



**62nd AUSTRALIAN
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (ONLINE)**

FRIDAY 6th - SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2020

CONFERENCE REPORT

Conference Theme:

I AM RESPONSIBLE

**This Conference Report is
considered a confidential
publication and ought to be used for
AA purposes only. Since this report
is a confidential AA document, for
members only, it may contain
members' full names and addresses.**

SECTION 1

INFORMATION

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2020 ZOOM MEETING AGENDA

NOTE: PRE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS -To be scheduled by any committees having to make recommendations on Action List or non-topic items.

Friday 6 November					
NSW/ACT/VIC	QLD	WA	SA	NT	
11.30am-1.00pm	10.30am-12.00pm	8.30am-10.00am	11.00am-12.30pm	10.00am-11.30am	Policies & Admissions Committee Meeting
2.30pm-4.00pm	1.30pm-3.00pm	11.30am-1.00pm	2.00pm-3.30pm	1.00pm-2.30pm	Agenda Committee Meeting
4.30pm-6.00pm	3.30pm-5.00pm	1.30pm-3.00pm	4.00pm-5.30pm	3.00pm-4.30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Saturday 7 November					
11.00am-12.00pm	10.00am-11.00am	8.00am-9.00am	10.30am-11.30am	9.30am-10.30am	Introduction to Zoom/Conference Orientation
12.00pm-12.30pm	11.00am-11.30am	9.00am-9.30am	11.30am-12.00pm	10.30am-11.30am	Recital of Declaration of Unity
					Reading of 12 Traditions (long form)
					Reading of 12 Concepts
					Roll Call
					Opening address by Chairman, General Service Board – Andy Poad
1.30pm-3.30pm	12.30pm-2.30pm	10.30am-1.30pm	1.00pm-3.00pm	12.00pm-2.00pm	Voting on recommendations from Policies & Admissions Committee
					Voting on recommendations from Conference Agenda Committee
					Voting on recommendations from Finance Committee
					Minority Voice Procedure re Topic #019/2020 – souvenir booklet.

Sunday 8 November					
NSW/ACT/VIC	QLD	WA	SA	NT	
11.00am-11.15am	10.00am-10.15am	8.00am-8.15am	10.30am-10.45am	9.30am-9.45am	Preview of day's events
11.15am-12.15pm	10.15am-11.15am	8.15am-9.15am	10.45am-11.45am	9.45am-10.45am	Voting on recommendations from committees (non topic items)
12.15pm-1.30pm	11.15am-12.30pm	9.15am-10.30am	11.45am-1.00pm	10.45am-12.00pm	Questions & Answers on Financial Report Acceptance of Financial Report.
2.30pm-2.35pm	1.30pm-1.35pm	10.30am-10.35am	2.00pm-2.05pm	1.00pm-1.05pm	Theme of Conference 2021
2.35pm-3.00pm	1.35pm-2.00pm	10.35am-11.00am	2.05pm-2.30pm	1.05pm-1.30pm	Bids for Combined National Treatment Facilities/Accessibility & Correctional Facilities Forum 2023
					Bids for National Convention 2024
					Bids for Regional Forums 2021
3.00pm-3.05pm	2.00pm-2.05pm	11.00am-11.05am	2.30pm-2.35pm	1.30pm-1.35pm	Floor Actions
3.05pm-3.30pm	2.05pm-2.30pm	11.05am-11.30am	2.35pm-3.00pm	1.35pm-2.00pm	Chairman's Closing Remarks (Andy Poad)
					Farewells

	MEETINGS	BREAKS
Friday 6 th November	1.5 hours	Nil
Saturday 7 th November	3.5 hours	1 hour
Sunday 8 th November	3.5 hours	1 hour

ROLL CALL

AREA DELEGATES

TO THE 62nd AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2020

	AREA	PANEL NUMBER	YEAR
CENTRAL REGION			
Jack S	A	61	2019
Carol R (Alternate Delegate)	B	62	2020
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
Raylene J	A		
Cliff P	B	62	2020
Bonnie I	C	61	2019
SOUTHERN REGION			
Anthony S	B	62	2020
David A	D	60	2018
Geoff S (attended as Alternate to elected delegate 2016)	F	58	2019
EASTERN REGION			
Janet M (attended as alternate 2018 – no elected delegate)	A	60	2018
Pippa O'R (Alternate Jed attended 2018)	B	60	2018
Adrian H	C	61	2019
Rangi P	D	62	2020
Lee S (Alternate)	E	61	2019
	F	62	2020
Gabrielle N	G	60	2018
Damien G (Alternate)	H	62	2020
NORTHERN REGION			
Carolyn G	A	61	2019
WESTERN REGION			
Brian D	A	61	2019
Clare S	B	61	2019

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA**

CLASS A TRUSTEES			
Ruby Jones			2017
Narelle Buchanan			2020
GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES			
Lachlan B			2018
Cheryn P			2020
REGIONAL TRUSTEES			
Stephen R		North Eastern	2019
Andy P	Chairperson	Central	2018
Judy W	Deputy Chairperson	Eastern	2019
Paul J		Western	2018
Penelope C		Southern	2018

OTHER VOTING MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

Brian S	World Service Meeting Delegate	2018
Greg B	World Service Meeting Delegate	2020
Valerie M	General Service Office Manager	1996

NON-VOTING

Tony C	General Service Office	2002
Chris S	General Service Office Office	2011
Vanda Rounsefell	Trustee Emeritus	2010

COMMITTEE	POSITION	REGION	AREA	YEAR
POLICIES & ADMISSIONS				
Carolyn G (Chair)	Delegate	NR	A	2
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	3
Clare S	Delegate	WR	A	2
Cliff P	Delegate	NER	B	1
Jack S	Delegate	CR	A	2
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	2
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
Brian S	World Service Delegate			
Non-voting observers:	<i>Judy W, Eastern Regional Trustee</i>			
	<i>Ruby Jones, Class A Trustee</i>			
PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY				
Janet M (Chair)	Delegate	ER	A	3
Anthony S	Delegate	SR	B	1
Rangi P	Delegate	ER	D	1
David A	Delegate	SR	D	3
Lee S	Alternate Delegate	ER	E	1
Damien G	Alternate Delegate	ER	H	1
Raylene J	Delegate	NER	A	1
Andy P	Chair, Trustees PI&CPC Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers:	Greg B, World Service Delegate			
	Narelle Buchanan, Class A Trustee			
FINANCE				
Bonnie I (Chair)	Delegate	NER	C	2
Brian D (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	WR	A	2
Delegate	Delegate	F	ER	
Anthony S	Delegate	B	SR	1
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	2
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	2
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	3
Carol R	Alternate Delegate	CR	B	1
Penelope C	Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee			
Chris C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers:	Lachlan Botticchio, General Service Trustee			
	Cheryn Porter, General			

	Service Trustee			
COMMITTEE	POSITION	REGION	AREA	YEAR
REMOTE COMMUNITIES				
Jack S (Chair)	Delegate	CR	A	2
Clare S (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	WR	B	2
Janet M	Delegate	ER	A	3
	Delegate	ER	F	
Damien G	Alternate Delegate	ER	H	1
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	2
Carolyn G	Delegate	NR	A	2
Raylene J	Delegate	NER	A	1
Paul J	Chair, Trustees Remote Communities Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers	Brian S, World Service Delegate			
	Narelle Buchanan, Class A Trustee			
LITERATURE				
Geoff S (Chair)	Delegate	SR	F	2
Gabrielle N (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	G	3
Rangi P	Delegate	ER	D	1
Carol R	Delegate	CR	B	1
Cliff P	Delegate	NER	B	1
Anthony S	Delegate	SR	D	1
Paul J	Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee			
Chris C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers:	Stephen Roche, North Eastern Regional Trustee			
	Judy W, Eastern Regional Trustee			
	Vanda Rounsefell, Trustee Emeritus			
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES				
Brian D (Chair)	Delegate	WR	A	2
David A	Delegate	SR	D	3
Lee S	Alternate Delegate	ER	E	1
Raylene J	Delegate	NER	A	1
Bonnie I	Delegate	NER	C	2
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	3
Delegate		ER	F	1
Andy P	Chair, Trustees' Nominating Committee			

Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers	Lachlan Botticchio, General Service Trustee			
REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL				
Pippa O (Chair)	Delegate	ER	B	3
Brian D (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	WR	A	2
Cliff P	Delegate	NER	B	1
David A	Delegate	SR	D	3
	Delegate	ER	F	3
Damien G	Alternate Delegate	ER	H	1
Paul J	Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers	Vanda Rounsefell, Trustee Emeritus			
INTERNATIONAL				
Jack S (Chair)	Delegate	CR	A	2
Lee S	Alternate Delegate	ER	E	1
Anthony S	Delegate	SR	B	1
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	3
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	2
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	2
Ruby Jones	Chair, Trustees' International Committee			
Greg B	Trustees' International Committee			
Brian S	World Service Delegate			
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers:	Narelle Buchanan, Class A Trustee			
TREATMENT & SPECIAL NEEDS				
Jack S (Chair)	Delegate	CR	A	2
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	3
Janet M	Delegate	ER	A	3
Rangi P	Delegate	ER	D	1
Damien G	Alternate Delegate	ER	H	1
Stephen Roche	Chair, Trustees' TF&A Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers	Cheryn Porter, General Service Trustee			

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES				
Adrian H (Chair)	Delegate	ER	C	2
David A (Alt Chair)	Delegate	SR	D	3
	Delegate	ER	F	3
Anthony S	Delegate	SR	B	1
Lee S	Alternate Delegate	ER	E	1
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	3
Carol R	Alternate Delegate	CR	B	1
Judy W	Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee			
Chris C	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting Observers	Brian S, World Service Delegate			
	Narelle Buchanan, Class A Trustee			
AGENDA				
Clare S (Chair)	Delegate	WR	B	2
David A (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	SR	D	3
Jack S	Delegate	CR	B	2
Cliff P	Delegate	NER	B	1
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	3
Carolyn G	Delegate	NR	A	2
Lachlan Botticchio	Chair, Trustees General Service Conference Committee			
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
Non-voting observers	Cheryn Porter, General Service Trustee			

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS (The Long Form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

One – Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Two – For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Three – Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Four – With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Five – Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Six – Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

Seven – The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Eight – Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

Nine – Each A.A. group needs the least possible organisation. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York^{*}. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine^{**}. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Ten – No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

Eleven – Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

Twelve – And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.

* Sydney

** Australian National Magazine AntennA and Newsletter AA Around Australia

THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

CONCEPT I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

CONCEPT II

When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

CONCEPT III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

CONCEPT IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation", taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

CONCEPT V

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

CONCEPT VI

On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognises that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

CONCEPT VII

The Conference recognises that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.

CONCEPT VIII

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (1) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

CONCEPT IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholic Anonymous.

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.

CONCEPT XI

While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

CONCEPT XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that through the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.

A MESSAGE FROM BILL W

Bill gave this talk in 1954 in front of a group of A.A.s in Fort Worth, Texas. He spoke at length about A.A. history, and specifically, of the development of the Third Legacy:

(A 4 minute recording of Bill delivering the following message was then played):

... So there was a long discussion, in which I had a sad falling out with a good many of my friends, some of whom had been trustees, and it was quite a bitter and harrowing chapter in our affairs, which none of you know about.

This struggle, to see whether this movement would always be headed by a self-perpetuating hierarchy of oldtimers, or whether these affairs, so vital to the welfare of A.A. all over the world, should be turned over to you.

And finally, after six years of hassling about it, I finally got the consent of the Board of Trustees to come out to you, and tell you this story and to say:

Here is a means, which in an experimental form, we have put in a pamphlet marked 'The Third Legacy.'

Here is a means by which you can get some delegates and state committeemen and send folks up to New York, to take charge and to take over what is now your business.

And so why don't you come up there and look this deal over, and the trustees will agree to make themselves responsible to you instead of to nobody.

And you look it over and see what you think about it, and if at the end of four years you like the way that it's temporarily laid out, then we'll drive a plug in this thing, then we oldtimers up there, including yours truly, will say, "Look folks, these vital services are yours, to have and to hold."

This Conference of delegates shall hereafter be the custodians and the guardians of our Traditions. This is yours. This is the remainder of your Third Legacy. Will you accept it?

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.

And I think it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over.

So, in 1955 we purpose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy.

This Conference shall become our successor.

To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.

WHY DO WE NEED A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?

The late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then Chairman of the North American Board of Trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting in New York:

“We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth which brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade AA. We need it to insure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

We need it to insure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of AA, and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is”.

DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future

To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity depends our lives
And the lives of those to come.

CONFERENCE ETIQUETTE STATEMENT

Experience has shown that the Conference will run smoothly if the following practices are adopted by all Conference members.

1. Prior to Conference, become familiar with all sections of the Conference folder, particularly the sections of committees of which you are a member.
2. Prior to Conference, become familiar with voting procedures – in committees, during full Conference sessions and the Third Legacy procedure.
3. Prior to Conference, become familiar with Conference Administrative Procedures.
4. Be punctual for committee and full Conference sessions.
5. Know what committees you are on and where they will be meeting.
6. Refrain from chatting while other Conference members are at the microphone.
7. Turn off mobile phones during committee and Conference sessions.
8. Refrain from making comments about another Conference member's personal appearance.
9. Refrain from using words that are dismissive, such as 'nonsense', 'ridiculous' etc. if you are disputing another Conference member's opinion or commenting on a topic. All topics should be treated with respect, as they have been submitted by members.
10. Please be aware that the costs of your room (for yourself), organised meals and Conference Room expenses are covered by the General Service Board. Your Area will be billed for any additional expenses you incur unless settled by the end of Conference.
11. Should you elect to make your own travel arrangements, you may submit a claim for reimbursement, providing receipts. Travel expenses cannot be offset against any hotel expenses you may have incurred.
12. Please take responsibility for your position as a Conference attendee by not unduly campaigning for or against a topic or applicant during Conference.

Advisory Action #45/2014

Conference resolved to approve the entire Conference Etiquette Statement

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD RESOLUTIONS 2020

The Board resolved that the suggested topic to the General Service Conference re replacing existing committee system with three committees be accepted.]

The Board resolved to elect Narelle Buchanan as a Class A Trustee for a five year period effective immediately. Election to be ratified by the General Service Conference.

The Board resolved that the Chairman of the General Service Board would invite members of the Board of Narcotics Anonymous to meet with them at some time during the July Board meeting to discuss issues relating to dually addicted members.

The Board resolved that the expenses for Phylis G, Fiji Delegate, to attend the General Service Conference in November 2020 be covered by the International Sponsorship Fund.

The Board resolved that the sum of USD 11,000 to be sent to GSO New York after 1st July 2020 to cover fees for delegates to attend the World Service Meeting in New York in October 2020.

The Board resolved, following feedback from the Ask It Basket at Conference last year, that a Press Release Committee be formed to facilitate regular, quality, controlled press releases. Andy P, Lachlan B and Judy W volunteered for this committee.

The Board resolved that the name of the Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee be changed to Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Committee and that the Composition, Scope & Procedure document of the committee be changed in accordance with the change of name.

The Board resolved that the Conference Treatment & Special Needs Committee should be advised of the Board's decision to change the committee's name and suggest that the Conference Committee also make this change and make the appropriate changes to their Composition, Scope & Procedure document.

The Board resolved that the viability of producing an Auslan video of the Big Book be investigated.

The Board resolved that should there be an indication that our financial position was deteriorating, our accountant, Fabian Ianiello, would be requested to institute a claim for the government assistance package available for not for profit organisations. Several years ago, the General Service Conference had approved the acceptance of subsidies, provided they were offered to everyone, not just AA. A precedent had also been set when government assistance had been sought following the collapse of the HIH Insurance Group. At that time the Board had been involved in a public liability insurance claim in a Western Australian Court.

The Board resolved that although legal advice indicated that the Board could not instruct groups on what to do it should be strongly suggested to them, in writing, that they should follow government directives re Covid-19. Any letters should be prominently displayed on our websites so that they could be easily seen and found.

It was further resolved that a letter to groups should be sent to all delegates on Wednesday 25th June, with a request that it be distributed to all members in their Areas as a matter of urgency.

