

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.

Sept 2022

Chair's Welcome

Hi all and welcome to the latest Board's Newsletter. I would like to thank all our members out there doing valuable service work to enable the suffering alcoholic to hear our message of recovery.

Well what's been happening? The Board had its first face to face meeting since February 2020 in July in Sydney. We found out our Board members and GSO staff have legs after all and are not just pretty faces. The meeting went very well and I believe some good decisions were made.

The Members Survey will close very soon. If you haven't done so, please do it soon. Here is the QR code and the link. It only takes a few minutes.

Preliminary results show that most respondents were 40 to 69 years of age. Very few were under 20 (0.17%). They tend to live in metro areas (47%). Less than 2% reported living in remote areas. 5.5% reported a disability that made it hard to attend meetings. There are some interesting results on our response to on-line meetings. A full report will be collated once the Survey has closed.

I have attended a couple of great Regional Forums. An on-line one hosted by NE Region and a face to face in Central Region. Both were quite different but were a great way of sharing service. Lots of enthusiasm. I look forward to the Eastern Regional Forum in Canberra in September. If your region hasn't had one for a while consider asking an Area to put in a bid.

Finally my best wishes to all those who are looking at Conference Topics. Please have your say via your Group GSR, District and Area. It's important for our Fellowship's health that we have an informed Group Conscience at our General Service Conference.

Yours in love and Service
Judy

Members Survey Link



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SQZHBBX>

57th National Convention of AA with Al-Anon and Alateen Participation in Perth W.A. Thursday 6th April to Sunday 9th April 2023



<https://www.aanatcon2023.com.au>

"The Turning Point" 2023 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous with Al-Anon and Alateen participation will be held at the Rendezvous in Scarborough. The location is a fabulous beachside resort close to CBD with many attractions nearby (if you can tear yourself away from the meetings, fellowship and service opportunities). Checkout the website for registration and hotel details & "promo code". Easter can be a busy time, so book early and don't miss this one!

Joke of the Day

A sponsor and his sponsee are deserted on an island. They come upon a bottle.
They rub it and a genie appears and says they each get one wish – whatever they want.
The sponsor says, “I wish I were back with my homegroup.”
POOF! He disappears.
The sponsee paces nervously around, indecisive, anxious, nervous...
Should I ask for money? A woman? A nice boat?
Finally in exasperation he cries out, “I wish my sponsor was here!” POOF!

General Service Conference

The dates for Conference this year are 3rd – 6th November 2022.

Topics have been distributed. See your group's General Service Representative (GSR) for more detail

World Service Report

As part of my duties on the AOSM wish to report that last month I was a participant in a “zoom meeting” with the committee members of the portfolio of “Working With Others” better known as the WWO committee. The main outcome of this meeting was to reach out to Countries that have had very little contact or association with the World Service Committees and the need to follow up on Countries with previous involvement with the World Service Structure Committees but have not done so for a while now.

I would like on behalf of Australia's World Service delegates to thank all the members in our Country who generously gave to the recent “Brown Paper Bag Appeal” whether individually or by Group, District or Area. The amount so far is in excess of over twelve thousand dollars with some contributions still coming in due to decisions made at “group conscience” after founder's week. This amounts to being ten thousand dollars more than previous two years contributions.

Yours in service Brian F. (First Term Delegate)

“I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, Reaches out for Help, I want the Hand of AA always to be there, and for That: I am Responsible”.

Finances

Treasury is in a healthy condition. A combination of good group contributions & literature sales, plus a reduction in expenses, have put the fellowship into a stable financial condition and indeed there is finally some extra cash to fund some projects. An AUSLAN translation of the Bigbook has been in the works for some time and we will be in a position to facilitate production as soon as AAWS gives approval. If you have a project for AA now is the time to put it forward. Speak to your GSR to put a topic together for the next conference.

Let us not be complacent regarding our seventh tradition. Although we are doing very well today, the general economic forecast in a greater financial sense...remains gloomy. Please do continue to give generously and support the primary purpose of AA as it is expressed through the group conscience of the fellowship.

We would like to thank those members and groups who have and continue to contribute to generously.

