countries have women's AA conventions and workshops scheduled for women. Women are encouraged to sponsor women.

In Central America progress is very much slower in attracting women into the service structure. In European countries and the Pacific Rim and in North America, women are very active in the service structure. Most shared that women find service work attractive and extremely challenging.

IS AA STILL ATTRACTIVE ?

Another workshop topic at the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, asked delegates to share what their country is doing to make AA accessible to alcoholics who have special needs such as the blind, hard of hearing, deaf or illiterate.

There are ways to make AA accessible to alcoholics who have special needs. One of the most important ways is to treat the person with love, respect and dignity. Many countries have produced A.A literature on videotape, audiotapes, CDs and published books and pamphlets in Braille.

Most countries have published books and pamphlets. Some countries report that public libraries carry AA literature with taped material on the *Big Book*, or the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. One way to include deaf members at a Convention or service function is to provide a sign interpreter., if at all possible. A way to include handicapped is to make sure that the meeting places are wheelchair accessible. AA needs to provide translators for those speaking another language. Some delegates reported that they have a Loners' program in their country, for loners and home-bound AA members, where a meeting by mail is provided and the member also might be visited. Some delegates reported high illiteracy rates in their country and that one-on-one sharing, as well as usage of tapes and CDs, along with reading to a newcomer can help make AA attractive and available to many beginners.

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IS AA STILL ATTRACTIVE ?

Another workshop topic at the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, asked delegates to share how their country is attracting the interest of non-A.A. professionals. What are some of the difficulties and how have they been resolved?

Several delegates reported that Cooperation with the Professional Community committees are formed and that professionals are reached by one-on-one contact, by letters, by hosting luncheons, by planning workshops and through newsletters for the professional. Reaching professionals during the business day seemed to work better than arranging night meetings. Using Class A Trustees (Non alcoholic) helped to attract professionals in many fields including corrections, treatment, social work, law, police and clergy. In one country the stigma of alcoholism is still strong and many A.A members conceal their membership and remain so anonymous that no one can find them. Others reported that professionals in the treatment and correctional fields don't always see the AA program as the only answer and are beginning to offer alternative solutions to the alcoholic. Open AA meetings help - AAs can invite a professional to attend the open meetings so the professional will know more about what AA is and what it is not. Some major difficulties have been in getting a professional person to attend a CPC or P.I. luncheon. A solution would be to follow up with a phone call to the professional and then to send a letter and some literature thanking the professional for attending. Several countries send newsletters about AA to professionals. CPC exhibits are helpful as well as give away pamphlets that can be distributed in quantities, i.e. " AA at a Glance"

IS AA STILL ATTRACTIVE?

Another workshop topic at the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, asked delegates to share how they attract the diverse communities within their country.

AA literature has been developed to help carry the AA message and to attract potential alcoholics living in diverse communities. Some ways of attraction are to have special meetings for women, for gays or lesbians, for deaf and for hearing impaired.

Another way is to encourage integration into mainstream AA. Reaching immigrants who speak another language in a new country is important. Some remote communities have formed committees to attract indigenous peoples to AA.

Some Delegates reported that diverse populations do not exist while other delegates said that there were close to 200 different dialects within one country. Pamphlets have been developed for the Native North American and a pamphlet directed to the Black African/American is operating in two countries. There are some foreign language AA groups in many countries that take part in the local service structure.

Generally speaking delegates felt that countries attract AAs from diverse communities by asking someone to help them to do this special service work on a one-on-one basis, or in a committee.

SOLVING DIFFICULTIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE STRUCTURES

During the World Service Meeting in New York, October 2000, Delegates were asked to share about the difficulties experienced in their countries in the development of service structures.

The second, third and fourth questions during the workshop asked delegates to describe procedures used to elect trusted servants in their country? How do we maintain unity and build sound service structures?

The consensus on the first question from all groups was that, overall, trusted servants were elected with care. Also, the Third Legacy procedure was almost universally employed in the election process at the district, area and conference levels. Several service structures have Nominating Committees both on their boards and at their Conferences. One delegate shared how AA members in service in their country sponsor and groom someone who they think might fill an upcoming vacancy, and they discourage, last minute, unproven volunteers from standing for certain jobs. Although some countries had difficulties filling non-alcoholic trustee positions, another country shared that recently they had reviewed ninety resumes to fill two Class A (non-alcoholic) vacancies.

