

8th

ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



CHATEAU De BANGKOK
BANGKOK, THAILAND

JULY 24TH -26TH 2009

Theme:
“REACHING OUT”

The Asia-Oceania Service Meeting
(AOSM)
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.

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Final Report



Contents

“REACHING OUT” - An Overview.....	6
Observers at the 8 th AOSM.....	8
Welcome Address	9
Keynote Address	11
Report to AOSM on 20 th World Service Meeting.....	14
Country Reports	19
Australia.....	19
Kingdom Of Bhutan	20
Hong Kong.....	22
India.....	24
Japan.....	27
New Zealand.....	28
Philippines	30
Russia.....	30
Singapore.....	34
Thailand	35
Presentations.....	38
A.A.’S Three Legacies And Our Role As Trusted Servants	38
Reaching Out: Country To Country	41
Workshop 1	44
Workshop 2	47
Workshop 3	50
Chairman’s Report to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting 2009	53
Secretary’s Report to 8 th AOSM	55
Proposed Budget.....	57
Income For AOSM For 2 Years (1/7/2007-30/6/2009)	58
AOSM Expenses For Two Years:.....	59
Proposed Budget For 2009-2011	60
8th AOSM Committees	61
Policy /Admissions /Finance Committee	62
Committee Report.....	62
Publishing and Literature Committee	64
Working With Others Committee Report	65

Site/Agenda/Website Committee Report.....	66
General Business	69
Chairman Closing Address	70
Delegates Review Of The 8th AOSM.	72
Delegates in Attendance	73
List Of All Delegates	74
History Of The AOSM To July 2009	75
Overseas Literature Policy	76
AAWS Policy Re: Translations of A.A. Literature, Including Publication And Licensing Considerations:	77
Request for License to Translate and/or Reproduce and Distribute Copyrighted Work	80
Assignment of Copyright.....	83
Guidelines	84

8th ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING

“REACHING OUT” - An Overview.

The 8th AOSM was held at the Chateau de Bangkok, Thailand from Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of July. There were 18 Delegates present, who in turn represented some 10 countries. The Kingdom of Bhutan was represented by 2 of the Delegates for the very first time. Two representatives of the GSO New York were also present, along with a total of 6 Observers; 2 of which were representing the Professional Health Community. Countries that were unable to be represented were Vietnam, Mongolia, Korea and, Mercca (Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous)

Friday morning and the Delegates gathered to register and to meet over coffee and cake, supplied by the Host Committee. Possibly this is the first time that an AOSM has been conducted without the back-up or in-put of a GSO, CSO, or Intergroup. However, Mike C, Chairman of the Host Committee and his band of four, had dedicated themselves to serving the AOSM in any way they could. The Host Committee also set up a hospitality room for Delegates to gather informally for fresh fruit – coffee- and tea breaks when needed. Our gratitude is extended to this Committee for all the hard work they had committed themselves to. It took some 600 Emails that had passed between the Secretariat and Mike C, to ‘get and keep the show on the road!’ Thanks from us all for being the power of example.

The AOSM got underway on Friday after lunch. After opening with the Serenity Prayer, a moments silence was held for the alcoholic that still suffers followed by the traditional reading of the AOSM Statement of Purpose by the second term Delegate from the host country Bruce C. Val K. Chairman of the 8th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting read the welcome address to all present. Delegates were asked to introduce themselves and a brief on their Service highlights. Others present were also asked to introduce themselves; the two representatives from GSO New York, Phyllis H the General Manager and Valerie O’N from the International Desk. The 7th AOSM Report was accepted and after the afternoon tea break, the Chairman and Secretariat Reports were given along with the Country Reports.

James N. (New Zealand) then summarized and read the 20th World Service Meeting Report held in New York 2008. Some of the interesting comments that arose were from the Delegates Country Report (taken as read).

New Zealand; “we now have a 0800 AA telephone number operating” Ian C (Australia) Queried if they had any pamphlets from the Pacific Islands’.

Hong Kong; they had had some feedback from 5 members who had been surveyed

About their thoughts on the AA program... “too religious” ...“fundamentalism’.....no cure.....etc.

Thailand; Beer condensed his report, and commented that” AA is not for everybody, but it works” AA has a hotline in Thailand, and does not deal with questions on drugs or medications. He also pointed out that Translations were a problem,” preferable to come from AA’s themselves”” and ... Changing God to Good was more preferred by some Thais.”

The voting status of both the Secretary and the Chairman was discussed, this was voted on by all Delegates and voting rights were accorded to them both.

The Friday evening shared Thai Dinner was a great time of Fellowship with a welcome speech from John M the Chairperson of the Thailand Area Assembly- to the AOSM, was then followed by an AA meeting- a great way to end the day.

On Saturday the 25th, Valerie O'N, New York GSO, gave an excellent Keynote Address on the AOSM theme "Reaching Out". Sharing followed this discussion and the response from all Delegates was enlightening and informed.;

Ian C (Australia); commented on the lack of meetings where he lives, "nearest is 600 Kilometers away".

Shrikant S (India) spoke on his work with a doctor (she had a Big Book)

Lucie (Singapore) "there is Unity in Diversity"...

Dawa (Bhutan): "every occasion or celebration in Bhutan begins with alcohol, we have to search out alcoholics..."

Masayo (Japan); "unity by sharing – even if you don't like them..."

Bill H (Philippines); spoke of the growth within his country.

Nathan (Singapore); spoke of getting picked up for meetings wherever he goes.

These workshop questions are reproduced within this report for you or your groups' interest please send any comments or questions you may have back to the Secretariat if you wish. They all generated a lot of discussion with some very positive comments and suggestions from the Delegates, arising out of them. [REDACTED]

On Saturday afternoon, the Committee meetings began with Delegates appointed to;

Policy/ Admission/Finance – Chair Ian C (Australia)

Literature/Publishing –Chair Brenda H.(New Zealand)

Working with Others – Chair Bruce C. (Thailand)

Site Selection/Agenda/Website – Chair Masayo S(Japan)

These meetings went through to 5pm when a Sharing Meeting was held on the subject of the theme for this AOSM –Reaching Out-this meeting was chaired jointly by the three Second Term Delegates from Australia-New Zealand and Japan. Quite a lot of discussion followed this session, and a very tired, frustrated group of Delegates finished for the day with a lot to think about.

Sunday morning began with another excellent presentation given by Phyllis H. General Manager GSO New York on AA's Three Legacies and our Role as Trusted Servants (These presentation are copied within this Report) this was followed by some very thought-provoking sharing from Delegates, and as a result, there seemed to be a more informed and positive approach to the reports and recommendations from the Committees.

The Bids for the 2011 AOSM were tabled and voted upon. Sunil G and Shrikant S from India spoke first to their bid, then Aleksey (with assistance from Ian C.) spoke for the Russian one.

India was voted to host the next AOSM in Chandigarh -2011 Voting then continued for the next Chairperson to Chair 2011, Ian C was elected via Third Legacy procedure. (this was via a Beanie from Bali from the head of an Observer-with thanks)!!

Congratulations were extended to the Delegates concerned.

The Theme for the next AOSM is; SINGLENES OF PURPOSE.

The Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer

* Note-Unfortunately, there is no voice recording available to check all of the proceedings, so please forgive if some reporting's are not quite accurate!!(Shirley)

Observers at the 8th AOSM

Dr Punnapa Kittira Hanapaiboon – MD

Senior Psychiatrist –Dept of Mental Health-Ministry of Public Health

Manager I-Map (Integrated Alcohol Intervention Program) at Sor Sor Sun, Suan Pronj Hospital.

W Jutamas

Co-ordinator- Stop Drink Network

Under the Health Promotion Foundation-Sor Sor Sun Hospital.

Welcome Address

Val K  AOSM Chairperson 2007 – 2009

Kia Ora Koutou, greetings to you all as we embark on this the 8th Asia Oceania Meeting in the beautiful city of Bangkok here in Thailand.

I read prior to my coming here that Bangkok is home to 8 million residents and is described as a busy, bustling and sometimes chaotic city also that it was incredibly interesting providing never ending opportunities to engage and interact with the Thai people who are very friendly and hospitable and that this country has truly earned its title as “Land of Smiles”.

I have spoken to others who have been here before me and they all agree that this is a beautiful friendly city. I am looking forward to immersing myself in as much of it as I can.

With that in mind I would like to say a very big thank you to our host committee for the hospitality they have extended to us and for all the hard work in preparation for this AOSM meeting, this has been no easy task for those who took up the challenge with the varied problems of location, accommodation, cost, etc that they were faced with and needed to be sorted out, to the members of the committee who were willing and achieved this – a very sincere Thank You.

Our theme of “Reaching Out” seems appropriate at this time of Asia Oceania’s growth as we not only look to Reach Out to other countries in our zone – this time is also about Reaching Out and further establishing a strong foundation for the good of the future of Asia Oceania Service Meetings and structuring its future in a way that helps us carry on the work as started by those already gone before us.

This weekend we have 18 delegates representing 10 countries.

The next few days will be busy we have reached our time in the history of AOSM where we will now be responsible for the next step that has to be taken, this next step will involve decisions being made by you delegates so that the progress that needs to come for the survival of all who owe a debt and those who stand by the statement of our primary purpose is guaranteed, this includes us personally and collectively.

It is your time over the next few days to set in place the next step for AOSM. The structure that is put in place this weekend will help AOSM to progress with confidence and trust in the process.

To those delegates who are serving another term welcome and thank you for taking up the challenge a second time and the responsibilities representing your country brings. Your wisdom and growth will be needed during the next few days the experience you bring and all the service you have been involved in will be of great value at this important time of AOSM.

A special welcome too, to the two delegates from the Kingdom of Bhutan it is a pleasure to welcome you both and to have your country represented for the first time at AOSM.

Welcome also to the delegates who are here for the first time representing your countries - you bring another ingredient to the mixture one we will need as we navigate not only our progress but yours as well – you will have the responsibility to carry the message on to the next step of AOSM so it is important that you learn well and participate – you will return in 2 years to pass

on to the next trusted servants what you learn here at this AOSM service meeting and in the interim years.

To the two representatives from our General Service Office in New York a special welcome another link in our structure that holds a special place bringing us closer to a World understanding of our beloved fellowship and all it has to offer from the vastness of its world network, to the regular local meeting both of which many of us here have been privileged to observe and take part in. Your input and knowledge will be of great value – thank you for accepting our invitation to be part of this the 8th AOSM.

To all the others of you who have chosen to come along to observe this AOSM - welcome it is a great platform from which to learn about service and I hope as a result of being here you will take back to your respective countries a better understanding of AOSM and its function.

In our Serenity Prayer we ask God to grant us serenity, acceptance, courage and wisdom and to acknowledge the changes this brings let us begin this the 8th Asia Oceania Meeting in that spirit.

Thank You

Val K 

Keynote Address

“Reaching Out”

8th Annual Asia Oceania Service Meeting

July 25, 2009

Valerie O’N, G.S.O. New York

I would first like to thank the planning committee for the Asia Oceania Service Meeting for inviting me to give this keynote address. My thanks to all of you for allowing me to participate in this small way. I am looking forward to this full weekend of sharing, and for the opportunity to meet with old and new friends gathered here.

It is wonderful that the theme for this meeting is “Reaching Out” as this is an experience essential to all of us.

How many times collectively have we recited the Responsibility Declaration?

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere,

REACHES OUT for help, I want

the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible.

What meaning does that pledge, which first was recited in unison by all who were attending the 1965 International Convention in Toronto, have for all of us here today?

I memorized it many years ago, I have recited it a hundred times or more, and I have even been reduced to tears when repeating the pledge in a room filled with scores of A.A. members full of gratitude for this way of life.

But it was not until I began thinking of these few simple words in the context of sharing with you that I really began contemplating the universality of the responsibility of reaching out to us in this Fellowship, in each structure and in each service committee.

The first thing that jumps out at me about this statement is the consideration of where A.A. would be today if indeed I alone was responsible for reaching out.

There’s an old joke on the A.A. banquet circuit in the U.S. that makes light of the differences between our co-founders. It talks about Bill, who was a hotshot stockbroker from New York, always writing, always promoting ideas. And then there was Bob, the quiet doctor from Ohio who didn’t write a lot and always wanted to study things and keep it simple, take it easy. The story goes that, if Bill had been in charge of A.A. by himself, it probably would have been sold to a giant conglomerate 50 years ago, and if Bob had been in charge by himself, A.A. would probably still be confined to Akron, Ohio, though everyone in town would be sober.

The point, as far as our sharing today is concerned, is that it took the vision and the differences between Bill and Bob to get A.A. started, and today it is going to take every one of us to keep A.A. going and growing. The theme of this meeting reminds us that it is “we” who are responsible for reaching out.

I would like to ask all of you to take a journey with me this morning. This will be an overseas trip, as we need to travel to Akron, Ohio. And we also need to take a trip back in time, 1950 to be exact.

Would you imagine with me that we are upstairs in Dr. Bob’s house on Kenmore Avenue and that we are present as Dr. Bob and Bill are having a conversation.

This is a very special conversation because, as Bill was to realize later and relayed to us in his writings, it was to be the last time these two friends were to see each other. In fact, they were virtually at Dr. Bob’s deathbed.

Learning of Bob’s illness, they had become concerned about the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. They looked around and their struggling child was becoming a reality, but who was going to keep this thing going after they were gone? They were struggling with their own mortality and caring deeply about the future of the Fellowship.

Oh, sure, there was the Alcoholic Foundation Board in New York but there was concern that the Board didn’t really know the members out there in the country and the members didn’t really know the Board. Could A.A. survive this separation?

All of the details are not necessary here, but there were about 3,500 groups and almost 100,000 members at that time, with people getting sober and staying in A.A. in large numbers.

Bill had been working feverishly on a plan to have a General Service Conference structure that would weave a pattern to bring us all together. Local A.A.s would elect delegates to an annual Conference.

The Conference eventually became the closest thing we have in the U.S. and Canada to a collective group conscience. It became the spiritual bridge between individual A.A. members and the Board. It assured the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it would become the successor to our co-founders.

If you and I had been present in that small bedroom in 1950, we would have been witnessing the passing of a torch from our co-founders to you and me. In that room, through their incredible collaboration, they made us responsible for our future and the future of those to come.

- In 2010, I will be serving as coordinator for the World Service Meeting in Mexico, and I will look forward to working with many of you in preparing for that extraordinary event. It will be my fifth World Service Meeting and as I look forward to that experience, I am compelled to look back at the experience of my first World Service Meeting in New York 1992.

I was awestruck at the compassionate sharing at that event, the focus on the principles of A.A. which have been passed down to us. The discussions centered around moving to more self support, to countries sponsoring countries to help A.A. get started, and to continuing the World Literature Fund so that translations could be made to better carry the message around the world.

This was my first exposure to “us” beginning to take responsibility for reaching out around the world. The stories that were told at that meeting about carrying the message into Eastern Europe made a lasting impression on me. And now we are exploring reaching out to new A.A. frontiers

in Asia and Africa. We are also reaching out to alcoholics with special needs in our U.S. and Canadian communities.

We cannot help but be filled with gratitude for this way of life that made such endeavors and opportunities available to all of us. The question for us today is how well we will respond as messengers and protectors of the dynamic, living legacies which have been placed in our hands.

I must confess that I did not learn about the responsibility of reaching out readily or gracefully. I lived an alcoholic life for many years and chief among my character defects was the inability to take responsibility for my family or myself.

I must also confess I did not learn about reaching out in books or by being involved in A.A. service.

When I first came into A.A. I might have been described as a functioning alcoholic, that is, I was going to work everyday. Very soon in sobriety I lost my job and was unemployable. The only thing I could manage was to walk to the same group that held 4 or 5 meetings a day in my neighborhood. I was blessed to find a home group that reached out to me and supported me through my first sober birthday, my first sober holidays, and later through the deaths of my mother and, then, my father. Recently A.A. has rejoiced with me with the birth of my first grandchild. I waited and waited and our Higher Power delivered a miracle baby to my family. I have been the recipient of loving support since the first time I stepped into the rooms of A.A.

