

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.

August 2021

Trustees' Message

In July, the Board met via Zoom. At that meeting it was unanimously agreed that Richmond CSO be reinstated on the national website and given full benefits as given to other CSO's such as the 23.5% discount on literature orders.

There was concern from the Board about the use of the word 'Victoria' which implied that Richmond was a state office. The Board resolved to suggest that Richmond consider changing its name on the website to something more appropriate, eg Central Service Office Richmond. This has been a long period of reconciliation and a lot of work undertaken by various members for which we thank you.

Lachlan B, General Service Trustee who was due to rotate off at the end of this year, was requested to extend his term for a period of one year to which he agreed.

In 2025, it will be AA Australia's 80th Anniversary and a special meeting has been set to discuss what activities could be organised to celebrate that milestone.

Covid continues to rear its head and information has been received that some members were refusing to wear masks at meetings. It was agreed that it was not necessary for the Board to publish further information. Members are encouraged to look at the current legislation in their state and the protocols of their meeting groups' landlord.

The Impact of Covid lockdown on Literature Orders

As you are all aware, Sydney has now been in lockdown for over 9 weeks (as at the date of this newsletter) with two of the three GSO staff being in hard lockdown areas.

We are still able to despatch literature, however you may experience some delays. We know we can rely on your patience and tolerance during this difficult period.

National Website

Steve T has provided service to our website team for over 20 years. Steve has now retired and we thank him for his valuable service, particularly over the last 18 months, which often involved long hours to ensure that our national website meetings list was kept up to date. Steve also served as a General Service Trustee for four years and a World Service Delegate for four years.

Jeff B has now taken over Steve's position on the website team. Many of you will remember Jeff from when he worked at the General Service Office for five years.

Call for Class A Trustees

The General Service Board currently has one Class A Trustee (non-alcoholic) and a sub-committee has been formed to come up with a shortlist of possible candidates to fill our three vacant positions. We are seeking your help in developing that pool of potential candidates. People with not only the required skills, but who also care deeply enough about our organisation to make a significant investment of their valuable time and personal resources in the group.

Through a board survey we have come up with a list of skills that we feel may benefit the current board. These are Multicultural experience, Mental Health, Special needs, Financial Management, Marketing/Public Relations, Legal, Technology and IT and prior Board Experience.

If you know of any persons that may be suitable, please email their name and a brief description of

their experience to any of the sub-committee members.

- Geoff S, Southern Region Trustee, geoff.smith.7.0.@gmail.com
- Jane M, Northern Region Trustee, threelegacies99@gmail.com
- Cheryn P, General Service Trustee, Cheryn_porter@bigpond.com

Call for Regional Trustees

There are also a number of Regional Trustees due to rotate off at the end of this year and there seems to be a lack of applicants willing to put their hand up for this important service position. Andy P and Paul J have served at Regional Trustees for Central Region and Western Region respectively. Consideration is being given to asking these Trustees to extend their service if no applications are received so as to ensure the Board has a quorum. A General Service Board meeting has been scheduled for Saturday 25th September 2021 at 10.30am (Sydney time) to consider.

Finances

In a nutshell, contributions have increased and expenses are being closely monitored. Due to the departure of Tony, and his position not filled for a few months, there was one less salary to pay. Each month the Management Group have looked at the excesses in the Expense account and moved what could be moved to the Prudent Reserve. We also moved some of the surplus from the Toowoomba convention into the Prudent Reserve which has resulted in an increase in the Prudent Reserve whilst our contributions are still less than our normal weekly expenses. As usual, we will have AA's accountant/auditor to present at this year's General Service Conference. We would like to continue to be self supporting so the contributions that we are currently receiving need to stay consistent for us to be close to that.

This is an excerpt from the article Bonnie I, Area C North Eastern Regional Delegate and Chair of the Finance Committee has written:-

Where are we at now? Due to our previous 'Call to Action' communications AA Australia's prudent reserve is currently sitting at 14.59 months.