The Board resolved that the physical meetings scheduled for July be cancelled, due to travel restrictions and cost, and that they be replaced with the suggested series of teleconferences. The teleconferences would be scheduled according to the wishes of the majority.

The Board resolved that Board teleconferences to discuss any Coronavirus issues would be held on an 'as necessary' basis.

The Board resolved that Cheryn P be appointed as General Service Trustee for a four year period effective immediately.

The Board resolved that Diane C be appointed as the National Remote Communities Co-ordinator for a period of four years, effective immediately.

The Board resolved that Andy P be elected as Chairman of the General Service Board for a further twelve months, effective immediately after the 2020 General Service Conference.

The Board resolved that Judy W be elected as Deputy Chairman of the General Service Board for a further twelve months, effective immediately after the 2020 General Service Conference.

SECTION 2

REPORTS

AREA DELEGATES REPORTS 2020

EASTERN REGION

Area A

Hi my name is Janet and I am an Alcoholic, currently serving as elected Delegate since December 2018. This will be my 3rd General Service Conference (GSC), attending in an Alternate Delegate capacity November 2018. It is an absolute privilege and a pleasure to do anything in Alcoholics Anonymous. I am blessed to have lovingly and encouragingly been sponsored into General Service which has been a great deal of fun and fellowship. Area A is a wonderful training ground for General Service. I love AA and I love my sober life.

2020 what a very changed year. The Covid-19 Pandemic possibly changing the world and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) forever. One comment I did hear which did make me smile, was that Covid-19 has been the best thing for AA and brought about more rapid change than ever before in AA, possibly as it has not had to go through our General Service Conference. The fellowship responded to the crisis, transforming from a largely face to face meeting fellowship, to one of an online virtual fellowship in what felt like an overnight manoeuvre; a rapid response to lockdowns and restrictions of physically meeting in our country. Our February 2020 Workshop Area Assembly, due to be held in Forster Tuncurry, was cancelled due to inclement weather and bush fires. We had not considered trialling an online platform to host an Area Assembly at that time. By the May 2020 Assembly fully embracing technology, we hosted our very first online Area A Assembly, with double the amount of member participation and group representation. This also resulted in the ability to invite National and International members to speak on requested Topics, 5 past Area A Delegates were able to attend and work the back of the virtual room.

Area A have considered an application to form 2 Areas on numerous occasions over the past decade largely due to geographical and demographic factors. Late last year this was revisited, currently put on hold. 2020 has been a very positive, progressive and unified year for Area A.

Area A is the North Eastern part of NSW, runs along the east coast from Tweed Heads to Forster Tuncurry and inland to Lightning Ridge to the NSW/QLD border, and is made of 7 Districts; The Byron Shire, Northern Rivers Central, Banana Coast, Hastings, Manning Great Lakes, New England and North East (Lightning Ridge) Most districts taking bi annual district Inventories. Our groups normally host four Area assemblies annually, location rotated around our districts. We host pre and post Conference Assemblies, an Area Inventory Assembly, Workshops and Sharing sessions over a two-year cycle. We have enjoyed the use of technology and online platforms as an Area and have met 6 additional times since May 2020. Accessibility and getting together as an Area has proved easy, increased participation, less travel requirements and reduced costs. Area A aware of the need to practice financial responsibility and transparency as we have experienced reduced 7th Tradition contributions since March 2020. It has been a pleasure to witness the current Area A chair and her online hosting skills and the current Area A committee, General Service Representatives (GSR) and members for

their patience and respect of one another during our virtual meetings, which have been quite pleasurable and fun. A Laptop and projector were purchased by Area A to host further virtual/hybrid Assemblies. The approximate 140 meetings per week held by various groups in Area A is currently in a state of flux. Some meetings have closed, some now moved permanently online, some reopening face to face and some now "hybrid" (a combination of face to face and online). Its exciting times.

The Area A Committee rotates jobs every 2nd Year in December with the exception of the Delegate and Alt Delegate who rotate every third year. Our Area Assemblies enjoy structure, process and rotation and good general service education through service sponsorship; we have a lot of fun, we insist on it. Established Districts in Area A offer service sponsorship to Districts at request. We are an Area splattered with very active pockets of enthusiasm. Our Area Committee is due for full rotation December 2020. Area A enjoys Districts passionately operating with growing enthusiastic participation in service, groups carrying a strong AA message. Carrying the message in Treatment & Correctional Facilities (T&CF) reduced and changed this year. Many facilities remain closed/under restriction to public access. Facilities in Area A have been enjoying the accessibility of joining AA meetings as groups online. Area A agreed in May 2020 to produce and fund new, current and Australian digital productions for use in T&CF for clients and staff. Narelle Buchannan Class A Trustee has offered her support (finances have been set aside for the project and a subcommittee formed). The largest Correctional Facility in the Southern Hemisphere capacity of 1700 offenders, is now situated in the centre of Area A, Grafton. A Public Information Initiative of information/literature packs for Police and Schools was supported by Area A in May, and the past few months Districts have been supplying the packs where needed. The Byron Shire District produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Covid-19 relevant; a 30 second TV commercial which Area A then supported financially. The PSA played on prime-time TV for 3 months within Area A and is available to any Area that might wish to make use of it. Current Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI&CPC) projects within Area A; looking at production of new/current Radio ads. An initiative reaching out to residential care homes requesting if there is a need for AA within the facilities, and setting up a monthly virtual PI&CPC breakfast meeting as a trial, opening a virtual room once a week for 15 minutes for Professionals to visit with any questions and information they may have regarding AA. Area A has no physical Central Service Office (CSO) however some districts are now operating as virtual CSOs, performing the work of a district and CSO both, carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Literature Sales are reported to be reduced since March 2020. The last Rally that I physically attended was in Armidale February 2020. The New England District already talking about a "hybrid" Rally January 2021. Rallies and Events within Area A have largely been cancelled since March due to social distancing/large gathering restrictions and public health requirements.

Area A also enjoys frequent participation of past Area A Delegates and Trustees at District and Area meetings, to work the back of the room offering guidance and sharing knowledge when requested. I have enjoyed attending groups and District meetings online around Area A since March 2020. The Delegate's job is demanding, a huge commitment and large work load. In my experience an invaluable lesson in growing spiritually and rewarding. Following our Area Inventory in February 2019, Area A remains committed to foster Service sponsorship, consider the best ways to perform CSO functions across Area A. Additional new representatives GSRs and members are welcomed to Area Assemblies. Area publicly thank those that complete projects, has

started a list of Area A achievements for the information of the groups, report back to the groups on the progress of Area decisions, and are currently investigating an orientation booklet for Area service. We routinely ask for the Minority Voice after every Area decision.

The ER Delegate get togethers this year concentrated on the ER Forum, which was sadly cancelled due to the Pandemic. My hope is that these get togethers outside of the General Service Conference may continue and be steeped in AA Tradition and Concepts, educational, and a place to share Area ideas and to support newly elected Delegates. There has been a huge amount of General Service events and workshops hosted internationally and easily accessible, over the past 6 months that many Area A members have enjoyed and attended; especially Tradition and Concept workshops. The Area Chair and myself were welcomed to an Area Assembly in Boston Massachusetts which was a fantastic experience.

In May Area A made a suggestion to the Agenda Committee, that an opportunity for a Delegate/Trustee and General Service Office staff member to part attend an online overseas General Service Conference (GSC) for the experience, may be of benefit to the GSC of Australia. Unfortunately, this was a late suggestion for 2020 but could be considered early for 2021. Area A fully supported the idea of inviting x2 Registered observers to the GSC to assist with taking a GSC Inventory, last formally taken in 1994. Area A consider this long overdue. Approach to the Policies and Admissions Committee early in the year is required for this to be considered. Possibly an approach for January 2021.

Area A have valued the quarterly General Service Board (GSB) Newsletters and the post board meeting updates from the Current ER Trustee; the Group Conscience of Area A grateful that fiduciary duty better demonstrated in the GSB Newsletters.

ONGOING CONCERNS: The Groups of Area A have expressed ongoing concerns about the following: The current General Service structure and its challenges. The ongoing lack of 2/3rds Majority of Delegates at the GSC, due to be revisited this year with a recommendation from the Delegates Agenda Committee (this year sees 17 Delegates and 14 General Service Board members seated at Conference). The continued lack of the spiritual principle of Rotation in our General Service Structure (conference committee co-ordination) and future employment within the GSO. Area A are constantly looking at and discussing AA as a whole and AA general service, and how the still suffering alcoholic can find AA. The "Burden" financial and travel related, versus the face to face spiritual experiences, General Service education, fun and fellowship in Area A general service, is to be workshopped in October 2020. There seems a place for both and finding a balance is on the Areas agenda. How can we be best effective, and is this service necessary always considered? Area A may be one of the more demanding Areas as we keep pushing the envelope and asking the sometimes-difficult questions. Bill W suggested AA needed Visionaries. Concept IX reminds me of the Principles of flexibility, tolerance, vision and an essence of prudence.

What I have learnt whilst serving as Delegate is that I need to apply spiritual principles into all of my relationships and abandonment of self-vital. It is an absolute privilege to serve as Area A ER Delegate and I am very much looking forward to attending The 2020 Annual General Service Conference Virtually. Historic times in AA.

Janet M
Area A Eastern Region Delegate
janetoz3@hotmail.com

Area B

My name is Pip and I am an alcoholic. This is my third and final year serving as Delegate. I will be rotating out in December this year. Currently there is no replacement.

Area B covers the ACT and South Eastern NSW extending from Batemans Bay South to the Victorian border and Westwards along the Victorian border to Tumut, Canberra, Mittagong and Braidwood. Canberra hosts approximately 40 meetings per week and the broader region host a further 40 meetings weekly. Many meetings operate without Group Service Representatives (GSRs). There are only 8 registered GSRs in the Area but we currently have an active Registrar.

Committee Representation

For many years Area B has struggled to be self-supporting in service. In 2019 we held a combined Election/Topics for Conference Assembly on May 18th 2019. Following Third Legacy elections for the Chair, Secretary and B-Line editor roles, all Committee positions were filled except the Coordinator roles for PI/CPC, Treatment Facilities and Special Needs (TF/SN) and Correctional Facilities Group (CFG). These roles were subsequently filled although the PI/CPC Coordinator has since resigned.

Communications Coordinator

Area B continues to experience problems communicating with the Fellowship. The Committee believes that this is a major reason for lack of GSRs in the Area. Currently the Area B Line Newsletter and a Google Group email list are our principle means of communicating with the Region. We have small website presence on the Canberra CSO website however, communication via this mechanism is largely ineffective, especially given that half the Area lies outside of the ACT border.

We perceive that a large part of our problem is communication. Since we are without Districts in our service structure it is difficult to communicate with and engage the wider region including the Southern Highlands, Eurobodalla, Monaro, and Goulburn/Braidwood.

To address the Committee has drafted a position description for a Comms Coordinator whose principle responsibility will be to create more efficient methods of communicating with the broader Area. We are currently recruiting to this role.

Fires, Floods and Pestilence

Much of Area B was severely impacted by the January bushfires. At the time, members on the Monaro, Eurobodalla, Far South Coast and Southern Highlands struggled with the devastation. The Area B Committee contacted Groups within the effected regions to provide whatever support we could. All Groups contacted reported they were "OK for now".

In February, shortly after the bushfires, our members were hit by significant flooding. The South Coast and Eurobodalla took a severe beating. This placed members under significant stress with some remaining homeless after the fires.

And then along came COVID-19. I'm sure most Area's experienced a degree of disharmony during the initial COVID period as Groups and members struggled to come to terms with the loss of F2F meeting and transition to on-line meetings. This more than anything rocked the world of our fire effected regions.

A conversation with a member from the Eurobodalla brought home to me the magnitude of what they were experiencing. The loss of homes, businesses, jobs was a significant burden. With many still homeless, communities were faced with the reality that their insurance assessments, demolitions, asbestos removal and rebuilding was to be delayed indefinitely. Added to this was the closure of our lifeline: AA meetings. Our member was certain her community was likely to experience an increase in suicide.

In response, the Area Committee determined the we must support regional communities to adjust to on-line AA.

Area ZOOM

Area B purchased two (2) ZOOM Accounts and our Alternate Delegate, Jethro R, single handedly set up on-line AA meetings for Groups across the Area. Regional meetings were given priority.

Within a week we had spread the word and Groups were signing up to hold their meetings. We held several ZOOM workshops for members to practice hosting and logging on, wrote directions for logging on, hosting and ensuring security.

It was incredible to see the on-line Area develop and we owe much to the dedicated service of our Alternate Delegate, who will be rotating out in November. We are saddened that his circumstances prevent him from serving as our next Delegate.

While most of our meetings have returned to F2F, some groups continue to meet online and are enriched by the experience, strength and hope of members visiting from interstate and overseas. Several Groups maintain an online presence despite meeting F2F.

Communication

Communication has been an ongoing problem for our Area. Our B-Line Editor has been experiencing difficulties distributing notices; the CSO webmaster did not receive notification of the Assembly, the Registrar continues to struggle with updating the Group Registry.

To address this, the Area Committee have created a Communications Role, which we are currently recruiting to. We intend to develop a website presence similar to Area D Southern Region, that performs the following functions:

- Area B Contact details
- Newsfeed
- Discussion forums for PI&CPC, Treatment Facilities and CFT Groups so that interested members throughout the region have the opportunity to engage and participate
- GSR Registration
- Area Assembly notifications
- Area Event notifications
- Meetings list
- CSO tabs
- Area Committee Meeting Minutes postings
- GSR Information
- Conference Topic and Board Newsletters

Assemblies

Traditionally Area B has only held 3 assemblies annually: an election assembly in February, a Topics for Conference Assembly in May, and a Pre-Conference Assembly in October. This year we voted to follow the ER Area A model and adopt 4 Assemblies a year that includes biannual Committee elections at the Post-Conference Assembly. The February Assembly will alternate between a Workshop Assembly and Inventory Assembly. This process has the advantage of a complete Committee working together for 2 years.

Workshop Assembly

Our Workshop Assembly was to have been held in February at Wombeyan Caves. Unfortunately, the bushfires saw the closure of all National Parks. The Wombeyan Caves Wilderness weekend organising committee managed to find an alternate venue at the last minute.

The pre COVID event was held F2F over 1 day in Canberra. Our workshop, "Traditions in Relationships", welcomed AI-Anon participation. It was exciting to see the level of interest in the topic as well as the enthusiasm with which a group of older, sober members took on responsibility for developing and coordinating the workshop.

Founder's Day

This year, Area B's Founder's Day celebrations were held via ZOOM with AI-Anon participation. The event was organised by an energetic and committed group of six (6) members from the Committee and Eurobodalla Coast. Meetings were hosted by various Groups, including Daily Reprieve and Bermagui.

The celebrations commenced with an Early Bird 11th Step meeting. The welcome meeting featured AA, AI-Anon and Alateen members sharing their experience, strength and hope. Highlight of the day included video footage of Bill and Lois at Stepping Stones; an Emotional Sobriety workshop ably hosted by Marie T, our Registrar; and a Trivia Quiz, hosted by Jed, our Alternate Delegate. 7th Tradition collections provided much needed funds for Area and GSO as well as the Brown Paper Bag Appeal.

Area B CSO Amalgamation

Along with establishing and supporting digital meetings, our primary project this year has been the establishment of an Amalgamation Sub-Committee to investigate the request from one Group that the Area and CSO amalgamate their services.

The Sub-Committee consisted of 5 Committee members. The group did a wonderful job examining the arguments for and against the amalgamation. In the end it was determined that this would not solve the difficulty of attracting sufficient members to engage in service at Area level. Instead energy should be directed toward establishing Districts within the Area.

Eastern Regional Forum

Following Area B's agreement to host the 2020 Eastern Regional Forum, several members met in February over a bowl of dumplings to begin the organising task. At this meeting we reviewed the purpose of the Regional Forum and discussed some of the service needs arising from Conference, namely improving the connection between the AA groups, the GSB and the GSO and mechanisms for encouraging enthusiasm and functionality within the service structure.

As such we made several decisions relating to timing, venue location and programming. Agreeing on the Topic "Service Saves Lives", we invited Andy P (GSB Chair and PI/CPC Trustee) and Ruby Jones (GSB Class A Trustee) to speak on their experiences of AA Service and the GSB. Believing that the Third Legacy was also an important topic for the Forum, we invited Chris and David to deliver their Concept Workshop.

