

## **New Zealand World Service Report to Area Assemblies March 2014**

New Zealand's two World Service Delegates, along with the alternate's primary purpose is to help the fellowship in New Zealand, to meet its 12<sup>th</sup> Step responsibilities internationally. The main focus being in New Zealand's area of responsibility as designated by the Asia Oceania Service Meeting.

The primary purpose of the World Service Meeting (WSM) is the same as that of all AA activity – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, wherever in the world they may be, whatever the language they speak. The WSM seeks ways and means of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of delegates who come together every two years from all parts of the world. It can also represent an expression of the group conscience worldwide.

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively. The World Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound service structures suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries and the exploration of expanding AA services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions work.

Steve S was assigned to sit on the "Working with Others " committee at the last WSM held in October 2012 and currently chair this meeting, both at the WSM and the AOSM. The purpose and function of these committees is to further A.A.'s purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about A.A., by cooperating (while not affiliating) with professional groups and individuals who work with alcoholics, and by taking the A.A. program to those who are confined in institutions

This year my second term as WSD begins and I would like to welcome Heather H from Wellington as first term WSD: she will be assigned a WSM committee in March; for the AOSM she has been put on the 'Policy/admissions/finance' committee

The main commitment for your WSDs this year is attending the WSM in Warsaw Poland in October. The theme is "The Three Legacies, Vital for All Generations".

### **Asia Oceania updates**

Work continues on the AOSM website. ([www.aosm-aa.org](http://www.aosm-aa.org)) the site can now be searched and by using AOSM as a search term you will end up on our site.

If anyone is travelling to our neighbouring Pacific Islands this year there is a traveller's form available on our NZAA website. We ask that if you find any changes to contacts, meetings, new meetings, or other relevant info please record this or contact me with details

Hong Kong is actively working on a plan to support Mongolia with a series of visits to support Sponsorship, 12 Steps, Traditions and Service Concepts. They have identified a date

for a visit in July 2014 with the Mongolian AOSM reps. One of their groups is helping Burma with some IT support.

Hong Kong is also working with the Indian community in HKG and have engaged a World Service Delegate from India to support this. Letters have gone to the Indian Associations in HKG. (This is not inter-country per-se but as they have a large Indian and South Asian population in HKG they are looking at it as such.)

New Zealand is in regular contact with Samoa. They now have a lunchtime meeting on Monday, Tuesday and a Friday night meeting. Auckland has a Samoan and Maori connection with Samoa enabling a cultural connection that has created a basis for ongoing support and an enduring relationship (via the Primary Purpose group) that opens the way for AA to work in new ways.

Samoa AA have SKYPE meetings every Friday - the details and logistics contact Scott A, email- [solarnaut@yahoo.com](mailto:solarnaut@yahoo.com)

The Solomon Islands asked Australia for assistance for a second time to help with the alcohol problem in the Islands.

Their General Service Board decided to set up a committee to provide ongoing support there. New Zealand was invited and is part of this committee

A meeting has been set up and has now been going for 8 months. There is also support through Skype and email. They have asked the fellowship in Australia & New Zealand to support this effort.

Although Serbia is clearly not in the AOSM – A Serbian member living in Australia asked if Australia AA could help (AA is 7 years old in Serbia) and as it was not within AOSM boundaries they couldn't use any existing AA funds, so, rather than pass it on they decided to have a fundraising event involving local (Sydney) members and were able to purchase copies of the AA Big Book (in Croatian - which the Serbians understand) from their GSO (Australia is multi-cultural and so there GSO has literature in various languages) and some other AA literature in Croatian and shipped it to Serbia. (Just as NZ supported members in refugee camps in Sri Lanka 18mths ago)

#### GENERAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEB SITES

I was asked at the last assembly I attended to clarify where AA stands on Social networking sites .Here is an extract from our AA guidelines

“Facebook and other social networking Web sites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and non- A.A.s mingle. As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/ or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit

of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, "... our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed." Experience suggests that it is in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition not to disclose A.A. membership on social networking sites as well as on any other Web site, blog, electronic bulletin board, etc., that is not composed solely of A.A. members and not password protected, or is accessible to the public.

Web sites social networking offer individuals the chance to post a great deal of personal information about themselves (and others). Our experience suggests that some A.A. members do not post anything that is "A.A. jargon" on their personal profiles and in "status updates," while others feel it is alright to do so as long as A.A. or Alcoholics Anonymous specifically is not mentioned. These Web sites often allow users to create social networking "groups" and the ability to invite others to "events" for like-minded individuals. Some A.A.s have chosen to create A.A.-related groups.

Since this is a relatively new medium, A.A. members are frequently "learning as they go," and technology and applications change practically on a daily basis. Our experience has shown that the evolving nature of social networking platforms makes it difficult to provide specific guidelines for using such resources for A.A. purposes. Any A.A. group or member that is thinking about entering this public arena should closely consider the privacy policies of such sites, in light of A.A.'s tradition of anonymity. For example, social networking sites often provide full names and pictures of group members, contrary to A.A.'s practice of avoiding such disclosures in public media. Even "closed" or "private" groups might still reveal an individual's identity.

Being well-informed prior to joining or starting such a group is the key to protecting your own anonymity, and that of others. G.S.O. has received numerous complaints from concerned A.A. members regarding anonymity breaks online, inappropriate use of the A.A. name, and copyrighted materials and protected trademarks being improperly used on Facebook and other social networking Web sites. No local online A.A. or non-A.A. entity should purport itself to be a spokes- person for A.A. or act as if they represent the General Service Office, A.A.W.S., or the General Service Board. Each A.A. entity is autonomous and encouraged to make decisions by informed group conscience decision in light of the guidance provided in our Twelve Traditions. A.A. members sometimes contact G.S.O. for suggestions on how to remain within the Traditions on Facebook and other social networking Web sites.

Keep in mind that G.S.O. staff members are not "special workers" of the "technological wizards" variety, but they can act as a resource regarding A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and the shared experience of the Fellowship. How A.A.'s spiritual principles play out in new technologies needs to be carefully discussed by each A.A. individual or entity creating an online presence. These and other guidelines available from GSO and online in PDF."

*FYI:*

*49th Australian National Convention of AA, April 17<sup>th</sup>-21st. Hilton Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia*

*Solomon Islands first AA anniversary being celebrated in Honiara– Guadalcanal. 10th—15th April 2014 If you are interested and able to help carry the message to this fledgling fellowship in the Solomon Islands please contact: Jane C.-kiwijanextra.co.nz*

#### **2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

*The 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2 - 5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 80th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Georgia Dome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the Georgia World Congress Center and local hotels.*

There is just one purpose for the group and for the individual member of the Fellowship, just as there is only one requirement for membership in AA. Our fifth tradition applies the same to world service as to the individual and our groups

I am often reminded that 'selfishness self-centeredness is the root' of my problems. It's so easy to sit comfortably in my group, and think "I'm alright. We're doing ok. I'm not into that service stuff etc. I am also reminded that I am responsible and NZAA has responsibilities, locally, nationally, and internationally

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service

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