I would like to address the abundance available to many of us in A.A. in the U.S. and Canada. In New York City, we like to say there is a meeting five minutes in any direction. We are very aware that A.A. newcomers in emerging A.A. structures are very much like the first one hundred described in the Big Book. Your challenge is great, your courage is a power of example and your faith in our Fellowship of the Spirit is inspiring to those of us who support your efforts in reaching out to still-suffering alcoholics.

The alcoholic story and the recovery story for each of us is slightly different, yet so much the same.

A way of life was given to us that we could be restored from a hopeless state of mind and body to become caring members of this Fellowship with a responsibility for its future.

Our beloved co-founder, Bill, wrote often and eloquently about responsibility. In the July 1965 Grapevine, he said, "Stirred by gratitude beyond expression, we shall give thanks to God whose grace has made it possible for us to achieve the quality of responsibility, individual and collective, that has brought our Fellowship into its present state of well-being and worldwide reach."

Forty-nine years later, as we deliberate and share with each other on this wonderful occasion, perhaps we too can think about our future, that this life-saving movement will last as long as we reach out, as long as we are of service to Him who presides over us all.

As we travel this path together, let us remind ourselves that we all have a special place here. We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses, but together we have made this thing work and will continue to do so as long as we keep realizing how much we need each other.

This is why I think it is so important that we think of our responsibility to reach out and to practice all the principles of A.A. in terms of we and not me.

Bill once said of unity, "The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A.

dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say 'What a great thing A.A. might have been.'"

So let us, you and I, take responsibility for A.A.'s future. I don't want one person in Thailand, India, China, Zambia or Harlem, U.S.A. to miss out on a new life because we did not live up to our responsibility to extend the hand of A.A. As Lois Wilson shared after Bill's death, "You are all now the co-founders of A.A."

As I look out at you today, I see that each of us holds a small candle whose flickering flame represents A.A.'s gift of recovery. Alone each flame sheds little light. But as we stand together, the flame grows brighter and stronger and becomes a beacon of hope for so many. Combined, these flames endure many of life's storms and gales. As we reach out to the still-suffering alcoholic we pass along the gift of sobriety and each one of us shines with the promise of hope.

I thank you for this opportunity to celebrate our history of reaching out and, as Bill, our co-founder, has said, "I thank you for my life."

Report to AOSM on 20th World Service Meeting

New York City 26 – 30 October 2008

The World Service Meeting was a concept suggested to the members of the General Service Board by Bill Wilson in October 1967. Bill wanted the board to consider the development stages in which the few existing overseas service structures, found themselves at the time, where the next tentative steps that each might take, in the direction of long – term world objectives, might be taken.

They could then review the difficulties to be anticipated in those countries struggling to set up a general service body. Even at the first meeting, he wanted agreement on a series of such steps that could be relayed to other regions not represented at the original meeting.

Bill proposed a World Service Meeting and not a conference, since it would not be fully representative of world A.A. He wanted the meeting to be held in New York so that delegates would have access to the experience of staff members and board members, and delegates would have the opportunity of seeing a 30 year old service office at work. The delegates would come from countries where the A.A. population was already considerable and where the problems of growth were already present.

This was all authorised by the board, and thirteen countries were invited to attend the first World Service Meeting. This first meeting was held in New York in autumn of 1969, with Bill in attendance. The second meeting was held in 1972, and the subsequent meetings have been held every two years.

I don't think a lot has changed in the intervening years and this is borne out by the following Statement of Purpose for the meeting.

The primary purpose of the World Service Meeting is the same as that of all of A.A. activity, to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, wherever in the world he or she may be, and whatever the language they speak. The World Service Meeting seeks ways and means of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of

delegates, who come together every two years from all parts of the world. It can also represent an expression of the group conscience worldwide.

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively. The World Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound service structures, suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries and the exploration of expanding A.A. services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions work.

The theme for the 20th W S M was “Service – Gratitude in Action” it was chaired by Leonard Blumenthal, a Class A Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board, with the Manager of A.A. World Services Greg M■■■■, acting as Vice Chair.

The meeting was attended by 60 delegates, representing 36 countries and began with a Red Ball A.A. Meeting, early on Sunday afternoon. This was then followed by a Keynote address on the theme for the meeting, by Gonzalo P■■■■ from Venezuela, which was then followed by eleven country reports.

Monday began with a report by Greg M■■■■ on the International Literature Fund, followed by questions from the floor.

This fund is comprised of the donations of some 25 of the participating countries to the WSM. These donations help those countries, who are unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions.

The Fund represents the sacrifices made by A.A.’s in each country to help defray the costs of translations and literature assistance, thus assuring that countless lives are saved by A.A literature in many languages. Thus, A.A.’s in many lands have helped underwrite translations, printing and distribution of A.A. literature in over 75 languages such as Bengali, Serbian, Gujarati, Twi, Flemish, Macedonian and Malayalam. More recently, Big Books in Serbian, Maltese and Malagasy were completed; and they are finalizing the translation of the Big Book into Tibetan, Luganda and Arabic.

A.A. World Services experience is that translations of seven basic pamphlets, along with the Big Book are most valuable to the formation of A.A. groups in countries where our message and solution are taking root.

We then went into our assigned committee meetings, which comprise of Agenda, Literature/Publishing, Policy/Admissions/Finance and Working With Others. The committee that I was assigned to is the Agenda Committee. Our role was to review the suggested themes and topics for the 21st World Service Meeting in 2010.

Our committee recommended that the theme “Sponsorship – Our Responsibility” be adopted and three presentations on each of the following topics be included in the agenda; Women in A.A., Seventh Tradition, Sponsorship, Young People and A.A., A.A. and the internet, A.A. General Service Trustees and Preserving A.A.’s Identity. These presentations were also suggested, i.e. Sponsorship – a) Member to member, b) Group to group and c) Country to country.

It was also suggested that the following workshop topics be on the agenda

- A.A.’s Twelve Traditions and group autonomy.
- General Service Board procedures.

- A.A. members working in the field of alcoholism.

The committees were then followed by nine more country reports and presentations on “Growth and Change Worldwide.” These presentations were delivered by delegates from India, Spain and Poland, and covered Growth and Change in Service, Growth and Change in Structures and Gathering the Group Conscience.

Following the presentations the first of three workshops was held, which covered the topic of New Media and the Traditions. The delegates broke into four groups and answered some prepared questions on the topic, from which a report was generated.

The workshops were followed by three presentations on the topic of “How do I express my gratitude in Service” and covered this topic along with “Leadership as gratitude in A.A. Service” and “Different ways of doing service.” The presenters were delegates from Lithuania, Dominican Republic and Malta.

Tuesday morning began with five more country reports, followed by reports on the Zonal Meetings. These reports were presented by delegates who attended the Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting, European Service Meeting, Meeting of the Americas, Asia Oceania Service Meeting (Presented by Brenda) and West Central Africa Service Meeting. We then assembled into our committees before lunch.

The afternoon saw presentations from Italy, Finland and Japan on the following topics; “Are we doing enough to welcome young people to A.A. ?” “Are we doing enough to welcome young people at the Home Group ?” “Are we doing enough to welcome young people into service?”

Workshop two was then held, which was on the topic of “How General Service Boards and General Service Offices comply with their countries laws.”

This was followed by eleven country reports and presentations on Norway’s and the U.S./Canada’s membership surveys – Effective Tools in A.A. Service.

Wednesday began with a workshop on Concept X: 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. Again delegates broke into four groups and another report was generated from the discussions that took place from the prepared questions.

Committee Reports then took us through until mid afternoon, where we had three presentations on “Service Sponsorship” and three on “The importance of sharing A.A. literature.” These presentations were provided by delegates from French Speaking Europe, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Iceland, Peru and Denmark.

Thursday morning began with reports from the workshops followed by presentations by delegates from Sweden, Brazil and The Netherlands on Online Groups.

The afternoon saw us all fill out WSM evaluation questionnaire’s, followed by two events that were very moving for me. These being the closing remarks of the Second Term Delegates and the Serenity Prayer in all languages represented at the meeting.

If any member wishes copies of any country report or presentation I will gladly provide it via email .

In giving an overview of the agenda of the W S M, I am trying to show the work that takes place not only on the part of the delegates during the week of the meeting but in the months beforehand. I was astounded by the meticulous planning and preparation that took place by the staff of A.A. World Services on our behalf, which made it such a smooth running event. Especially given that task of organizing sixty delegates from around the world, speaking either English or Spanish to varying degrees.

The World Service Delegates were also invited to observe the meeting of the USA/Canada General Service Board, which took place from Saturday 1st until Monday 3rd of November. Like the World Service Meeting there were far too many things which I observed, which are far beyond the scope of this report.

However the preparedness and commitment of the delegates was something that will long stay with me. I was also in awe of the caliber of the Class A Trustees (Non Alcoholic) that they manage to attract. The selflessness, love of A.A. and abilities of these delegates was truly amazing.

I spent some time in talking with some of these people, in particular Leonard B. [REDACTED], the Chairman of the Board, who informed me he spent 130 nights away from home on A.A. business during the previous year.

Jeanie a former Governor of San Quinton Prison and Raujulio a California Judge who serve our fellowship so well, shared very interesting insights on what had attracted them to serving the fellowship.

Jeanie said she had always known that A.A. members were better behaved inmates in her facility and often leaders among the inmates. However, she never gave it too much more thought than that.

She said that she was asked to speak at the 50th anniversary of A.A. in prisons, as Clinton Duffy the former Governor of San Quinton was the first to introduce A.A. into a prison. The first prison being San Quinton, a half century before. She said after the meeting the sober former inmates, lined up to shake her hand and the line went out of the building and onto the street. She couldn't believe how many had recreated their lives through Alcoholics Anonymous.

The California judge, Raujulio Flores, shared that he could have said it was the eighteen year old, that he sentenced to A.A., who came back one year later and gave him his chip. However, he said what made the impact on him was the woman who used to go out and get drunk in the bars, then get tracked down by her husband who would beat her up and then appear in his court.

The next time, he would be out drunk and she would track him down and beat him up, only for her to appear before him.

One day he noticed that they had not appeared before him for quite some time. He figured that they had just moved on, until one day he pulled into his car park and she was standing there. He couldn't believe how good she looked.

She informed him she was sober in A.A. and was going for custody of her children. She asked if he would speak on her behalf, he said he couldn't, but advised her to keep doing what she was doing. She was awarded custody of her children, but sometime later, her husband turned up and shot her to death. Raujulio said he never spoke for her that day, but now spoke for her by serving A.A.

Both of those fine servants of the fellowship agreed that they were 12th Stepped by those sober members of the fellowship.

There was a definite question I asked myself, and that was, how well we do this in New Zealand. How many of us have gone back to judges, lawyers, doctors, psychiatrists etc, that we had dealings with in our drinking days and showed them the results of Alcoholics Anonymous in our lives.

It is far beyond my limited vocabulary and education to convey to you all that I saw, experienced and felt during the week that all of us gathered in New York. Like many things in A.A., they have to be experienced.

However, I am more certain than ever, that participation at this level of service, for those countries who can, is vital, not only for what we gain, but for what we can bring. I believe that like New Zealand, many smaller countries have a tremendous amount of experience to share regarding carrying the message among smaller populations, with limited resources but a well established Service Structure.

The World Service Meeting was confirmation that the sun does not set on Alcoholics Anonymous and if the amazing efforts I saw and heard are anything to go by, it never will, so long as God needs us.

It truly was an experience beyond my wildest dreams.

Again, I encourage anyone who has an interest in any of the Country Reports or Presentations to contact me and I will gladly provide a copy.

The next World Service Meeting will be held in Mexico in October 2010.

Yours in Service

James N [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Country Reports

Australia

There are more than 1,900 AA groups in Australia. While we do not have exact figures on membership or group attendance, the National Office conducted a survey of AA members which indicates that the active membership is in the region of 15,000 to 18,000 of whom 34% are female. The average member has been sober for 9.6 years and attends 3.7 meetings per week.

STRUCTURE

The Conference structure of AA in Australia is based upon the US/Canada model, reflecting our close association with AA's roots when the local Fellowship was founded 61 years ago.

We have a General Service Board of twelve trustees: six regional and two general service trustees who serve four-year terms; and four non-alcoholic trustees who may serve two four-year terms. Our chairman is normally chosen from either the regional or non-alcoholic trustees.

There are 21 active areas represented by area delegates who meet with the board for the annual General Service Conference each November. Delegates serve for three years. Their terms are staggered so that roughly one third new delegates are elected each year. Rotation of positions is always observed and once delegates and trustees have served one term, they are not eligible to stand for that position again.

PI&CPC

Several groups and districts have paid for large road signs to advertise the availability of AA. These are not too expensive and result in a lot of people contacting AA for help. The signs usually stay up for a few weeks.

We have appointed a National T&CF co-ordinator and a National PI&CPC co-ordinator. It has been decided to have PI&CPC and T&CF Forums on alternate years. We are currently creating a PI&CPC "kit" for our service website so we can capture the experience of what works best in this area.



This huge AA road sign on a Melbourne Freeway was successful in drawing many newcomers to our website.

LITERATURE/PUBLISHING

Australia publishes almost all its own literature, importing from the United States only those items for which there is little demand and which it would be uneconomic to produce locally.

Australia has completed a marathon task of revising its Service Manual, a project begun 14 years ago.

The Australian Group Handbook has been rewritten and printed, replacing the previous version which had been published in 1965.

The Australian website has been upgraded and largely rewritten offering more information for newcomers and a new meetings directory providing street maps.

We have started production on The Australian Big Book, which will contain Australian stories. We have also started work on a major project to record the history of AA in Australia.

Among our other literature projects are:

- a pamphlet on how to run a group conscience and a video for deaf alcoholics
- a review of literature for young people to judge its relevance to young people today

A special service website (separate to our national website) approved by Conference has been set up at www.aaservice.org.au. We decided it would be a good idea to keep the two websites quite separate so that service matters don't confuse the message for newcomers.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 2009 National Convention was held on the Gold Coast on the east coast of Australia and 1800 people attended. The highlights included having a prominent TV commentator address the convention. Some inspirational speakers from Al-anon and Al-ateen gave talks and we had a special international meeting which had participants from all over the world. At the convention we have a display of literature in many languages to encourage awareness of AA members in other countries.

Kingdom Of Bhutan

Alcoholism in Bhutan is deep rooted in our society due to our culture and tradition that necessitate alcohol as an important component in any major and minor events both in the urban towns and rural villages. Therefore the per capita alcohol consumption of Bhutan has been rated as the highest in the South East Asia Region. Nevertheless alcoholism and drug addiction has been now recognized as a national problem by the government.

Alcoholism is also identified as the highest killer disease in the country according to the death records of the JDWNRH (Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital), Thimphu. Total admissions to the hospital for ALD (Alcohol Liver Disease) and ADS (Alcohol Dependency Syndrome) in 2006 and 2007 were 20, 446 people. Alcohol topped the most common cause of death in 2006 and 2007. This is a very alarming figure and of great concern to the country's future. Numbers would obviously be much greater if unreported deaths and collateral deaths were also taken into account such as deaths by vehicle accident through drunken driving, fights, battery etc.

The Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies with various media have been trying their best to educate the public but not much of progress has been made. The general population and the government in particular are very sympathetic in

fighting addiction. The country's system of development and governance has been founded based on Buddhism which encompasses both spiritualism and compassion with the Gross National Happiness (GNH) being the development philosophy of the country.

The first message of Alcoholics Anonymous was brought in from India in 2004 by some recovering addicts who went for treatment to the North Indian states of Sikkim. However nobody was able to start a meeting then.

Gradually in 2005 the AA meeting was initiated in the only semi-rehab centre (*REWA meaning HOPE in Bhutanese*) in Bhutan but could not sustain as the eight inmates then comprised of dual addicts (drugs & others) that possibly didn't favour them to follow the concepts and the principles of AA.

