

# 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.*

June 2023

### General Service Conference Topic Deadline looming!

This our opportunity to have a 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.

Deadline for submissions is **June 16<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm.**

### National Public Awareness Forum

All Alcoholics Anonymous members interested or active in Public Information and Cooperation with Professionals in the Community Treatment and Correctional Facilities, Remote Communities and Accessibility.

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024. Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hindley St, Adelaide CBD S.A.

A full program including workshops, Saturday night banquet and guest speaker Billy N, Palm Beach USA Registrations, hotel bookings link & program details will be available soon, (watch out on AAAA & the AA website) details: [aanationalpiandcpc@gmail.com](mailto:aanationalpiandcpc@gmail.com)

### 57th National Convention of AA

“The Turning Point” 2023 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous held at the Rendezvous in Scarborough was a huge success! A great program, a wonderful venue and location, a warm welcoming atmosphere...and about 700 alcoholics! If you were there, I need say nothing, if not I can only say, see the next article and get to Adelaide in 2024 for a memorable and uplifting celebration of AA.

Thanks to the Host Planning Committee, all the volunteers and the locals who made it so good!

One of the highlights was the opening ceremony and the address given by Cheryn, Chair of the GSB. Here are some highlights.

“The theme for this year’s conference is apt, the Turning Point, as a fellowship we have stood at many turning points over the years. We have stood at the

Turning Point, at the brink, at the crossroads. We, with the rest of the world stood at a turning point just over 3 years ago with the Pandemic, transitioning the fellowship onto online. We did this seamlessly led by members with the skills and knowledge in technology and the help of volunteers updating the meetings list on the website, we developed ways to keep out trolls and take money. We now have a Virtual Area represented at Conference. We came together as a fellowship even though we could not see each other physically.

This brought us to a turning point with our finances and we realised that the current way we were accounting for money was not adequate in a crisis. We came to realise at this time that we were not fully self-supporting, our primary reliance was on literature sales and conventions, two things that were taken away from us as a source of income during the pandemic. The General Service Board restructured the finances, making it transparent and asking the fellowship for more support, the fellowship responded, and we now have a solid base to operate from. As Bill Wilson said ‘AA wants no charity: that we support our own services. We understand – but we sometimes forget’

So why should we provide our groups, local/central service offices, area and general service office with money? Every single AA service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible. Groups that meet face to face or virtually have expenses. Local/Central Service or areas provide literature and information to groups and community services locally, the General Service Office provides services nationally, services that include the 1300 number, literature, National Conference, PI and the Website, Group insurances and the administration function for AA. These services are essential to our continued expansion. Our 7th Tradition donations are used firstly to fund the expenses to provide these services, and anything left over goes to funding projects that come out of Conference Advisory Actions. The costs of these services are a collective obligation that rests squarely on all of us.

So how do we do this today, the old way of passing around the hat or bowl at face-to-face meetings can no longer be the only way of collecting 7th Tradition. AA has been required to find new ways of collecting money in this cashless society. Technology helps with this, apps, bank accounts and tap n go machines, QR codes. This in itself has brought up challenges, for the group, for the individual and for the service centres. Whilst technology and bank accounts may work for some groups, for others it is not an option. This is a challenge we face today. How can we help the groups and individuals to make this easier? Our Trustee Finance Committee are currently looking at all the ways to receive the 7th Tradition and to communicate instructions on how to set up different methods that will suit our current membership base. We have a number sub-committees and working groups working on projects from Conference Advisory Actions that we are funding at present and these include supporting an Auslan translator for a hybrid meeting in Melbourne for 1 year whilst they become self-supporting. The Chat Now project that is currently at testing stage that will allow people to chat with volunteer members over the internet, another way to access AA. We are looking at producing radio/community services announcements for the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a new suite of videos for professionals and digital media as a method for PI. We are working on developing less formal and easier to read material to go into Correctional Facilities. We are in the process of producing a variety of multimedia 12 step resources in various First Nations languages including a book of First Nations members stories, the Serenity prayer, banners and newcomer packs. And my personal favourite we have recruited a Professional Archivist to assist the GSB with the sorting and storage of the General Service Board Archives. Off the back of this we have established a National Archives Working Committee, made up of Archivists from CSO's and Areas from around Australia to establish ways to bring together and share AA's rich and meaningful history with the fellowship, primarily through an online platform. Brad H, the local Archivist from the Perth CSO is a part of this committee and Brad is on the program this weekend presenting on some of that history. Please remember to give generously when you can to support both local and national services so we can share what we have found with others that may need us and fund many more projects like these.

