

### DELEGATE's Corner

#### PART II – Continued from September 2015

At the 2015 Conference we received a report from the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Service Meeting 2014 held in Warsaw, Poland -- "**The Three Legacies - Vital for All Generations**". It is moving to see how A.A. has grown around the world. There were 61 Delegates representing 41 countries or zones where the fellowship had a national service structure or service office. Some of the topics that delegates shared: A.A. in the New Technologies, The Lack of Trusted Servants and Today's Way of Life, Anonymity and Social Networks, Encouraging Women in Service, How to Better Carry the A.A. Message to Young People, and Alcoholics Anonymous The Languages of the Heart. Here are the rest of the A.A. membership and group numbers from around the world.

**Ireland:** At present there are approximately 900 groups. A.A. in Ireland does not change too dramatically from year to year. They still have around 300 meetings held each week on the whole island. The population in Ireland is roughly 300,000 and 3,000 people attend A.A. meetings on a regular basis. They have meetings in some institutions too. There is a National Service Office in Reykjavik with one full-time paid employee, five days a week, who oversees the overall operations of A.A. there.

**Italy:** The first Italian group was founded in Rome in 1972. Presently there are approximately 460 groups of which almost 60 percent are in Center Italy and 10% in Southern Italy. A.A. in Italy is composed of 19 areas. Each area can elect up to a maximum of three delegates who participate at the Conference. The demand for foreign literature is increasing (English, Spanish, Romanian, and Portuguese) for those who arrive in the groups (especially foreign workers) and need to read in their native language.

**Japan:** Worth noting are four main activities of A.A. in Japan during the past two years; first of all, the Membership Survey. The Public Relations Committee conducted five earlier surveys, in 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010. The sixth survey, carried out in 2013, indicates there have been some changes in comparison with the previous data. The number of women in the

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### AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11—Sunday  
CANCELLED

November 1 – Sunday  
ELECTIONS/ASSEMBLY  
Union Local 324 Hall  
8530 Stanton Ave, Buena Park

November 8 -Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
Hosted by District 17

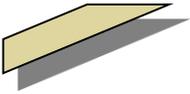
November 14 –Saturday  
SERVATHON  
Hosted by District 1

December 13—Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
Hosted by District 30

December 15— DEADLINE  
66<sup>th</sup> Conference Agenda Items



"Wake up! The four horsemen are here."



younger generation has been increasing. The average age of men is 50 and 40 for the women. Women constitute 25% of all members, and many of them are involved in the general service structure and active in various service activities.

**Lithuania:** Divided into seven regions, there are a total of 122 A.A. groups in Lithuania and 114 Lithuanian-language groups, in England, Ireland, Sweden and the USA. Of the Lithuanian groups, seven are Russian-speaking and one is English-speaking. They have seven books and twelve pamphlets translated into Lithuanian. Some of their early translations have been retranslated or edited to improve the quality. A.A. is also available on CD for the visually impaired.

**The Netherlands:** Presently the number of groups is 218 with total membership of about 3,750. There are also 38 English-speaking groups and interaction between the two communities is good. A.A. in Holland is based on the Three Legacies. They are divided into six regions with five delegates per region eligible for the General Service Conference and one for the General Service Board. There is a close contact between Dutch A.A. and Dutch-speaking Belgian A.A. including active participation on each country's literature committee. English-speaking A.A. flourishes in the Netherlands.

**New Zealand:** a small, English-speaking nation in the south Pacific with a population of about 4.5 million people. The annual A.A. celebration of recovery conference rotates though the country and is held every January. They would love seeing us there sometime soon. New Zealand A.A. is divided into three areas: Northern and Central Areas in the North Island, while the Southern Area encompasses the whole of the South Island. Each area holds three area assemblies each year, one of which is the AGM at which office holders are elected as well as the local area delegate to the Conference. Each delegate serves for three years, ensuring rotation and continuity of experience with each area having three delegates-first year, second year and third year serving concurrently.

**Norway:** about 160 groups, and roughly 2,000 A.A. members. About 1,700 of these members are in the southern part of Norway while 300 are in the north. The majority of the population, 4.5 million people, resides in the south, while a half million resides in the north. In parts of the country with low population density, it is challenging to maintain a stable structure. As a consequence, some districts lack delegates to our Service Conference. They try to increase the understanding of service, and improve the information to their delegates through seminar and email correspondence.

