

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 2022

Trustees' Message

On the weekend of 19th – 20th February 2022, the respective Trustees' Committees met, the GSB had a meet the CSO's session, and the GSB also held its Board meeting.

The CSO session was well attended with over a dozen CSO's from across the country represented, with more than 30 participants along with the Board. The session was extremely positive with many members saying that it was long overdue and a very good initiative.

Board members gave an overview of how we work together covering various topics including The National Meetings List, National Website, the Online National Bookshop, the Service Website, Public Liability insurance, the National 1300 number. We also discussed the AA finances and the Group Donations Plan; and gave an overview of copyright. We had a 2 hour question and answer session where the Board members fielded various questions from CSO's on a wide variety of topics. It's clear that our CSO's are filled with many dedicated members eager to be running effective CSO's.

One common piece of feedback we received from various CSO's was the closure of around 10-5% of face-to-face meetings over the December / January period just gone. Some groups have just closed down. Hopefully this is not a continuing trend.

Thank you to all who attended and to those unable to attend, it is likely to have a further session sometime in the future.

General Service Conference

Last year's Conference Report was distributed to Conference Members in December and a downloadable version was put up on the Service Website.

The dates for Conference this year are 3rd – 6th November 2022. The date for Conference Topics to be submitted by is 24th June 2022.

Members Survey

We will be launching our membership survey at the National Combined Forum in Brisbane on 25th February 2022 (so by the time you read this it will already be launched and you will be able to participate). From time to time, AA undertakes surveys to find out information about the makeup of our members that assist us in examining how effective we are at carrying the message to the alcoholic that is still suffering.

Please take a couple of minutes to [undertake the survey](#) when you get the opportunity.



2022 National Convention



The Convention is less than two months away and the HPC is working tirelessly to bring you a great experience. Now is the time to get behind the Committee and register.

As at the date of printing this newsletter, registrations were under 300 and we need 800 to break even. **So please don't leave it to the last minute** - it needs your support now! Registration details are at: www.aanatcon2022.com.

Finances

The Profit & Loss as at 31st January 2022 is enclosed on the following page. We would like to thank those members who have and continue to contribute to the 300 Club. If you would like to donate to the 300 Club, please visit www.aa.org.au and click on the 'members' section and then on 'donations' for more information.

This year there will be a reprint of the Big Book and 12 x12 and we are anticipating a significant rise in freight costs.

World Services

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

New World Services Delegate

Hi all to introduce myself, I am Brian F residing now days on the Sunshine Coast Qld, and I am the newly elected first term World Service Delegate for Australia. I attended my first AA meetings in Sydney in 1971 and living in Auburn was always at the Monday night meeting held there. Attending that meeting would be Dr Sylvester Minogue, Frank Sturge Harty and Archie McKinnon so I was amid Australian AA History without a clue about it. I was to have a “taste of alcohol” at a Vietnam Veterans reunion on 18th August 1985 and that is now my sobriety date. As regards the outcome of the recent election at Conference to say I was surprised would be a vast understatement knowing the AA background of those contesting the election. The outcome has left me feeling very honored and privileged. Now comes the task of fulfilling the role and responsibility placed on me.

A friend recently asked me “Why would you even consider wanting that position”? The following is my why. Over 30 years ago I moved to a coastal town in NSW called Forster located in the AA District of Manning Great Lakes where I was to meet a great AA mentor and friend Tom K (aka “Tom the Finn”). Tom often asked at Service events who was the most important person in the meeting room and we usually gave the standard answer about newcomers, ourselves, the “Older” OSM etc. His answer always was “The person who is not here, and if they are not here, we are not doing our job”. He inspired and showed me how to develop co-operative relationships with the wider Professional Community. I would like to think I may be able to bring some of those ideas to Countries where AA is in its infancy.

2025 – AA Australia’s 80th Anniversary

A small committee has been formed to ask the Fellowship how it/we should celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2025.

The Board has adopted the following statement of purpose: *“In the spirit of unity and in keeping with our primary purpose of carrying the message to all who suffer from alcoholism, we commemorate 80 years of AA in Australia. We will achieve this by a year long program, implementing new literature initiatives, celebrating our fellowship; and carrying the message.”*

We will be setting up an email address where you can send us your thoughts, ideas and opinions as to how we as a Fellowship would like to celebrate and what you can do in your group, district, area to honour this upcoming milestone.

Request from Stepping Stones



Stepping Stones are currently recruiting for a volunteer project where people can volunteer from their home computers with internet connections to help transcribe and categorize Bill’s handwritten letters. Once done, these will be searchable by key word like “Social Club.”

Do you want to help us spread the word about volunteering? We will be recruiting for a couple more months. People can sign up at the following website: www.steppingstones.org/support/volunteer

Joke of the Day

After the AA meeting, the ghost finally admitted it.

He has a boos problem.

Incoming Chair’s Report

I encourage you all to participate in the members’ survey.

I’d like to thank all the CSO representatives who gave up their Saturday afternoon to share information with the GSB. It was constructive and illuminating from both the getting to know our CSO’s and the people who run them, and the CSO’s getting to meet the Board members, trustees, GSO staff and World Service Delegates. All working collaboratively. It was simply wonderful and brought a smile to my face.

Please be mindful of Zoom bombing as we still hear reports of this occurring and we want to keep our members safe.

See you in Melbourne at the Convention.