When resolving difficulties and maintaining unity to avoid diverting us from our primary purpose, delegates were unanimous in their view that the most important way is to follow the AA Traditions. It was also noted that it takes a great deal of spirituality, love and tolerance to maintain unity.

The basic principles involved in building and maintaining a sound service structure again relate to practicing the AA Twelve Traditions. Participants shared that service sponsorship and good leadership are essential to a sound structure. The Concepts are very important and understanding the Service Manual is also a major help in maintaining a solid structure.

REPORT ON THE SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

Probably the most significant activity of the Secretariat, apart from the conduct of the AOSM itself, is the distribution of the Newsletter and the Directory. The major part of all secretarial communication around the Zone is generated by these items and possibly are responsible for the increased representation at this 4th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting.

ASIA-OCEANIA NEWSLETTER

Apart from its primary role of keeping the A/O countries informed on AOSM matters, the newsletter has helped make us aware of the status of AA in the various parts of our Zone. Featured stories have included "AA in India", "AA in the Philippines", "Alone in the Jungle", "The East Timor Group Story" and "AA in Japan Celebrates its 25th Anniversary". The various contributors were thanked for their stories, all of which will assist us to understand better the task ahead, the areas where sponsorship is needed and the larger fellowships that we can turn to for support.

ASIA-OCEANIA DIRECTORY

Since the beginning of the Secretariat the distribution spread of the Directory has expanded from 19 recipients in June 1999 to 97 in September 2001 – that is, at the half-yearly bulk mail-out.

Over the 27 months 182 additional copies have been sent as the result of individual requests from places as far apart as Sweden, USA, Ireland, Australia, Vietnam and Germany.

The regular mailing list includes contacts in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, PNG, Philippines, Saipan, Guam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea, Johnston Is., Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti, Samoa- American/Western, Micronesia, Marshall Is., Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vanuatu, GSO-New York, and the offices of the European Service Meeting and the Meeting of the Americas (REDELLA)

Initially extra Directories were provided at the cost of materials and postage but, because of the introduction of a new tax in Australia, it was decided that it would be provided freely, and the costs would be covered by donations.

ARCHIVES

Records are being kept of all editions of the Newsletter, the Directory, Final Reports and significant correspondence, both paper and electronic.

A history has been commenced and shall be updated as time passes. Bob P. of New Zealand, who was very instrumental in the establishment of the AOSM, wrote a large part of the story and Yukie, our first Secretary, added her own experience of the beginnings.

On request, a display of the AOSM archival material, together with a map of the Zone showing the AA presence in each country (at July 2000), was sent across to the International Convention in Minneapolis. After being on display there it was transported to Dr Bob's House in Akron, Ohio, for permanent display.



Records of important electronic files, e.g. the Directory, the mailing list, Final Reports, Newsletters and documents relating to the organisation of the AOSM (Plan of Action, etc.) are being stored on discs to be passed on after rotation. There may be the need for some form of duplication of these records elsewhere, or some system by which they can be retrieved, in case of loss of the Secretary.

LITERATURE

There has been some call for supply of literature. On one such occasion it was passed to the Australian GSO which undertook to provide a supply of 12th Step and PI literature to Bernard L, a loner in Kuching to assist him in carrying the message.

Another time two members from USA who were planning to travel through the Pacific on holiday were provided with a Directory, several copies of the newsletter and "business" cards giving contact details to leave wherever they visited. Following their return home they notified the Secretariat of a request for literature at the medical centre on Midway Island.

The request was filled with examples of 12th Step literature in English, Japanese, Tamil, Thai, Filipino and Simplified Chinese, the languages requested. New Zealand, whose sponsorship zone includes the islands of the Pacific, then took on responsibility for the maintenance of this supply.

After discussion with the Chairman, it was agreed that the Secretariat might hold in reserve small samples of literature in various languages. Generally, however, any literature requests are redirected to the relevant General Service Office.

COMMUNICATION

There is good communication and support from the GSOs around the Zone and also from the International Desk in New York. Some good friends at the GSOs of Japan India are always especially helpful whenever there are language complications and they pass on interesting news now and then.