Fortunately in the early 2006 some of the recovering alcoholics namely Ugyen, Dawa T [REDACTED] Keshav, Nidup, Tshewang, Lopen K [REDACTED] Ms. Karma P [REDACTED] and Ms. T [REDACTED] met a Canadian lady Ms. V [REDACTED] who was residing in Bhutan. She was also a recovering alcoholic who sobered up for eighteen years then through the AA program. She was available in the country at a time when the confused recovering alcoholics were striving hard to maintain their sobriety. Since then she dutifully rendered active AA services giving inspirations and further motivations to the recovering alcoholics through the concept and the principles of AA.

However the formal inception of AA meeting took place only by the end of 2006. Initially the meeting was held in one of the member's office, at times in cafes, inside the cars and even in the open air as per the conveniences and size of the group. Those times the members fluctuated between two to five. Yet they worked very hard to help themselves and pass on the AA messages to those suffering in silence.

Shortly in 2007 the Psychiatric Ward of the National Referral Hospital, Thimphu allowed AA group to use their recreational hall to conduct the routine AA meetings. Thereafter the close association between the Psychiatric Ward (also detox center) and the AA meeting venue largely attracted many recovering alcoholics. The AA Bhutan now have more than seventy recovering members with two inter groups in Thimphu. The meetings take place thrice in a week as per the following schedule:

Tuesday = open (Family Anonymous)

Thursday = Closed

Saturday = Twelve Step Discussion.

Recently a women's meeting also opened in Thimphu at the Department of Youth hall which is being held once a week. In the near future with more newcomers we hope to introduce thrice a week meeting for women group as well.

The background of the recovering members comprises of all walks of life such as civil servants, monks, business persons, jobless youths, students, house wives, military personnel etc...The senior members have around five year sobriety.

The AA Bhutan doesn't have a physical office till date and the organogram is a simple structure comprising of a Chairperson, Group Service Representative and a Counsellor. The chairperson's post is on a weekly rotatory basis among the senior fellowships. The seventh tradition collected is used for tea and snacks during the meetings. Few literatures available with AA Bhutan were donated by Ms. Vivian when she left Bhutan in 2007.

Some of the constraints faced by the AA Bhutan are:

- a. Insufficient AA literatures
- b. No working place of our own
- c. No permanent employee
- d. No public spokesperson for AA Bhutan (*esp. In for the media*)
- e. No website to carry the AA message to wider audiences

However despite many obstacles and struggles, AA Bhutan is functioning on full swing and is very grateful to Ms. Shirley, Secretary to AOSM for bringing our small landlocked country to the light of the world of Recovery. Such sponsorship and support to a newcomer like AA Bhutan would go a long way in the history of AA Bhutan. The merits and benefits that would be definitely reaped from this 8th AOSM of AA would bring about revolutionary AA messages and Happiness to the thousands of suffering alcoholics and their families in Bhutan.

We would for now like to thank the organizers and all those involved in the overall arrangement of this wonderful and enlightening gathering in this beautiful city of Bangkok in the Land of Smiles.

Thanking you all!

AA Bhutan



“I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me”:- Winston Churchill

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a city of approx 7.5 million – 95 % of the population is Chinese with the balance a mix of different nationalities.

There are currently 28 English Speaking Meetings per week servicing the largely expatriate membership of AA in HK (see attached list). The rooms at 12 Borrett Road, (leased to AA at a nominal rate), and St. Joseph’s Church (both on HK Island), are the two main venues for daily meetings. There are also weekly meetings in the expatriate enclaves of Sai Kung, Stanley, Lamma, & Lantau Islands.

Chinese Speaking Meetings fall under the auspices of the Hong Kong & Kowloon (HK&K) Group, are held Mondays and Fridays at the Kowloon Union Church in Jordan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui and Thursday evenings at Castle Peak Hospital in New Territories.

There have been changes and growth in the overall structure of AA in Hong Kong in the last two years.

The Morning Group, The Lunch Bunch and the Stanley Group meetings which were started in 2004, continue to grow and be self supporting as an Autonomous Groups that are registered with the GSO.

The Hong Kong AA District Committee which was formed in 2005, continues to provide support with the active participation of the various groups including The Morning Group (TMG), The Lunch Bunch (TLB), The Stanley Group (TSG), Mui Wo Group, Lamma Island Group and HK&K Group. There was a hand over of the DCM from Morton M to Hardeep G as the DCM with Charlotte B acting as the assistant DCM and Stephen N who has taken the DCM general manager role as a service position.

The District Committee meets every month, usually at Borrett Road although it is expected to hold the DC meetings at different locations in the coming months.

In 2009 the HK District Committee organized and coordinated a Men's AA workshop in February 2009. This workshop provided the opportunity for approximately 30 members to join in fellowship over a weekend to discuss and share on selected AA topics. Members of HK AA acted as resource speakers and facilitators.

Given the success of this workshop, it is envisioned to host another workshop at the end of the year.

The HK & JK Group website continues to provide information and meeting list of all HK AA meetings. The website address is www.aa-hk.org

Since the formation of the District Committee each group has been seeking to identify specific Public Information and/or Hospital & Institution areas to adopt at a Group Level. The Morning Group has a history of working with KELLY in supplying speakers to secondary schools, and other groups have chosen, or are in the process of identifying, hospitals or institutions (such as the Medical College, to reach future members of the Medical Profession etc.) School talks in the last 12 months include talks with students from Delia School, Chinese International School, Australian International School, Island School, and Shatin College Secondary School.

The Chinese Group has been active in the last two years on several fronts.

Within Hong Kong one Chinese member of AA has maintained regular contact with Hospitals, Social Works Organizations, and the key decision-maker of Correctional Facilities. Regular talks have been conducted for doctors and nurses in two hospitals specializing in mental healthcare, for social workers, medical social workers in two Social Works Service Organizations and one Open-Learning Institute for Nurses Training etc. The Primary Purpose of this service work of the Chinese Group is to carry the message into the Chinese Communities.

In May 2009 a Chinese speaking AA workshop was held with participation of 20 members from the rooms.

Recently the representatives from HK AA met with HKSAR Police department clinical psychologists in order to share more information about the disease and the AA program.

The HK AA continues to be active with a membership in the low hundreds. The meetings also host a number of overseas visitors. The Service responsibilities for members within individual groups have been vital to sustain the AA program in Hong Kong. Newcomers, with a qualified period of sobriety are actively encouraged to take service positions. The monthly District Committee Meetings have proven invaluable in fostering better communication amongst Group Representatives with the ultimate focus on the fact that AA Unity is paramount.

A significant event for 2009 is that HK AA will celebrate its 40 year anniversary with a weekend event scheduled for October 2009. The theme of this event is taken from page 132 of the Big Book of AA and is entitled "We Absolutely Insist on Enjoying Life...." The event is aiming to

attract over 100 participants from around the Asia Pacific region as well as welcome older timers who helped to started AA in Hong Kong

HK AA will plan to send 2 representatives to the upcoming AOSM convention. The 2nd term representative is Andrew N and the 1st representative is David W.

India

It is necessary to provide a little overview about India in order to get a clearer perspective of the country in the context of A.A. India's complexity and diversity staggers the imagination:

- It is the world's fastest growing economy
- It is the world's largest democracy
- It has the world's second largest population of over one billion people.
- Its 3.3 million sq. ms of land is divided into 35 states with 20 official languages
- It is the world's largest alcohol market

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

Today, over 900 meetings are conducted in major cities and towns. Membership is estimated at 20,000. Interestingly, just six years ago, that number was 400 groups and 8000 members. We are witnessing an exciting period of growth.

Our General Service Office is located in Mumbai and managed by four Working Trustees: Chairman, Chairman-Public Information, Treasurer, and Secretary. A General Manager and three assistants manage the office. The General Service Board (GSB) comprises 7 Class-A and 14 Class-B trustees. The Working Trustees, including the Chairman of the Board, are Class-B trustees. Fifty-two delegates participate in the Conference from all corners of the country. Few States do not have representation in GSB and to give linguistic representation on the GSB, the Conference has expanded the Board of Trustees to 27 comprising of 9 Class 'A' Trustees and 18 Class 'B' Trustees.

Of the 31 A.A. books and 83 pamphlets in print, 13 books and 45 pamphlets are in English and 18 books and 38 pamphlets in 14 regional languages – all under license from A.A.W.S. The Big Book alone is published in 11 languages. We publish a monthly GSO India newsletter and an independent bi-monthly magazine, "The 12th Step". Several Inter groups also have their own regional magazines. Our website, www.aa.gsoindia.org is hosted by GSOI (GSO India) and regularly updated. Visitors to the site are mostly researchers and members. Our General Service Conference has approved the publication of a Big Book with Indian stories. Awareness on

literature is increasing and we have reached sales of over Rs.11,00,000 during the last financial year.

We are working towards having District Committees and Area Committees, the formation of which was adopted by the Conference in 2004. Group services are largely provided through 52 Inter groups across the country. Recently, one District Committee was formed in Southern India and three State Committees have come into existence. We have had 39 conferences so far; and recently the periodicity has been reduced from two to one per year. We had five Service Committees (at GSC and GSB level) and recently a Treatment/Correctional Facility Committee was added. All decisions regarding policies are reached through group conscience in Annual General Service Conference.

In 2000, 2003 and in 2009 Indian Fellowship had the opportunity of listening to experiences from GSO NY/Canada. In 2000, Eva and Greg M; in 2003, Elaine M [REDACTED] then Chairperson and Greg M, General Manager; and in 2009, Mr. B [REDACTED] Chairperson and Ms Jo-Anne, Trustee-at-Large from NY and Canada visited India. After every visit there was a spurt in the Indian Fellowship with developments in service structure. In 2000, Service Committees were formed; in 2004, the service structure comprising District Committee/Area Committee was adopted; and in 2009, a leap towards TF/Correctional Facilities. No wonder that a sharing of such rich experiences resulted in a remarkable growth in the Indian fellowship. The recent visit of Mr. Blumenthal and Ms Jo-Anne was extensively covered by the media - especially the electronic media and press. Many TV channels had live coverage. Detailed news articles were published by leading newspapers. There were meetings in big hospitals, interactions with HR personnel of leading corporations and executives from top internationals, law enforcement officers and youths. Our dear visitors also participated in an International convention at Mangalore.

Financially, Alcoholics Anonymous in India is still in its infancy. Only 27% of the groups send their contributions and the income from sale of literature is insufficient even to cover the meagre cost of running GSO India. GSOI is invariably strapped for cash and unable to meet even its basic needs. For the last two years, the General Service Conference has been supported by the fellowship. But the delegates to AOSM and WSM still participate at their own expense. Deficits are balanced largely through repeated appeals to individual contributors, with the result that budgets are more driven towards meeting costs rather than proactive ventures like public information. But there is a growing awareness of service in the fellowship, and we have a reason to be optimistic. During the last financial year (April '08 to March '09) contributions amounted over Rs.1 million. This is due to awareness of the 7th tradition within the Fellowship. For the current year GSC budgeted and set aside Rs. 2,50,000/- for Public Information.

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

The Indian Railways has given permission to put informative boards at railway stations and direct their problem staff to A.A. meetings. Regular meetings have begun to help defence personnel with drinking problems, and literature is available with defence hospitals and libraries. Leading personalities from Bollywood – the world's largest film industry - have been friendly with the Fellowship. In fact, a leading actress, producer and director Ms. Pooja Bhatt, is willing to serve the fellowship as Class 'A' Trustee.

Various State Municipal Corporations, hospitals and police departments have been referring alcoholic prospects to A.A. apart from providing places for meetings at nominal rates. Police stations have begun putting up information about A.A. on their notice boards. Schools and

colleges are inviting A.A. members to talk to their students and parents about alcoholism. Meetings have been started in prisons in Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Delhi.

Media: The media is a great friend of A.A. The print and electronic media have accepted us and are always receptive to our needs. Newspapers have been particularly cooperative with us by highlighting various facets of our program and carrying stories of recovering alcoholics in series of articles as and when the need arises. During the visit of Mr. B. [REDACTED], many press conferences were held and one-on-one interviews published in leading newspapers. Press conferences were telecast live. Increasing numbers of newspapers print local meeting details in Southern India. A series of articles in Malayalam Manorama (a leading magazine in Malayalam language) attracted more than 6,000 inquiries from suffering alcoholics and their families.

Conventions: The Convention culture is growing in India and the fellowship views it as an effective source for unity and for creating awareness. So far, there have been five conventions organized in Northern India, three in Western India (Gujarat), three in Southern India (Kerala) and one international convention in Karnataka (Mangalore) in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Mangalore Fellowship. We are planning to have celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of A.A. throughout the country. As part of the celebration we are planning to host an international convention, of which the details will be communicated as soon as they are finalized. We take this opportunity to request you to honour us with your presence.

Treatment Facilities: Rehabilitation centres are sprouting around the country, which is a welcome sight. But many of them operate in isolation, and we are trying to establish a dialogue with these centres and offer A.A. as a resource in post-discharge maintenance of recovery. In October 2006, we had organized a seminar where authorities from rehab and major hospitals were invited. Likewise, efforts are underway with the hotel industry. Recently, the Central Ministry for Human Resources accepted A.A. as one of the resources in the treatment of alcoholism and started recommending the A.A. program to patients. In the South, the gap between Treatment Facilities and A.A. has been bridged quite effectively. About 50-60% of the Fellowship comes from the Treatment Facilities.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing A.A. in India is the social stigma surrounding alcoholism and the concept of woman alcoholics. At present there are only five women's groups (two started last year) in India. Our land is beset with ignorance and superstition about alcoholism. Our judiciary still regards an alcoholic as a criminal. Our educational system makes little or no mention of alcoholism, despite its widespread prevalence. Because of social status the elite class in India have certain inhibitions about attending regular meetings. Efforts are on to start autonomous meetings for them.

The youth in India today are obtaining higher levels of education, earning big salaries and adopting a lavish lifestyle. Liquor in this scenario is the 'in' thing; and we are now seeing the emergence of a new social disorder in India – the young problem drinker.

India is seen by its neighbouring countries as an A.A. resource. We sincerely want to be of help to Bangladesh, Burma, Pakistan, Tibet and Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, U.A.E., etc. As such, in many languages spoken, like Tamil, Hindi, Bengali, English we have the Big Book and/or pamphlets printed and distributed for suffering alcoholics. Big Books cost less than 2 dollars each and pamphlets less than 15 cents each.

48% of the world population resides in Asia but only 1.5% of total A.A. membership exists here. About 65% of alcohol in Asia is produced within India and 7% of the total produced in the world is imported into India. According to an international survey, India will be the largest booze market by 2010. Considering the market for alcohol in India, it is needless to say that

there will be stiff rise in alcoholism in the coming years. While this figure might sound a little far fetched, the task at hand is very large. A recent government survey has indicated that there may be as many as eight million alcoholics in India.

India, the oldest fellowship in Asia, would like to play the role of elder brother and help other countries in this region and also to reach out to all who need A.A. **God willing, two years from now, these things may come to pass!**

Sunil G. [REDACTED]
Second Term Delegate
India.

Japan

The AA program was first introduced to Japan in the early 1950s. In those days, however, participants were only English speaking expatriates. In 1975, an American missionary started to carry the AA message to still suffering Japanese. He had lived and drunk in Japan for long time and finally hit his bottom. He was sent back to the U.S. for treatment and about 3 years later he came back to Tokyo. He carried the message with the assistance of expatriate AAs in Japan. Not only his enthusiasm but also his deep understanding of our language and culture were very helpful.

The American passed away in 2007. And most old-timers are already old and not all are well. We have decided to start compiling an archive by interviewing those old-timers and old friends of AA to record how AA started in Japan.

We will be celebrating our 35th anniversary and holding a 3-day convention this coming March 12-14 in Nagoya, which is one of our major cities. The theme is "Carrying the Message of Hope". We welcome you all.