2025 – AA Australia's 80th Anniversary

AA80 its not a flight number...but you won't want to miss it. Plans are underway to help celebrate 80 years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia. On the AA website there is a page where members are putting forward ideas for events to help commemorate this milestone.



<https://aa.org.au/category/aa80/>

Have a look at some of the concepts and undertakings already suggested and brainstorm with your friends and group members some initiatives to make 2025 a year to remember...

Remote Communities Report

Connection, communities and hope

It is with much gratitude that I had the opportunity alongside two other AA members to attend the National Indigenous Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Conference in Cairns between 15 August - 17 August 2022 to take part in the collective effort to understand significant national challenges.

The excited Parramatta State Primary School dancers set the agenda demonstrating the importance of connection, community and inclusion through traditional dance involving girls from all cultural backgrounds, followed by a powerful and deeply personal Welcome to Country by Auntie Jeanette Singleton, a Yirrganydji woman from Yorkeys Knob and a respected traditional elder of the Yirrganydji people. Auntie Jeanette who is third stolen generation, spoke about her 12-year-old great-grandfather playing witness to the English as they crossed the shore and the first mission established in Yarrabah. Auntie, through her explanation of her spiritual connection to country rooted in a history many, many thousands of years prior clearly embodies the fortitude and personal resilience demonstrated to lead critical work addressing wellbeing of Indigenous communities.

Conference theme, 'The impossible is just the next step for us in our journey' was echoed through presentations across themes of acceptance, courage and connection to self, to family, to country, to spirit.

Speakers coming from all backgrounds, ages and abilities spoke to their own truth with deep connection to singular purpose of service. Inspiring stories included Dr Tim White's training and mental health work in the Aurukun

community, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Support Officer from Karralika (ACT) Jonathan Cornforth's brave suicide survival story titled 'Six Commodore Airbags', and insights from his therapist Merv Edmunds who has worked with young people to reach their potential for the past 30 years.

We were so fortunate to hear of the experiences from Māori Health Psychologist Dr Amber Logan & Native American Clinical Psychologist Dr Joseph Stone from Blackfeet tribe about intergenerational trauma and traditional healing methods deeply rooted in spiritual practice that had yielded much success.

We had the opportunity to have honest and informative conversations with many people about AA who were surprisingly unaware of meetings in their own area or knew little of how it works. We also displayed AA for Indigenous Australians brochures in the trade area which were quite popular. This conference was an excellent way to have meaningful conversations about AA and many new project ideas were suggested by elders and community leaders including AA visiting remote communities.

In the spirit of AA, we attended two meetings in Cairns, warmly welcomed by local members and heard the messages of hope, unity, service, and love, loud and clear which reinforced the importance of proactively connecting with our communities both urban and remote to help the suffering alcoholic where we can.

Experiences like this fill me with hope because through connection and working with others we can achieve so much. I am so grateful to have spent quality time with two other like-minded folk on this journey and hope we can action some of the suggested ways to carry the message.

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP



A Newsletter from the World Service Delegates

Number 9

Fiji has been officially chosen to host the 2023 AOSM. This has been made possible thanks to the financial backing of the New Zealand and Australian Fellowships. As countries that have larger AA Membership and a more developed AA Structure, it is our responsibility to reach out to countries where AA may be in its infancy. This sponsorship project by Australia and New Zealand will surely be a model for the future in the AOSM.

This year's World Service Meeting, set down for Japan, will again be held virtually from 1st to 6th October. For our Delegates this will mean six days staring at a computer screen from 10pm till 4.30am !!!! Plenty of coffee and bleary eyes. The theme for this year's Meeting is "Carrying the message of A.A. in the Digital Age." It will be most worthwhile to share experiences across the globe as we confront the Digital Age and investigate initiatives to enable us to continue to carry the message in today's world.

One section of the Presentation Topics come under the main heading of "*Alcoholics Anonymous has already come of age. Is there a danger that it may get too old?*" The sub-topics under this heading are "*Has the global pandemic taught us lessons to better inform our Twelfth Step services?*", "*Young People in A.A. (potential members, members and participation in Service)*" and "*How to incorporate online groups into our service structures.*"

A full report of the World Service Meeting including Presentations will be distributed through the General Service Structure once the document is finalised.