The support and willing co-operation of our friends at the Korean Intergroup who have responded generously and without delay to every request has been specially gratifying. It is hoped that their experience of hosting this important event will bring them great joy and satisfaction.

A few correspondents are in touch with the Secretariat fairly regularly, apart from delegates and GSOs. Some of these are Christian P. in Tahiti, Shabbir H. in Pakistan and Don C. in Angeles City, Philippines. Normally, loners seeking sharing on personal recovery are referred to other AAs or to the LIM group, since the Secretariat has neither the capacity nor the role to provide this kind of support.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Following the Third AOSM in Australia, a simple bank account was opened, one offering very little interest but no bank charges, with Kevin H., an Australian WSM delegate, as co-signatory.

At this early stage when the support of the different AOSM countries was an unknown quantity and funds were small, bank charges for processing international cheques have been a problem. Personal cheques are not a good means to donate money. Instead, where available, electronic transfer, Internet banking or a bank draft (cashier's cheque) are preferable.

The details required for electronic transfers through the bank are the AOSM account details:

Name: "AOSM Secretariat"

Transit or Swift number: [REDACTED]

Bank and Account number: [REDACTED]

The Secretariat has been very well supported in its first two years and has been truly self-supporting. It is possible now to begin to build a prudent reserve. The generosity of the supporting countries, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and US/Canada should be recognised, and also the continuing support of Groups in Thailand (Phuket and Pattaya) and Iwakuni in Japan.

Following discussion between the Chairman, Secretary and contributing countries an amount of US\$700 was offered to the Russian GSB to assist with travel expenses of their delegate. The status of the account was such that it was decided that this was affordable and advantageous on this occasion.

Another action undertaken was the supply of a range of 12th Step literature in various languages to a medical centre on Midway Island. This was at the request of the official in charge of the Station there and cost the Secretariat \$50 AUD. Responsibility for maintaining the supply has now been passed on to New Zealand.

It was suggested that the AOSM delegates form a policy on the future use of the AOSM account for assisted travel of the Chairman and secretary between Meetings and the sponsorship of delegates.

FINALLY:

The current Secretary's term is for four years until the completion of the 5th AOSM, and it is recommended that, during the next period, the future of the Secretariat and candidates for a new Secretary need to be considered.

Some points to look at are:

- It is possible for one person to handle although there are periods when it has demanded a lot of time, e.g. an average 6 hours daily in the weeks leading up to the AOSM.
- Easy access to a photocopier is essential, as well as computer and Internet connection.
- It has proven very important that the Secretariat has been a separate entity from any one country, independent and outside any one structure, thus avoiding any involvement with local affairs.
- Should one country be requested to host the Secretariat it would be important to make arrangements to preserve the Secretariat's independence. This would require providing all financial support, including salary, and preserving the lines of authority and responsibility between the supporting countries and the Secretariat.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING CONDUCT OF THE AOSM AND ITS SECRETARIAT

The report from the Secretariat, after its first two years of operation, raised certain points, which were discussed and resolved as follows:

- Some AA groups, speaking languages other than English, might be listed in the Directory to encourage the realisation that all are one in unity.
- It would be valuable for the Secretariat to hold small numbers of literature items in the different languages of the Zone.
- English should be retained as the working language for the AOSM.
- It is unnecessary to purchase translation equipment at this stage but it may be hired as the need arises.
- Correspondence of special interest and information received and sent by the Secretary ought to be copied to the AOSM delegates.
- The current Plan of Action for the planning of the AOSM should be expanded to include the other duties of the Secretariat and Chairperson and presented to the 5th AOSM. This will enable a smooth transition when rotation takes place. An outline should be sent to all delegates as soon as possible.
- Delegates should endeavor to bring to the next AOSM detailed nominations for the position of

Secretary or, alternatively, a detailed and well-considered proposal for the central location of the Secretariat. The latter would include details on funding arrangements, staffing, committee, etc.

- The current signatory arrangements for the AOSM treasury should remain in place till the next AOSM.
- Requests for financial and visa assistance from ASHA Group in Bangladesh should be discussed with the GSB of India.
- Chairman's and Secretary's AOSM expenses should be covered by US\$100 each

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

The Meeting decided to amend the AOSM Guidelines by altering the word "country" each time it occurs, replacing it with the expression "country/AA regional Structure".