Then COVID came and we were forced to review our ideas for the Forum. Several discussions were had with the ER Delegate Group until an impasse was reached in June. As such we decided to cancel the ER Forum.

Group Service Representation

Area Assemblies are held quarterly and historically, have been poorly attended by GSRs, especially from the Eurobodalla, Monaro and the South Coast. GSRs from Goulburn, the Southern Highlands and Canberra are more regular attendees.

Informing Groups of their important role in the General Service Structure seems to have had a positive impact on GSR engagement at Area. Each Committee meeting since the Assembly has seen approximately 5 Groups represented.

Our Registrar has been hard at work obtaining contact details for GSRs and meetings. We are hosting our Pre-Conference Assembly together with a Concepts Workshop on October 10th. We hope to see increased engagement from Groups facilitated in part by the option for regional GSRs to participate via conference call.

Financial Position

Financially Area B is in a strong financial position. Along with our Conference levy's we have also made contributions to GSO. COVID-19 activities on ZOOM have helped us to raise awareness of the South Coast Group participation in Area and this has helped bolster some financial support. Although our position has been assisted by

Correctional Facilities

Our success attracting members to serve on Area B is also reflected in the activity of the Correctional Facilities Team (CFT). Currently, both the men and women detained within the AMC again receive regular, weekly AA meetings and, for those who so desire, additional sponsorship visits.

The CFT Group are looking at ways to better support detainees following their release. It is hope that we can also expand this service to support meetings at the Goulburn and Cooma gaols.

Treatment Facilities

Area B has recruited a Treatment Facilities Coordinator. There are a number of difficulties accessing Treatment facilities with COVID-19 restrictions, however we has some discussion with David and Chris from the Illustrated Steps regarding presenting a ZOOM Steps workshop to our local treatment facilities. Our CFT and TF coordinators participated on the TF and CFT Forum hosted by Area G in August.

Public Information and Cooperation with Professional Communities

Unfortunately, our PI&CPC Coordinator has had to resign her position. We are hoping to recruit to this position after the positional rotations in December .

B-Line Newsletter

The B-Line Newsletter is Area’s monthly publication outlining local and National AA events and member stories. It is distributed to GSRs and interested members via email. Members are encouraged to print copies off and have them available at meetings. The editor continues to experience difficulties accessing material for publication and distribution.

I am looking forward to attending my second Conference this year although it will be a vastly different experience. I am disappointed that we are unable to meet F2F, but believe that there have been many positive outcomes associated with ZOOM meetings and am convinced this will also be the case for Conference 2020.

Yours in service,
Pip
Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region

Area C

Report not received.

Area D

Greetings all,

My name is Rangimarie P and I'm an alcoholic and my Home Group is the "Caringbah Unity Group" in Sydney, NSW. Our Group hosts four meetings a week, one Zoom only and three hybrid meetings, as follows, a hybrid BB Study Meeting, a hybrid Steps and Traditions Meeting, a Zoom only Beginners Meeting and a hybrid ABSI meeting. It was suggested to mention my Home Group in any report to the General Service Conference as this is where my journey in Service began many years ago with the array of service opportunities ensuring my commitment to our Group. From there being introduced to Service within the wider Fellowship i.e T & CF coordinator, PI & CPC, Chairperson and recently Area D delegate.

Eastern Region Area D is a geographic area which stretches from Camden in Sydney's west, as far north as Horsely Park and Smithfield, through suburbs that include Croydon, Ashfield and Summer Hill and east to Kurnell and Bundeena and then south through the Illawarra and as far south as Berrara in the Shoalhaven.

Area D each week hosts over 100 meetings p/w and growing, with the current epidemic many groups have had to adapt like the rest of the worldwide fellowship moving online temporarily for some and recently a good few that we know of have returned to their respective venues holding either face to face or hybrid meetings. There is word that isolated members have joined some of these hybrid groups bridging the gap and ensuring participation. The Covid experience has had amazing outcomes under the current climate with God continuously revealing more, enabling members to communicate with each other, as groups make themselves accessible to the newcomers and the isolated.

Area D convenes four Area Assemblies annually, currently we have moved to Zoom which has greatly provided easier access for isolated members to attend for the first time. This will continue until further notice.

Sharing Sessions and Workshops are included in Assemblies where possible. The Macarthur District has been represented by their District Committee Member alongside a small but steady GSR attendance. Also a big thanks to all Groups and the Macarthur District who have contributed financially to the Area. This allows us to stay active in our Service efforts within the Area and continue to send our Delegate to the General Service Conference.

Between Area Assemblies much of our communication happens through WhatsApp which makes it easy to work in groups. GSR's and other members can be invited into the group and therefore stay informed of current AA service opportunities, upcoming events and matters affecting AA as a whole. Flyers, reports and both Area agendas and minutes are posted.

This is my first Pre General Service Conference Report and I would like to thank all members who currently serve on the Area D Committee. Not all service positions are filled but recently some interest in filling

T & CF Coordinator position has had some interest. Our Registrar role has been split into four areas of North, west, east and south so to help cover such a large area. Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community.

There was great confusion surrounding our insurance with attendees hoping for more assistance from the board on how to conduct our currently opened meetings, as it worked out it was clear that no insurance company covers epidemics despite some claims that it was possible. The conscience then moved to abide by all current control measures to ensure safe access to our AA meetings.

T&CF

With many facilities in treatment closing their doors for now we have seen many institutions attend meeting via zoom, some members doing great service facilitating Zoom H&I which is also great work. The South Coast Correctional Gaol has shown interest in AA participation but recently has put all plans with AA on hold for now.

Events

With many events being cancelled this year
There have been groups in Area D holding some wonderful events, Zoomerang and ANZAA were amongst some of them.

I recently attended the National T&CF forum hosted by Area G which was amazingly well facilitated ensuring solid communications amongst members with some great speakers from many facilities in and outside of AA. A Longbay Correctional Gaol forensics hospital speaker, also Corrections speakers, VPI and many others. Thanks to Area G and assisting others for a great job.

Thanks to GSB chairperson Andy for offering any assistance moving forward as this delegate tries to navigate and serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in this upcoming term.

Yours in Service Rangimarie Popata
Eastern Region Area D Delegate

Area E

Report not received

Area F

Delegate not appointed

Area G

Hello, my name is Gabrielle and I am an alcoholic and the Area G Delegate from the Eastern Region. This is my 3rd year and I am glad that I stepped up and took the position for my Area. I am also glad that I have stuck it out and (at the time of writing this report) intend to see 3 conferences.

Area G is the smallest area in geography in the country, but we have the largest population. We are lucky in the sense that many of our members are tech savvy. This

year we picoted along with the rest of Australia onto online meetings. Members from Area G were instrumental in initiating and delivering a how to guide that we sent to Australian AAs at large, as well as being instrumental in the creation of the aonline website which also directed members through the early weeks of zoom, zoom bombers, ever evolving security settings and meeting protocols.

Area G has supported the continuance of our support for the Rehabs in Sydney by creating a treatment Zoom account that is used weekly for different rehabs in Area G, Members also have created many personal accounts to continue these relationships and in some case strengthen the bond between AA and the rehabs where going to meetings was no longer possible.

In August 2020 we held a successful online Treatment and Corrections forum. It was well attended and served to invigorate the nation in the realm of service in these areas. Much thanks go to the committee that did such a wonderful job shifting from an in-person event to an online forum in a matter of weeks.

Area G has continued to meet with increased numbers due to the relative ease of a zoom meeting compared to finding parking in Sydney. This quick adaption to a new medium is very exciting, for all meeting goers, not just Area G. Of course, we have seen some meetings fold, due to not enough technical experience in the members, but we have also seen new ones created.

Its been an exciting time to serve.

Area G looks to the future as always, aiming for unity and not afraid to call out where the best could yet be done.

Gabrielle

I am responsible

Conference 2020

I am responsible – when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there. And let it begin with me.

Hello. My name is Gabrielle and I am an Alcoholic. I am a third-year delegate from Area G in the Eastern Region of Australia.

I don't have much to add to the responsibility statement above. I think it sums up what we are here for and the ethos that needs to lie underneath all efforts in 12th step work, in fellowship and in service.

What I have found in the last three years of serving at conference is this: for the hand of AA to always be there we need to make sure we don't tear ourselves apart.

To do this, we need discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity, we need right of participation and right of decision, we need a well heard minority and we need a grievance procedure. We need patience, tolerance, kindness, and love for all members not just the ones who have a similar view to our own.

We need to each be constantly vigilant in clearing the resentment, selfishness, dishonesty and fear that block each of us off from God n a daily basis – so that the voice of God can be heard in our group conscience – not the rabble of conflicting egos.

I believe well all want the hand of AA to always be there... but that - like all good intentioned people we can get lost in the red tape and bureaucracy, the politics, the self will run riot..

I don't think that any one person or group of people has the power to destroy what God has clearly built in AA.

I think that in order to be personally responsible I need to be empowered to talk, to act, to make decisions, to ask for more time and to bring up the difficult areas into the light so that as a fellowship we can all move forward without trampling anyone or cutting anyone out or off.

AA Australia has a grand opportunity in front of it. we can move together one day at a time towards unity as guided by god. Provided we take personal responsibility to get ourselves out of the way.

Listen. Pray, be guided, and have the courage to speak up when. If members feel empowered (and safe) enough to do this - the hand of AA will always be there because we won't be leaving groups behind or pushing groups away that have a different view. Conference is difficult water to navigate, it is a challenge to communication, there is a LOT of sifting through opinion to get to fact. It takes a lot of energy to become fully informed and the bar is always moving. This is not something to be afraid of. There is no prize for being the first and no punishment for being the last. The only requirement for membership is that I count myself in and stay.

So, I hope conference 2020 - cut down version that it is, is good for everyone, for AA, and that we move on to the future together in the knowledge that when called, we showed up and did our best.

Area H

Hello. My name is Damien G and I am an alcoholic. I am a member of the Blaxland Primary Purpose Group in the Blue Mountains of NSW. I am the current PI&CPC Coordinator and Alternate Delegate for Area H. Our area covers much of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains and we host up to 90 meetings per week (pre-covid-19). Many groups have switched their meeting/s to Zoom, and a small percentage are now back to face-to-face meetings with a few conducting hybrid meetings both in-person and online.

Due to the sudden resignation of our current Delegate, I have the privilege of serving the Area and Fellowship as Alt. Delegate for Conference 2020. Currently in our Area, we have the active participation of 6-8 groups, with attendance at quarterly Assembly averaging approx.12-14 members including observers. Since March 2020, Assemblies have moved effortlessly onto the Zoom platform and have been well attended. There have also been multiple special assemblies called to explain and discuss Topics and the Options for Conference 2020: unfortunately, Area H voted unanimously for a full conference (Option 4) and were therefore not given the opportunity to be influential in the choice of Topics which were to be deemed "Important", two of which our groups and

Assembly had developed and submitted successfully only to have them passed over to Conference 2021.

With the resignation of our Delegate, the state of the Area Office Holders was as follows:

Delegate – Vacant, Group Registrar – Vacant, Hospitals and Institutions – Vacant, Correctional Facilities -Vacant

Chairperson – rolling off November 2020, Secretary – rolling off November 2020, Treasurer – rolling off February 2021, PI&CPC – rolling off June 2021.

At our last Assembly in August, a new H&I Coordinator and a new Corrections Coordinator were nominated and voted in, and it was agreed that the Alt. Delegate would continue as such until a voting Assembly in February 2021 where we could take stock of the state of our Area and provide time for reflection and suggestions as to how we can better serve the groups to whom we are answerable and participate more fully and actively in the General Service Structure.

We continue to work in harmony with the Blue Mountains Western Sydney CSO, who have recently been given access to the building which contains their office and supplies in Kingswood and are operating as normal currently. This committee also operates the 24-hr helpline and coordinates a roster of local 12-Steppers to answer incoming calls and allocate active members to 12th step calls when required.

Despite a noticeable reduction in contributions from many local groups, Area H remains fully self-supporting with a healthy prudent reserve and funds available for future PI&CPC, Correctional Facilities and Hospitals & Institutions initiatives. At the time of writing, we have not been officially informed on the cost of Conference 2020 nor the individual amounts each Area will be required to contribute and we remain ready and willing to pass that on as soon as it is established and communicated.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, lockdowns, closures and limitations, our PI&CPC Committee has remained active throughout. A workshop was held at the end of 2019 which was enthusiastically attended by 16 members from 9 groups within the area. Subsequently, many groups began distributing business cards to local doctors surgeries and medical centres and were encouraged to follow up with the delivery of Professional Packs and an introduction letter. Many posters were placed in previously untouched Community Noticeboards. Several groups have initiated a Street Library program, where a Big Book is placed in the many and varied street libraries which are popping up in many communities. An organised review of all websites which deal with Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Drinking, etc has begun with the goal to have AA listed in the “Where to get help” section of each and every one. Our first success was with the “Drinkwise” website, who until recently did not list AA as a resource for helping problem drinkers! A few members were also successful in having an article written in their local papers regarding both the 75th Birthday of AA in Australia, 85th Worldwide and also our response to COVID-19 and how newcomers can find us when we are not physically present at our respective meeting venues. Articles appeared in the Western Weekender, The Blue Mountains Gazette and their respective online and Facebook versions as well.

Since electing new office holders, our participation in H&I visits to St John of God hospitals in Burwood and North Richmond have recommenced and in the Corrections portfolio, there has been much investigation into accessing those within our Area through Zoom. One flailing roster has been reinvigorated through the use of Zoom and the enthusiasm of members to organise and support Monday and Thursday AA Zoom meetings at Bolwara Transitional Centre in Emu Plains. The use of Zoom has opened this service up to members from other Areas to participate. Some joint initiatives are also in action to supply local Courthouses and Corrections Offices with AA literature both for potential members and the professionals who work with them upon release from jails and institutions.

I look forward to attending my first General Service Conference and preparing a report to present at our next Area Assembly in mid-November. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Damien G

Alt. Delegate, Eastern Region, Area H.

SOUTHERN REGION

Area B

Hi, my name is Anthony and I am an alcoholic. My home group is Saturday Night Living Sober in Eaglehawk. I was elected as the Area B Delegate of the Southern Region in May 2020.

What to write for a Delegates report?

Well, I could express hope and optimism, as past Delegates have done, even though there has been an appalling and continued decline in attendance at Area Assemblies. This area is, in actual fact, an Area in name only, affecting little to nothing in the way of carrying of the message to and fro.

I certainly am not criticising past delegates, I know some personally and have observed them working very hard to overcome this trend and I applaud their efforts. However, I do have a different view to those past Delegates as to how this problem needs to be addressed. First, we need to be up front and acknowledge the true state of the Area. Further, I would say that we need to acknowledge the truth about the state of the Southern Region (SR).

In the six Areas of the SR only Area D functions moderately well. Area B has a single functioning district, which provides most of the attendees to area assemblies, total attendance typically 6. And Area F, still in its establishment and building phase, having only recently been created in late 2016, again total attendance typically 6. The creation of Area F was largely necessary due to the chaotic state the SR finds its self in. Whilst service meeting attendance in AA is always lacklustre, this is a dramatic decline in the SR's from some years ago, to say attendance in the SR has been decimated is truly an understatement.

The elephant in the room. Most in service know and understand what created the problems of the SR, I need not speak of it. Ahhh, and therein lies the issue! Observing from within the SR, it appears to me, that all efforts to move beyond the 'unspoken' have largely employed the 'not addressing' it approach. 12 years into the dramatic decline of AA service in the SR and its current state, leads one to ask, is this truly an effective strategy?

My time in AA has taught me that the best approach to life is to be honest, face up to my difficulties and deal with them in the best and fairest manner I can. Also, in that time I have been involved in several AA District and Area inventories. The most recent inventory was to address and overcome tremendous difficulties and entrenched unspoken beliefs and positions that had arisen over the years of the SR's decline. It required a simple but sometimes brutally **honest** "fact finding mission" to establish the effectiveness of our carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic. The outcome was a much healthier District with generally better than 50% group attendance and more excitingly, many young in sobriety representatives on the committee.

