

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 2022

Excerpts from the Opening Message from Chair of the board, National Convention at Melbourne.

It's indeed fabulous to be back face to face after a few years. The last face to face Convention was in Canberra 2019. Although the Convention online in Toowoomba was amazing, what makes us special is not only our wonderful recovery program but that we are a fellowship of people. We like to mix, we like to socialise, we like to meet up with old friends and make new friends and a National Convention is the perfect place to be part of our fellowship in Action and Unity.

2025 – AA Australia's 80th Anniversary

Australia was the first country outside North America to start AA meetings. The first such meeting was on 1st March 1945 in Sydney. Today an AA presence can be found in approximately 180 countries. In 2025, AA will be 90 years old – and 80 years old in Australia.

At the meeting of the General Service Board in February, the Board agreed that 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 through a year-long program, implementing new literature initiatives, celebrating our fellowship, and carrying the message.

The Board formed an 80th anniversary sub-committee to initiate and assist with planning and implementing the celebrations.

The sub-committee would like to extend an invitation to all members, groups, districts, areas and CSO's to consider how we as a Fellowship should celebrate our 80th anniversary and nominate events that you would like included. Nomination forms are available on the aa.org.au



website under the AA80 tab, or you can scan the QR code.

Please keep referring back to the AA80 section of the website for ideas as they are received, information on how you can become involved, and progress of projects – and most importantly, get the word out "Let's Celebrate"

We really need to get going with this very soon, so please provide your nomination by May 31 so it can be considered at the next Board meeting

Members Survey

I would also like to bring your attention to our 2022 Membership Survey. This was a result of a Conference Advisory action and has been delayed several times due to Covid. It should only take a few minutes. Here is the link and a QR code. The more who fill it in the better our fellowship snapshot is. It's completely anonymous and no names etc are collected.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SQZHBBX>

(The survey is due to close on June 30th. Please take a couple of minutes to undertake the survey when you get the opportunity.)

Lastly a big thank you to the Host Planning Committee. I know from experience (3 Convention Committees) how much work and stressful the planning is. And extra stress with uncertainty over the impact Covid might have.

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

General Service Conference

The dates for Conference this year are 3rd – 6th November 2022.

The date for Conference Topics to be submitted by is 24th June 2022.

2022 National Convention (impressions)



“The convention was great!”

A hearty congratulations to the host planning committee and all the venue staff, volunteers, participants and attendees who made this event such a great success! It was so great to meet up with old friends, make some new one's and generally rub shoulders with AA as whole. With over 800 present, it felt like AA as a whole. I for one came away recharged and inspired. So much so that I have already booked for the 58th National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Perth Thursday 6th April to Sunday 9th April 2023. The website is live and early bird registrations are open.

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



World Services

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 collection.

When launched in 1995 the results through the groups was amazing and huge totals in excess of over \$20,000.00 were the norm. The past few years has seen this appeal dwindle first due to “Covid” and perhaps lack of awareness to newer members or groups. For example the last two years only raised, in 2020 \$900.00 and 2021 \$600.00, a far cry from the days when the appeal was a raging fire in the week of Founders Day (10th June), this is when your group should donate.

Like a campfire that is dying down and in danger of going out, the time has come to blow on the embers and provide more fuel to get the fire going again. Why, because the still suffering alcoholic in distant countries is still out there in the cold.

This year as a Group / District / Area show both your gratitude and responsibility by contributing to the appeal when your group meets on or closest to 10th June.

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

**Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 012006
ACCT: 009750529 REF: FDISF**

**CHEQUES PAYABLE to “GSB OF AA” and mail to
“FDISF” GSO of AA 48 Firth St; Arncliffe NSW 2205**

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

Finances

The Profit & Loss as at 31st April 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.

Joke of the Day

Me: My name is Matt, and I’m an alcoholic.

AAA: This is AAA, not AA.

Me: Yeah, I was just explaining how my car got in the lake.

OUR UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP



A Newsletter from the World Service Delegates

Number 8

Greg Byrne

I have now been in the position of World Service Delegate for two and a half years - the same period the world has been confronted with the Corona Virus -and travel has been severely restricted. As a result, the World Service Meeting in New York in 2020 and the AOSM in India in 2021 were both held virtually. The World Service Meeting in Japan this year will also be held virtually. Any travelling of mine has been undertaken moving around the living room at home on my computer.

But even so some progress has been made. I may have mentioned previously that some of the restrictions caused by the Corona Virus has been offset by the Fellowship's "discovery" of the virtual world. Where previously AOSM Committees only met once every two years, at the actual AOSM, now monthly Zoom meetings are taking place and business is being done and relationships are being formed.

Brian Ferguson

I am now at the six-month stage of my tenure as the current first term delegate and the full implications of the role are starting to become much clearer. I fully appreciate the monthly "Zoom Meeting" of former delegates as this will be a valuable resource for me and future delegates going forward. I believe the proposal to invite delegates from other Asia Oceania countries to this meeting will create awareness of issues where Australia can be of assistance now and in the future.

Funding for any project sponsored by Australia relies heavily on the "Brown Paper Bag Appeal" so I have been busy sending emails to all the CSO's, State Magazines, Delegates plus any other contacts that I have as well as another sixty I obtained at the Melbourne Convention. Here I handed out some two hundred flyers. All of this should flow onto Areas and Districts. For example, the Melbourne Office replied saying they will distribute to their online mailing list of over sixteen hundred addresses. Hopefully the response will be significantly more compared to past couple of years.