It was also decided that the guideline relating to rotation of the Secretary should be amended to read:
"The Secretary shall be rotated after two AOSMs"

The grammar in the final Guideline should be corrected by inserting the word "with" before "participation".

(Note: The amended Guidelines are included in this Report - page 40.

AOSM SUB-COMMITTEE

After much discussion it was decided that a sub-committee of the AOSM should be established which would research the experience of others and prepare recommendations on issues confronting the AOSM. These recommendations would then be presented at the next Meeting. Such issues might include policies and admissions, establishment of boundaries, sponsorship difficulties, and prudent reserve. It would not make decisions on behalf of the AOSM between meetings.

The name for this committee was chosen to be "*The AOSM Working Committee*", and its members would be the AOSM Chairperson, Secretary, 2nd-term Delegates and 2 representatives of smaller countries. In the period 2001 – 2003 the relevant delegates will be those from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Korea and Cambodia. A list of the names can be found on page 40.

Boundaries of the AOSM Zone:

It was recommended that the Working Committee prepare an updated list of the countries of the AOSM Zone, literature distribution centres, Sponsorship areas and the languages and AA histories of each country. This should be presented at the next AOSM.

PRUDENT RESERVE

Because the AOSM funds had a healthy balance it was decided that a Prudent Reserve should be established with money being put aside at the rate of \$500 AUD per year, at the discretion of the Working Committee.

SPONSORSHIP BY SECRETARIAT

The Meeting decided that it might be possible for the Secretariat to provide some sponsorship funds for the 5th AOSM as was done for the Russian delegate for this Meeting. The steps leading to this would need to be:

- A request for assistance has been received and a full picture has been obtained
- All sponsoring countries have been approached to discover first if they can accept the responsibility

CLOSING REMARKS

As the Meeting drew to a close all the delegates shared their thoughts one by one on the experience they had been through over the two days.

Foremost in people's thoughts was the gratitude each felt for the privilege of being part of this Fellowship and the work it does. In the words of Konstantin from Russia: "*I felt myself just a small part of a great, great whole where I belong and the AAs of my country belong too.*"

The Korean delegates expressed their gratitude for the Higher Power's help in hosting the AOSM when they

- The Working Committee investigates which action might be more valuable - to visit the country itself or to bring a delegate to the AOSM
- That it is a situation of Last Resort.
- If funds are available, the Working Committee sets an amount.

This decision is for a trial period until the next AOSM when the Working Committee will present a recommendation about any future sponsoring actions.

ELECTIONS

AOSM REPORT TO WSM 2002

Steve P. (New Zealand) was asked to deliver this Report.

5th AOSM CHAIRPERSON

Kevin B. (New Zealand) was elected by our Third Legacy procedure to chair the next AOSM, and John S. (Australia) was elected as his Alternate.

5th AOSM – 2003

Bids to host the next Meeting were discussed and it was decided that, subject to the approval of the home fellowship, the 5th AOSM would be held in Hong Kong. If this is not possible, the Philippines (Manila), undertook to be the standby host, backed up by Japan and New Zealand.

It was recommended that the dates for the Meeting be as near to March 2003 as possible, keeping in mind the need to avoid other important calendar commitments that affect delegates and GSO New York.

THEME

After considering several suggestions for a theme, the delegates chose for the next Meeting:

*"The Three Legacies –
Recovery, Unity, Service"*

had feared the task might be too big for such a new Fellowship. They believed that Korean AA had grown in activity and fellowship as a result and that it had opened their eyes and hearts to the suffering alcoholics overseas that need their help.

Those Loneers or members of one small group in their country were overwhelmed by their experience of the enormous stretch of AA internationally and the realisation that there is so much support for them.

"When you're a small group or quite on your own you know vaguely AA is out there, but to see how much

supportive work goes on helping other people – I don't know any other group like this".

Other delegates were "constantly humbled in the presence of the Spirit of AA". The example of commitment to the suffering alcoholic and the spread of the AA message of hope impressed us all, from the monumental efforts to translate all our literature into Japanese, Cambodian or Russian, to the unstinting support always available from the GSO in New York, to the tireless labor of the individuals working to build AA at its earliest stages. Bobby from the Philippines explained it this way: "I found here hope for the lonely, struggling alcoholic, not just one but maybe hundreds of thousands of them. This Meeting can really make a difference in our service work. I found here confirmation of our commitment to others, to being responsible".