A resolution, which I'm told is near, between the two entities that first created the SR service decline will not bring the groups back to the fold. The groups, as I did through this period, realised that it is not the groups who are lost in the wilderness. The groups do not need the GSS but the GSS surely needs the groups. The AA message is simply more effectively carried with the aid of a well functioning GSS.

In my experience, the GSS appears to have established its own character. It talks of the apathy of the groups and them not turning up. It talks of the dissident, corrupt, even criminal elements and their conspiracy theories, a very convenient way to dismiss any and all unwanted concerns. Even if those concerns are poorly expressed. To my mind, that is simply the GSS expressing its EGO and self importance.

The GSS should keep in mind that it is there to serve the groups of Australia so as to better carry the message and if it is not communicating with the groups then its primary purpose is not being achieved. Until the GSS remembers the **service** element of its title, I believe, the poor attendance and continued decline of service meetings will continue. On a secondary thought stemming from the first. Of a decision made at conference I hear people say "It's the voice of AA Australia" or "the AA groups have spoken". Has it really, when we are lucky to have maybe 15% or 20% (very optimistic) of groups active in the GSS in the SR?

The GSS of Australia established some fifty years ago, in my view and many others, has effectively become almost completely disconnected from the groups of the SR. This is gravely concerning for those of us in the SR. I certainly don't have the answer to this problem but might I suggest that it begins with open and honest communication with the groups.

Open and honest communications have been the main stay of my personal recovery. It has also led me to a quality work life with severely disadvantaged youth, establishing trusting and respectful relationships. This was always achieved with honest dialogue and a real preparedness to listen to all that was said and to try to understand. People need to feel heard as part of feeling respected.

Anyway, those are my thoughts on a beginning of how we in the SR move forward. Ignoring the issue and hoping it goes away does not solve the problem, never has and never will.

Anthony S.

Area B Delegate Southern Region.

Area C

No delegate

Area D

Report not received

Area E

No delegate.

Area F

We're all well aware of the difficulties this year, so for my report I'd like (as much as possible) to try to stick to the good things, opportunities and ideas for longer term that have happened since last Conference. It will be a privilege to serve at the first ever AA General Service Conference online – sharing my 50th birthday with a Zoom full of recovered alcoholics was never on my agenda but now I can think of no better way to spend it. More fun ways yes... but none better!

Committee changes - our Registrar left the Area committee in March and we have not been able to find a member willing to take on the role yet. Between the Secretary and Delegate, with some help from one of the DCMs we have managed to keep our contact list updated and indeed even expand it. On the upside we have voted in a Chair who will have chaired his first (Zoom) Assembly in October. At that October Assembly we also have a nominee for Alt-Delegate and for a new Treasurer.

The switch to video-conferencing meetings happened astonishingly quickly. The Area F committee spoke on a Friday evening about how Area could support groups and possibly start some online meetings. By Saturday evening the members had locked in 10 video meetings, by the following week it was the norm. Who says alcoholics don't deal well with change?

Going online has been a big bonus to me as Area Delegate. It has allowed me to observe all the other Area Assemblies in Southern Region, learn new things and meet new people. I've also been able to continue educating myself about our fellowship by attending many Concepts and Traditions meetings both here in Australia and around the world. I find it so much clearer to understand when I hear how issues have been addressed and demonstrated in action rather than just reading them in the AA Literature. To that end at Area F we hope to start a Concepts/Service discussion meeting based in

Melbourne in the new year, which we would intend to go in-person when that becomes a possibility. By Conference 2020 I will have spoken on a panel for a 'Buzz Session' for District 23 in Greensboro NC exploring how to support newcomers to get to online meetings, and how to help old-timers transition if they are struggling with technology. The energy and enthusiasm and numbers of involved members over there is inspirational – I am keenly observing to bring back what tips and tricks I can to help attract more participation here at home.

Inner City District (ICD) have been active in 2020 (as usual) and held a Drs and Health Professionals Information Breakfast in the City. Unfortunately, it happened a day or two before the first lockdown so attendance although pleasing was maybe less than they had hoped. Still the feedback and follow up was very positive and they will look to repeat this annually. In between times they aim to hold similar events online – the first was run in August and was a similar success.

Other ICD highlights include the start of an online Concepts presentation series – Concepts 1-3 were covered by our Southern Regional Trustee. I shall be looking through the Conference attendees for potential presenters for the remaining Concepts!

I have also had the pleasure of being involved with helping to organize the Southern Regional ~~Forum Frenzy~~ for 2020 which started in September and will continue over the remaining months. We opted for a series of short sharp presentations, Q&As, panel chats, interviews, and videos to cover a range of themes that were suggested by a survey of members. Discussing these themes and how to present them has been an exciting challenge. BY conference we will have run the Finances in AA theme, and a Consideration of hybrid and online meetings into the future.

I have also met members in Tasmania (Area E- no delegate). There are a number there who want to get working together to start to link to the General Service Structure again. I have been passing on communications and announcements and have invited them to attend our Area F Topics Assembly. They have also asked that we work together to run a Service workshop in the New Year for interested members. Fingers crossed!

I also wanted to thank all the other conference members over the last year for the work put in and in particular the GSO staff who must be facing the organisational nightmare of all organisational nightmares herding us all through Committee meetings and on towards an online conference.

Looking forward to waving to everyone in November.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

Area A

My name is Raylene I am an alcoholic and I am a member of the Gordonvale QLD Chapter 6 Meeting in the Cairns District. This is my first year as Delegate after being nominated in at the Area A Assembly 4th July 2020.

Area A is made up of 3 Districts. Central QLD district (Mackay) which extends south to just north of Rockhampton; North QLD District (Townsville) and Far North District (Cairns) which extends up to the Torres Strait Islands. At our last Area A Assembly on the 4th July 2020 a new committee was formed, members rotated off and changed positions. All positions are now full. Financially, the Area is currently sitting above prudent reserve. However, once the yearly Levies have been paid, the prudent reserve will be under again. The Far North District made a generous donation this year which has helped immensely.

Central QLD District

Mackay District is going well and currently has all positions filled on the District Committee. At present Mackay has 9 face to face meetings. Zoom was well attended during Covid and the fellowship is experiencing growth after the lifting of restrictions.

Mackay has a few PI activities happening in and around the area. Sarina and Mackay have regular pamphlet drops in different places like rehab and ATODS. The number of 12 Step calls vary weekly and Mackay has a roster for the 24-hour phone line.

North QLD District

Townsville had a new committee voted in earlier this year. It was Townsville's turn to hold the Annual Round up this year, however this was cancelled due Covid-19 along with Townsville's annual Living Sober Weekend. The annual roundup rotates between Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. Townsville's 12 Step work is inclusive of a 24-hour phone line, a Central Service Office and visits to the Stuart Correctional Facility.

Far North QLD District

Cairns District is currently holding a District meeting monthly via Zoom due to Covid-19. Most positions are filled except for the Alt DCM. Most of Cairns initiatives have been put on hold this year due to Covid-19, including the Regional Forum. A District Workshop Subcommittee has been formed. Cairns also has a Central Service Office.

PI – CPC:

The PI and CPC committee have been unable to attend locations physically this year but literature is still being dropped off.

Cairns – Lotus Glen Correctional Facility:

The Lotus Glen Facility was last visited in March 2020. The facility was closed to visitors and went into Stage 3 lock down due to Covid-19. The prison has since re-opened. Volunteers are lacking despite appeals for more help. This may lead to visits being deferred until more help is available.

Cooktown:

Cooktown will be holding a back to Cooktown Weekend from the 27 – 29 of November.

I look forward to joining you all at the Zoom Conference this year.

Yours in Service.

Raylene J

North East Region, Area A Delegate

Area B

Hi. My name is Cliff and I am an Alcoholic. This is a wonderful privileged to be serving as Delegate for Area B in the North Eastern Region. This is my first year in this position, and my first report to Conference.

Area B in the North Eastern Region runs through the center of Queensland starting north of the Brisbane River extending up to Rockhampton and stretching out across to the South Australian Border.

What an unexpected start for my first year as Delegate watching all the changes happening through AA around the world. As all meetings where being closed and moving to online, there was many adjustments members had to overcome and adapt to the new way of doing meetings. As the online meetings progressed members found it wonderful that they were able to attend meetings all over the world. One major advantage that came out of the online meetings is that it brought members from the Far Western Districts closer to the fellowship. This has aloud them to be able to attend meetings with more than just two or three people and has also given them the opportunity to attend the Area Assemblies.

We currently have three Districts in Area B and it was wonderful to see how they adapted to the swift changes of the meetings moving to online. There were many issues at the beginning with the Zoom and as time passed members became more familiar with the program and have developed a much smoother process with their online meetings. Meetings are now starting to reopen this has become another challenge that members have to face by setting up the meetings following the AA structure and the Government Health Regulations. There where been many adjustments that needed to be made and

protocols put into place to ensure the smooth running of our meetings. Not all meetings have returned Face to Face as some of the venues are still declining access.

There is a little bit of good news as both Woodford and Maryborough Prisons has allowed members access to the Prison and they are returning late September early October.

There has been so many changes happening this year through the fellowship and I look forward to seeing what my next two years have to offer.

Yours in Service
Cliff P

Area C

2021 National Combined T&CF & PI&CPC Forum

A committee has been formed to host the 2021 national combined forum. The committee have decided to host the forum on the weekend of 27-29 August 2021. A venue is currently being tentatively secured in Brisbane. A decision will be made by April 2021 if the event will pivot to online.

QYPAA

The Queensland Young People in AA committee was reformed in November 2019. The committee of AA members young both in age and sobriety successfully hosted an online convention in September this year.

New District

In November 2019 a new district was formed in the Bayside east of Brisbane. The new district continues to be well supported and has been actively engaged in PI activities as allowed with COVID-19 restrictions.

2020 National Convention

The 2020 HPC are presently enthusiastically working towards the Toowoomba National Convention. To the best of our knowledge this will be the first online AA convention of its kind as we have a specially designed web platform to make it as integrative as possible so members are able to experience the best possible fellowship online. We are hopeful that it all goes smoothly. The convention marks the 75th anniversary of AA in Australia.

Yours in Service
Bonnie I
North Eastern Region Area C Delegate

CENTRAL REGION

AREA A

Report not received

AREA B

Area B Central Region covers a large diverse area of South Australia incorporating the Riverland (Loxton, Renmark, Berri, & Waikerie) The Adelaide Hills (Hahndorf, Aldgate, Stirling, Mt Barker, & Strathalbyn) across to the Victorian boarder (Mt Gambier and Millicent), and The Fleurieu Peninsula (Goolwa, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Sellicks Beach, Aldinga, McLaren Vale, Hackham) and following the South Coastal Region to The City of Adelaide, the River Torrens being a boundary between Area A and Area B.

Area B Committee has welcomed Alison Middleton as Registrar to replace Toby, Anna as Secretary to replace Kim Waldron, Dylan McQuade as TC& F Coordinator to replace Clinton Muscat, and myself as Area B Treasurer in May this year to replace Mark Riley.

We have moved our Area B Meeting from Westbourne Park Community Centre to meeting online on Zoom to cater with COVID 19 restrictions since April this year. Meetings continue to be on the first Saturday of the month at 9.30am on Zoom as it has been much easier for us.

It also saves the Country DCM's having to travel long distances to the meetings. So far the response has been positive.

I am new to this role and have recently had surgery. I have recently filled a Interim Alternate Delegate position to attend Conference this year. Clinton Muscat was elected as the Area B Delegate in February this year but resigned in May for personal reasons. Area B Committee then advertised the Delegate's position in the AA SA Newsletter in July and August, but no one came forward.

In May this year, some members expressed their concerns in writing about linking the SA CSO website to an outside enterprise saying it may create controversy, conflict, and affect AA as a whole. After Area B Committee discussed the issue at their meeting, it was decided that Area B Committee write to the SA CSO Committee asking them to consider removing the link to the outside enterprise. A positive outcome was achieved with the link being removed.

Recently, the City and Eastern District (CAED) hosted a Service Information Workshop on 19/09/2020 on Zoom. Everybody said how well presented and organised the workshop was. It included past GSR's, Delegates, & Trustees, & other service positions including the prisons.

Originally, the intention was to have it face to face with a barbeque followed by a meeting. But due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the alternative was to host it on Zoom.

The Lower South East District has recently gone into recess as well as the Southern District which has been in recess since February this year due to no DCM's.

The Treatment and Correctional Facilities

The Glenside Withdrawal Services

Glenside Withdrawal Services is a Detox Unit funded by the Government and the only withdrawal unit in SA apart from Acute Cases. (Both Joslin and Waranilla Units have closed). Our T & C Officer attended an AA meeting in July and Area B have responded by way of providing much literature and Meeting Lists. Members from "By the Book" Goodwood are rostered for 1st Friday of the month. Monday Payneham group are rostered for 2nd Friday of the month. Adelaide Big Book Study are rostered for 3rd Friday of the month. Adelaide City Beginners are rostered for 4th Friday of the month. Wednesday Spiritual Speaker meeting is rostered for the 5th Friday of the month. This provides continuous attendance by AA members on every Friday of the month.

The Woolshed

AA is still being well received and is very welcome at the Woolshed. The groups have had great feedback from the Management. Area B thanks all the groups for their service. Members from Adelaide City Beginners/Aldinga rostered for the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Adelaide Big Book Study rostered for the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and Hackham Steps rostered for the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This provides an AA continuous attendance on 3 Tuesdays of the month.

Mobolong Prison

This is still on hold at this point until we can get some more members accredited to go into Mobolong.

Aboriginal Sobriety Group Men's Rehab – Lakalinjeri Tumbetin

Area B commenced a brand new T&CF commitment at the Men's ASG rehab. There were two presentations last month and it ran very smoothly. Area B is looking for male members to come and be part of the growing team visiting the rehab until a Group can be found to take over the service commitment.

Presentations take place every second Tuesday at 10:30am onsite at Monarto. It's great informal service with an opportunity to build rapport with a group of men in rehab for up to 6 months at a time.

Aboriginal Sobriety Group Women's Rehab – Leila Rankine House of Hope

Area B commenced a brand new T&CF commitment at the Women's ASG rehab. An initial presentation took place last month with male and female members presenting. The presentation was a success and received well however moving forward it would be better if was a female only team going in.

Area B is looking for male members to come and be part of the growing team visiting the rehab until a Group can be found to take over the service commitment. Presentations take place every second Tuesday at 10:30am onsite at Monarto. It's a great informal service with an opportunity to build rapport with a group of men in rehab for up to 3 months at a time.

CentaCare Rehab

Discussions are in place to commence regular meetings due the great success of the Zoom presentations that took place in June. CentaCare have no clients at the moment but will be asking AA to attend on Zoom, as the previous clients got so much identification.

Public Information

PI is going well in Area B. Over the last year, a map was sourced with post codes of Area B and printed into large colour posters. A spreadsheet was also developed for recording literature drop offs for future reference. With the help of other members, much literature was left at Hospitals, Medical Centres, Police Stations, Community Centres, Indigenous Community Health Centres, and made some follow up contact to build relationships and understanding of AA through some of Adelaide (South of the Torrens), and a start into regional areas.

Central Service Office

The Central Service Office is in Room 203, Level 2, 95 Currie Street, Adelaide. CSO has survived COVID 19 well. The CSO's Office Administrator Chris Williams is about to retire in late October after more than 7 years service. The position has been advertised for the last 3 months in the AA Newsletter. The New Office Administrator is expected to be announced late September.

I am looking forward to serving at Conference this year and thank Alcoholics Anonymous for this wonderful opportunity.

Kind Regards,
Carol R
Area B Alternate Delegate
AA Central Region

WESTERN REGION

AREA A

Thank you for the privilege of being in service as the Area A, Western Region Area Delegate. I am Brian and I am a grateful member of this fellowship. I was elected as Delegate in February of this year.

Area A, Western Region, covers a vast area that includes areas north of the Swan River in the city of Perth to the top of the North West region of the state and out to the eastern border area between WA and South Australia. We currently have 91 meetings and 73 Groups in the Area. Included in this total are 15 country groups and 3 meetings being held in correctional facilities.

Area Assemblies area held every 3 months, with the first being held this year at the beginning of February. On average, there are 20 GSRs attending these meetings. A new

committee, excluding Delegate and Alternate Delegate, will be elected in the first meeting of next year. All other positions will remain stable.