## Conference & GSB makeup

We currently have 6 areas at conference unrepresented, this means that the voice of members from these areas is not being heard in actions decided at conference for our fellowship. Become a part of, put your hand up, say yes. Support our Service Structure.

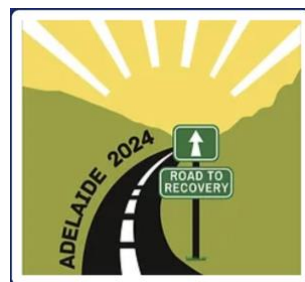
The General Service Board comprise of 8 Alcoholic Trustees (Class B) and 4 Non-Alcoholic Trustees (Class A). We are currently in need of Class A Trustee's, for the General Service Board, of the 4 positions for Class A Trustees, we currently have 3, **Narelle Buchanan**, a Perth local. Narelle's background is in Correctional Services and we are very appreciative of Narelle's time, service and knowledge that she gives so freely to AA. We welcome **Matthew Church** from Victoria, who has a background in advocacy, education, training and consultancy. Matthew will bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to GSB and we look forward to working with him.

### *Hot off the press!*

**Kumi Taguchi** Journalist, presenter and storyteller with 25 years experience in the media industry, has agreed to join the General Service Board as our third Class A Trustee!

## 58th National Convention of AA

The 2024 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Adelaide over Easter. After Covid derailed the 2019 venture, the Adelaide crew are determined to make up for lost time, with a full program including International, Interstate and local speakers in a splendid venue (Hilton Hotel) right in the heart of the city. Central Market and close restaurant precinct will help make this event a memorable experience. Special rate rooms available on the website. <https://www.aanatcon2024.com.au>



## AA80 (59th National Convention of AA)

AA 80th Anniversary Convention Host Planning Committee 2025 Play your part in AA History  
We are looking for volunteer members to join the AA80 Host Planning Committee. As this is a national event, we are open to any member with the relevant experience to help us with the planning and coordination of the event.

Please pass this message on to any likely candidates. There will be many opportunities for service, but we are particularly looking for members with the following experience. Finance, Fundraising, Communications (particularly digital), Public Relations, Programme Coordination, Merchandising, Printing and Literature Volunteer Coordination  
Interested members should contact [chris@aa.org.au](mailto:chris@aa.org.au)

## Joke of the Day

An elderly man is stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and is asked where he is going at this time of night.

The man replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asks, "Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "That would be my wife."

## SOS...."MAY-DAY"....SOS

**"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".**

Many years ago, our World Service Office in New York listened to a cry for help from "Down Under" and answered in a very positive way. The result was that AA was born in Australia. It is now approaching that time of year when the AA Fellowship in Australia continues the principle of helping those countries in need of our support, namely the seventy-two countries within the Asia-Oceania Zone, via the "Brown Paper Bag" International Sponsorship Fund Appeal.

The Asia Oceana Zone contains two thirds of the world's population of which many are third world countries. Because Australia is the "Older Sober Country" a big responsibility falls on us to be responsible and reach out to these countries that request AA help. Why should we contribute to this appeal? Because the still suffering alcoholic in distant countries is still out there in the cold.

This year as a Member / Group / District / Area show both your gratitude and responsibility by contributing to the appeal when your group meets on or closest to 10th June. This is the week, that the appeal is conducted, known as Founders Week. Last year raised \$17,789.00 so let us surpass or equal that amount.

**IF EVERY MEMBER DONATED JUST ONE DOLLAR, WE WOULD EXCEED OVER \$20,000.00**

Electronic Funds Transfer is BSB: 012006 ACCT: 009750529 REF: FDISF  
If your bank only enables a numerical reference just state: 10061935  
CHEQUES PAYABLE to "GSB OF AA" and mail to "FDISF" GSO of AA at  
1/1 Garnet St; Rockdale 2216 NSW

World Service Delegates: Brian 0401 253 211 and Greg 0427 918 568

<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> 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.