The two guests from GSO New York also shared their thoughts:

(Bill A. — International Desk)

"It's been a privilege to be able to experience the wonder of the AOSM. I was impressed with the level of caring and sharing at the European Service Meeting and am as deeply touched here. It's great to see people from tiny fellowships and loners involved in this and it's admirable to see that the AOSM has made the leap to ensure that, wherever the message is needed, that is being addressed. GSO New York is enriched by being able to attend and we can share the experience we have garnered at this AOSM.

I was really gratified by the warm welcome from the Korean hosts and touched by the Language of the Heart at the German-speaking meeting in the same way I was at the German-speaking meeting two weeks ago in Frankfurt."

(Greg M. — General Manager):

"The enrichment we receive in the GSO in New York and eventually our General Service Board and our Fellowship goes a long way to fulfill Bill's vision when he described the Three Legacies, the foundation being Recovery, the Unity of the Groups and the spiral that is Service. That Triangle circled in the World of AA Love has been mirrored here this weekend and this short couple of days is really a testimony of it. I'm sure Bill and the early founders would be most gratified to see how their words and their visions are ringing true today, in such a short period of time.

There are no barriers in AA., no obstacles that our simple, profound message of hope cannot transcend and reach into the hearts and minds of alcoholics anywhere, anyplace. It's very evident that, with our individual concepts of a Higher Power, our collective experience has the ability to create hope where there is no hope, to create unity where there is diverse thought and action. It can rally and bring forth in individuals who were sick and are now on the road to recovery an enormous power of Good and an enormous power of Hope for those yet-unborn alcoholics who will reap the benefits of this Meeting.

These meetings are opportunities to share, to help, to learn to give unlimited love - these are the blessings our Higher Power has bestowed upon us. A lot has been done here in only the 4th meeting and a lot is yet to be done."

Finally, the words of Bobby from the Philippines expressed those deep feelings of appreciation we all felt towards our wonderfully warm and hospitable Korean hosts, when he said: "The beauty of a country is in its people – we thank you for your beautiful heart and your warm welcome".

DELEGATES' REVIEW OF AOSM AGENDA

(There were fourteen respondents to this questionnaire)

Which agenda item/s did you find most helpful and why?

Ten delegates described the workshop on International Sponsorship as being the most, or one of the most, valuable of all agenda items, with the following reasons given:

- This, and Literature, are the issues that we are struggling with and it's wonderful to hear how we can help smaller countries;
- The workshops provided opportunity for more input by all present;
- It was the item most related to our Primary Purpose;

- With the world getting closer we need to increase our AA activity this way;
- The involvement and participation in the topics by all;
- The solutions to these permanent problems are vital;
- The information shared can be taken back home and put into practice – we could do with a second workshop;
- It provided insights into how to introduce AA into a country and then sustain it;
- This workshop provided an important opportunity for dialogue between the countries.

Eight delegates found the topic on Literature, both the presentation on Copyrights and translations and the sharing session, to be also valuable.

The reasons given were similar to the above, drawing attention to *"the opportunity for all delegates to be involved in the participation, and the importance of the Literature in carrying our message"*; *"it allowed all delegates to discuss the problem of getting the message out in our region of multiple languages"*. It was also mentioned that *"the presence of the Staff from GSO NY was essential for this topic so that we all know how vital it is to preserve our message through copyrights"*.

One delegate found the review of the Guidelines was a valuable exercise for demonstrating how Group Conscience is formed.

One delegate felt the Country Reports gave a helpful picture of the spread of AA through the Zone and provided ideas from different countries for more effective service to alcoholics.

Question times on Reports and presentations were appreciated for the chance to clarify matters.

Which agenda item/s did you find least helpful and why?

Nine delegates found that all agenda items were valuable, helpful and vital to the meeting.

Three delegates found that the reading in full of Country Reports wasted valuable time, which could have been used more productively, particularly in workshop session. It was recommended that these reports be only highlighted, or any amendments be read and that they be read privately by delegates in their own time.