As of 2009 A.A. in Japan has more than 501 groups and approximately 5,000 members in seven areas (Hokkaido 30 groups, Tohoku 45, Kanto-Koshinetsu 218, Chubu-Hokuriku 43, Kansai 62, Chu-Shikoku 40, Kyushu-Okinawa 63).

According to the latest membership survey in 2007, about 25% of us are women and 75% are men. Average age is 50.3 years old. 87.2% belong to home-group. 49.5% have a sponsor and only 19.6% have sponsee(s).

Though not included in this number and survey, there are English speaking meetings all around Japan. There are many migrant workers from all over the world, especially Latin American countries, in Japan nowadays. There are Spanish speaking and Portuguese (Brazilian) speaking AAs. Unfortunately, I heard that they cannot hold meetings on a regular basis at the moment.

In 1981 the Japan General Service Office, known as JSO, was established in Tokyo. JSO has 3 full-time paid staff at the moment. All three are AA members. Average yearly budget of JSO is about 41 million yen. Roughly 35% comes from our contributions. The rest comes from sales of literature. Especially our national monthly magazine "BOX 916" has been a major contributor. Although its sales have diminished slightly in recent years, it contributes about 30%.

Box 916 is our meeting in print. The first issue, which was titled "7956" then, was published in 1982. At present, it is 300 yen per copy and 7,000 copies are distributed. 500 of them are for friends of AA. We have re-established editorial policy to follow AA principles by mainly studying Grapevine's policy. The new policy was approved by this year's General Service Conference. However, articles that do not respect our principles, for example Anonymity, sometimes appear. We are learning AA principles by trial and error. We are also having a great difficulty in inviting personal stories from among 5,000 members for this 30-page magazine. Past articles and translated articles from Grapevine are inserted in almost every issue to fill the vacant pages. Your submissions are most welcomed and I would be happy to translate them.

New Zealand

New Zealand is a nation of two main islands populated by just over 4.2 million people. We have been very fortunate to have had Alcoholics Anonymous established here 62 years ago.

The fellowship was founded by Ian McEwen, who had been battling alcoholism for many years. One day while on the way home from his local pub, he checked himself into a nearby psychiatric institution. After a few days there, he wandered into the patients' common room and picked up a Reader's Digest. He noticed an article called "Maybe You Can Do It, Too." It was about alcoholism, and the author drank the way Ian drank, felt the way he felt, and thought the way he thought. Ian was immediately able to identify. The article said that anyone who had a problem with alcohol and wanted help could write to GSO, New York, and the address followed.

This Ian did, and soon back came a letter from Bobbie of GSO, along with a copy of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The book came with the compliments of an American businessman, who had spent some years in New Zealand.

In Bobbie's letter, she said words to this effect: "We don't know if this thing will work by mail or not; we see no reason why it shouldn't. On one of our walls here, we have a map of the world, and a flag is pinned on all the countries where AA is to be found. As far as New Zealand is concerned, you are it. Goodbye and God bless you."

This was the first of a great deal of contact over the years between Ian and Bobbie.

Our 2004 survey showed that, from 1946 when Ian made contact with GSO, New York, we have grown to over 5000 members with 440 registered groups. Our fellowship is made up of a higher proportion of New Zealander's of European descent than there are in the general population. Therefore it is unfortunate; our indigenous Maori population is under represented, as are our Pacific Island and Asian communities.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Our General Service Conference meets biannually and is comprised of three areas, with the North Island being divided into two areas, Northern and Central, and the South Island being the Southern Area. There are three delegates from each area who attend the three or four assemblies, which are held in their area, and our twice yearly General Service Conference.

We have a first, second and third year delegate from each area, and an alternate waiting to rotate on, which allows for continuity at conference and the observance of the principal of rotation.

The alternates attend the October conference as observers, before rotating on at the end of each year as the third years rotate off.

Our conference is made up of the nine delegates, Chairperson, Non AA Delegates (two currently) all who have voting rights. Also in attendance but without voting rights are the World Service Delegates, Chairman of the Board, GSO Manager and Secretary. While they do not have voting rites, they are free to speak on any item and their experience provides valuable contribution to conference.

Conference currently has three subcommittees; Hospitals, Institutions and Professionals Committee, Public Information Committee and the International Committee. The International Committee is made up of the two World Service Delegates, the Chairperson of The Management Committee, the Chairperson of Conference, a Class A Trustee and the General Service Office Manager. The committee is chaired by the 2nd Term World Service Delegate and the objective of the committee is to ensure New Zealand participates internationally in an efficient, practical and ongoing manner.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

The major change to our structure in recent years has been the formation of a General Service Board. The New Zealand General Service office of Alcoholics Anonymous was incorporated in 1991 to reflect the New Zealand Governments legal requirements for charitable groups to be legal entities. For many years, this board has had mainly an administrative function and was created as a temporary measure, since we were small in membership and we have struggled for years to fill the many positions at this level of service. It now allows us to now comply with the Charities Commission requirements for taxation exemption, as well as a raft of employment and Health & Safety legislation.

Fifteen board members were approved in October 2006, then elected and put into action in April 2007.

We are still an Incorporated Society, but the makeup of the board is now ten members, with the Office Manager in attendance at the bi annual meetings.

The board operates very much on a sub committee basis. The current sub committees are Audit and Risk, Communications, External Relations, Finance and Administration and Group Services. These sub committees are encouraged to co-opt outside the board when special skill is needed.

The initial thinking with regard to membership of the board was, that there should be some non alcoholic members (presently two), members who have served on conference (presently five) and other AA members who bring special skills (presently three). Non alcoholic members must not exceed 30% of the board.

Items that the board is currently looking at are updating our free 0800 phone number to include cell phone and txt message handling, a revamp of all our posters, press advertisements for Public Awareness Week and printed material for Health Professionals and prisons.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

Our GSO is located in the nations capital, Wellington, and is staffed by two paid employees who are assisted by voluntary A A members. It is open Monday to Friday and outside these hours a telephone answering service operates. This office like many others around the world, import and distribute our literature, co ordinate our national 0800 phone number and answer many queries pertaining to the fellowship.

LITERATURE

We publish a bi-monthly magazine in print, titled Mainstay. A regular newsletter is also sent out to the fellowship advising of any decisions made by conference, board initiatives, GSO news and any other relevant information.

We also have a small number of pamphlets which have been translated into Pacific Island languages.

WEBSITE

A major initiative of the board has been the revamping of our website (www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.nz). This has involved a far more modern and user friendly layout, which includes national meeting list and maps along with the facility to order literature on line.

Philippines

There are three Intergroups' in the Philippines. One in Manila, one in Angeles City and one in Cebu.

We have around 100 true AA's here. We have a lot of NA's as far as the Filipinos are concerned. Most of the EXPATS are true A.A. As far as those expats. go, we are mostly residing here in Angeles City.

We put on an International Convention here in Angeles City every October. People from all around the globe attend. This year it will be held on the 16, 17, 18th October.

We also have the Filippino National Conference which was held in Bagiuo this year, and will be held in Becolod next year.

One of the latest developments here are the young Filippinos getting a nudge from the judge. Many have been released from prison provided that they attend both AA as well as NA.

I am looking forward to attending our Conference in July.

Bill H.

Russia

AA fellowship in Russia began in the end of 80th. First intergroup combined 4 AA groups was organized in Moscow in the autumn of 1989. Foundation conference brought into begin the service structure of Russian AA groups on April the 13 of 1991. At the moment more than 320 AA groups in almost 120 cities and communities of Russia are working and servicing by Russian Board, Russian speaking groups aboard are supplied with literature and information material. The total number of AA members in Russia we estimate as 5000 people approx. 45 groups are working in Moscow (15 in Moscow Region), 34 – in the second biggest Russian city Saint

Petersburg. New groups arisen in 2004-2008 in the following regions: Siberia, Altay Territory, Kamchatka, Sakhalin, Kursk, on the South of Russia (North Caucasus), etc.

AA SERVICE STRUCTURE.

Services Conference of AA Fellowship is arranging annual meetings in Moscow in the middle of April. Conference participants are: delegates of the groups from the regions have no local services centers, delegates from regional AA services committees, AA intergroups and centers, Russia AA Services Council (RSO) members, director of Russian AA Services office, editor of Dujina AA magazine and delegates from Russian AA to international AA Services meetings. The Conference with number of participants arranging committees for drawing up recommendations of main Services points, choose next conference master of ceremonies and delegates for international meetings. We are publishing "Russia AA Fellowship Services Instruction", which indicate Conference's decisions, and including Constitution and Conference Statutes.

According to the Conference's decision Fund of Alcoholics Anonymous Services was registered in March of 2001. The AA Fellowship is working on government legislation field and manages all financial affairs trough the mentioned Fund. The members of Services Council of Russian AA Fellowship are simultaneously members of the Fund board. Some of chapters of the Fund Constitution (according to Russian legislation) are not corresponding to Traditions and AA Services principles. The Conference and the Council are not following to such chapters in their work.

RSO AA is consist of 8 AA members in the year of 2009. Three of them are from Moscow Region and five from other regions. Term of powers each of them is two years, they could be chosen twice. The required continuous sobriety for Council probation member is 5 years. Non alcoholics can't be chosen as Council members. Council meetings are holding on monthly basis.

Local AA Services centers (intergroups, committees, councils) are established and working in the following regions of Russia: Barnaul ("Altai" and Western Siberia), Irkutsk ("Baikal"; "VS & DV"), Kazan, Magnitogorsk, Mineralnie Vody ("KMV"), Moscow (Moscow and Moscow Region), Petrozavodsk (Karelia), Rostov-on-Don, North Caucasus Services committee, Omsk, Samara, Saint Petersburg, (city and region), etc. However, not all Services committees and Services structures are registered in the central Russian AA Services office. At the moment no AA groups in Russian countryside.

FINANCES

70,2% of total funds debit in 2008 came from AA literature sales and 29,8 from AA groups and AA members donations. Four paid persons are working in the Russian AA Service Office: director, chief accountant, financial director and secretary. The expenses for literature edition reached 24,3% of total expenses. The total expenses for Russian AA groups services are 33%.

The Financial committee is working along with Russian AA Services Council.

LITERATURE

At the moment Russian AA is editing AA literature confirmed by GSO. 9 books, 32 brochures and 13 booklets, totally 54 items. The following books, previously not edited in Russia are edited in 2008-2009: "Dr. Bob and the good oldtimers", "As Bill sees it", "AA service manual combined with twelve concepts for world service" and "AA comes of age". We regularly edit "Russian AA groups guide"/

“Dujina” magazine is editing not regularly, from time to time all last years. Unfortunately latest 2 years the magazine was not edited. At the moment Russian AA Services Council is working on this matter and trying to find the way of editing Russian AA magazine.

WORK IN TREATMENT AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

Many of groups and local Services centers of different cities are collaborating and arranging meetings to local narcological dispensaries and hospitals. AA Russia office not properly records all groups working in treatment facilities. AA groups working in correctional facilities are based in the cities of: Saint Petersburg, Ekaterenburg and Chita.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT AA

This committee is improved its work considerably during last several years. According to events and anniversaries, on regular basis, committee usually arranging press conferences in the Independent press center of Moscow, advertise about AA in many newspapers. AA phone number is mentioned in all big Moscow directories and telephone answering services of Moscow. We give interviews on radio and TV, arranging presentational and informational open AA meetings, professionals are supplied with AA literature. “Public information workbook” and “AA in treatment facilities” are in a great demand among AA members.

Services centers and many groups are collaborating to local radio , TV and press in order to message our ideas.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Russian AA is participating in all European AA Service meetings from 1991. Excluding 2003. Russian delegates are participated to World Service AA meeting in 1998, 2000 and 2008. In AA Asia an Oceania Service meetings in 2001, 2005 and 2007 (one delegate at every meeting). Two delegates represented Russia to the 1st AA Eastern Europe Service Meeting in Warsaw, Poland in 2002. Unfortunately, due to undeveloped Service system in Russian AA, delegate participations partly or completely were paid by other countries AA communities. On the latest conference, opinion of majority delegates and Council members was do not use such practice any more and agreed that it is necessary to act appropriately.

At the moment we keep in touch and coordinate with many countries. The main aid, as usual, we are getting from the oldest AA Fellowship – the Service office in New York. According to decision of A.A.W.S. to stop edition of AA literature in Russian and grant this responsibility to Russian AA , we supply Russian speaking groups in the following countries: Belarus, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Moldova, USA, Ukraine, Finland, Sweden, Baltic states and Germany with AA literature in Russian.

HOLDING OF FORUMS AND SEMINARS

The Council is holding annual All-Russian Forum in the beginning of December. The conference and Council are appointing slogan, topic, and place of Forum holding. The Forum is popular. During last several years the local Service centers are holding their own domestic Forums. For example, such annual forums are holding successfully in the following places: Petrozavodsk, Rostov-on-Don, Ivanovo, Kazan, Moscow, Samara, Saint Petersburg, on Baikal and Altai.

According to requests from local AA groups, from time to time, the Council is arranging seminars to them with long-sober speakers from Moscow and other cities.

“Forum on wheels” is holding on annual basis according to requests from the different regions during few last years. Several cars stuffed with AA members are following the agreed route spreading AA message and step work experience in the cities and townships. It could be cities with or without AA local groups. As for today several “Forums on wheels” are holding on annual basis: “Forum on Wheels” (Central Russia), “Northern Horseshoe”, “Southern Ring” and “Forum on Wheels” (Altai).

AA in Asian part of Russia Development Report.

During the time passed from the 7th Meeting of AA Services of Asia and Oceania, considerable changes have been happened in the Asian part of Russia.

Groups growth with direct participation in regional structure of services is carry on in Eastern Siberia and on Far East.

Group “Vozrojdenie” was organized in Blagoveshchensk. This action arisen due to well-coordinated work of Committee of Services AA in Eastern Siberia and Far East. Alcoholics from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Chita, taken direct part in opening the group. As of today, meeting days are every Tuesday and Friday. More than 5 recovering alcoholics attending the meetings.

Two more groups began the work in the Magadan Region, one in the city of Magadan and another in township of Sokol.

Due to financial help of Committee of Services AA of Eastern Siberia and Far East, the AA member arrived to Tuva and managed to organize two AA groups meetings, one in Kyzyl and another in Kozhuun. Five alcoholics are recovering steady.

In the end of last year, alcoholics from township of Vanino (Khabarovsk Territory) call in aid to Committee of Services AA in Eastern Siberia and Far East and asked to give the benefit of experience in AA meetings and work on steps. AA members from Khabarovsk, visited Vanino and helped with establishing new AA group in the beginning of March 2009. Fellows from Vanino visited Khabarovsk in the several weeks after that and in May two AA members from Sakhalin gave the benefit of experience of their recovering from alcoholism with 12 steps Program.

The second AA group started work in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

As of today, 7 AA groups are working in Krasnoyarsk Territory (four in Zheleznogorsk, one in Achinsk, and two in Krasnoyarsk).

Two new AA groups are opened in Khabarovsk.

The third AA group restarted its work in Vladivostok.

Seven AA groups are working in Irkutsk Region, one AA group in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. AA group “Nord” restated its work in Yakutsk.

Delegates of eight or nine administrative regions are taken part in Assembly of AA Eastern Siberia and Far East in 2008. Four more representative are taking part through Internet.

Information exchange is going through e-charts and e-mails.

All the information was passed to all services and groups representatives of the region.

In the region of Eastern Siberia and Far East there are 40 AA groups as of today (Krasnoyarsk Territory – 7, Irkutsk Region -7, Republic of Buryatia – 2, Republic of Yakutia -2, Khabarovsk Territory – 5, Sakhalin Region – 2, Kamchatka Region – 1, Vladivostok – 3, Chita – 4, Magadan -4 groups, Tuva – 2, Khakassia -1).

Alexander from Omsk was elected as delegate for the first time of AOSM, and power of attorney of Alexey V. from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk was confirmed for the second time AOSM in the April of this year.

In parallel, the Conference decided to suggest city of Irkutsk, Russia as the place of AOSM in 2011.