Area A also includes two districts, Swan Districts which operates between the Perth CBD to the Eastern Suburbs and the Midwest District based in Gearldton.

Public Information

The Area A PI have been very busy with high schools. They have attended four talks at various schools in the Northern Suburbs and currently there is a member emailing other schools in our Area informing schools of our services. In addition, they have participated in the following activities.

- The Cyril Jackson Health Festival.
- The Balcatta SHS Health Expo
- A talk at Alta-1 CARE school
- The Belmont City College Health Expo
- Library displays and information to doctors surgeries are ongoing, especially in the Swan District.
- Exploring carrying the message to Universities and Tafes for both professionals in training (nurses, midwives, counsellors, doctors etc) and students who may have a drinking problem.
- Yours in Service, PI/CPCToday the PI/CPC attended the Swan District Committee Meeting and they want to form a sub-committee group to Area A.

The PI/CPC requested GSR's ask their Group if they want to create a PI Representative role to do, for example, pamphlet distribution in their locality to Medical Centres, Doctors and libraries.

Treatment and Correctional Facilities

Rehabilitation Facilities

Weekly meetings continue to be held at Salvation Army's Bridge House a detox facility, Graylands Mental Health Hospital, and Next Step Rehab. The Coordinators of both Bridge Hose and Graylands meetings have been proactive in maintaining the meetings and carrying the message.

Next Step does not have a coordinator at the time of this report, which is a necessary role as there is a requirement to speak with the manager at Next Step at least once per month and this flow of communication needs to continue. AA is invited to the stakeholder, Mental Health Commission, events. The Treatment Centre Coordinator has been acting in the role since December and the roster is set for six months. All committee and GSR's have been requested to take to their groups, noting that a minimum of two years' sobriety is required, information relating to the role and process will need to be read and discussed with the Treatment Coordinator.

The Ngalla Mia meeting also does not have a coordinator and as of May of this year, was not being attended by clients. Given this information and that there are AA meetings twice per week within close proximity, it was decided at the last Area A Meeting in May, that literature will continue to be stocked and the meeting be closed.

Bandyup Women's Prison

The weekly visits by female AA members to the women's prison at Bandyup have mostly been going very well. The numbers of inmates attending vary, sometimes they have had 2 women attending and other times up to 10. Information, reported back by attendees, is that the prison itself is very under staff and because of this they have had more lockdowns. Sometimes attendees are advised in advance about the lockdowns and other times they are not. While this has proven quite challenging for those members

attending, the meetings have continued, even if there have been a few occasions the meeting has been cancelled.

Other challenges faced by attending members, has been the continuity of staff. The Officers reported to change quite regularly and due to this some of them have no idea about the weekly visits and their role in relation to the meetings. Attending members have had to educate prison staff on what happens which takes time and often results in only a few inmates being contacted and allowed to attend.

Correctional Facilities (Male)

Weekly meetings continue at both Wooroloo and Acacia Prisons.

The meetings have been going okay, with between 3-14 inmates attending. There have been some issues with getting AA members clearances from the prisons, and only a few visiting members having clearance. Communication with both prisons is continuing aimed at getting more members cleared and able to attend the meetings. In order to make visits simpler for members with clearances, the meeting format has been adjusted to facilitate as many of the inmates sharing as possible in the given time. All new attendees receive a mini blue book and a green prison pamphlet to take with them.

WAYPAA

WAYPAA remains strong, with 16 committee members, committed to carrying the message and organising and facilitating events throughout the year. One such event was Bare foot bowls with approx. 100 attendees. The last event at the time of this report was AA's Got Talent. All funds raised go towards the WAYPAA AA Convention at which they will organise a guest speaker.

Brian D.

Delegate of Area A, Western Region.

Area B

Hi my Name is Clare and I am an Alcoholic. I am privileged to be of service in my 2nd year as Delegate Area B, Western Region. It's been an interesting and busy year for me as we have navigated through the unfamiliar waters of a Covid 19 world. Like many others our Area is still adjusting and evolving as we roll with the punches so to speak. February saw us active and well supported with all service positions currently filled. Unfortunately Covid took its toll over the following months resulting in a few resignations as members grappled with changes in circumstance and family commitments. We continue to strongly advocate sponsoring into service and this and how to navigate carrying the message in an online environment have been the topic of workshops and discussion meetings at all levels.

In general Area B responded well to the initial lock down and quickly many meetings moved to an online platform. At its peak approximately 76 meetings operated on an online platform. Feedback from many members and groups is that online platforms work well for our Area given our large geographical spread. There is much discussion about how to continue to use and integrate this resource into our everyday post Covid with some meetings opting to continue to offer online access to returned face to face

meetings forming a hybrid meeting. Area B is also looking at ways to integrate so that we can be more inclusive.

As of September many Area B meetings have returned to either face to face or hybrid meetings. Area B currently has 87 registered groups and approximately 106 meetings per week including online meetings. Of these 6 are held in Prisons, 28 are held in regional and country areas and 15 are either a hybrid or online meeting. Meeting formats vary and include ID meetings, women's and men's meetings, spiritual concepts, big book and steps meetings and topic and AA approved literature meetings. Over the past year Area B has had a strong focus on carrying the message, supporting service at all levels and PI. We continue to explore ways, in which we can make use of new technologies to more effectively communicate within the fellowship and without as well as exploring options as we move forward in an increasingly cashless society.

Area B has 3 active Districts these being Port, Peel and South West Districts.

The South West District has focused on supporting its groups through the pandemic helping them to get online. Like many it has struggled to maintain active membership as the year has progressed. We were sad to miss our annual July Area B Assembly Pilgrimage to Bunbury. This is usually hosted by the South West District and coincides with the "Bunbury Anniversary", one of Western Region's longest running meetings. However, online meetings have provided a welcome relief for many of our more traditionally isolated members and groups who have benefited from both outside virtual visitors and from being able to access meetings from all over Australia and the world. The District is looking forward to the annual Esperance Round up held over the Australia Day long weekend. It is a testament to the strength of the District and its Groups that they have managed to maintain all of their meetings over the past 6 months.

Port District continues to focus on carrying the message, PI and building opportunities to support service and fellowship and encourage group participation. Meetings are held every second month and they are looking forward to reintroducing their Unity BBQ's with the easing of restrictions. They continued to meet throughout the year initially on Zoom and the back to face to face meetings.

Port began the year with a New Year's Eve Fellowship event hosted by the 3 groups who use the St Paul's Church venue in Beaconsfield. The event started with a meeting in the big hall followed by super and a dance with a continuous meeting held in the smaller hall. The event provided both an opportunity for fellowship and a safe place for newcomers and older sober members to celebrate the New Year. The event was well attended and was accessed by some of our newly sober members just out of rehabs and jail. Port plans to make this an annual event on the Area B calendar. The New Year's event was followed by a very successful Step 4 & 5 workshop held on the 14 March just before lockdown commenced. The event had 80 attendees with guest speaker James L visiting from Illinois.

Peel District is currently continuing strong with all positions currently filled and meetings well attended. Despite reduced face to face meetings finances remained healthy and Zoom meetings allowed for an increased participation in Peel District Meetings. The District has been running regular Zoom workshops to support members with a variety of topics including: Internet safety, carrying the message to the newcomer and tradition 7. Feedback from members suggests that the Zoom platform has been wonderful for those

members who may be isolated by geography, age or health. Peel aims to continue to offer online or hybrid workshops on an ongoing basis.

Our outgoing Public Information Representative, Lyndal rotated off in February and the position was filled at the February Assembly. Unfortunately, the incoming PI rep had to resign from the role due to Covid related changes in circumstance. The position is currently vacant. Lyndal did an amazing job of coordinating Area PI activities and she brought back and shared a wealth of information the 2019 National PI & CPC Forum. The strong PI structure she has left has allowed individual members and groups, supported by their Districts, to continue with Area PI activities including:

- Dropping off AA information at doctor's surgeries, churches, Peel hospital and health centers.
- AA members have attending Schools and Health Expos.
- AA members attending Rockingham Mental Health ward
- Patients from Alma St are now attending AA meetings at Fremantle Hospital
- AA posters, literature and business cards regularly dropped off at Police Stations
- Distribution of literature to all courts across Area B. Members also attend Rockingham court and approach public to offer AA message
- AA information stands at Mental Health Awareness Forum and again at the Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drugs conference.

Area B services six (6) prisons with James taking over from Damien T as the Area B Corrections Coordinator who coordinates the Corrections Sub-committee. T reduce burnout Area B implemented the sub-committee structure in 2019 and each prison is allocated its own coordinator. Each coordinator is then responsible for coordinating rosters, literature etc for their prison. This system is working well. Attendance by outside AA members at Prison meetings was disrupted for a number of months during the Covid crisis. Coordinators found it very difficult to even get literature into prisons or communicate with inmates. Melaleuca Women's prison also underwent a change of management during this time. Our thoughts have been with the inmates and our thanks to our Corrections Coordinator, his team and all the rostered members for their dedication and perseverance. It has been wonderful to see all 6 prison meetings back in action as soon as possible. It's also fantastic to note that the inmate run meetings in both Karnet and Casurina ran without outside support as often as possible within the strict lockdown regulations.

NORTHERN REGION

Report not received.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS & REPORT

Welcome to the historic, entirely virtual 62nd General Service Conference here in Australia.

A big welcome to those members who are attending for the first time. Also a big thank you to our unsung associates, the agenda committee who have been working quietly behind the scenes to make this conference happen, as well as our employed staff who have been working tirelessly to bring our conference together;

As our Conference Charter states in paragraph 3, "The Conference will act for A.A. in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services, and it will also be the vehicle by which the A.A. movement can express its view upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. Tradition." Thus, this weekend we embark together on work grounded in the spiritual principles embodied in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, work that will help us to carry our lifesaving message of hope and recovery, while respecting the limitations that circumstances have imposed.

None of us could have envisioned the enforced changes we have had to facilitate based on the pandemic we have found ourselves in. We were fortunate enough to complete our February board meeting in Melbourne and our meet the board session with members who attended was a great success.

We have met extensively via Zoom since February to discuss issues arising from Covid 19, sometimes it has been a weekly task for us all to keep up with concerns and new information, we have dealt with everything in the best way possible.

Our July board meeting has also been held over numerous zoom board meetings.

I am amazed at how our fellowship responded to the closure of face to face meetings in such a quick manner, our members came together and set up an online meeting platform that has enabled many of us to continue with meetings, of course there has been a few teething problems but they have been dealt with very well along the way.

A concern for us will be that AA Australia has now changed, some members will continue with online meetings, in my region there are a number of meetings that will not open again.

Recently we have set up our online bookshop which is now in its early stages.

We have appointed 2no new trustees. We welcome Narelle Buchanan from Western Australia who has vast experience in corrections as a new Class A trustee. We also welcome Cheryn Porter from NSW to our management group committee as a General Service Trustee.

Our financial situation is stable, we have lost a lot of revenue from the closure of meetings and a decline in literature sales. We have initiated a number of incentives to assist in increasing revenue.

Our office staff have worked tirelessly to deal with an increased number of enquiries over the last 6 months and I commend them all for their work in helping to carry out our primary purpose.

It has been pleasing to receive a number of emails commending our board and office staff for how we have been operating in these troubled times. There have also been a number of complaints and we try to deal with these accordingly.

Our future for the fellowship of AA in Australia is paramount in my mind and I encourage all members to follow their local government guidelines, it is important that we reintroduce our face to face meetings accordingly, there are a lot of members out there who have struggled through recent times and need the hand of AA to be there for them as well as the new member walking through our doors for the first time.

Yours in Service

Andy P Chairman General Service Board Australia

TRUSTEES' FINANCE & BUDGETARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Well what a year financially, 2019-2020 will go down in history. We have seen the most tumultuous financial activity ever with income and expenses swinging wildly back and forth. In July of last year we were still in the midst of the austerity program due to an error in accounting with salary sacrificing with our prudent reserve hovering dangerously low. In January of 2020 our prudent reserve was 7 months operating costs and working its way up slowly. Then in March COVID hit and by April we began to see the determinately affects of literature sales which dropped significantly. When the prime minister addressed the nation saying it would be at least 6 months before restrictions from COVID eased we knew we like all other organisations and non-for-profits were going to have some trouble. The board held an extraordinary meeting to discuss finances on the 25th of March. Much discussion was had and learning began about the government's subsidies to non-for-profit and the Job Keeper payment. We knew we needed our 3 staff now just as much as ever. The board decided to apply to the Government for the subsidies prior to the cut off date. To ensure our General Service Office could keep running and our 3 staff remained employed. Whilst AA pivoted so beautifully online then began realizing too the greater impact COVID was to have on finances members began to donate more often directly to the GSO, Area's and Groups across the nation also answered the call by sending what they could. We had the Dig Deep initiative in May 2020 for the first time in recollection AA in Australia was truly fully self-supporting through our own contributions. Not reliant on literature sales. Also the 300 club initiative was enacted with 87 members signing up. When the Job Keeper payments and cash bonus subsidy began coming through along with more member contributions and less expenses like travel and accommodation we started to sign in relief and realize that with all these actions and events the GSO would remain functioning through the COVID period. So in the last months of the 2020 financial year we saw the bank balance raise significantly to seeing this year our net position increase by just over \$140,000. Which will mean we will be able to print a large run of Big Books to the tune of \$76,000 a 2 year supply and still take advantage of the economies of scale when ordering in bulk. Please review the audited reports for this year and compare them with last year so you can really begin to understand just how much the Job Keeper

payments, Cash bonuses, contributions and decreases in expenses has contributed to such a tumultuous time in our finances. When reviewing the audited reports please begin formulating all your questions and submit them gso@aa.org.au in writing prior to conference. I ask this because we will have our accountant giving a presentation to the full conference as usual however we would like to submit your questions direct to him so that he can incorporate as many answers to your questions into the presentation and answer them during the session.

Topic #005/2020 and #020/2020

Have been referred to the GSB - AA Australia is currently suffering financial hardship. One means of minimizing AA's cost of doing business is to reduce its outgoing expenses, some of which relate to the realization of previously agreed to conference advisory actions. For example, new posters, visual design, copywriting of new AA publications, website improvements, video production, etc, incur costs. The development and availability of a 'needed skills' register would enable members, under our legacy of service, to use their skills to do work that AA would otherwise need to pay for. There is much evidence throughout the fellowship of members willing to use their skills for AA when there is a clear, identified need. A centralised register would make the process national and efficient and inform members when and where skills are specifically needed.

Service keeps us sober. Why can't it also assist in ensuring and maintaining AA Australia's solvency?

This along with Topic 020 - That the Finance Committee research and develop a plan which provides a contingency fund for emergency situations such as COVID-19.

Once discussed at the February 2021 board meeting we will be talking to chairman of finance committee.

Penelope Campbell
Chair
Trustees' Finance Committee

TRUSTEES' TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is my first year as Chair of this newly named Committee. Accessibility replaces the out of date term 'Special Needs' and means those alcoholics that are separated from the program and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous by reason of language, culture, homelessness, impairment of sight, hearing, mental health and other total or temporary impairment.

At long last the position of National Co-ordinair has been filled and we welcome Mike R to the role. Mike has hit the ground running and been in touch with the various regions to ascertain how and where AA is effective in treatment facilities. This is a mammoth job and one where Mike is starting behind the eight ball so any assistance delegates can provide to Mike would be appreciated. This aligns with AA's desire to raise its profile in treatment facilities and making the fellowship more aware of the greater need for service. Mike has also attended his first Treatment and Corrections Forum hosted by Area G, Eastern Region as National Co-ordinator and will also be involved in next years

Treatment, Corrections and PI/CPC combined forum hosted by Area C, North Eastern Region.

Our Committee met on 17 August 2020 and I have been in contact with the Chair of the corresponding Conference Committee Jack S to advise on the change of name of our Committee.

On the Accessibility front, we are yet to hear back from GSB New York regarding our request for funding to translate the Big Book into Auslan. This years 2020 National Convention includes members' stories which give a good indication of the issues facing members with 'accessibility' issues.

Yours in service,

Stephen Roche
Chair

TRUSTEES' CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT

There is not a great deal to report except for the following two items.

