

Quarterly Report from the Board



AN UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD TO AREA DELEGATES

This is a confidential bulletin, for use only within A.A.

February 2021

Trustees' Message

We started 2021 with our February Board meeting held 20-21. February via Zoom. Our GSO staff continue to work from home with one staff member regularly attending the office. The Board meeting was fully attended, and we reviewed the committees of the Board which include: Finance & Budgeting, General Service Conference, International, Literature & Archives, Nominating, PI/CPC, Treatment & Accessibility, and Correctional Facilities.

We had a very successful "Meet The Board" Zoom session where the Fellowship was invited to hear from the Board members and also to ask questions. We had over 50 members of the Fellowship attend and lots of questions were asked of the Board. We aim to continue this initiative.

Cheryn P, our General Service Trustee gave a presentation on AA's finances explaining the prudent reserve. We have included a summary later in the newsletter.

Topics for Conference

Although the topic form states that the 25th June is the deadline, it would be very helpful if topics could be submitted before the first meeting of the Conference Agenda on **19th June 2021**, if possible.

World Services

Attached to this newsletter is the third edition of the World Service Committee newsletter.

2021 Adelaide Convention cancelled

Whilst the Adelaide Host Planning Committee were devastated to announce the cancellation of the 56th National Convention due to COVID-19, the restrictions placed on the numbers allowed to attend gave the Committee no option. We now move to Southern Region to form the Host Planning Committee for 2022.



Resignation of Southern Region Trustee

Penny C, who has served on the Board as a Class B Trustee for over two years, has announced her resignation effective from 20th February 2021 due to personal reasons. We thank Penny for her service.

Introducing Northern Region Trustee – Jane M

The Northern Region Area A held its Area Assembly on 17th January 2021 to select a Regional Trustee, which had been vacant for approximately one year, as Bill H had rotated off. The Assembly voted to support Jane M's application to be the next Regional Trustee. This application was accepted by the Board. Welcome Jane.

2021 National Forum: Treatment & Accessibility, Correctional Facilities, & PI/CPC

Following on from last year's national Treatment & Corrections Online Forum 2020, Area C (North Eastern Region) is hosting the inaugural combined National Forum incorporating Treatment & Accessibility, Correctional Facilities, and PI/CPC.

The purpose of the Forum is to meet a need in our ever-growing Fellowship and provide a unique opportunity for direct communication and personal contact between members.

It will be held at the Colmslie Hotel Conference Centre in Morningside, Brisbane from 27-29 August. The theme is *Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends* - and if there was ever a time for us to come together and look at what initiatives are occurring in our wonderful fellowship it is now.

If you would like to be involved in any way – speaker, participant, observer – please visit our website for further information and to register: <https://www.aanationalcombinedforum2021.com/>

Bonnie I. Chair, 2021 National Forum

Financial Position / Prudent Reserve

The Reserve Fund is GSO's prudent reserve. Its principal purpose is to provide the financial resources to continue the essential services of the GSO for up to a year in the event of an unexpected and substantial reduction in the normal revenues of the organisation.

The current status is:

- 2020 GSO operating costs were ~\$484,745, which equates to \$9,322.02 per week
- The prudent reserve goal is therefore \$484,745
- The current reserve is \$378,517 - a shortfall of \$106,228 (or 9.36 months).

Operating Costs & Contributions Goal

The impact of COVID 19 on the General Service Office caused an unexpected and substantial reduction in contributions and a severe decline in Literature Sales. This has continued into 2021 with the literature sales declining and the Adelaide Convention Committee having to make the decision to cancel the convention. It is clearly not sustainable to rely on these avenues any more for our revenue. It has been shown that our General Service is vulnerable and our services will suffer.

The goal of the General Service Office is for the Operating costs of the Office to be self-supported through fellowship contributions.

2020 Office Operating costs were \$484,745 per annum which equates to \$9322.02 per week. Average weekly contributions are currently \$8,052.21, which is \$1,269.81 per week short. If continued, this equates to an annual shortfall of \$41,903.66.