According to the decision taken in 2007 about rotation of the place of regional forum and Assembly, these events have taken place in Chita in last year and in Khabarovsk in this year. Next year the mentioned events will take place in Vladivostok.

Russian speaking alcoholics from Belarus, Tokyo and representatives from Mongolia visited the forum in Khabarovsk.

We have faced some certain difficulties. Sponsorship experience is tragically not enough.

Due to big distances, financial difficulties and issues with service experience sharing very few of members of AA fellowship would like to joint service structures of AA. All these matters are brining us to problems with staff rotation.

Singapore

As of July 10, 2009

Alcoholics Anonymous Singapore originated in 1957. According to the GSO website, Dick D. wrote in March 1958 that the Singapore Group, founded in 1957, then had 12 members and 2 likely prospects. In 1959, there were: 1 Scotsman (11 years in Malaya), 1 Eurasian man (Anglo Malayan), 2 women (1 U.S. dependant, 1 visitor) and 1 Indian man (traveler). In March 1961, the meetings were held in the YMCA, with the attendance of 9 people. Chinese and Indians could see only “Ang Mo’s” (which means expatriates, Singaporean colloquial). Local members were shy about their use of English, and they did not feel “blended in.” However, they stayed sober from the 3rd Tradition.

In 1987, there were only 3 evening meetings a week. Year by year, groups have expanded and at present we have the following groups:

- Damien Hall @ Blessed Sacrament Church - 14 meetings a week
- Novena Church – 11th step meeting
- 12 Steps to a New Freedom @ Novena - women’s step meeting
- Alexandra Day Centre - one meeting a week
- Raffles Day Break @ OUB Centre - five meetings a week

- Serenity Sisters @ Capital Tower – women’s meeting
- Men’s Group @ Tanglin Mall Starbucks – one meeting a week

Currently we have step meetings, speaker meetings, Big Book meetings, women’s meetings, a men’s meeting, an As Bill Sees It meeting, but no Chinese or foreign language meetings. We also have a Step Workshop meeting.

There are about 150 members in Singapore (out of 4.8 million in population). Some groups have group conscience meetings every month. We have many expat members but recently have seen the number of locals and women increasing a great deal, and have a number of Chinese and Indian members. Some of our members are referred by local institutions.

We have just recently established the Singapore AA Intergroup service office to carry out certain functions common to many A.A. Groups in the Singapore community. Operating under the guidelines of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, the Singapore Intergroup is maintained, supervised, and supported by the local Singapore A.A. groups. The primary purpose of Singapore Intergroup is to aid the individual A.A. groups in their common purpose to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of the items Intergroup is working on are: coordinating twelfth step calls; maintaining the telephone answering system, website, and meeting list; providing public information; carrying the message in hospitals and institutions; cooperation with the professional community; organizing local AA events; providing information exchange among local groups via regular meetings and a newsletter; and ordering literature.

Singapore AA has in the past liaised with prisons, but at present this has ceased due to outside political issues. We hope to change this in the future.

Although we recently discovered that Singapore AA is 52 years old, we will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year by organizing a local AA event this coming September.

Thailand

Alcoholics Anonymous has been alive and well in Thailand since the 1970s, with approximately 500 regular members. But as a popular tourist destination and growing business center, we often have double that number with tourists and visitors coming and going throughout the year. Most members are expatriates working and retirees living in Thailand, but we are also experiencing a tremendous growth in the Thai fellowship. AA is concentrated in five urban areas and 2 popular islands in Thailand: Bangkok (central Thailand), Chiang Mai (northern Thailand), Khon Kaen (northeastern Thailand), Pattaya (southeast of Bangkok), Hua Hin (south of Bangkok), and Phuket and Samui islands (southern Thailand). There are less frequent meetings that are held in Chiang Rai and Pha Ngan, as well as smaller English-language meetings in the northeastern provinces of Maha Sarakham, Mukdahan, Nong Khai, Sakon Nakhon and Udon Thani.

There have been international groups meeting in Chiang Mai since the mid-70s. There are 5 groups listed in Chiang Mai with 60 to 70 expatriate and retired members and 5 to 6 Thai members. There is a emerging group in Chiang Mai at the Northern Drug Dependence Treatment Center, which is Thai-language meeting and open to those from outside the rehabilitation center. There are also interests in starting another Thai AA meeting in Chiang Mai

in the future. A number of Thais attend English-language AA meetings, although most are not bilingual meetings.

The heart of Thai AA is said to be in Khon Kaen, which was started about 5 years ago at their main rehabilitation and treatment facility. There are Thai-language meetings 6 days a week (except on Saturdays) at the rehab center, and another outside meeting happening 2 times per month. There are two English speaking meetings a week in Khon Kaen with 5 regular members. Additional Thai-language meetings are held at the eastern province of Chaiyapoom (2 days per week), Yasothorn (2 times per month) and Nakorn Rachasima (2 times per month).

There are 6 groups meeting in Bangkok with 20 scheduled meetings per week. At present there is one Thai-language AA meeting in Bangkok which is held at the Phramongkutklao Hospital, a well-known and military-ran hospital (<http://oir.pmk.ac.th/doc/Map.pdf>). Having only 1 Thai-language meeting in Bangkok has been a problem for many Thai members that do not speak English, and we have not yet succeeded in starting another meeting (work in progress). We have had Thai newcomers complain about the inconvenience of having only 1 meeting to go to once they are discharged from the hospital or treatment center, as well as prospects calling in on the Thai AA helpline. One of the reason seems to be that majority of Thai AA members living in Bangkok are able to communicate in English and prefer to go to the English-language AA meetings instead, and it has not been easy due to lack of confidence in keeping the meeting going with regular or enough attendance.

There are daily meetings by 6 groups in Pattaya and at Jomtien Beach (Chonburi): 3 English, 2 Scandinavian and 1 German.

There are daily meetings in Hua Hin (Prachuab Khirikhan) with about 30 local members, not including many part-time residents and tourists.

Phuket has 4 English groups (11 meetings per week) and 1 Swedish group (2 days per week), as well as a Women's group held once a week. There are weekly meetings on Krabi and Trang islands.

Restructuring for the Better

The former Thailand Intergroup was agreed not to be fulfilling the needs and service requirements of AA in Thailand, therefore a new area assembly was formed to represent Thailand in its place. The interim chairperson has been active and in continual contact with General Service Office (GSO) in New York and AOSM for their advice and guidance on our restructuring attempts.

The groups from southern Thailand has formed a Phuket district. Four of the Chiang Mai groups have elected general service representatives (GSR) and possibly forming a Chiang Mai district. A Bangkok district has not yet been finalized. Some of the groups do not have GSR selected, but there is ongoing effort to form a Bangkok district. The Pattaya groups have no interest in forming their own district, while 2 of the groups are not interested in any service structure beyond the group. The remaining Pattaya groups will probably join the Bangkok district, as well as the Khon Kaen groups joining the Bangkok district.

Area Committees

We have a mixture of old Intergroup committees doing service on temporary basis and ones that have been transferred to the area assembly or districts. We hope to have this clarified or resolved in the near future, with all committees operating under the area assembly and districts by the end of 2009.

The Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC) Committee has been inactive for a period due to involved members having to leave Thailand, but has recently resumed its activities. During the past year CPC has the opportunity to involve in AA workshops to Thai medical professionals (i.e. doctors, nurses, therapists, clinical and social workers, etc.) and Thai alcoholic members in providing valuable information about AA and giving out information by means of approved literature and pamphlets.

There are Thais who thought of AA as some religious or Christian organization (it has also been mistaken for an insurance company or AIA). In an attempt to respond to this wrongful impression and misunderstanding, there was a one-day seminar held in November 2008 regarding the 12 steps of AA and Buddhism. A highly respected former monk had previously given a series of lectures on these 2 subjects and kindly volunteered to hold the seminar in both Thai and English. To avoid controversy within AA, the seminar was funded through individual contributions. The seminar was recorded and a link to the recording can be found on the Thailand AA website.

The Translation Committee has been working for over a year on a new Thai translation of the Big Book, which would only be its second translation or version. The current (first) translation is generally considered to be inadequate and not good enough to spread the message, therefore Translation Committee has been exploring ways to improve. It believes that having a professional translator is probably what is needed to get the job done and has been allocated funds for this purpose.

Activities in Thailand

Almost 500 members of Alcoholics Anonymous from 27 different countries was in attendance at the 14th Annual Thailand Roundup held back in February at the coastal city of Pattaya. Over 130 Thai AA members arrived from all the country in addition to 300 AA members from around the globe. The first Thailand Roundup held 14 years ago had about 100 members and only one Thai member present. This year Clancy I. was the keynote speaker at the roundup, and his story was transcribed and translated into Thai beforehand. Copies of the Thai-version of his story were distributed to Thai members who did not understand English.

Khon Kaen held its 5th Annual Isarn Roundup during the first weekend of July. This roundup is sponsored by their government treatment center for the past couple of years due to better facility, and also to allow the interested and recovering patients in rehabilitation to be able to attend. About 20 expatriate members and 120 Thais (both professionals & alcoholics), including 3 nurses from far away provincial hospitals in Laos. A homemade video of a Thai member telling his story was shown. Many Thais are reluctant or unenthusiastic to write their own stories, so videos may be more successful media.

The 2nd Annual Hua Hin Roundup held in 2008 was attended by about 100 AA members (40 of whom were Thai) and about 15 professionals in the alcoholism treatment field. The third roundup will be held the weekend following the AOSM meeting (July 31 to August 2), and hopefully we will see many of the visiting AOSM delegates there as well.

The former Phuket Intergroup held a day long service seminar. Topics included the history of AA, the importance of service work, the roles and responsibilities of the GSR, and Public Information (PI) and CPC. It was held over two fun-filled days, with 1 boat outing and water sports and activities (e.g. water-skiing, jet-skiing, snorkeling, etc.) and too much food! The second day was a beach picnic with swimming, volleyball, kayaking and of course MORE FOOD!

Presentations

A.A.'S Three Legacies And Our Role As Trusted Servants

Presentation, July 24, 2009

8th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand

Before I begin, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the opportunity to share with you this weekend in your sober and service journeys. When Bill W. died, his wife, Lois, said, "You are all now the co-founders of A.A." It is an extraordinary privilege to be with you the co-founders of A.A. in the Asia-Oceania zone.

Today, I have been asked to share helpful information or experience as AOSM is going through a growing phase and there is a real need for delegates to understand their role in the structure in representing their country. Although I have not attended an AOSM before this weekend, I imagined that each delegate would arrive with their own service experience based on their own service structure and with, maybe, their own set of service challenges. What an order! So, my solution, like many other solutions in my sobriety, is to return to our basics and to focus my sharing on and about A.A. principles found in our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

In my sober journey, I have been active in my Home Group, in sponsoring and as part of the U.S./Canada service structure at all levels as group trusted servant, General Service Conference delegate, General Service Board trustee and now, as General Manager of the General Service Office. The purpose of this service was the same as yours today - to carry A.A.'s message to the alcoholic who still suffers. As we go down A.A.'s triangle of service, we also are responsible for protecting the integrity of A.A.'s message. Now how do we do that?

My first suggestion is a simple but sound principle found in our 9th Concept on Leadership; that of listening. As a trusted servant and delegates, myself included, I offer the suggestion that we look for those moments in our service when it would be best to talk less and listen quietly. This is particularly important during those times when we are faced with controversy, strong opposition and minority views. At this point, listening carefully often leads us to the truth for ourselves and for A.A.

Bill's Leadership essay reminds us that "Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example." We are in a position of trust to act for, not to boss. Bill goes on to say, "A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. Good leadership originates plans, policies and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services." Following Bill's suggestions we learn that good leaders always remember to consult widely before taking action, compromising when needed. In fact, in seeking the very best for our Fellowship, Bill shares that our progress is marked by a "series of improving compromises".

It has been suggested to me that, as a trusted servant, I become a power of example of the Twelve Concepts for World Service. This leads to another important Concept in my service life,

Concept IV - the "Right of Participation." We are practicing this Concept this weekend. Each delegate is an important part of this meeting and we are all equals. The meeting would not be the same if just one person were missing. As we participate in this or any meeting of A.A. we might ask ourselves these questions. Do we treat each delegate with kindness, love, tolerance and respect? Do we encourage everyone to share? Do we take time to really listen? Do we give an easy answer when asked or do we take our time and provide as thoughtful sharing as possible?

I also rely on the Concept, the "Right of Decision." This relates to our Second Tradition, "There is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience." When in doubt, I turn to a group conscience for a sober decision. This may be a group of two or three friends, a business meeting at my home group or a meeting of a steering committee or a General Service Board. My responsibility is to participate, to present accurate information, again listen, and, at the end of discussion, to support the group conscience decision whatever personal feelings I may have. The importance of the right of decision is paramount whether your structure serves two groups, two thousand groups or tens of thousands of groups.

Then there is the challenging Concepts "Delegated Authority" and "Responsibility Equal to Authority." Do we understand the faith and trust it takes to allow a trusted servant to carry out their responsibility as they see fit? An example of this in A.A. history is the decision by our co-founders to establish a General Service Conference that would become for all intents and purposes the group conscience of the U.S. / Canada service structure.

Our U.S./Canada experience is that there are no emergencies in A.A. and taking the time to arrive at an informed group conscience decision can often be lengthy, requires much patience and involves personalities. But as one of our past Chairman of the Board often reminded us, "The more we talk, the closer we come to the truth." So in the end, by using our Right of Participation, delegated authority and Right of Decision, A.A. flourishes.

Let's return for a moment to 1950 when the responsibility for the growing U.S./Canada Fellowship was turned over to those new Conference delegates. In my readings, I see Bill W. as a man of great faith as he stepped back and let the Fellowship's trusted servants learn from their own mistakes, from their own experience. He used to say, "A.A. is self-correcting." In fact, at one Conference, when everyone was fighting and it appeared chaos has taken over, he remarked to a worried Conference delegate, "A.A. at its finest!"

In 1959, in his stirring closing remarks Sunday afternoon, Co-Founder Bill W. recalled how the Conference had laughed when a Delegate reported that a convention treasurer in his state had absconded with convention funds.

"There was a time when any such announcement in A.A. would have been shattering," Bill said. "I remembered all our fears of the early times—fears of sobriety, for the existence of a group, for the survival of the movement. But in that laugh about an absconding treasurer, I found a mighty assurance of our future. In that laugh could be found no trace of a desire for punishment of the erring brother. In that laugh, I found complete understanding. In that laugh, I found recognition by each of us that, as individuals, we are still capable of any folly. And in this laugh I found a complete absence of fear of what any individual within or without A.A. could possibly do to us."

"We see in the world around us is that, generally speaking, all societies and nations are apt to behave, as a whole, far worse than the majority of their individual members."

In A.A. we have exactly the reverse condition. Bill suggested. "As a society we have made no aggressions on the world outside and the world has not trespassed upon us; it has befriended us.

We have exhibited no bigotry, very little intolerance. As a society of still very frail individuals, our collective behavior has been far better than our behavior as individuals, to whom anything can happen.

“I found behind that laugh in this Conference a sense of tremendous collective security, an absence of fear of members who may be ill. Thus we have capitalized upon fear while the world in general seems to be deteriorating under fear.”

As he has done so many times in the past, Bill, with his unique insight, has stated the underlying significance of a Conference with distinctive clarity.

It is becoming increasingly clear to many observers not only that A.A. Conferences have special “personalities” of their own but that each succeeding Conference draws a part of its strength from the accumulated experience of earlier meetings. The real measure of a Conference is no longer whether it is timid or aggressive, quiet or extremely active.

The real test is whether a Conference is informed on the Society’s service needs and whether it can reach decisions—small or momentous— solely in terms of A.A.’s primary purpose.

Viewed in this perspective, the “quiet” Conference of 1959 was perhaps the most notable in the nine years of G.S.C. activities.

And so it is through the quiet times, the lively debates and full participation that our Conference continues today; using the same spiritual principles of action through a committee system where we often say “trust the process”.