Yours in service,
Judy W. (Chair, GSB)

Profit and Loss

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

1 July 2021 to 31 January 2022

	31 Jan 22	31 Jan 21	31 Jan 20
Income			
Action Club	80	570	1,508
Bequests	90	30	5,035
Birthday Club	166	485	1,013
Central Region	18,202	13,278	11,138
Conference Levies	10,364	564	41,620
Convention Surplus	-	60,960	-
Eastern Region	68,560	62,246	60,307
Freight Charged on Sales	14,518	10,587	9,087
Interest	-	565	67
Literature Sales	149,610	138,330	168,744
Loners Int/tional Aust	-	-	50
Northeastern Region	60,328	36,409	27,462
Northern Region	2,762	4,169	1,820
Personal	81,835	72,160	12,849
Southern Region	27,203	23,713	15,163
Western Region	19,219	21,338	15,703
Total Income	452,936	445,403	371,567
Less Cost of Sales			
Cost of Stock Sold	62,072	52,796	68,306
Literature Freight Inwards	428	260	15
Literature Freight Outwards	702	-	-
Literature Postage	13,891	9,677	8,233
Literature Purchases	(12,024)	(3,850)	631
Literature Shrinkage	2,652	9,424	729
Total Cost of Sales	67,722	68,307	77,914
Gross Profit	385,214	377,096	293,653
Plus Other Income			
COVID19 Stimulus - Cash Flow Boost	-	34,998	-
COVID19 Stimulus - Jobkeeper	-	40,500	-
Donations(MC)	5,445	-	-
Interest Received	87	7	-
Total Other Income	5,532	75,505	-
Less Operating Expenses			
1300 National Helpline expense	4,381	4,701	3,159
AAAA Postage	-	-	1,400
AAAA Production Costs	-	-	1,418
Accounting Fees	-	-	827
AOSM Delegates O/Seas Travel	-	-	5,683
ASIC Fees	-	-	(84)

Profit and Loss

	31 Jan 22	31 Jan 21	31 Jan 20
Audit & Accountancy [61160]	20,669	21,047	21,097
Bank Charges	681	853	408
Board Accom (Brd Mtgs Only)	-	-	6,363
Board Travel (Brd Mtgs Only)	-	-	3,791
Bookkeeping services	-	-	(2,942)
Class A Trustee Travel	-	-	144
Computer Software	1,386	-	(158)
Conference - Online Hosting /Teleconferences	6,000	4,000	-
Conference Caring & Sharing TL	-	-	1,500
Conference Delegates Travel	-	-	9,165
Conference non-Deleg Accommodn	-	635	-
Conference Printing & Assoctd	-	-	510
Conference Venue Hire	-	(9,955)	53,667
Corrections Correspondence	-	-	(38)
Electricity	3,242	2,140	982
Foreign Currency Gains and Losses	1,726	(48)	(7,913)
Gas	96	353	225
Historical Adjustment	(20)	-	-
Insurance	24,818	12,452	12,357
International Delegates Travel	-	-	(245)
KM Allowance	-	300	472
National PI Co-ordinator Trave	45	-	523
Obsolete & Damaged Stock	5	-	-
Office Expenses	3,233	2,288	1,588
PayPal Fees	100	-	-
Photocopier Rental	-	-	22
Postage	-	-	140
Printing & Stationery	6	-	-
Public Info Expenses	-	2,033	2,720
Regional Trustees Travel	-	-	528
Remote Communities	(885)	-	(315)
Rent	23,020	21,882	18,417
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	84
Shopify Fees	209	-	-
Staff Salaries	139,906	141,206	150,691
Stripe Fees	955	-	-
Superannuation	12,965	12,656	13,114
Telephone, Fax & Modem	1,993	3,508	3,601
Trademark Renewal Expense	-	364	-
Website Development	7,203	1,952	54
Workers Compensation	-	9,278	8,814
World Service Levy [62490]	-	1,424	-
WSM Delegates - Local Travel	-	-	1,526
Total Operating Expenses	251,735	233,069	313,296
Net Profit	139,011	219,531	(19,643)

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP



A Newsletter from the World Service Committee

Number 7

The Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) of which we are a member, occurs once every two years, alternating with the World Service Meeting. The 14th AOSM in 2021 was held virtually on Zoom and was hosted by the Indian Fellowship.

There have been no offers to host the 15th AOSM in 2023, but we are presently looking at the feasibility of supporting Fiji as it puts forward a bid. As most of you would know, the Australian Fellowship carried out valuable AA work in Fiji in holding our National Convention there in 2016. A successful venture in achieving their bid to host the AOSM would add to this effort in strengthening the AA message in our Pacific Island neighbours.

Any financial assistance the Australian Fellowship is able to give in this project would come from money already set aside in our "International Sponsorship Fund" which is funded by our Founders Day, "Brown Paper Bag" collection in June. It would be appreciated if an extra effort could be made this year in the Founders Day International Sponsorship Fund collection to enable the Fiji support and similar good works to occur.

The Statement of Purpose of AOSM, as set out in its guidelines says, "The Primary purpose of the AOSM is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers." Donations made to the International Sponsorship Fund help us to carry out this mission on an international level.

We are also corresponding with the New Zealand Fellowship who have also offered to sponsor Fiji in their bid.

Brian Ferguson
First Term W.S. Delegate

Greg Byrne
Second Term W.S. Delegate