Income Summary

Income - September 2020 to January 2021					
	January 2021	December 2020	30 Nov 20	30 Oct 20	30 Sep 20
Income					
Action Club	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$550.00	\$655.00	\$720.00
Birthday Club	\$0.00	\$297.00	\$188.00	\$160.00	\$219.00
Central Region	\$1,720.00	\$4,412.00	\$7,615.87	\$8,715.12	\$9,311.32
Eastern Region	\$7,267.00	\$7,366.00	\$47,813.20	\$49,810.51	\$50,198.28
Northeastern Region	\$3,297.00	\$9,079.00	\$24,033.28	\$27,967.42	\$35,663.00
Northern Region	\$265.00	\$2,157.00	\$1,746.73	\$1,759.89	\$1,500.92
Personal	\$13,086.00	\$6,859.00	\$54,304.56	\$59,592.07	\$76,570.83
Southern Region	\$2,239.00	\$1,998.00	\$19,475.16	\$22,694.93	\$25,774.77
Western Region	\$1,354.00	\$4,330.00	\$15,653.89	\$15,038.89	\$11,537.39
Total Income	\$29,238.00	\$36,508.00	\$171,380.69	\$186,393.83	\$211,495.51

Positions Vacant

(1) World Service Delegate

Brian S will be rotating out of his position this year and a new World Service Delegate will be elected at Conference this year. Please pass on to anyone who may be interested. This is a self-nominating position and does not have to be endorsed by an Area.

(2) Southern Region Delegate

This role is now vacant, and given the 2022 National Convention is 12 months away, ought to be filled as soon as possible.

Joke of the Day

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He saw a person on the ground and yelled down to him, "Can you help me? I don't know where I am." The man replied, "Sure, I'll help you. You are in a hot air balloon hovering 30 feet above the ground... between 40 and 41 degrees North latitude and between 59 & 60 degrees West longitude."

"Wow, you must be an AA sponsor", said the man in the balloon. "I am", said the man, "but what gave me away?"

"Well", answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically right but I am still lost. Frankly you're not much help at all and you might even have delayed my trip."

"You must be an AA sponsee", replied the man. The man in the balloon was amazed and said, "I am, but how did you know?"

The man on the ground said, "Well, you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a lot of hot air. You are expecting other people to solve your problems and the fact is that you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but, somehow now IT'S MY FAULT" !

Yours in service,

Andy P. Chair,
General Service
Board

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP



A Newsletter from the World Service Committee

Number 3

26TH WORLD SERVICE MEETING 28TH – 30TH NOVEMBER 2020

Due to the Corona Virus the 26th World Service Meeting was held virtually on the Zoom platform. Due to the time restrictions Country Reports and Country Highlights were not to be presented at the Meeting but were placed on a specially set-up Dashboard.

Each day the meeting began in New York at 7am and concluded at 12.30pm. For us in Australia this meant beginning at 11pm and finishing at 4.30am the next day. Present were 69 Delegates representing 44 countries.

As a First Term Delegate I was struck by the universal nature of the disease of alcoholism. Alcoholics from the four corners of the globe are affected in a similar fashion by the disease and "talk the same language" despite differences in their native tongue.

Since the disease affects us all in the same fashion, our recovery comes with the same solution, embodied in the Twelve Steps of our spiritual programme.

Fortunately/Unfortunately because the disease is universal, the Fellowship is confronted with similar organizational problems worldwide. The sharing of these problems and the experience of countries who may have addressed similar situations is one of the main goals of the World Service Meetings.

The gathering of people from all corners of the world in a peaceful, joyful, supportive atmosphere would surely be God's ideal for his entire world. I was reminded of the final paragraph of Step Eleven in our book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions":-

*"Perhaps one of the greatest rewards of meditation and prayer is the sense of **belonging** that comes to us. We no longer live in a completely hostile world. We are no longer lost and frightened and purposeless. The moment we catch even a glimpse of God's will, the moment we begin to see truth, justice and love as the real and eternal things in life, we are no longer deeply disturbed by all the seeming evidence to the contrary that surrounds us in purely human affairs. We know that God lovingly watches over us. We know that when we turn to Him, all will be well with us, here and hereafter."*

The date for the next WSM is 1st - 6th October 2022. The Theme for 2022 will be **"Carrying the Message of AA in the Digital Age"**.

(A full report of the 26th WSM has been sent to all Area Delegates.)