It is through the practice and universal application of our Three Legacies, that we have found sobriety and a way to ensure the future of A.A. It is through our collective gratitude, that together, we can guarantee that the hand of A.A. will always be there.

In Gratitude,
Phyllis H. [REDACTED]
General Manager
GSO New York

Presentations
Reaching Out: Country To Country

FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED; FREELY GIVE (Page 110 twelve Steps and twelve traditions)

I have been very fortunate in sobriety, I have stayed sober one day at a time in a variety of countries with different cultures I got sober in Scotland which has a culture of whisky drinking, pubs and parties. In AA the culture is one of very close fellowship, fireside meetings and a practice of loading up the car with AA members and visiting other groups. The formula for reaching out is instilled from early sobriety with usually an older sober member and a younger member working together on twelve step calls.

My next port of call in sobriety was South Africa where I lived for five years and experienced a new and much different culture. This was during apartheid so the only place where there was mixing of races was at AA and I was lucky enough to experience AA meetings in Soweto and in Indian townships where they did not understand a word I said but nevertheless welcomed me into their fellowship with open arms. I even had the privilege of attending a traditional Zulu wedding. This experience as a whole taught me how difficult it is for some members to find sobriety and maintain it given their exceptional hardship and lack of opportunities thus the value of reaching out to other alcoholics was proven once again regardless of race or creed.

My next stop as it is at this time was Australia where again I experienced a different culture. The "larrikin" attitude is very prevalent in Australia as is "fair go for everyone" Their AA tends to be less formal and they tend to (at least in the areas I have been to) stick to their own groups and do not tend to travel as much for their AA. It is a disturbing trend for me and for AA Australia when I was told that there are now a lot of AA members especially in the big cities who have never experienced 12-step work and would suggest that if this trend continues AA will be in serious trouble. So I would further suggest when you find this situation you try to instill the need for AA's future of carrying the message.

My experience of country to country reaching out was when I was asked as World Service Delegate for Australia to attempt to get AA started in the Solomon Islands where previously there had been no AA. This was a challenging but immensely rewarding experience not just for me but for AA Australia as a whole who have become very attached to the AA happenings in the Solomon Islands to the extent that our National Convention committee have invited an AA member from the Solomon's to the convention in 2010.

Some challenges that were experienced in this endeavour included, how do you get across to a variety of organizations to which I spoke the benefits of AA when they have no previous experience of how it works? At the first AA meeting in the Solomon's there were 35 people but as it was an open meeting we had some potential AA members plus some potential Al-anon members and a variety of people who were just interested in how it works, the scale of the problem in the Solomon's is vast and most people are connected to a problem drinker in some way so all were welcome The meeting itself was difficult to conduct because you open the meeting, read the preamble and the fifth chapter then invite people to share and there was a deathly silence since no-one knows how to. I found that I had to adapt by going and sitting beside each member and encouraging them to talk one on one rather than to the whole meeting. This situation was improved at a later meeting by playing tapes of Australian members sharing their experience strength and hope and by the third meeting this was no longer a problem.

This whole venture required a whole range of preparation and communication before arrival so our National Office and ultimately the support of the Australian fellowship were vital. Remember going to a new country like this means there is no literature (it had to be sent and was used very quickly). Facilities can be hard to obtain and may have to be paid for. Because potential members may be experiencing severe financial hardship self-support may be difficult if not impossible to attain at an early stage. It may also be worth considering trying to find accommodation as I did close to the people you are trying to reach rather than in a five-star hotel where you may not encounter too many alcoholics. Having done a small amount of research on the establishment of AA in a new country I have been shown that it can take anything between 2-10 years to have a solid grounding so if this is attempted patience and support should be considered a long term prospect remembering that are only asked to carry the message.

Reaching out country to country has been done to a large extent by ex-pat Americans even in my country AA was given a kick start in South Australia by Lillian R an American actress who caused a sensation with her movies on her life of alcoholism. Americans establish AA wherever they go and this is very prevalent in our region including where we are now (Thailand) The trouble with that is that in many countries ex-pats tend to be transitory and meetings sometimes only last as long as they are there so greater effort has to be made to get the message out to the indigenous population.

At the 4th Aosm it was agreed that old (inAA terms) countries should take responsibility in helping newer countries, for instance Australia was meant to take care of South East Asia, New Zealand the Pacific island and Japan took on Mongolia. Japan has done a great job with Mongolia culminating with their attendance at the last Aosm but otherwise this has not really worked out very well and at this Aosm we are again reviewing this procedure which I would encourage you to support.

In response to a question in August 2005 about where did he see the future growth of AA (Grapevine Volume 62 No.3) Leonard B. [REDACTED] Chair of the US/Canada General Service Board replied:- *It could be in third-world countries which are desperately looking for help. AA is free, portable, and can be put into place with innovation where there is no other help available. The way Bill and Dr. Bob did it.*

Sponsorship of countries has traditionally been done by the richer countries in our region but would it not be possible for two or three countries to get together to provide sponsorship thereby sharing the costs, this has already been practiced by World Service when New York asks for donations specifically to sponsor other countries. Countries who sponsor other countries should expect some return on their investment in that reports should be seen to be made when the delegate returns to his own country otherwise the membership will have no idea of how Aosm works and will not begin to aspire to pay their own way. In Australia some of our sponsorship has been fruitful but there have also been cases where we have not heard from the delegate nor have they reported back to their country.

Some members may also say that carrying the message into another country could be classed as "Promotion rather than attraction" but I can only give you previous examples such as one I was told at the World Service Meeting where it was reported that for many years Mexico had been carrying "Big Books" into Cuba risking the wrath of the Cuban government who had banned the practice but the results were that the Cuban delegate to World Service meeting in Ireland told us this story and how it had aided the growth of AA in his country I am sure this has also been the case in eastern bloc countries.

In our Big Book AA urges us to pass it on *because if we don't we will sicken and die*. So I would implore you to look around your region see where AA is needed and get out of your comfort

zone to reach out to the many alcoholics who require the recovery and hope that we have been so freely given

Ian C [REDACTED] (Australia)

Workshop 1

How can AOSM:

- provide help to other countries
 - promote sponsorship into service
 - make AA more attractive to the alcoholic

What is this groups:

- view of the future of AA
- view of conventions, are they helpful to carry the message or are they just a celebration.

How does AOSM:

- view problems other than alcohol or our Singleness of Purpose?

Using the topics discussed put this into a ten minute presentation using the theme “Reaching Out”

Audit of the AOSM Region:

- How far does the AOSM region extend?
- What are the countries in the region?
- Which countries have a well developed AA operating?
- Which countries have no known AA activity?
- Which countries have a poorly developed AA structure operating?
- How can we help these countries?

AOSM listing in Directory:

American Samoa	Australia	Bangladesh
Bhutan	Burma (Myanmar)	Cambodia
Cook Islands	Fiji	Guam
Hong Kong	India	Indonesia
Japan	Korea	Kuwait

Kyrgyz Republic	Laos	Macau
Malaysia	Marshall Islands	Micronesia
Mongolia	Nepal	New Zealand
Norfolk Island	Oman	Pakistan
Papua New Guinea	People Republic of China	
Philippines	Russia (Asian)	Saipan
Singapore	Sri Lanka	Tahiti
Taiwan	Thailand	
United Arab Emirates	Vanuatu	Vietnam
Western Samoa		
Total 41.		

World Atlas listing of countries in the ASIA/ OCEANIA area:

Asia is the largest continent in the world, accounting for a third of the worlds land surface

Countries of Asia:

Russia	Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan	Lebanon
Turmenistan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Israel
Turkey	Cyprus	Syria	Jordan
Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Yemen
Bahrain	United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi/ Dubai/ Al Ain)	Oman	Iraq
Pakistan	India	Afghanistan	Iran
Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Maldives
Bangladesh	Mongolia	China	Macau
Taiwan	Hong Kong	North Korea	South Korea
Japan	Burma	Thailand	Laos

Cambodia	Vietnam	Malaysia	Brunei
Singapore	Indonesia	Phillipines	East Timor
			<i>Total - 48</i>

Countries of Oceania:

Australia	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	New Caledonia
Fiji	New Zealand	Northern Marianas	Guam
Palau	Marshall Islands	Federated states of Micronesia	Nauru
Kiribati	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Tonga
Wallis & Futuna Islands	Western Samoa	American Samoa	French Polynesia
Pitcairn			
			<i>Total - 21</i>

With a possible 69 countries to help in we have a large area to consider.

Workshop 2

How can AOSM:

- have a role in Hospitals/ Correctional facilities?
- pass on the message to indigenous peoples?
- work with Public Information Committees?
- understand anonymity and how it works and are there restrictions in carrying the message

What is this groups:

- view of the future of AA
- view of conventions, are they helpful to carry the message or are they just a celebration.

Using the topics discussed put the outcomes into a ten minute presentation using the theme “Reaching Out”

Audit of the AOSM Region:

- a) How far does the AOSM region extend?
- b) What are the countries in the region?
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- f) How can we help these countries?

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Mongolia	Nepal	New Zealand
Norfolk Island	Oman	Pakistan
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Pakistan	India	Afghanistan	Iran
Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Maldives
Bangladesh	Mongolia	China	Macau
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Pitcairn			
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With a possible 69 countries to help in we have a large area to consider.

Workshop 3

Discuss how AOSM:

- can use Conference approved literature to carry the message.
- can identify literature available that would help countries in our zone
- identify a need for new literature in our zone
- can assist Loners and others isolated
- view an individuals and a groups problem in reaching out to others.

What is this groups:

- view of the future of AA
- view of conventions, are they helpful to carry the message or are they just a celebration.

Using the topics discussed put the outcomes into a ten minute presentation using the theme
“Reaching Out”

Audit of the AOSM Region:

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With a possible 69 countries to help in we have a large area to consider.

Chairman's Report to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting 2009

The last 2 years have been busy and varied, to work with a secretary who is across the ocean in another country has truly been an experience but it worked and we worked at it. Shirley has been a rock during this time and I have been very appreciative of her abilities and steadfastness. I acknowledge Shirley and I thank her immensely.

The interim years have been a challenge we have had our share of non responses and a lot of delays for one reason or another mix that with a couple of alcoholics and the programme of recovery was certainly put to the test there were a few misunderstandings along the way, which required a good heart to heart with the God of my understanding and another human being which is how it works in this fellowship and how it ensures we grow past all of these and learn from them.

I studied the history of Asia Oceania which wasn't too hard as my only service sponsor the late Alan Nestor was one of the founding members of AOSM, he was my guiding light in service and I attribute my love and passion for service to him, I assisted him by listening when he would talk of service matters I didn't understand as much then as I do now but the seed was definitely sown. I realised that AOSM is like the recovering alcoholic in early sobriety we need to put a lot of work into our recovery program.

As it has been with AOSM in the early days a lot of work was put in to establishing us and as time has passed by a base has been set down from which to work as with recovery at times slowly, we are now looking at that base and asking if it is solid enough on which to build the next structure – this AOSM will determine the strength of that base and the structure that goes with it and to build into it more if there is any doubt.

I believe this is one of the most important AOSM meetings to be held because of what you here this weekend need to achieve to set the structure in place for future Asia Oceania Service Meeting's. There has been a lot frustration over the last two years with trying to bring together an AOSM that meets everyone's needs – it could not be done but we took what we were given and did our best. If it fails in some areas that is not a bad thing I hope we can acknowledge those failures as learning curves and address them here – progress not perfection.

The suggestion to give time for workshops was a good one a number of areas need to be addressed and your knowledge and input into these workshops will be crucial for the health and wellbeing of our (AOSM's) future. You will see by the list that is included in your workshop agenda that we align with a lot of countries and yet in comparison there are so few of us here today this seems to be the way of our disease - these workshops need to be viewed realistically and simply like our twelve step programme.

The agenda times are changed to fit the work that needs to be done, to give enough time to make those all important decisions necessary for progress, but also by having the workshops prior to the committee meetings it will give you a better understanding of how it works and be able to have informed input into the areas and direction you see AOSM going.

The International Desk and the General Manager of GSO in New York were invited specially to speak because of the vast experience they bring to AOSM, the way a World Service Meeting and General Service Board operates is immense and that knowledge is invaluable.

The sharing speakers from New Zealand, Australia and Japan were a deliberate decision as well because of the historical understanding of AOSM that these countries have to bring to the AOSM table and my knowledge of the delegates themselves to have a strong recovery and the ability to pass that strength into action. Their decision to have a question and answer time as part of their input was with the knowledge that it was important for you to have the opportunity as well.

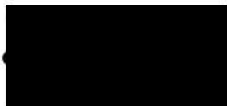
I came in to this position 2 years ago knowing there was a lot of work to be done because of where we (AOSM) ended at the last meeting in Japan, and I thought then that AOSM was going to move into its next phase of clear guidelines and workable structures founded on a programme of principles to guide. So here you are today gathered together to make those decisions and then it will be your turn to leave it in the hands of the next group of delegates of trusted servants to serve for their respective countries. My hope is that the decisions you need to make are made with good heart and an unmoveable belief that they are guided by a higher power.

To end my report I would like to quote from page 568 of the fourth edition under the title Spiritual Experience, –“Most emphatically we wish to say that any alcoholic capable of honestly facing his problems in the light of our experience can recover, provided he does not close his mind to all spiritual concepts. He can only be defeated by an attitude of intolerance or belligerent denial.” and “There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance – that principle is contempt prior to investigation.” Herbert Spencer.

Be mindful of each other during the next few days and may the God of your understanding be with you as we trudge the road to happy destiny.

Thank You

Val K 



New Zealand



Chairman Asia Oceania 2007 – 2009

Secretary's Report to 8th AOSM

During the past two years, I have sent out four editions of both the Newsletter and the Directory. I have also issued quarterly Financial Statements to those who needed to receive them.

Apart from the Directory/Newsletter etc, I have kept in contact with our AOSM Delegates, as well as those members who request information from around the AOSM Zone who need to find a meeting or change their recorded addresses etc.

NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY

I am most appreciative of those members who have supplied me with information of coming events for our Newsletter. I would like to see our Newsletter carry more personal stories of recovery and service, and perhaps more information about what is happening on an on-going basis within countries around our Zone. Perhaps our Literature Committee could put forward some ideas on what they would like to see?

Our Directory continues to be a valuable resource for those who travel etc, but I feel that the content should be drastically revised as soon as possible. This was suggested 2 years ago by the previous Secretary Bob p.. I would further suggest that this revision

In conclusion, I think too many of our precious dollars are wasted on returned mail to me. Members move on, groups change venues or close and loner members depart this world etc. I am guided by and impressed by, the International Directory that our friends in New York issue. Theirs is a bi-annual issue; ours could be too, thus saving us both effort and money if we follow the same path. I would suggest the same format as they use, for the listings around our Asia/Oceania Zone.

THE ARCHIVES

These are being kept in a variety of ways. As our technology changes, so does the capacity to preserve our records. I would like to suggest that the Literature and Publishing Committee take over this Archival role to ensure the continuity and security of our records for those who are to come.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship of another country by the AOSM itself came under the spotlight this year. Some of the Delegates questioned the idea of the AOSM sponsoring another country.

After researching past AOSM Reports, it was revealed that indeed the AOSM itself has been very active in sponsoring other countries in the past. Your Secretariat was holding enough money to get behind the idea of sponsoring another country for this AOSM, and the idea was initially put forward to the Policy/Admissions and Finance Comm. for their debate Their input was initially favorable, but changed after some consultation with other entities. However, I now

feel that as your Secretary, I should have spread the consultations with all Delegates for their input. My apologies for not doing so.

SELF SUPPORTING?

The AOSM itself should be self-supporting, and so far it is, but only by courtesy of a couple of countries and a few interested members. At the 7th AOSM, it was recommended that countries involved in our Zone should be prepared to make a contribution towards off-setting the running costs of the AOSM. Large or small donations are always welcome. As you can see from my Finance report, donations from private individuals are also an asset. You may also see from my Report that costs are escalating quite rapidly, and this will only get more pronounced as time goes along.