Guideline No 22 FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO VISIT CORRECTION FACILITIES

A draft has been completed of the revised Guideline 22 and was sent to the Board for comment. It is now ready to be considered by Conference. There was unfortunately no interest from the Conference Corrections Committee, when I asked for contributions in February, so it was completed by myself with some input from the National Coordinator, Maureen. Due to an abridged Conference this year, the guidelines will be held over until Conference 2021 for approval before being published.

2020 National Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum

The Forum was originally booked for Sydney (Area G. However it was held via Zoom on Friday 28 August and Saturday 29 August.

The program was very full with a number of non AA people talking. The Zoom format allowed speakers who otherwise may not have been able to attend. Included were David Brown (past Class A Trustee), Chief Executive Department of Correctional Services SA, Dr Henry Pharo, Director Offender Rehabilitation Services SA, Narelle Buchanan (Current Class A Trustee), Correctional Services Office, WA and Nickie Djapouras who works for NSW Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network. There was an interactive workshop on bridging the gap between correctional facilities and goal. Area B, Eastern Region presented some resources, which may form the basis of a Conference topic in 2021. A number of attendees have been sent the resources to try and to provide feedback.

As well as the informative speakers, there were panels and the Victorian Prisons Intergroup shared their experience strength and hope.

There were between 55 and 65 attendees from all around Australia and it was good to see a few from New Zealand as well. Attendees showed their deep passion for this type of 12 Step work.

Zoom worked well with resources and presentations able to be displayed via screen share. The electronic hand was used for the workshop to select those who wished to share and chat was used for asking questions and sharing contact details. Thanks to Wayne P and Area G for organising a great Forum.

Judy Woolstencroft
Chair Trustees Correctional Facilities Committee

TRUSTEES' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings,

The Trustee's International Committee met on the 22nd of June via Zoom teleconference.

Item number 1-7/13 on the action list was amended. This was regarding regular communication to be sent by the Trustee's International Committee regarding World Service events and happenings. It was determined that a quarterly newsletter, distributed with the quarterly Board newsletter, was to be appropriate. The first edition of the International newsletter, titled *Our Universal Fellowship*, went out with August's Board communication.

Advisory Action #023/2017 has been completed – a podcast for inclusion in the national website was produced by Brian S and Greg B, our World Service Delegates. This is available via the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-tS4S8g5CDqsCP43AESsZg>. The YouTube channel has been established as a platform for uploading any video or audio content, which is based off the AAWS YouTube Channel. This was communicated to the Conference delegates on the 25th of March 2020.

For Advisory Action 013/2018, the amounts raised by the Brown Paper Bag Collection over Founder's Day Week will be included in the September edition of *AA Around Australia*.

We are still awaiting communication from GSO New York with respect to our enquiries regarding the meeting between AA and NA. We understand that GSO New York have been dealing with many matters of urgency due to the current COVID-19 situation.

It was considered from the last Trustee's International Committee meeting held in February (2020) that the Fijian delegate, Phylis G, would be invited to attend Conference 2020 and for her expenses to be covered by the International Sponsorship Fund. Phylis had made an application to attend which was approved by the Conference Policies and Admissions Committee. Due to current arrangements with Conference 2020, and ongoing COVID-19 impacts, this attendance will need to be via Zoom. Expenses with relation to Phylis' attendance are yet to be determined. It is unclear if Phylis intends to still attend our Conference.

The Trustee's International Committee members of Brian, Greg and myself sought to establish a Zoom account for use within the Oceanic region to maintain contact and to carry the message. While it had been well received by some in the Oceanic region, it

has been interpreted by some Delegates of the AOSM that it was intended to be a function of the AOSM which has cause confusion and misinterpretation. The Zoom meeting proposal has therefore been placed on hold due to concerns raised.

Ruby Jones
Chairman, Trustee's International Committee
Class A Trustee (4th term), General Service Board

TRUSTEES' PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

This meets at least twice a year, in February and July, and more frequently if necessary. It is responsible for determining policies and supervising activities that increase public understanding of AA and prevent, or at least lessen, public misunderstanding of our program. It seeks to create mutual understanding and co-operation between the Fellowship and those professional Groups and individuals concerned with alcoholism and the sick alcoholic. It also has close ties with the Trustees' Literature & Archives Committee, as their activities are complementary. It is through this committee that the Class A Trustees can play their major role of being the public face of the AA Fellowship – by facilitating and attending activities such as seminars and press/media releases, and promoting co-operation with professional community programs, e.g. in medical, nursing or law schools.

This committee has met twice in the last year.
Items that we have been dealing with as a board are;

- 1) Following feedback from the ask it basket at last years conference it was agreed that a press release committee be formed to facilitate regular, quality controlled press releases. This has been formed and we formulated a press release that was sent out, unfortunately it semi clashed with Covid 19 setting in and had minimal success
- 2) An article written by Stephen Roche (North Eastern Region Trustee) on the 75th Anniversary of AA in Australia was included in the March newsletter for professionals
- 3) I have written to the GSO in New York requesting permission to add printable e-pamphlets to the national website to make it easier for professionals to have access
- 4) Since February AA Australia has received a number of mentions on press releases regarding our move to online meetings, which would of raised awareness

On a personal level I have attended a number of PI presentations. We had a table here in Adelaide at a health expo over a number of days held at the entertainment centre I also attended a public information breakfast in February that was organised by the inner city intergroup in Melbourne
I was very impressed with how this event was organised and would suggest more events

like this are put on once possible again

Dave Scott.

National Public Information

Coordinators Report to conference

Ph: 0401632152

The situation with Covid has forced the shutdown of many face to face meetings and much of the PI contact has been through online resources. It has allowed our members to become a bit more tech savvy, which may allow a wider spread of the AA net.

With the Conference going digital on the back of technology Bill and Bob could not have imagined, we're given voice to communication which might grab a far-flung audience, particularly in rural areas.

Qld Health admin sections (Headspace & A.O.D.S. etc) are keen on engaging with us, and others in recovery, and are in regular contact and Area "C" N.E. has instigated a strategy to Zoom a "Professional Morning Tea" event in the near future. They have also made inquiries to "New York" as to the efficacy of "Google Ads" and possible anonymity breaches as part of an awareness campaign.

A couple of Areas that have looked into launching web pages, and one District which has ventured into an A.A. related radio podcast.

There is clearly a desire to carry our message out on digital platforms given the current restricted environment, and it is a subject that, for better or worse, I'm aiming to showcase during next year's Forum.

I believe that we need to thoroughly investigate the use of technology, particularly its ability to reach out to the rural and remote communities that online platforms allow, and promote our aa.org.au web page.

News that alcohol consumption has markedly increased during this challenging time, would suggest our message of hope and recovery will be needed even more.

Yours In Service

Andy P Chairperson Trustees PI@CPC Committee

TRUSTEES' GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Fellow Members,

It has been a busy year for Cheryn and I as General Service Trustees. The challenges that the COVID pandemic has presented has forced us to rethink how we operate as an organization while still providing our essential services to the still suffering alcoholic. We have embarked upon a number of programs to help AA stay afloat in these difficult times and become more resilient to survive any further emergencies as we trudge the road to happy destiny.

The General Service Conference Trustee committee met in June via video conference. The main discussion points were around given that we could not meet physically for the

conference this year and potentially in the future. We have discussed multiple options and submitted a topic around reducing and focussing our committees at conference to make them more flexible and efficient. The General Service Board in the UK have reduced their committees down to 3 and have found this to be a much better way of conducting the business of conference.

We look forward to seeing and talking to you all in our historic first ever Virtual Conference.

In Service,
Lachlan.

Lachlan Botticchio
General Service Trustee
Chatswood Thursday Night.
AA Australia

TRUSTEES' NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to the Australian AA conference 2020

This committee is chaired by the Chair of the General Service Board. The Committee overviews all nominations for membership to the General Service Board. The Nominating Committee acts to see that all vacancies for Trustees, including Class A Trustees, also World Service Delegate and General Service Office Manager positions, are properly filled, in terms of the greatest possible competence, stability and industry. This includes careful deliberation, painstaking investigation and interviewing, refusal to accept casual recommendations and preparation of suitable candidates well in advance, resisting any temptation to snap decisions or hasty judgment. The ongoing success of AA Service depends on the quality control exerted by this committee. The committee maintains a close relationship with the Conference Committee on Trustees in the review process of Trustee nominations, either at Conference or during the year if interim appointments to the Board are considered necessary. It is less directly involved in International Delegate nominations, receiving information but only occasionally advising. Recommendations are received from the Management Group at General Service Office when the position of General Service Office Manager must be filled.

In the last year we have had 2 new trustees join the board

- 5) Narelle Buchanan from Western Australia has joined as a Class A trustee, Narelle has extensive experience in correction facilities and has attended board meetings regularly.
- 6) Cheryn Porter from NSW has joined our management group as General Service Trustee and has slotted in very well. This position will need to be ratified at conference this year

Yours In Service
Andy Poad
Chairman Trustees Nominating Committee

TRUSTEES' LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul Jones and I am Alcoholic.

Its been a very challenging year for us all involved in the fellowship with COVID 19 and the changes we have all had to make to meet State and Federal requirements We have had all our board meeting since March online and have worked through the tasks set to each of us.

As Chair of the Trustee's Literature Committee there is not a whole lot report.

We have completed all topics set to us for action in 2019 except for 013/2019 due to COVID & 015/2019 due to financial reasons.

2020 topics have seen all Literature and Report Charter and Service Manual topic's are to be dealt with at a later date.

Topic's 009_011_013_015_016_018_019/2020

Thank you to all members and Trusted Servants who have helped to keep our beloved fellowship alive and even thriving during this unprecedented time in our lives.

Love in Service

Paul Jones

Western Region Trustee.

TRUSTEES' REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul Jones and I am Alcoholic.

Its been a very challenging year for us all involved in the fellowship with COVID 19 and the changes we have all had to make to meet State and Federal requirements We have had all our board meeting since March online and have worked through the tasks set to each of us.

Our congratulations and thanks go out to Diane Creagh who has been appointed to position of National Remote Communities Coordinator.

To improve communication Diane has created this email address

natremotecom@gmail.com

Should anyone have any ideas how we can better serve the vast remote AA communities of Australia Diane would love to hear from you.

AA 016/2019 The deadline to receive stories has been extended to 12/20.

Thank you to the working group formed to compile the stories, they are doing a fantastic job sorting through personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.

Topic 014/2020 A report has been prepared by Diane and submitted to Conference.

All other Advisory actions have been completed.

Thank you to all members and Trusted Servants who have helped to keep our beloved fellowship alive and even thriving during this unprecedented time in our lives.

Love in Service

Paul Jones

Western Region Trustee.

What an interesting time it is to be the World Service Delegate for Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. I have been able to travel the world with other service people on zoom and have found it very exciting. However it is a little frustrating to see what others have been doing and then seeing what is not being done in my own country. I also find it strange at times being the only Australian attending Zoom meetings outside of Australia. I have been encouraging my peers in Australia to participate using online resources to develop their knowledge of the Service Legacies. I am bothered by the fact that in Australia we have not been doing online workshops on the three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service as demonstrated by our Fellowship outside of Australia. It is my opinion that in Australia there is a general lack of understanding that the national Conference of AA is actually the collective group conscience of AA Australia.

I have had a number of meetings with Greg And Ruby about how to improve communication within our fellowship using this platform which has already been a great help to us. We have organised a past World Service Delegate's meeting and this will be conducted on zoom. We may be able to get a good understanding of the history of what has been done in the past and what we can learn from it. As you know the International Convention in Detroit USA was cancelled and we unfortunately missed another opportunity to catch up with current World Service delegates.

The October 2020 World Service meeting that was to be held in New York was also postponed and will now be held in early November 2020 via zoom and some other platforms. I am looking forward to this as it will be my last World Service meeting and I will give an updated report in "AA Around Australia" after it has been held.

The AOSM will be held in India in July 21 and at this stage, arrangements are being made for a face to face event as well as an online format should COVID19 restrictions continue. However, the planning committee is working hard with the optimistic attitude that it will be a face to face AOSM. I have also been working hard with the Across Borders Committee to look at ways on improving how we Carry the Message across the region. I will be attending (via Zoom) the next Across Borders Committee Meeting in the first week of October this year. I recall at the last such meeting, there was great enthusiasm shared by all in getting the Message across the region.

We had asked the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia to finance a Zoom account for the two World Service delegates which the Australian GSO had agreed to. The setting up of this Zoom account was to facilitate better communication and service options between the participating countries in the region. Unfortunately, some members of the AOSM felt that it was inappropriate for Australia to have its own Zoom account as it did not go through a AOSM group conscience process to do AOSM work. This is in spite of the fact that the Chair of the AOSM was involved in discussions in setting up this feature with the full knowledge of what and how it would be used. However, after a dispute was raised, the Chair said that the AOSM would accept the Zoom account as a donation to the Committee. In view of all this, we decided to withdraw from the idea of setting up the Zoom account and let the AOSM Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee to set up their own Zoom account. Our decision to withdraw the offer is because we wanted to setup a Zoom account for Australia's use, for not only AOSM purposes, but also to meet our

Service requirements for our World Service role. This was one of the reasons we would require ownership of such an account. I also wish to add that the first ever Australian World Service and AOSM Delegate's Reunion is going to be held on Zoom on the 30th September at 7PM using Greg B.'s private account.

In leading up to the coming World Service meeting in November this year, the Policy, Procedures and Finance Committee, on which I have a seat, decided to recommend reducing the Delegate's Levi from US\$1500 to US\$500 in the hope that it will encourage more countries to participate. Another matter the Committee has to deal with concerns the eligibility of a Delegate's participation at the World Service level. The criteria for a World Service Delegate's participation is that you must be a resident of the country you represent and also, preferably, a citizen of that country. For example, Guatemala and Bolivia had to meet that criteria to be accepted by the Policy, Procedures and Finance Committee to have a seat at the World Service Meeting. Unfortunately we have a situation where a current participant does not meet the standard set out in World Service Guidelines. This matter will be discussed at the next Policy, Procedures and Finance Meeting. It is my understanding that all countries are aware of these guidelines.

Finally, I wish to report that from a mustard seed beginning in 2016, thanks to Australian AA's involvement with Fiji, I have been sent photos of a road trip undertaken by local Fijian AA members carrying AA's message to the country's more remote villages. These photographs will be published in upcoming editions of the World Service International Newsletter and AA Around Australia. I would also like to advise that the AOSM Delegate for Fiji will be attending the Australian Conference this year as an observer. As the Australian General Service Conference will be online, I will be looking forward to seeing all of you laughing, smiling and giving virtual hugs to one another and celebrating our 4th Dimension of existence!

Brian Smith
World Service Meeting Delegate
Australa Term 2

FIRST TERM WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE'S REPORT.

My name is Greg Byrne and I am serving my first term as Australian World Service Delegate.

Most of my activities in this role have been covered in the Reports of Ruby Jones (Chairperson of Trustees International Committee) and Brian S. (Second Term World Service Delegate). I thought I might use this opportunity to introduce myself to the Fellowship.

I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1976 in Forster, a town on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. These were the early years of the introduction of the General Service Structure in Australia and, in particular, in the newly formed Area where I lived, Area A, Eastern Region. There was some resistance to these "new ideas" in the country localities but they certainly didn't meet the antagonism of the more established structures of the cities. It nevertheless was often a hard sell to convince members to adopt the suggested structure of Bill W. Much work was done by a Taree man, Tom the Finn, and I was fortunate enough to accompany him on his many journeys around Area A in those early years. Although I was new to sobriety and the Fellowship in those days, perhaps that experience will benefit me in the role I now occupy as we attempt to share the AA message with countries just beginning to establish the Structure.

I served as Area Delegate to the General Service Conference in 1981, 82 and, apart from a few heated discussions, Conference life was a lot simpler then. Family commitments then occupied a large portion of my life and with a wife and eventually seven children my AA Service was restricted to local positions.

In 2015, after ten years of treatment, my wife died of breast cancer and with the grown up children gone I found myself available to serve our Fellowship in a wider geographic field once more.

My plan for initiation into the job of World Service Delegate was to be a steep learning curve at the World Service Meeting in New York this October. Of course the Covid Virus put an end to that and the meeting will be restricted to Zoom. Next year the AOSM Conference is set down for India but again we can't be confident of face to face meetings by then either. And so we must learn to cope with the challenges of a new world.