One delegate suggested that presentations be accompanied by visual information to enable those with difficulty of language or listening ability to absorb them better.

One delegate requested that more time be given for reading or reviewing the correspondence.

Is there any topic you would like to see on the agenda next time?

Eleven delegates suggested topics that could be dealt with in workshop/discussion format or through presentations, etc.

These topics were suggested for workshops:

- "Setting up and expanding AA in new or small countries - suggestions, personal experiences;
- "Developing regional service structures - goals, problems, solutions, real practice"
- "Setting up a structure - How a larger country can help"
- "The growth of one's AA spirituality as the result of one's active service work"

Other topics suggested were:

- "The growing trend of juvenile drinking"
- "Cultural Difficulties with understanding the Higher Power concept"
- "How to Increase Country Representation at the AOSM"
- "How Personal Visits to Sponsored Countries might be financed and supported"

Further suggestions for the Meeting were:

- Each Meeting might provide delegates with lists of translated literature and with the procedures for translating and publishing;
- The topics of "Literature" and "International Sponsorship" might become standard agenda items, so that on-going Group Discussion can provide updates and feedback on what has been tried and what has been helpful.
- During workshop discussions, it might be better to have separate rooms for the groups.

Any other comments?

- More time needed for "What's on your mind?" opportunities and unstructured questions;
- More workshops with better use of time, e.g. an evening workshop;
- Recommend 90 minute sessions with lengthened working day rather than 2-hour sessions;
- Recommend more unstructured discussion periods to share on issues of individual concern;

FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL, 1999 - NOVEMBER, 2001

INCLUDES 4TH ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING*

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Contributions:	\$950.00 Personal Bequest	Directory/News (6 issues)	\$445.07
	\$2,378.00 GSO NZ	Final Report '99	\$405.00
	\$1,693.78 GSO US/Canada		
	\$6,173.67 GSO Japan	Postage:	\$1,150.63
	\$2,200.00 GSO Aust.		
	\$1,888.00 Hong Kong Kowloon Intergroup	P.O. Box	\$95.60
	\$287.00 Phuket Group Thailand		
	\$10.00 Heidelberg Beginners Group	Stationery:	\$65.11
	\$299.69 Iwakuni Group Japan		
	\$24.66 Amer. Samoa Group	Fax:	\$5.00
	\$98.64 Royal Manure Grp Roi Namur	Bank Charges:	\$88.00
	\$840.67 Pattaya Group Thailand		
	\$1,027.53 Individual Contributions	Literature	\$50.00
Total contributions	\$17,871.64	<u>AOSM Expenses:</u>	
Payments	\$173.10	Airfares/Travel	\$2,821.80
Bank Interest	\$66.98	Accommodation	\$2,905.97
		Expenses	\$399.13
		Sponsorship	\$1,392.98
		(Russian delegate)	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$18,111.72</u>		
Less EXPENSES:	<u>(\$9,824.29)</u>		
BALANCE	<u>\$8,287.43</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES **	<u>\$9,824.29</u>
at Nov 30, 2001			

All amounts are in Australian dollars

* This Report does not include the cost of producing or posting the Final Report for the 4th AOSM, which shall be in the next Report. The costs for the 3rd AOSM Final Report are included.

** These figures have been updated since they were reported at the AOSM in order to include the final costs for travel, accommodation and expenses incurred during the Meeting.

AOSM BUDGET

FOR PERIOD

NOVEMBER 2001 – MARCH 2003

<i>Items</i>	Budget	Previous	
	Nov '01 - Mar '03	Apr '99 – Nov '01	
4th AOSM Final Report, including postage	\$500	\$405.00	(3rd AOSM)
Production of Directories, Newsletters - 4 issues	\$600	\$445.07	(6 issues)
Postage of Directories, Newsletters & other mail	\$1,800	\$1,150.63	
Travel/Accommodation for Chairperson/Secretary	\$5,000	\$4,850.00	(estimated) *
Post Office Box	\$100	\$95.60	
Incidental Stationery	\$100	\$64.50	
Bank Charges	\$100	\$88.00	
Delegates' Folders at AOSM	\$200	XXXXX	(no charge)
Taping of AOSM	\$500	XXXXX	(no charge)
Literature supplies	\$100	\$50.00	
Sponsorship	XXX	\$1392.98	
	\$9,000	\$8541.78	

All amounts are in Australian Dollars

Note:

* With the finalisation of the travel and accommodation expenses since the AOSM, the above figures for this item are therefore underestimated. The actual travel and accommodation expenses for the 4th AOSM totaled \$6126.90 AUD, so that a target of \$10,100 is required.