I would also like to suggest that whenever the Secretariat is handed over, that consideration be given to the change of currency to a new country when proposing a two-year budget? This may overcome any confusion at hand-over time. Thank you

IN CONCLUSION

My grateful thanks to all members, particularly to Val. K our Chairperson, who has guided me through some rough patches over the past two years. I would particularly like to thank the Chairman of the Host Committee Mike C. for all his input and support over the past year. This AOSM could not have come together but for the very fine efforts of members both seen and unseen who have picked me up and dusted me off when I needed it. Thank you everyone for your time and attention

And for your good wishes as I travel the road to happy destiny!

Shirley C.

Secretary/Treasurer to AOSM

Proposed Budget

Background:

Amounts were in Australian Dollars.

The budget is an estimate;

And costs and incomes tend to fluctuate.

This budget is a proposed one and is based on current trends for the past two years.

The income for the two year period from 1/7/2007 to 30/6/2009 was \$13,490.00 and
for the corresponding period the expenses amounted to \$10,244.00.

Assuming expenses remain constant then a further \$13,056.00 should be sufficient to meet
commitments to the end of 2011 period.

This equals the total proposed budget of \$23,300.00.

The current cash at bank stands at \$12,756.00.

Assuming no other income for the next two years and expenses equal the budget then a shortfall
of \$300.00 would be eminent.

Note:

It is worth noting that the Prudent Reserve is a set reserve and is held in the Bank Account, and
is not an actual expense.

The Actual Running Expenses Budget amounts to \$20,800.00.

S G 

Treasurer.

Income For AOSM For 2 Years (1/7/2007-30/6/2009)

Amounts are in Australian Dollars.

27/8/07	Secretariat NZ (transfer)	4775.10
25/10/07	Japan GSO	2138.11
7/12/07	N Z (transfer)	2735.18
5/2/08	Aust. GSO Running Costs	2000.00
27/3/08	Cash	290.25
1/10/08	Japan GSO	3583.02
16/4/08	Aust. GSO Bhutan Sponsorship	2500.00
16/4/08	Aust.GSO Running costs	2000.00
	Marie (Total Donations)	60.00
	Chiang Mai Group (Total Donations)	486.81
	Korean Intergroup (donations)	100.00
	Bank SA interest	79.90
	Harold C (Total donation)	62.56
	Anonymous (donation)	100.00
	Kate W (donation)	20.00
	Lee Anne D (donation)	20.00
	John L (donation)	50.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE:		\$ 21000.93

Shirley C. [REDACTED]

Treasurer.

AOSM Expenses For Two Years:

1/7/2007-30/6/2009 (Amounts in Australian Dollars)

Directory and News Letter		
Printing	\$ 1117.40	
Postage	\$ 1191.90	
Total:		\$ 2309.30
Air Fares:		
2 Delegates from Bhutan	\$ 1711.26	
Chairman from New Zealand	\$ 2051.00	
Secretary from Australia	\$ 1500.00	
Total:		\$ 5262.26
Postage		
Post Box	\$ 55.50	
General	\$ 105.31	
Total:		\$ 160.81
Stationery		
General	\$ 239.95	
Cartridges	\$ 146.65	
Photocopying	\$ 33.75	
Total:		\$ 420.35
Telephone		
Calls	\$ 47.80	
Total:		\$ 47.80
Other		
Bank Fees	\$ 44.00	
Adjustment	\$ 0.25	
Total:		\$ 44.25
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$ 8244.77

Proposed Budget For 2009-2011 A.O.S.M.

Revised Budget and Expenses to date are shown in Australian Dollars.

Item	07-09 Budget (NZ Dollars)	Revised Budget ¹	Expenses to 30/6/09
Final Report	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,000.00	Nil
Direct / News	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,117.00
Postage	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,297.00
PO Box	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 56.00
Stationary	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 420.00
Telephone	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 48.00
Other (Bank fees/Miscellaneous)		\$ 100.00	\$ 44.00
AOSM EXPENSES			
Travel / Acc	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,551.00
Delegates Folder	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	Nil
Taping	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,200.00	Nil
Sponsorship	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,711.00
Banner	\$ 200.00	Nil	Nil
Prudent Reserve ²	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL	\$16,500.00	\$23,000.00	\$10,244.00

¹ Allowance for 8th AOSM Reports (printing, collating, Posting) not incorporated in above budget.

² In accordance with the decision taken at the 4th AOSM. The Prudent Reserve is \$500.00 per annum. Currently \$2000.00

8th AOSM Committees

A. POLICY / ADMISSIONS / FINANCE

Ian C. (Australia) Chairperson Sunil G. (India) Lookpetch N. (Thailand) Nathan (Singapore)
David W. (Hong Kong)

2nd Term 2nd Term 1st Term

1st Term 1st Term

B. LITERATURE AND PUBLISHING

Brenda H. (New Zealand) Chairperson Alexy (Russia) Dawa T. (Bhutan) Lucy B. (Singapore)
Jo. S. (Philippines)

C. WORKING WITH OTHERS

Bruce C. (Thailand) Chairperson Andrew N. (Hong Kong) James N (New Zealand) Dechen W.
(Bhutan)

2nd Term 2nd Term 1st Term 1st Term 1st Term

2nd Term 2nd Term 1st Term 1st Term

D. AGENDA / WEBSITE / SITE SELECTION

Masayo S. (Japan) Chairperson Steve T. (Australia) Shrikant S. (India) Bill H. (Philippines)

2nd Term 1st Term 1st Term 1st Term

Committee Reports:

Policy /Admissions /Finance Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The committee system was first tried at the 2007 AOSM and although it was reasonably successful perhaps the time has come to further refine the process by revamping the Composition, Scope and Procedure document. Among the things that this committee should be looking at include,

If we are a policy committee should we be looking at future policy of AOSM and the direction we are taking and should we be forming new guidelines for election of office bearers and allocating their duties.

Admissions is this just a rubber stamp or should there be a set of criteria for admission and should this committee decide who will be seated as delegates and ensure rotation.

Finance should it be the duty of this committee to advise how our finances are developed and how best to use them.

I realise some of this is a big job for delegates who are new and have not prepared but as things stand most decisions are left to the secretary and if we have committees they must be functional not just on the day but between meeting.

A warm welcome to all delegates on this committee and may your experience of AOSM be beneficial to you and through your report to your country.

Ian C [REDACTED]

Committee Report.

Chairman Ian C.

We reviewed the Minutes of the last meeting...*Accepted*

Business Arising.

Mailing list all delegates to update their contact details and give to the AOSM Secretary.

No Correspondence.

Guidelines were reviewed and the only change at this stage was that the host country should be on a volunteer basis but with the backup of Australia/New Zealand, should the host country experience problems in providing a venue.

The eligibility of the Chairperson should remain as is, meaning they are chosen from 2nd Term delegates, however, if there is no second term available; chosen from the first term delegates.

Secretary; The position is advertised and any person with knowledge of AOSM may apply.

Observers; Leave as is, may not participate except with Chairpersons permission.

*NB; that is the Chairperson of the AOSM, not Committee chairpersons.

The host country may encourage observers and guests as appropriate.

Delegate Qualification; Each country is responsible for its choice of Delegates. If a country is sponsored by the AOSM, certain requirements should be asked of delegates who are being sponsored they should be required to report back to the country they represent.

Sponsorship of other countries; Should primarily be the responsibility of countries, whether it be individually or sharing costs, but this committee recommends that a Sponsorship Fund be set up to which countries can contribute.

Secretarys' Note; Account for Sponsorship

Fund set up in August 2009

The Budget was accepted.

Beer from Thailand was selected as Chair of Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee

With David W. Delegate from Hong Kong as the Alternate.

Ian C.

Publishing and Literature Committee

Brenda H New Zealand Chair, Lucy Singapore, Dawa, Butan Jo Philipines, Alexy Russia

- Committee reviewed Composition, Scope and Procedures with no changes recommended.
- Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.
- Committee focussed on the scope – sharing experience on translations and literature publications of member countries of AOSM.

Lucy B Singapore inquired if there was a policy on where to purchase literature. Some members in Singapore were buying from Non-AA retailers. It was suggested the nearest GSO would be preferred, either GSO US/Canada or another licensed GSO.

The Spiritual value of purchasing AA conference approved literature was discussed. This included the importance of supporting our AA services through AA literature as well as ensuring the integrity of our message is passed on.

Alexy Russia expressed concern there was no financial support from AA members for AA literature. No money no literature.

Jo S. Phillipines shared that lack of funds for AA literature was also a problem in his country. AA is 50 years old but membership has been lower since US military base was closed. His group hosts a Conference yearly with profit going for literature to give away. Ex Pats are active and the main population group in Phillipines. Tagalog is main language of this country and AAWS has published a translation in Tagalog of the Big Book that is being used along with a translation in Filipino.

Phyllis H General Manager, GSO New York was invited to share about AAWS translation and licensing policy. (this information is also included in the AOSM zonal meeting binder). The process was discussed as well as the importance of working with local membership in the language being translated in coordination with AAWS publications to ensure the best and most useful literature product.

Butan 90% of Butan is English speaking and 10% speak Dzongkha “zonka” There is a great need for literature in the two established groups and to carry the message they have only two books and seven or eight pamphlets.

A discussion ensued on how we can support our neighbouring countries (literature).

International literature fund at GSO New York to publish and send needed literature to newly developed countries and welcomes contributions from other countries for this purpose.

New Zealand talked about sending literature into prison as well as assisting with literature fund as well.

Japan has supported Mongolia with literature needs

Lucy Singapore was elected Chair and Dawa Butan elected Alternate Chair

Working With Others Committee Report

The Meeting started and closed with the Serenity Prayer.

The Committee appointed Dechan (Bhutan) as the next Chairman for the Committee and James N.(New Zealand) was appointed Alternate Chair.

The Committee discussed our understanding of the early 2000 Adopt-A-Country program. The program was described as follows;

- The delegates introduced and co-coordinated the program.
- Interested groups adopted a country with no A.A. presence.
- Individual group members researched different professions in their adopted Country eg. Religious, Corrections, Medical Treatment professionals.
- A information introductory letter was drafted and sent to these professionals, asking if they would like additional information literature.

Recommendation.

The Committee asks whether the AOSM wishes to discuss revisiting the Adopt-A-Country program. There was a question whether a program like this would be a Conference or a AOSM responsibility.

The Committee hopes that the AOSM inventory clarifies the AOSM Statement of Purpose – “ is AOSM to gather sharing or to initiate projects/activities? The Committee hopes that the Guidelines be updated and clarified to help committee discussions.

AOSM COMMUNICATIONS

There was a discussion of creating access for committees to AOSM history.

Recommendation

The committee recommended that staple discussion topics be included in future AOSM meetings. Sharing about these topics can be gathered and written up for AOSM consideration between meetings. This can be a valuable source of shared experience regarding Working with Others. The following are suggested sample staple topics;

- Cultural challenges such as age, gender, social status.
- Carrying the message to indigenous peoples.
- Difficulties presented by cultural differences
- Approaching the professionals.

This committee hopes that an orderly process for documenting AOSM sharing be implemented.

AOSM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEETINGS.

- “Skype” committee meetings between meetings.
- Project –Adapt US/Canada PI , CPC ,H&I ,materials to service structures in AOSM countries.

AOSM AGENDA

- Consider less topics
- Are country reports a valuable use of AOSM time.

Bruce C.

Site/Agenda/Website Committee Report

Masayo S. –Chairperson.

SITE FOR NEXT AOSM

Summary of discussions about proposed site; Russia-India-and Australia have bid for 2011.

All AOSM Delegates will vote.

AGENDA

The Agenda Committee should decide on the next meetings' Agenda. A proposed Agenda should be sent to Delegates at least 6 months in advance to allow Delegates to have input, and allow time to modify and change the Agenda based on the Delegates needs. For example; topics for workshops.

Delegates need to contribute more, and communicate better between AOSMs, by electronic and other technologies to help determine the Agenda.

WEBSITE

Recommended additions to the Website:

- History of AOSM
- AOSM Newsletter
- Next AOSM Agenda
- Links to other AA Websites
- All Final Reports -1 to 8
- Sanitize

The next Committee Chairperson is Shrikanth –(India)

Masayo-S.

Web site Policy³

The purpose of the Web site is:

- To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To serve as a resource for A.A. members, professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large.
- To provide accurate and consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To provide information about services and activities provided by the General Service Office.
- To encourage participation of A.A. members, groups and committees in A.A. services and activities.

Additionally:

- Oversight of the Web site shall be the responsibility of the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors, acting through its Services Committee.
- A.A.W.S. shall provide an annual report regarding web site activity to the trustees' Committee on Public Information (P.I).*
- A.A.W.S. shall provide quarterly reports regarding web site activity to the trustees' Committee on P.I.*
- The Web site shall provide, whenever practicable, information in three languages: English, French, and Spanish.
- The Web site shall make use of existing A.A. materials whenever practicable.
- The Web site shall provide contact information to General Service Conference Areas by listing and linking to existing Web sites.
- The Web site shall provide contact information and assistance by including a list of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services in the U.S. and Canada, international General Service Offices, and online intergroups, including Web site and Email links where applicable.

³ Below taken directly, verbatim, from aa.org

- The Web site shall include a disclaimer break before linking to any external web page.
- The Web site shall include selected Archives information and material.
- A.A. literature shall not be sold on the Web site, but catalog information, including prices, may be included, as well as information on where to purchase A.A. literature.
- The Web site shall welcome users to make suggestions about the Web site design and content.
- This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors.

Approved by A.A.W.S. December 12, 2008

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- As per 2004 Conference Advisory Action (Public Information Committee)

General Business

Guidelines: The full meeting of the AOSM accepted the Guidelines without any alterations.
Passed by full Meeting.

WSM Report: Using our Third Legacy voting, the meeting elected Steve T. (Aust) to present the AOSM Report to the World Service Meeting to be held in Mexico in 2010.

Google Group: Bruce C (Thailand) put forward a proposal to open a 'Google Group Room' for ease of communication between The Delegates. David from Hong Kong spoke on this and explained "How it works". The proposal was accepted on a trial basis. The possible use of Skype was questioned-resulting in a firm No, to this idea. *This motion was passed by all.*

New Delegate Orientation:

Chairman Val agreed with the discussion by delegates of the need for some form of Orientation for the new delegates to future AOSM's. This could possibly be held on the first morning of the AOSM to enable newer members to mix and where Second Term delegates can share their 'experience- strength and hope' with them and assist to understand the format and workings of the meeting itself. *This idea was endorsed by all present.*

- *Agenda Committee please note.*

Chairperson:

Election: The subject of eligibility for the position of Chairperson arose. Several Delegates put forward their thoughts and it was decided that no change was needed at this time (*this motion was passed by all present*)

Using the Third Legacy ,Ian C (Aust) was elected Chairperson for 2011 to be held in Chandigarh-India and Bruce C was elected Alternate Chairperson by the same process.

Secretary/Treasurer:

It was decided to leave the Secretaries position with no change. The Treasurers' Report for 2009 was accepted.

Literature & Publishing:

It was suggested that maybe Singapore AA might order its literature needs from Australia – to be followed up. By Lucie B. (Singapore)

International:

A suggestion was made that perhaps Delegates from AOSM might like to contact their counterparts serving around the World to share experience, strength and hope with each other.

Left as a suggestion only.

Webmaster

Brenda moved that a letter of thanks be sent to Fred T. for the work he carried out as AOSM Webmaster. *-All in favour*

**Note- Done*

It was agreed that no full names be on the AOSM Website. in future, the history of the AOSM to be placed on the Web and to place a 'sanitized' version of our Newsletter on it too together with future Final Agendas and Final Reports.

Questionnaire:

It was agreed that the Bid Questionnaire along with the delegates questionnaire be reworked to reflect more simple and effective documents.