My education into the role needs to consist of reading former World Service Reports, communicating with ex World Service Delegates and using Zoom to correspond with overseas representatives.

I tell people I am likely to be a World Service Delegate whose only overseas trip was Tuncurry to Forster (private joke).

The WSM Agenda Committee met at 7am New York time (9pm our time). After a time of organizing interpreters and getting everyone properly set up for Zoom we finally began the meeting. After three hours of discussion it was decided that all reports (country, Zonal etc.) would be written and

not presented. The World Service Meeting would be held over not more than three days of three to four hours duration, within the window of 28 November to 2 December.

Greg Byrne

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

To say there was disruption to normal office routine this year would be a major understatement. We were just settling in following the Christmas/New Year break (traditionally a quiet time in the office, when we were confronted with something none of us could ever have imagined, - the closure of the General Service Office due to Covid-19. Of course, the office was not really closed at all, as staff were frantically working in various locations trying to keep all our essential services running to the best of our ability. We purchased two mobile phones – one for Tony to take the normal enquiry calls and one for Chris to take calls relating to literature orders. A message to contact these numbers was left on the main office line and a notice placed on the website.

The amount of phone calls and emails that came in during the following months was staggering and quite overwhelming at times and traffic to the website and 1300 number increased dramatically. The first hurdle to overcome was financial. Obviously, as groups began to close down, income fell very quickly and the Board had an emergency meeting, at which time it was decided, it was in the best interests of the Fellowship as a whole to apply for the subsidies being offered by the government.

The Fellowship responded very quickly and a huge number of groups set up Zoom meetings. Of course, what most people didn't realise was the huge amount of work this created for our website team and staff. Groups Zoom meeting details were being constantly changed, particularly with the rise of the 'Zoombombers' and we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to David M. and Steve T who steered the ship through this perfect storm, often working late at night to keep on top of things.

The Board also had the responsibility of keeping the Fellowship informed and offering practical suggestions on what measures to take to ensure the safety of all members. Many groups found themselves in a position of being unable to meet unless they provided a risk management plan, and the General Service Office was able to assist with this by providing a template groups could modify to suit their own circumstances.

As literature sales had become virtually non-existent, it was decided that an online book shop should be established. This was not to compete with Central Service Offices but to provide a service to those members unable to access literature and also to give the Fellowship an opportunity to see the wide range of literature that is available. A huge thank you to Sam C for assisting to set this up. Literature sales are gradually picking up but we anticipate it will some time before they are back to normal levels.

This difficult time has really highlighted the need for us to be self-supporting through our own contributions rather than relying on unreliable sources such as literature sales and convention surpluses. The Board asked members to commit to making regular donations and the Fellowship has responded magnificently. As a result we have been able to place an order to have a quantity of Big Books printed, which we should have in stock very shortly.

The new clause in the Public Liability Insurance policy understandably created some consternation for group office bearers. We had no option but to inform groups of this new clause, and it was disappointing to receive reports of some members being reluctant to comply with basic safety measures instructed by the government and landlords. Awareness of this clause assisted in getting the message across that others were being put at risk in several ways by non-compliance.

There have been so many challenges since February – too many to put in this report. Of course, the latest is having to organise the General Service Conference online. The Conference Agenda Committee had the unenviable task of sitting through many tiring meeting hours to try to work out a plan that would work. Of course it was a case of not being able to please all the people all the time but I think they are to be congratulated.

A few thank you messages.

Thanks to those delegates (past and present) who have been so supportive. You know who you are.

Thank you to our Board Chairman Andy P, who has contacted me several times a week and been hugely supportive.

General Service Trustee Lachlan B, you have been my rock and my friend during this time. Thank you. You are the epitome of how to be a General Service Trustee.

Last but certainly not least - to my two colleagues Tony C and Chris S. I have really appreciated the comfort of knowing you two are there ready to carry out any tasks I have given you and that you have taken so much work off my shoulders. I doubt whether anyone else will fully understand the stress and pressure placed on us over the last months but, as a team, I think we are really entitled to give ourselves a big pat on the back! I am lucky to have you both and your dedication has not gone unnoticed.

Valerie Martin

General Service Office Manager

SECTION 3

OUTCOME OF TOPICS

TOPIC NO.	TOPIC	OUTCOME
001 ATTACHMENTS	The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference considers changing the Conference Committee system by having three committees instead of the current eleven. The Board makes this recommendation having reviewed the committee system of the Great Britain General Service Conference. Two documents are attached. Document 1 is the proposed new committee system. Document 2 shows how many topics each current Conference Committee has been allocated in the last five years.	Agenda Committee Referred to Conference 2021
003	1. Amend the topic form to include a reference to checking your topic against past/recent topics to ensure that an idea or issue has not been previously dealt with by Conference. This may provide information that explains why your topic was rejected previously, or help focus thinking on providing new information or arguments. 2. The Conference agenda committee should be allowed to decide on minor amendments such as this without the need for it to potentially take up time in the conference schedule	This topic has been referred to the Agenda Committee for action.
004	That conference look at developing a "CHAT NOW" feature on the aa.org.au website, which would allow a newcomer to "talk" (typing questions in real time to a live person / volunteer AA member, on a national roster)	Pi&CPC Committee Advisory Action #034/2020 Referred to Conference 2021

006	Creation of 2 additional radio community service announcements (CSAs) to supplement our existing CSAs. One targeted at Indigenous Australians, another at the LGBTI+ community.	Pi&CPC Referred to Conference 2021
007	To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.	PI&CPC Referred to Conference 2021
008	Amend the Group Handbook to add that all groups, Districts and Areas be transparent with members who donate to their group, District or Area about how funds are distributed at Group, District or Area. This is so members can make an informed choice when making their contribution.	LITERATURE Referred to Conference 2021
009	Some virtual meetings will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. These meetings will not necessarily be associated with AA meetings that are also held in a physical location and the groups that run them are likely to be made up of members from diverse physical locations. As such, they will not be located in a physical AA Area or Region. Creation of a virtual Area/Region would enable such groups to participate in the structure of AA by electing GSR's, running virtual Assemblies and electing a Delegate to the General Service Conference. The existing process for requesting creation of a new Area (AA Service Manual pp.53-54) cannot assist in this situation, because it assumes a request from an existing Area which is no longer able to provide adequate service and communication to all the groups that are <u>within its geographical area.</u>	POLICIES & ADMISSIONS Advisory Action #009/2020
010	Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia (or Oceania Region) should scope the possibility of developing and using an AA owned and supported Online Video-Conferencing Platform (Our own Version of Zoom etc.).	PI&CPC Referred to Conference 2021

011	That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of AA Around Australia be created and advertised on aa.org.au	LITERATURE Referred to Conference 2021
012	That conference considers moving <i>all</i> of its activities on line for a reasonable period, to be designated by Conference, as an experiment. This would include <i>The General Service Conference</i> in November, <i>Conference Committee</i> meetings, meetings of the <i>General Service Board</i> , and the <i>Office Management Group</i> . The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently our fellowship can adapt and change to new technology, when the need arises. It may be prudent for the fellowship to take full advantage of this unique period to see if we cannot do things better.	AGENDA COMMITTEE Voted on but not Advisory Action
013	This submission proposes AA utilise modern technology to streamline the Australian AA Two Arms of Service Structure to minimise duplication of effort and expense, by establishing a national online literature sales and distribution service. This includes the availability of electronic literature where possible.	LITERATURE Referred to Conference 2021
014	That ALL the National Coordinators be invited to submit a plan of action over the next 12 months of how AA's profile can be raised in institutions, and that the Fellowship be made more aware of the greater need for service in all these 4 areas.	TREATMENT CORRECTIONAL REMOTE PI&CPC Referred to co-ordinators for action.
015	Remove the reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups.	REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL Referred to Conference 2021
016	That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous	REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL Referred to Conference 2021

017	That each area delegate be asked to do an audit of all groups and meetings in their area to see where new districts and potential new areas could be set up in each Region.	Referred directly to Area Delegates
018	That the Service Manual be changed to suggest that the outgoing Area Delegates be given the responsibility to be the AAAA rep for that Area	REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL Referred to Conference 2021
019	That Conference approve the Special Edition 'A Vision for You' Souvenir Book to celebrate the 75 th anniversary of the birth of AA in Australia.	Mail poll vote Advisory Action #019/2020
021	Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au	PI&CPC Advisory Action #034/2020 Referred to Conference 2021
022	<p>This topic proposes that AA Australia, together with the National and Area PI Committees, develop a series of videos, similar to the UK https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals, targeting the professional community including health, employment, correction services and armed forces. These videos should incorporate current evidence supporting the efficacy of AA in helping alcoholics to recover ¹ and use recovery language relevant to the respective professions rather than the unique recovery language of AA. Subject matter experts who are friends of AA should be involved in the production of these videos</p> <p>An audit into AA communications² suggested that professionals are keen for information to address alcoholism but that AA resources designed for the Professional Community do not speak in a language relevant to the respective professions; are not delivered across platforms that professionals use; and</p>	PI&CPC Referred to Conference 2021

	that those within the Conference structure are not necessarily trained (or armed with tools) to forge cooperative relationships with the Professional Community. This is negatively impacting A.A.'s relevance and its effectiveness in reaching the still-suffering alcoholic	
023	Application to form new Area –Eastern Region	POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE Advisory Action #023/2020
024	For all monies received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment be returned.	FINANCE Voted on but not Advisory Action

There were additional Advisory Actions as follows: (see Advisory Actions section for details):

Advisory Actions #025/2020 - #035/2020

SECTION 4

2016 CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS SECTION

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2020 ADVISORY ACTIONS

The group conscience of the Fellowship of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in Australia was expressed in the following Advisory Actions to the General Service Board, based upon the recommendations from the Conference Committees, as indicated in the headings. The background to these Advisory Actions and the submissions from the Groups, individual members or from the General Service Board in the form of Topics which led to them were presented in full detail to all Areas prior to Conference.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Advisory Action #027/2020

Conference resolved to ratify the election of Narelle Buchanan by the General Service Board as a Class A Trustee for a five year period, commencing 15th February 2020

Voting: No disapproval
Carried

Advisory Action #028/2020

Conference resolved to ratify the election of Cheryn Porter by the General Service Board as General Service Trustee for a four year period, commencing 1st April 2020.

Voting: No disapproval
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #009/2020

Conference resolved that the creation of a virtual Area be included as part of the review of the General Service Structure by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee. All Conference members are requested to advise of any concerns so they can be addressed in a guideline for creating a virtual Area. A draft of this guideline will be circulated to Conference members for input, following which a mail poll will be conducted for approval of the guideline prior to Conference next year.

Voting: 25 For: Against: 3 Abstain 2
Carried

It was noted that the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee will hold review meetings at 7.30pm (Sydney time) on the second Wednesday of each month, commencing Wednesday 10th February 2021.

Advisory Action #023/2020

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to split Area C Eastern Region into two Areas and suggested that a meeting of Area C Eastern Region members (including members from the Central Coast) and the Eastern Regional Trustee be held to discuss this matter. Following this meeting the current Area Committee should notify Conference in writing that the Area is substantially in favour of the split and that the creation of a new Area will not damage the existing Area. On receipt of this notification, a mail poll of Conference members to approve the topic will be conducted.

Voting: For: 29; Against; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #026/2020

Conference resolved that the statement from Advisory Action #002/2018 'group problems should be resolved by group conscience and that the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the General Service Office have no responsibility for solving group problems' should be included in the Group Handbook.

Voting: For: 21; Against: 5; Abstain:3
Carried

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #025/2020

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the General Service Office Prudent Reserve limits, currently set at between 6-12 months by Advisory Action #5/91, be increased to 12-16 months as the current limits do not offer adequate protection of vital services provided.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2
Carried

Advisory Action #031/2020

Conference resolved to accept the audited report for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #032/2020

Conference resolved to accept the budget for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Voting: For: 23; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #019/2020

Conference resolved, by mail poll vote to approve the Special Edition 'A Vision For You' souvenir book to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the birth of AA in Australia, as a Category 2 literature item.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 2; Abstentions: 3
Carried

CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Conference resolved that the Public Service Announcements referred to in Advisory Action #037/2019 should be assessed individually by mail poll to determine whether any are suitable for publication without editing.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 1; Abstentions: 4
Carried

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #029/2020

Conference resolved that the deadline for receipt of topics for discussion at the 2021 General Service Conference by 12am Friday 25th June 2020. A list of topic carried over from 2020 to be sent to all Delegates so that topics are not duplicated.

For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #030/2020

Conference resolved that the Conference Agenda Committee would meet at 10.30am EST on Saturday 19th June 2020 to formulate the Conference Agenda and on Saturday 14th August 2020 to allocate topics to Conference

Voting: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstentions: 4
Carried

Advisory Action #033/2020

Conference resolved that the theme for the General Service Conference 2021 would be 'How Service Strengthens Recovery'.

Voting: Mail Poll vote
Carried

Advisory Action #035/2020

Conference resolved that voting on the date and venue of the 2021 General Service Conference should be deferred until a later date to be advised by the Conference Agenda Committee.

Voting: by a show of hands
Carried

BIDS

Advisory Action #033/2020

Conference resolved to accept the bid from Area A Eastern Region to host the 2021 Eastern Regional Forum.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #034/2020

Conference resolved that the Conference PI&CPC Committee investigate a Chat Now function on our website and provide a report to be sent as an attachment with topics submitted in 2020 which were deferred to Conference 2021.

Voting: For: 21; Against: 4; Abstentions: 4
Carried

SECTION 5

**VOTED ON BUT NOT ADVISORY
ACTIONS**

CONFERENCE TOPICS 2020 VOTED ON, BUT NOT RESULTING IN ADVISORY
ACTIONS (VOTING ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS)

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOPIC #024/2020

For all monies received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment be returned.

Conference agreed with the recommendation of the Conference Finance Committee and resolved to reject the topic requesting that the Jobkeeper subsidies received from the Australian Government be returned. The subsidy goes to the employees not the Fellowship and it is impossible to refund the money.

For: 21 Against: 2 Abstain: 3
Carried

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

TOPIC #012/2020

That conference considers moving *all* of its activities on line for a reasonable period, to be designated by Conference, as an experiment. This would include *The General Service Conference* in November, *Conference Committee* meetings, meetings of the *General Service Board*, and the *Office Management Group*. The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently our fellowship can adapt and change to new technology, when the need arises. It may be prudent for the fellowship to take full advantage of this unique period to see if we cannot do things better.

Conference resolved to reject this topic as it goes beyond the scope of Conference to make the decision on behalf of other entities and future Conferences.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 4; Abstentions 2
Carried

SECTION 8

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN: 77 001 417 125

Financial Report
For the year ended
30 June 2020

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125
Table of Contents

Directors Report	1 - 3
Auditor's independence declaration	4
Financial Report	
Statement of comprehensive income	5
Statement of financial position	6
Statement of changes in equity	7
Statement of cash flows	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 15
Directors' declaration	16
Independent auditors report	17 - 18
Disclaimer	19
Additional information	20 - 21

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125
Directors' Report

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2020 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australia Accounting Standards.

Directors Names

The names of the Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Ruby Jones

Lachlan Botticchio

Penelope Campbell

Paul Jones

Andrew Poad

Judy Woolstencroft

Stephen Roche

Narelle Buchanan Appointed 15 February 2020

Cheryn Porter Appointed 1 April 2020

Michael Eastaway Resigned 31 December 2019

William Hayes Resigned 31 December 2019

The Directors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Company Objectives

To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in its primary purpose of helping alcoholics to achieve sobriety and to act as the legal entity of the spiritual Fellowship

Full objectives are described in the company's Memorandum of Association contained in the Australian Alcoholics Anonymous Service Manual.

Company Performance

The company incurred a surplus for the year of \$93,275. (2019 surplus \$10,248)

Progress reports and Financial reports are provided to the Annual General Service Conference, which is attended by all Directors of the Company. A monthly Management Group meeting, consisting of all National Office staff members and two General Service Trustees is held. These meetings review the monthly accounts, progress of the current National Convention, and progress of tasks assigned to the Board by Conference.