GUIDELINES
FOR THE CONDUCT OF
THE ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. The AOSM shall meet every two years, alternating with the WSM.
2. Each country/AA regional Structure shall choose its own representatives.
3. Finance shall be the responsibility of each participating country/AA regional Structure.
4. The Chairperson shall rotate after each meeting.
5. The Secretariat shall be rotated after two AOSMs.
6. Each country/AA regional Structure shall be eligible to send up to two delegates.
7. The meeting shall be of two days duration.
8. Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation only at the discretion of the Chairperson.



AOSM WORKING COMMITTEE 2001 –2003

Kevin B. [REDACTED] (AOSM Chairperson)
Anne O. [REDACTED] (AOSM Secretary)
Hiroyuki N. [REDACTED] (Japan 2nd term)
Steve P. [REDACTED] (New Zealand 2nd term)
Lynne H. [REDACTED] (Australia 2nd term)
Won K. [REDACTED] (Korea 2nd term)
Wayne W. [REDACTED] (Cambodia 2nd term)

APPENDIX

ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., (herein after referred to as "A.A.W.S.") is the owner of all copyright interests, throughout the world, in the work entitled _____ ("the Work") and all translations and other derivative works based thereon.

In consideration of its permission to translate the Work into the _____ language granted to me by A.A.W.S., I hereby assign all copyright interests in the said translation to A.A.W.S.

I acknowledge that said permission is not exclusive, and that A.A.W.S. may grant similar permission to others; that A.A.W.S. may itself make any modifications to the translation or request that I make any such modifications to the translation which, in its sole judgment, it determines ought to be made; and that A.A.W.S. retains all rights to the publication and distribution of the translation and the right to license same; and that A.A.W.S. is not obligated to publish, distribute, or otherwise use the translation, or to permit anyone else to do so.

Date: _____

By: _____

Name: _____
(print)

Title: _____

On Behalf Of: _____
(name of organization if applicable)

Exhibit A.

REQUEST FOR LICENSE TO TRANSLATE AND/OR REPRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE COPYRIGHTED WORK

ENTITLED: _____ ("the Work")
(English title)

The undersigned Applicant hereby requests permission to

- ☐ Translate the work into _____ ("the Translation").
(identify language)
- ☐ Reproduce the Translation.
- ☐ Distribute the Translation in _____
(country)

Applicant's signature below constitutes an acknowledgment of an agreement to comply with all of the terms set out below. This application must be executed in duplicate and returned to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

The Assignment of Copyright form attached as Exhibit A, must also be signed and returned with this Application. A.A.W.S.'s consent to this request will be effective on the date of A.A.W.S.'s signature. One signed copy will be returned to Applicant.

1. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that A.A.W.S. is the sole owner of all U.S. and foreign copyrights in the above identified copyrighted work and that such copyrights are valid and in force.
2. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a non-exclusive license to translate the Work into the language specified above, provided said Translation is submitted to A.A.W.S. for review and approval.
3. Applicant agrees and hereby does assign all copyright in the licensed Work to A.A.W.S., as evidenced on the attached Assignment of Copyright form (Exhibit A), signed by Applicant.
4. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant a license to reproduce and distribute the Translation in the exact form in which it was submitted to A.A.W.S. and approved by A.A.W.S. ONLY, in the country identified above ONLY.
5. A.A.W.S. grants Applicant the right to enforce the copyright in the Translation in Applicant's own name in the country identified above, including the right to file suit for infringement in Applicant's own name. Applicant agrees to notify A.A.W.S. in writing of any infringement of said copyright in the country identified above as such infringement comes to the attention of Applicant.
6. Applicant agrees that all copies of the Licensed Work will bear a copyright notice in the form set forth below. Applicant agrees that this notice will appear on the cover of the Translation and will be repeated verbally and visually (in the case of video tape) at the beginning of the Translation both in English and in the language of the translation. Applicant will be responsible for translating the following notice into the language of the Translation and placing it on and in the Translation.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE (ENGLISH)

Give Date of Publication of Translation in Blank in next line)

©19____ *Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Translated from English and created with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) Copyright in the English language version of this work is also owned by A.A.W.S., New York, New York. No part of this work may be duplicated in any form in any language without the written permission of A.A.W.S.

