

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.

March 2023

General Service Board Meeting

February General Service Board meeting was held in Hobart, Feb 18-19. In attendance were six Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, our Class A Trustee, two World Service Delegates and three General Service Office Staff. Conference topic outcomes and actions were discussed, and the work directed and divided. A raft of compliance documents and policy regarding vulnerable people & incident reporting is in final development. Reports from all committees and the allocated business was enough to keep us busy throughout the weekend, but a highlight was a **“Meet the Board”** event with local members.

Tasmania has not been represented by an area delegate directly for some time, (the Southern Regional Trustee and some ad hoc arrangements keep Tasmania somewhat connected) The response was such that ultimately the meeting was turned from information session to brainstorming from and by the local members and indeed it was heartening to witness the beginnings of the re-formation and bolstering of General Service structures in Hobart and beyond.

It is easy to view each AA as its own autonomous entity, & so it is, however the primary purpose of the group is enhanced and the overall effectiveness of AA as a whole is reliant on communication and cooperation from all of its members. The ultimate expression of this commonality is the democracy of our conference system and the decisions, directions and actions thereof.

Area Delegates will have received Conference Topics forms by now. This our opportunity to have our say and guide the conference and the fellowship in actions and directions that are deemed important and necessary and indeed to address any areas of concern that can be improved upon or redirected. So please get them out to your areas, districts and local groups. Deadline for submissions is June 16th 4:00pm.

57th National Convention of AA



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

It's nearly time! “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 Checkout the website for registration and hotel details & “promo code”.

58th National Convention of AA

The 2024 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Adelaide over Easter. Full details will be released and registrations open after the 2023 convention in Perth.

59th National Convention of AA

The 2025 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Sydney as the centrepiece of celebrations to mark 80 years of AA in Australia. Such a momentous occasion deserves a monumental celebration. There is a place for you to get involved! Share your ideas or contribute via link.

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...



Joke of the Day

Me: Hi, my name is Rick and I drink too much.

Them: Sir, this is Triple A, not AA.

Me: I'm just telling you why my car is in the river.

Finances

General Service remains in fair financial shape, however there has been a 30% decline recently in individual support contributions. Group contributions, literature sales and convention surplus are the main sources of income, but we would encourage individual self-support opportunities through direct contributions. Here is a link which will take you to the AA website with more detail.



AA in the digital age will continue to present challenges and opportunities. Discussions around 7th tradition contribution methods was robust at the GSB meeting and we are keen to hear about the methods groups and service entities are using to collect and distribute 7th tradition.

Some funds for new projects exist. The current fiscal position supports the funding of some already approved projects, but also opens the viability of plans and projects in line with our primary purpose. Please submit your ideas. We are in a position to take action and make some good ideas realities!

One of these projects has been helping to fund an Auslan interpreter (first Sunday of the month) for the deaf at Progress Not Perfection South Yarra Sunday. In-person and Online 10:30am Meeting ID: 394 896 349 Passcode: 992668

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.

Archives project

Our AA history in Australia, largely resides in cardboard boxes at GSO, CSOs and various locations across Australia. A National Archives Working Committee has been established to collate, organise and ultimately to digitise and preserve our heritage records. This committee is made up of archivists from all over Australia who have a passion for preserving these precious documents and memories for successive generations.

2024 National PI & CPC, TCF and RCA Forum

It's a mouthful, but we have all bases covered for getting the word out! Adelaide will host the National Public Information & Co-operation with Professional Community, Treatment & Correctional Facilities and Remote Communities & Accessibility Forum in 2024, look out for details in AA Around Australia.

Treatment and Correctional Facilities

March is National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Month! Could all Area Delegates please inform our National C.F. Co-ordinator of what local initiatives are current in your areas. This information to be shared nationally he help inform and inspire continued 12 step work in this field.

timkosullivan@gmail.com

Off the back of Advisory Action #004/2022 a working group is being formed to develop less formal and easy to read materials, our combined knowledge will be key in this endeavour. To contribute contact Grant (Chair of Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee)

grantsmale@yahoo.com.au

The position of National Co-ordinator for Treatment & Accessibility is now being advertised. Look out for that in AA Around Australia

Websites

<https://aa.org.au>

the main page for AA in Australia

<https://meetings.aa.org.au>

for all the information about meetings in Australia

<https://literature.aa.org.au>

for current AA books and pamphlets

<https://members.aa.org.au>

The members' website where you will find all the information and resources you need. The members' website is superseding the old service website and all of that history and records will be here.

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP

COUNTRY	POPULATION (in millions)	GROUPS	MEMBERSHIP
NORWAY	5.4		2,000
SLOVAKIA	5.5	53	440
SLOVENIA	2	54	450
ROMANIA	19.2	60	600
PARAGUAY	7.1	78	600
NETHERLANDS	17.1	203	2,000
SOUTH AFRICA	59.3	386	5,500
SWEDEN	10	460	
NEW ZEALAND	4.8	500	5,000
JAPAN	126.4	600	5,750
SPAIN	46.7	620	9,600
FINLAND	5	660	10,000
IRELAND	4.9	900	15,000
INDIA	1,300	2,250	50,000
GREAT BRITAIN	67.9	5,000	
MEXICO	128.9	14,500	121,000
TRINIDAD & T.	1.4	116	
US/CANADA	368.7	68,000	1,400,000
VENEZUELA	28.4	240	2,700



A Newsletter from the World Service Delegates

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEMBERSHIP

(compiled from reports at World Service Meeting 2018)