Information on directors

Michael Eastaway Special responsibilities	General Service Trustee
William Hayes Special responsibilities	Northern Regional Trustee
Ruby Jones Special responsibilities	Class A Trustee
Paul Jones Special responsibilities	Western Regional Trustee
Penelope Campbell Special responsibilities	Southern Regional Trustee
Lachlan Botticchio Special responsibilities	General Service Trustee
Andrew Poad Special responsibilities	Central Regional Trustee and Chairman
Judy Woolstencroft Special responsibilities	Eastern Regional Trustee and Deputy Chairman
Stephen Roche Special responsibilities	North Eastern Regional Trustee
Narelle Buchanan Special responsibilities	Class A Trustee
Cheryn Porter Special responsibilities	General Service Trustee

Directors' meetings

The number of Directors' meetings attended by each of the Directors of the company during the year were:

Michael Eastaway
 Ruby Jones
 William Hayes
 Lachlan Botticchio
 Paul Jones
 Penelope Campbell
 Andrew Poad
 Judy Woolstencroft
 Stephen Roche
 Narelle Buchanan
 Cheryn Porter

Director meetings	
<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Attended</i>
2	2
5	4
2	2
5	5
5	5
5	4
5	5
5	5
5	5
1	1
1	1

Members guarantee

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2020 the number of members were 9. The combination total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$450

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit for the financial year is provided with this report.

Signed on behalf of the board of Directors

Director

Director

Dated this

day of

2020

Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

ABN 77 001 417 125

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

TO THE DIRECTORS OF

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the period ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- i. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.

GRAEME KAY CA
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....

Dated:.....

Page 4

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: graemekayauditor@outlook.com

Limited Liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
Sales Revenue	2	272,623	301,027
Other Revenue	2	459,079	316,076
	2	<u>731,702</u>	<u>617,103</u>
Less Expenses			
Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	3	(35,816)	37,691
Cost of Goods Sold	3	(117,866)	(174,957)
Depreciation / Amortisation	3	(32,402)	-
Employee benefits expense		(287,672)	(246,315)
Rent expenses		(3,949)	(40,987)
Doubtful Debts		(4,650)	4,791
Insurance expenses		(16,083)	(17,579)
Telephone expenses		(5,578)	(6,380)
Postage		(2,618)	(4,262)
Public information expenses		(10,583)	(15,714)
Conference / Seminar costs		(65,314)	(55,145)
Travelling expenses		(22,065)	(38,397)
World service levy		(1,506)	(8,486)
Other expenses		(32,325)	(41,115)
		<u>(638,427)</u>	<u>(606,855)</u>
Surplus / (deficit)		93,275	10,248
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>93,275</u>	<u>10,248</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
 ABN 77 001 417 125
 Statement of Financial Position
 as at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	368,196	244,219
Receivables	6	22,985	30,459
Inventories	7	150,275	194,001
Other financial assets	8	96,243	95,190
Other assets	10	6,665	4,968
Total Current Assets		<u>644,364</u>	<u>568,835</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	6	10,000	20,417
Property, plant and equipment	9	75,316	-
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>85,316</u>	<u>20,417</u>
Total Assets		<u>729,680</u>	<u>589,252</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	50,308	90,681
Provisions	12	10,725	5,921
Lease	11	34,261	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>95,294</u>	<u>96,602</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	12	75,400	67,993
Lease	11	41,055	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>116,455</u>	<u>67,993</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>211,749</u>	<u>164,595</u>
Net Assets		<u>517,931</u>	<u>424,657</u>
Equity			
Retained earnings	13	517,931	424,657
Total Equity		<u>517,931</u>	<u>424,657</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Total Equity		
Balance at the beginning of the year	424,657	414,409
Movement in equity from:		
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	93,275	10,248
Balance at the end of the year	<u>517,931</u>	<u>424,657</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
 ABN 77 001 417 125
 Statement of Cash Flows
 for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		726,727	580,754
Payments to suppliers and employees		(602,946)	(593,831)
Interest received		1,250	1,750
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14	<u>125,031</u>	<u>(11,327)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Receipt from (Payments for) investments		(1,054)	(1,506)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(1,054)</u>	<u>(1,506)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		123,977	(12,833)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		244,219	257,052
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5	<u>368,196</u>	<u>244,219</u>

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial report was approved by the Directors as at the date of the Directors' report.

The financial report is for the entity General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia as an individual entity. General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical cost convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value of certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

(b) Revenue

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably. Risks and rewards of ownership are considered passed to the buyer at the time of delivery of the goods to the customer.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Dividends received from associates and joint venture entities are accounted for in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial asset.

Donations and other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is measured net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

As of 1st July 2019, Revenue is recognised as per AASB 15 "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" if applicable

(c) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(d) Inventories

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(e) Financial instruments

Classification

The company classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the nature of the item and the purpose for which the instruments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial instruments at initial recognition.

Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and the company intends to hold the investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities include trade payables, other creditors and loans from third parties including inter-company balances and loans from or other amounts due to Director-related entities.

Non-derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Financial liabilities are classified as current liabilities unless the group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation Basis
Leasehold improvements at cost	20%	Straight line
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	8% - 25%	Straight line

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(g) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets are assessed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount of an asset exceeds the asset's recoverable amount. Impairment losses in respect of individual assets are recognised immediately in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount such as property, plant and equipment, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with the applicable Standard.

The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

(h) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will result and that outflow can be measured reliably.

(i) Leases

The Entity has adopted AASB16: *Leases* retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying AASB16 recognised at 1 July 2019. In accordance with AASB16 the comparative for the 2019 reporting period have not been restated.

The Entity has recognised a lease liability and right-of-use asset for all leases (with the exception of short term and low value leases) recognised as operating leases under AASB117: *Leases* where the Entity is the lessee.

The lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments. The entity's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July 2019 was used to discount the lease payments.

The right of use assets for equipment was measured at its carrying amount as if AASB16: *Leases* has been applied since the commencement date, but discounted using the Entity's incremental borrowing rate per lease term on 1 July 2019

The right of use assets for the remaining leases was measured and recognised in the statement of financial position as at 1 July 2019 by taking into consideration the lease liability, prepaid and accrued lease payments previously recognised as at 1 July 2019 (that are related to the lease)

The following practical expedients have been used by the Entity in applying AASB16 for the first time:

- for a portfolio of leases that have reasonably similar characteristics, a single discount rate has been applied;
- leases that have a remaining lease term of less than 12 months as at 1 July 2019 have been accounted for in the same way as short-term leases;
- the use of hindsight to determine lease terms on contracts that have options to extend or terminate;
- applying AASB16 to leases previously identified as leases under AASB117: *Lease and Interpretation 4: Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease* without reassessing whether they are, or contain, a lease at the date on initial application;
- not applying AASB16 *Leases* previously not identified as containing a lease under AASB117 and Interpretation 4

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(j) Employment benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of salaries and wages, annual leave, accumulated sick leave and any other employee benefit (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave and accumulated sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future salary and wage levels, duration of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in the profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(k) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs including interest expense calculated using the effective interest method, finance charges in respect of finance leases, and exchange differences arising from foreign currency borrowings to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest cost.

Borrowing costs are expenses as incurred.

(l) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(m) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

(n) Event occurring after the reporting date

The corona virus outbreak in early 2020 has the potential to impact future services for the entity's customer base. The extent of the impact was unable to be quantified as at the date the financial report was authorised for issue.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances has arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the entity, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
 ABN 77 001 417 125
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 for the year ended 30 June 2020

NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Sales revenue		
- Sale of goods	272,623	301,027
Total revenue from operating activities	<u>272,623</u>	<u>301,027</u>
Other Revenue		
- Interest Income	1,250	1,750
- Donations and grants	328,051	264,045
- Conventions	-	10,417
- COVID19 Stimulus	42,110	-
- Other revenue	87,668	39,864
Total revenue from non-operating activities	<u>459,079</u>	<u>316,076</u>
Total revenue and other income:	<u>731,702</u>	<u>617,103</u>
NOTE 3: OPERATING SURPLUS		
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		
- Cost of Sales	153,682	137,266
- Depreciation / Lease Amortisation	32,402	-
- Bad Debts Written off	-	2,851
- Doubtful Debts	4,650	(4,791)
- Audit Fee - Audit Services	12,315	12,315
NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		
Compensation received by key management personnel of the company		
- short-term employee benefits	96,640	93,744
- Post-employment benefits	8,532	7,976
	<u>105,172</u>	<u>101,720</u>
NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank and on hand	388,196	244,219
	<u>388,196</u>	<u>244,219</u>
NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade Debtors	34,034	30,309
Impairment Loss	(11,049)	(6,400)
	<u>22,985</u>	<u>23,909</u>
Other Debtors and deposits	-	6,550
	<u>22,985</u>	<u>30,459</u>
NON CURRENT		
Amount receivable from:		
- director related parties	-	-
- other related body corporates	10,000	20,417
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>20,417</u>
	<u>32,985</u>	<u>50,876</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
 ABN 77 001 417 125
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 for the year ended 30 June 2020

NOTE 7: INVENTORIES	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
<i>At Cost</i>		
Finished goods - at cost	158,184	204,203
Provision for impairment	<u>(7,909)</u>	<u>(10,202)</u>
	<u>150,275</u>	<u>194,001</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term Deposit	<u>96,243</u>	<u>95,190</u>
	<u>96,243</u>	<u>95,190</u>

The term deposit has an interest rate of 0.75% p.a and a maturity date of 12th September 2020

NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Leasehold improvements		
<i>At cost</i>		
	23,026	23,026
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(23,026)</u>	<u>(23,026)</u>
	-	-
Plant and equipment		
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost</i>		
	12,553	12,553
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(12,553)</u>	<u>(12,553)</u>
	-	-
Lease		
<i>Right of Use Asset</i>		
	171,303	-
Less: accumulated amortisation	<u>(95,987)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>75,316</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Property, plant and equipment	<u>75,316</u>	<u>-</u>

(a) Reconciliations

<i>Leasehold improvements</i>		
Opening carrying amount	-	-
Less: amortisation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing carrying amount	-	-
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	-	-
Less: disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Less: depreciation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing carrying amount	-	-
<i>Leases</i>		
Opening carrying amount	-	-
Add: New Leases	171,303	-
Less: disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Less: amortisation expense	<u>(95,987)</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>75,316</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS

CURRENT		
Prepayments	<u>6,665</u>	<u>4,966</u>
	<u>6,665</u>	<u>4,966</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
 ABN 77 001 417 125
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 for the year ended 30 June 2020

NOTE 11: PAYABLES	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade Creditors	1,134	48,416
Sundry creditors and accruals	49,174	42,265
Lease Liability	34,261	-
	<u>84,569</u>	<u>90,681</u>
NON CURRENT		
Lease Liability	<u>41,055</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Payables	<u>125,624</u>	<u>90,681</u>

NOTE 12: PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Employee benefits	(a) 10,725	5,921
	<u>10,725</u>	<u>5,921</u>
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits	(a) 75,400	67,993
	<u>75,400</u>	<u>67,993</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	<u>86,125</u>	<u>73,914</u>

NOTE 13: RETAINED SURPLUS		
Retained Surplus at beginning of year	424,657	414,409
Surplus / (deficit)	83,275	10,248
	<u>517,931</u>	<u>424,657</u>

NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with profit after income tax		
Profit after income tax	93,275	10,248
Non-cash flows in profit		
- bad and doubtful debts	4,650	(1,940)
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
- (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	13,241	(13,481)
- (increase) / decrease in other assets	(1,699)	18,513
- (increase) / decrease in inventories	43,726	(37,691)
- (increase) / decrease in Right of Use Asset	(75,316)	-
- (increase) / decrease in Lease Liabilities	75,316	-
- increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	(43,973)	30,670
- increase / (decrease) in tax liabilities	3,600	(3,228)
- increase / (decrease) in provision	12,211	(14,418)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>125,031</u>	<u>(11,327)</u>

NOTE 15: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Apart from the loans to regions, there were no related party transactions during the year

(b) No Directors received remuneration during the year

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125
Directors' Declaration

The Directors of the company declare that:

- (a) the financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and
 - (i) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act*
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director

Director

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2020

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii. complying with *Division 60 of the Australian charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My Responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard: Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, that give a true and fair and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an independent auditors' report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

GRAEME KAY
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....

Dated:.....

Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

DISCLAIMER

TO THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

I have compiled the accompanying additional financial information of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2020, as presented on pages 20-21. The additional information has been prepared to satisfy the information with the Accounting Policies adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2020 as described in Note 1 to those financial statements.

The Responsibility of the Directors

The Directors of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia are solely responsible for the form and content of the additional information, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile it and for the determination that the basis of accounting used for its preparation is appropriate to meet their needs and appropriate for the purpose that the additional information was prepared.

My responsibility

On the basis of information provided to me by management, I have compiled the accompanying additional information in accordance with the basis of accounting described above and *APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information*.

I have applied my expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile the additional information in accordance with the basis of accounting described above. I have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, I am not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to me by management to compile the additional information of the appropriateness of the basis of accounting used for its preparation. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the additional information.

The additional information was compiled exclusively for the benefit of the management and the Directors of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. The additional information may not be suitable for other purposes. I do not accept responsibility for the contents of the additional information.

GRAEME KAY

Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....

Dated:.....

Page 19

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: graemekayauditor@outlook.com

Limited Liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125

Additional Information
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Private information for the Directors
On the 2020 Financial Statements

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Sale of Goods	272,623	301,027
Less Cost of goods sold		
Opening Inventory	194,001	156,310
Purchases / Materials used	109,957	174,957
	<u>303,958</u>	<u>331,267</u>
Less closing inventory	150,276	194,001
Total cost of goods sold	<u>153,682</u>	<u>137,266</u>
Gross profit	<u>118,941</u>	<u>163,761</u>
Other operating income		
Interest Income	1,250	1,750
Conference levies	57,498	39,864
Convention	-	10,417
Donations	328,051	264,045
COVID 19 Government Stimulus	42,110	-
Sundry Income	30,170	-
Total other operating income	<u>459,079</u>	<u>316,076</u>
Contribution Margin	<u>578,020</u>	<u>479,837</u>
Less Expenses		
Audit and accountancy	(21,593)	(22,810)
Bad debts	-	(2,851)
Bank charges	(877)	(851)
Computer support	(40)	(859)
Conference / Seminar costs	(65,314)	(55,145)
Depreciation and amortisation	(32,402)	-
Doubtful Debts	(4,650)	4,791
Electricity and gas	(3,307)	(5,245)
Foreign Currency Gains / (Losses)	6,967	-
Holiday pay	(4,804)	(291)
Insurance expenses	(16,083)	(17,579)
Interest Expenses	(1,858)	-
Legal and trademark expenses	(1,866)	(221)
Long service leave	(7,407)	14,709
Office expenses	(4,380)	(4,270)
Postage and freight	(2,618)	(4,262)
Production costs	(3,212)	(2,968)
Public information expenses	(10,583)	(15,714)
Rent expenses	(3,949)	(40,987)
Repairs and maintenance	(247)	(344)
Salaries and wages	(253,066)	(239,848)
Subscriptions	-	(696)
Superannuation	(22,395)	(20,885)
Telephone	(5,578)	(6,380)
Travelling expenses	(22,065)	(38,397)
Website Development	(1,912)	-
World service levy	(1,506)	(8,486)
	<u>(484,745)</u>	<u>(469,589)</u>
Surplus / (deficit)	93,275	10,248
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>93,275</u>	<u>10,248</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
ABN 77 001 417 125

Additional Information
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Private information for the Directors
On the 2020 Financial Statements

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
NOTE 11: Sundry creditors and accruals		
Collection due to others	33,221	29,993
GST Payable	(1,179)	665
PAYG withholding tax	5,444	-
Superannuation payable	1,888	1,607
Provision for audit	10,000	10,000
Lease Liability	75,316	-
	<u>124,490</u>	<u>42,265</u>
NOTE 12: Provisions		
Current employee benefits		
Annual leave	10,725	5,921
	<u>10,725</u>	<u>5,921</u>
Non-current employee benefits		
Long service leave	75,400	67,993
	<u>75,400</u>	<u>67,993</u>