REPEAT SAME COPYRIGHT NOTICE IN LANGUAGE OF TRANSLATION

7. Applicant agrees to send three copies of the Licensed Work in the form in which it is published, including the notices described in Paragraph 5 above, to A.A.W.S. within two weeks of the publication date. Applicant agrees to simultaneously notify A.A.W.S. of (a) the publication date and (b) the year the Translation was completed.
8. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that this license may be revoked by A.A.W.S. at any time for any reason, upon 30 days written notice. Unless revoked, the duration of this Agreement shall be ten years from the date of A.A.W.S.'s signature hereto.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Signature of Applicant _____

Name (typed) _____

Address _____

AGREED TO this _____ day of _____, 19____.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title _____

Acct# 100.00-0000-2109

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
AUSTRALIA	60.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 500.00
FINLAND	300.00	1,280.41	792.00	1,810.00	105.99	10,431.08	1,877.65	5,095.15	5,884.75	2,875.98	-
FLEMISH SPEAKING EUROPE	-	-	-	-	-	4,261.02	3,835.00	1,820.07	-	-	-
FRENCH SPEAKING EUROPE	-	-	1,000.00	1,031.00	859.80	4,785.00	2,000.00	3,400.00	3,000.00	2,500.00	3,000.00
GERMAN SPEAKING EUROPE	-	-	987.48	778.50	790.20	759.32	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	-
GREAT BRITAIN	16,125.00	-	-	-	-	1,262.19	-	613.02	-	-	-
GUATEMALA	-	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,116.00	-	-	-
ICELAND	-	1,000.00	1,400.00	1,000.00	750.00	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	1,520.78	1,688.00	1,000.00	1,583.00	-	1,595.20	3,005.49	4,131.00	5,180.00	5,850.00	7,721.00
ITALY	751.00	-	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	461.60
JAPAN	770.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	4,034.11	1,000.00	1,739.13	-
MEXICO	-	-	-	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NEW ZEALAND	-	526.02	258.48	268.52	-	-	257.65	-	-	-	-
NORWAY	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPAIN	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
SWEDEN	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	-	336.47	2,090.82	-	-	-
A.A. ON LINE	-	-	-	-	250.00	1,535.43	503.20	1,985.89	776.65	455.50	226.07
* OTHER	307.94	1,044.07	3,702.97	467.47	400.00	152.75	630.93	299.87	1,126.85	2,505.28	450.00
ANNUAL TOTAL	<u>\$ 19,845.12</u>	<u>\$ 7,738.50</u>	<u>\$ 12,140.93</u>	<u>\$ 13,438.49</u>	<u>\$ 7,155.99</u>	<u>\$ 27,782.99</u>	<u>\$ 15,188.74</u>	<u>\$ 29,843.58</u>	<u>\$ 18,768.25</u>	<u>\$ 18,146.99</u>	<u>\$ 12,858.67</u>
PREVIOUS YEAR TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT TO -	-	19,845.12	27,583.62	39,724.55	33,163.04	20,319.03	28,102.02	23,280.76	28,134.34	31,902.59	30,049.58
A.A. WORLD SERVICES BALANCE	-	\$ 27,583.62	\$ 39,724.55	(20,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(25,000.00) **	(15,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(15,000.00) Estimate
	-	<u>\$ 27,583.62</u>	<u>\$ 39,724.55</u>	<u>\$ 33,163.04</u>	<u>\$ 20,319.03</u>	<u>\$ 28,102.02</u>	<u>\$ 23,280.76</u>	<u>\$ 28,134.34</u>	<u>\$ 31,902.59</u>	<u>\$ 30,049.58</u>	<u>\$ 27,908.25</u>

The Twelve Concepts

1. The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference-excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.
3. As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."
4. Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.
6. On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
7. The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.
8. The trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.
9. Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description, or by appropriate charters and bylaws.
11. While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.
12. General Warranties of the Conference: In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.