**Note Policy & Admissions & Literature & Publishing please note.*

Chairman Closing Address

Well this AOSM began slowly but eventually it picked up pace almost hesitatingly for some of the new delegates, others exercised their right to express themselves often - introductions were brief but enough to show we were all on the same path. The extremities showed when countries shared their countries service structures and the struggles. These extremes were as diverse as knowing NZ, Australia and Japan who have solid structures and General service offices to those countries that may have an Intergroup or just a few groups coming together to use as a service structure it was with mixed emotions to know that sitting around this table were countries who were reaching out by being here.

Country Reports also showed diverseness from each and every country came a glimpse of what is happening for the alcoholic who is still suffering – and the way countries continue (in spite of some very hard opposition) to be responsible. Hong Kong brought out the sickness of the suffering alcoholic in posing the question “Why have you stopped coming to AA” The responses were recognisable because of the nature of the disease it could almost be a massive justification for something cunning, baffling and powerful.

The World Service Meeting Report caused intense pain to me to hear of a woman who had found AA and sobriety only to be shot dead by her drunk husband who had not.

The highlights of this AOSM were many:

Friday nights dinner and sharing meeting a wonderful gesture from Mike, John and the team of very dedicated workers who certainly made the welcome to Thailand as warm as the weather. Thank you each and everyone of you.

The keynote address on “Reaching Out” and the presentation on “ AA’s Three Legacies and our role as Trusted Servants” were just awesome and the sharing that followed these was just awesome, too. During this time comments made by both speakers added value to discussions, I especially like to think on the story Valerie gave us of Bill W sitting at the back of a business meeting which seemed to all watching was a bit of a bun fight and when he was asked what he was doing I liked the response “ Watching AA at its finest” Thank you Valerie and Phyllis.

The workshops and the presentations brought up a lot of questions and highlighted areas to be looked at – which in itself is a good thing for AA. The Committee meetings expressed their need for autonomy.

I enjoyed the sharing session where each of the three countries chairing took a part of the theme “Reaching Out” for discussion for example – Japan spoke on Retention – How do we retain

alcoholics?, New Zealand and Indigenous peoples – Going to where they are and embracing their culture, Australia and Country to Country – Carrying the message to other countries.

There was frustration and some going around in circles but before the meeting came to an end a number of points that evolved did have merit:

Looking at the Statement of Purpose

An orientation period for first term delegates

Pre setting an agenda base

And a lot of the recommendations from the committees are the basis for what needs to come.

When this AOSM opened I refer back to my Welcome Address where I said and I quote “It is your time over the next few days to set in place the next step for AOSM. The structure that is put in place this weekend will help AOSM to progress with confidence and trust in the process” unquote – and from my Chairmans Report “I believe this is one of the most important AOSM meetings to be held because of what you here this weekend need to achieve to set the structure in place for future Asia Oceania Service Meetings.” I have seen this happen this weekend – you have taken up the challenge to be responsible and I applaud you each and every one of you, may the God of your understanding be with each and every one of you as we trudge the road to Happy Destiny and as we say in my language “Haere Ra” Farewell.

Val K

Chair

8th AOSM Bangkok Thailand.

GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY
TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE
COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN
AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

Thank you all for your attendance at this 8th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting.

We wish you all a safe journey home to your country, and in particular we wish for you

A healthy, happy life one day at a time “ as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.”(Big Book page 164)

Val.K

Your Chairman for this AOSM

And

Shirley C

Your Secretary.

Delegates Review Of The 8th AOSM.

QUESTION 1 - Which Agenda item did you find most helpful, and why?

Responses; Workshops – Direct Topics –What’s on your mind – None-The best stuff was not on the Agenda –Everything – Policy Admissions/Finance now moveing forward-Website – Sharings from the GSO New York and Country Reports gave a sense of AA all over the world.

QUESTION2 - Which Agenda items did you find least helpful and why?

Responses; All-Started too late Friday – Too much discussion – Committee-too much personal sharing instead of Country experience;Policy-Reading of Country Reports-All ones dealing with process rather than output-Workshops, topics unclear-not enough time.Country Reports-Only new countries should be read out. Should have Q and A Session. Literature and Publishing. All items were helpsul

QUESTION 3 - Is there any topic you would like to see on the Agenda next time?

Responses; All- Policy/Admission and Finance 7 Literature & Publishing-Singleness of Purpose – more workshop time- More Q @ A (ask it basket)reaching out should be the focus- bridging the Gap-Hold AOSM in countries with emerging structure and one that cannot afford to attend.

QUESTION 4 - Have you any comments regarding the meeting room facilities or accommodation?

Responses; too cold- hotel and facilities people all great – very good – microphones did not work- excellent.

QUESTION 5 - Any other comments?

Like very much – loved how the Thais treated us – wonderful job by Host Committee- I think we moved ahead a little – I love Service- Thanks to Hosting Committee and Delegates- more work less talk – well organized thanks to Host Committee. – Need to work between AOSM Meetings. Delegates should be active throughout their Service.

* Please use a separate sheet of paper for your replies and give them to Secretary Shirley before you return home. There is no need for your name to be included.

Delegates in Attendance

Steve T.	Australia	1 st Term
Ian C.	Australia	2 nd Term
Shrikant	India	1 st Term
Sunil G	India	2 nd Term
Dawa	Bhutan	1 st Term
Dechen	Bhutan	1 st Term
David W	Hong Kong	1 st Term
Andrew N	Hong Kong	2 nd Term
James N	New Zealand	1 st Term
Brenda H	New Zealand	2 nd Term
Bill H	Philippines	1 st Term
Jo S	Philippines	1 st Term
Aleksy	Russia	2 nd Term
Lucie B	Singapore	1 st Term
Nathan	Singapore	1 st Term
Beer	Thailand	1 st Term
Bruce C	Thailand	2 nd Term

Secretary to AOSM Shirley

List Of All Delegates

(to 26th August 2009)

Australia		
Steve T		1 st Term
Ian C (incoming Chair)		
Bhutan		
Dawa T		1 st Term
Dechen		1 st Term
Hong Kong		
David W		1 st Term
Andrew N		2 nd Term
India		
Shrikant S		1 st Term
Sunil.G		2 nd Term
Japan		
Masayo S		2 nd T.
Korea		
Yoon Chung		(please advise)
Joon young Lee		“
Mongolia		
Need details for these		(please advise)
Philippines		
Bill H		1 st Year
Jo S		
PR China		
Jin Bo		2 nd Term
New Zealand		
James N		1 st term
Brenda H		2 nd Term
Russia		
Alexander		1 st Term
Aleksey		2 nd term
Singapore		
Lucie B		1 st Term
Nathan		1 st Term
Thailand		
Beer		1 st Term
Bruce C		2 nd Term

Full names and addresses are kept in Confidence by the Secretariat.
Shirley C- Secretary.

History Of The AOSM To July 2009

- 1978-1993 First proposed at 1978 Helsinki WSM, discussed in Australia 1982. Again proposed 1985 New York with some discussion in New Zealand. 1992 New York WSM informal discussions among Delegates

- 1999 Conference New Zealand approved the go ahead, followed by research, discussions and planning with GSO Japan.

- 1994 Informal meeting held in Tokyo between members of both Japanese and New Zealand Fellowships to discuss Pan Pacific Zonal Meeting.

- 1995 1st Asian-Oceania Service Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, attended by Hong Kong, Vanuatu, Korea, Japan and New Zealand, with GSO New York. Theme; ‘Twelve Stepping your Neighbor Country’

- 1997 2nd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand, Attended by Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia, and Japan with GSO New York. Theme; ‘Friends we have not Met’.

- 1999 3rd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Sydney, Australia, attended by Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia with GSO New York. Theme; “Our Primary Purpose”.

- 2001 4th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Seoul, Korea, attended by Japan, Korea, Russian Federation, Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, East Timor, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia with GSO New York. Theme; “The Growing AA Family”.

- 2003 5th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Hong Kong, attended by Hong Kong, Japan, People’s Republic of China, Mongolia, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, with GSO New York. Theme; “The Three Legacies-Recovery, Unity , Service”

- 2005 6th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Surfers’ Paradise, Australia. Attended by Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand and with GSO New York. Theme; “Sponsorship – Unity in ever Widening Circles”

- 2007 7th Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Saitama, Japan, Attended by Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mercaa, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and New York. Theme; “Global Growth through Structured Groups”
- 2009 Asia/Oceania Service Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand In Attendance; Australia; Bhutan; Hong Kong; India; Japan; New Zealand; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand. Theme: ‘Reaching Out’.

Overseas Literature Policy

All requests to translate A.A. World Services literature should be directed to the A.A. World Services Board, for approval.

Experience indicates that when individuals undertake translations on their own initiative, it frequently leads to misinterpretation or duplication of work. In addition, unauthorized translations or publications can seriously damage our copyright ownership. It is therefore crucial for us to coordinate all translating efforts to insure the integrity and legal protection of our literature.

Bill W's writings

Translations of any material written by co-founder Bill W. must be true to the English versions in spirit as well as word. A.A. World Services believes the original writings of Bill W. contain the A.A. program of recovery – our message of hope to the suffering alcoholic worldwide. Hence, accurate translation is imperative.

Other A.A. Copyrighted Material

To some extent, liberties may be taken with other A.A. literature to reflect the local experience and laws of the country. However, A.A.W.S. is still obligated to insure that the changes made reflect our A.A. principles.

11/01

AAWS Policy Re: Translations of A.A. Literature, Including Publication And Licensing Considerations:

I. General Considerations

- A. A translation of copyrighted text constitutes a derivative work, and, as such, permission of the copyright owner is required prior to undertaking the translation.
- B. The AAWS policy regarding licensing and publication of AA material is based on, and guided by, the provisions of the Current Conference Charter: *"In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/ Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the general Service Board of that country."*
- C. AAWS has a policy of long-standing whereby, at the request of another General Service Structure, financial assistance for the publication of a piece of literature is provided, where appropriate (see "Foreign Aid"---literature carries the message," *The Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous*, 1984, pg 16-17). Historically, such assistance has taken the following form: AAWS will advance the money for the publication of a particular piece of (usually, translated) literature. AAWS will retain title to the inventory, but the requesting Structure will be permitted to sell off the inventory, using a portion of the sale price to repay AAWS, and reserving a portion to finance the next printing of the piece.
- D. All translations shall be made from the most recent, English language version of the work.
- E. In order to be considered complete, all translations of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (the *Big Book*), regardless of how initiated, shall contain all of the front matter appearing in the U.S./Canada English language version, including The Doctor's Opinion, and the Forewords and Preface; the basic text appearing on pages 1-164; and Dr. Bob's Nightmare and the appendices, which are presented in the rear of the book. Whether any other material, which does not appear in the original, will be permitted to be included in the translation shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Permission to include such additional material, where the material is in conflict with the message conveyed by the *Big Book*, will not be granted.*

II. Translations

A. Request For Permission To Translate

- 1. When AAWS receives a request from someone wishing to translate AA literature on his/her own initiative, the Publications Department will determine if there is an existing, authorized translation in the U.S. or overseas. If such a translation exists, the request will be denied. If a translation does not exist, the requesting

* Note: although the personal stories in the Spanish translation were circulated for approval, it is likely that such approval occurred because AAWS publishes the Spanish translation for use in the US/Canada. It does not appear that personal stories appearing in other translations of the Big Book were the subject of AAWS approval. The caveat regarding additional material is more concerned with the addition of text that tends to amend, or otherwise modify, the substance of the basic text. For example, there was some discussion by AAWS concerning additional, explanatory text that was added to the Russian translation. The additional text was ultimately approved.

party will be asked to translate some representative portions of the work (e.g., Chapter 5, plus an additional chapter or two in *Alcoholics Anonymous*), so that the translation might be reviewed by a professional translation service for its consistency with the original text. The requesting party will also be asked to defer further work until the sample has been checked, and will be advised that, in any case, in order to obtain permission to proceed with the translation, the copyright in the translation project would have to be assigned to AAWS.

2. Once checked, and there has been agreement to assign the copyright to AAWS, the sample will be returned to the requesting party with either permission to proceed with the translation, or with recommendations for changes. In the latter case, the party will be requested to make further submissions until a satisfactory translation is achieved.

Upon receipt of an acceptable version of the translation, the general policies regarding possible licensing, publication, and distribution of the translation, will apply, including a determination regarding the applicability of overseas literature publication assistance.

If, after several submissions, the translator is unable to provide an acceptable translation, then the Board will consider whether any further assistance can be given in the matter. That is, based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is “yes” to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.

B. Request That AAWS Undertake A Translation

1. From time to time, AAWS will receive an external request (i.e., outside of the three corporate boards) to translate (usually, including a request to publish) a piece of literature. Based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is “yes” to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.
2. AAWS may initiate - or, initiate upon the request of the General Service Board – the development of a translation, within its own discretion. In the exercise of its discretion, all relevant factors, including need, cost, publication, pricing, distribution, and the applicability of overseas literature assistance, will be considered by the AAWS board.
3. On other occasions, between Board meetings, the General Manager, the Overseas Desk, or the Publications Department may receive a request to create a translation where the need is readily apparent, and where the expense involved will not meaningfully impact the budget. In such instances, General Manager may direct the Publications Department to begin development of the requested translation.

C. Translations Completed Without Prior Board Permission

1. When AAWS receives a translation of A.A. literature that was developed without prior permission, the Publications Department will determine whether an

approved translation already exists in the U.S. or overseas. If such a translation exists, the party submitting the translation will be informed, and will be asked to refrain from any further activity regarding the translation. If a translation does not exist, the party submitting the translation will be advised that the translation must be reviewed by a professional translation service for its consistency with the original text. The party will also be asked to defer any further activity regarding the translation until it has been checked; and will be advised that the copyright in the translation will have to be assigned to AAWS.

2. Once checked, and there has been agreement to assign the copyright to AAWS, the translation will be returned to the party submitting it with recommendations for changes, and the party will be requested to make further submissions until a satisfactory translation is achieved.

Upon receipt of an acceptable version of the translation, the general policies regarding possible licensing, publication, and distribution of the translation, will apply, including a determination regarding the applicability of overseas literature publication assistance.

If, after several submissions, the translator is unable to provide an acceptable translation, the party submitting the translation will be asked to discontinue further translation efforts, and to refrain from any further activity with respect to the translation. The Board will then consider whether any further assistance can be given in the matter. That is, based on input from the Staff member on the Overseas Assignment, the Staff generally, and the Publications Department, the Board will determine if there is a present, compelling need for the translation; and will further determine if the budget will accommodate the expense of a translation by AAWS. If the answer is “yes” to both these questions, then the Publications Department will schedule the preparation of such a translation.

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)
- ☐ Post the translated work on single website _____
(website address)

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 Alcoholic 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 by the translator 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. A.A.W.S. will provide applicant with the copyright notice page, for inclusion in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written and/or text materials. The applicant shall include the copyright notice page in the translations of books, pamphlets, and other written materials, and applicant agrees that all copies of the Licensed Work shall include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice page, as provided by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S. provided copyright notice page. A.A.W.S. will also provide applicant with the copyright notice information, and with directions regarding how and/or where, to place and/or use such information, in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs. The applicant shall include the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed as directed by A.A.W.S., in connection with translations of audio, video, audio/video works, or computer programs, and applicant agrees that all copies of such Licensed Work shall include an exact duplicate of the copyright notice information, as provided by A.A.W.S., and placed and/or used as directed by A.A.W.S., without modification, and that no copies of the work shall be published, produced or distributed without said A.A.W.S. provided copyright notice information.
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 _____, 20 ____.

Signature of Applicant _____

Name (typed) _____

Address _____

AGREED TO this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.

By _____

Name _____

Title _____

(REVISED 8/05)

Assignment of Copyright

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc (hereinafter 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.

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On Behalf Of:

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Exhibit A

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 AOSM 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 at least two days duration*
8. *Observers shall be welcome, with no voting rights, and with participation*
9. *only at the discretion of the Chairperson.*

- **These Guidelines were reviewed at the 2005, 2007, 2009 AOSMs and remain unchanged.**