Weekly voluntary contributions are averaging about \$8,713.18 per week, which based upon our weekly operating cost of \$9,322.02, leaves a shortfall of approx per week \$608.84.

Over the past 12 months with the increase in contributions from the Groups and Management Group monitoring the GSO expenses, we have slowly been able to add any excess monies into the Prudent Reserve, allowing it to increase from the initial 9 months to where it is today.

It makes sense that to continue to add to our Prudent Reserve and reach the goal of 16 months as approved by 2020 Conference, this ongoing shortfall of voluntary contributions will need to become a surplus!

***How can we help?** Consider taking electronic donations at your group's meeting; some groups have doubled their 7th tradition by using a square or similar device. Direct debit is another possibility, to either your group's bank account or directly to GSO.*

Remember, if you donate directly to GSO your contribution is tax deductible in Australia.

If your group is holding excess funds, discuss how best to distribute.

But best of all, participate in the General Service Structure so you know what is happening! Join a group with a General Service Representative!

General Service Conference

The Conference theme is *How Service Strengthens Recovery*. Conference will again be by Zoom and will run from Friday 19th November - Sunday 21st November. The Agenda has been circulated to those attending.

Combined National Forum

The inaugural Combined National Forum (Treatment & Accessibility, Correctional Facilities and PI/CPC) has been postponed due to Covid to 25th – 27th February 2022.

We encourage you to send your GSR or group's PI/CPC rep, or Corrections rep or Treatment rep or anyone with an interest in any of these areas to

attend. Hopefully the borders will be open and members can travel.

The committee resolved to keep this a face-to-face event, and in the event the Forum cannot proceed in February, it will be cancelled. If you have already registered, then we would be grateful if you could stay registered and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.



2022 National Convention

The Australian National Convention is set for **22nd -24th April 2022** in Melbourne.

The venue is likely to be the Pullman Hotel in Albert Park, however this is still to be confirmed given Covid-19 policies in Victoria. When the venue gives the all-clear for accommodation and the event, ticket purchases will be made available. The theme is 'We Shall Be With You In The Fellowship Of The Spirit'. Further information can be found at www.aanatcon2022.com.

World Services

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

Joke of the Day

My wife told me I had to give up drinking.

So I joined the AA.

Unfortunately, I joined the Automobile Association by mistake.

At least either way I'm on the road to recovery.

Yours in service,
Andy P. Chair, General Service

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP



A Newsletter from the World Service Committee.

Number 5

The 14th Asia-Oceania Service Meeting was set down for 9th – 11th July 2021 in India and much preparation had been carried out by the host nation before the decision was made to hold the meeting virtually due to the Covid Virus. This was obviously very disappointing to the Planning Committee in India and indeed the entire Indian Fellowship.

Organisation of the technology to hold the meeting was taken up by members in Japan and we are certainly indebted to them for services which would have cost us many thousands of dollars.

36 members participated in the Meeting from a total of 19 countries. They were:

MERCAA (Middle East)	Australia	Kyrgystan	South Korea
Hong Kong	Japan	Israel	Fiji
India	Singapore	Iran	Bhutan
Thailand	Russia	New Zealand	Nepal
China	Mongolia	Sri Lanka	



Across the AOSM Zone there is a 20 hour time difference (8am in Dubai is 4pm in New Zealand) so the three days started early for some and finished late for others. Despite this, attendance was good and overall feedback was very positive.

The theme of the Meeting was "Carrying the Message in the Digital Age". It was certainly put into practice this year.

Presentations included Country to Country Sponsorship, examined both from the Sponsee and Sponsor positions, the process involved in

establishing GSO's (from the experience in Iran, Mongolia and Japan) and a history of the AOSM presented by our own Shirley C. and Doug G. of Japan.

We were joined by Racy J. and David R. from GSO New York who spoke on the International Literature Fund, Literature Translations, Licensing and Distribution.

Unfortunately there were no bids for the 15th AOSM so further enquiries were to be made in this regard.

The full report of the meeting will be sent to all Area Delegates for distribution once finalized by the AOSM Committee.