**Peru:** Their 24th General Service Conference -- "Structured Service Foster Unity" was held May 2-5 2013, and from May 15-18, 2014 the 25th Conference, with the theme "Recovery - the Basis for Good Service." Both took place at San Jose de Cluny Retreat House in the Magdalena del Mar district, in the province of Lima. Some districts are

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**AA.A. HISTORY OCTOBER**

**October 1**

**1941** - Local news reports 1st AA Group in New Haven, CT.

**1957** - "A.A. Comes of Age" is published.

**October 2**

**1944** - Marty M. founds National Committee Education on Alcoholism, later becoming National Council on Alcoholism.

**October 3**

**1945** - AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.

**October 5-7**

**1972** - Second World Service meeting held in New York.

**1988** - Lois W. died.

**October 6**

**1941** - 900 dine at Cleveland dinner for Bill D., AA #3.

**October 8**

**1988** - Memorial Service held for Lois W. at Stepping Stones, NY.

**October 9-11**

**1969** - First World Service meeting held in New York with delegates from 14 countries.

**October 10**

**1943** - 6 of the first 9 AA's attend clubhouse anniversary in Toledo.

**1970** - Lois reads "Bill's Last Message" at annual dinner in NY.

**1988** - Lois buried next to Bill in Manchester, Vermont.

**October 13**

**1947** - The Melbourne Group holds its first meeting in Australia.

**October 14**

**1939** - Journal of American Medical Assoc. gives Big Book unfavorable review.

**October 15**

**1904** - Marty M., early AA woman, is born in Chicago.

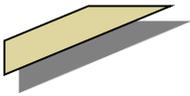
**October 17**

**1935** - Ebby T., Bill's sponsor, moves in with Bill and Lois.

**October 20**

**1928** - Bill writes promise to Lois in family Bible to quit drinking. By Thanksgiving he adds a second promise.

**1939** - Cleveland Plain Dealer begins series of articles on AA by Elrick Davis.



are functioning especially in the areas around Lima where almost 50 percent of their groups are located. There has been growth in Public Information. Members read more, especially the newcomers, and delegates arrive at Conference better prepared.

**Poland:** For the last two years, they have been preparing for the 40th anniversary of A.A. in Poland. They celebrated this event in Warsaw in August 2014. It was a remarkable holiday for the Fellowship. Recently in Poland, a new A.A. region, their fourteenth, has been established-EUROPA. It includes Polish-speaking A.A. groups within Europe. Its members are cooperating with A.A. structure in this country as well as abroad.

**Romania:** The A.A. Fellowship as of 2014 consists of over 50 groups, three intergroups and three regions. The Board of Trustees is currently made up of seven alcoholics. The main purpose of service of the trustees is to inspire all service members in the Fellowship to improve the methods of carrying the A.A. message and protect the spiritual values, which result from the A.A. Traditions. They have published Alcoholics Anonymous, Living Sober, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Came to Believe, As Bill Sees it, and Daily Reflections. They would like to translate "Pass it On" and Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers. Ten Pamphlets have been published and they are working on translating and publishing another ten.

**Russia:** a very large country with A.A. groups scattered throughout its territory, from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka. As of January 1, 2014 there were 522 groups registered with their G.S.O. in 2013, 38 new A.A. groups were formed. There were 475 registered groups in 2012; 397 in 2011; and 366 in 2010. For a country with a population over 143 million people it's not a large percentage and it means they have a lot of work to do in this field.

**Slovenia:** is a small country with a population of two million. The first A.A. group was established on November 6, 1989. Today there are 47 groups with approximately 500 members, organized in the traditional way. Each group has a chairman, treasurer, literature coordinator, a delegate, and G.S.R. – elected for a two-year period.

**South Africa:** This year marked the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Service Conference of South Africa, and in October 2014 they celebrated 68 years of A.A. in their country. Their structures remain strong and although G.S.O./SA has only one paid employee, it still functions very effectively due to the dedications and passion for the Fellowship shown by the volunteers that handle the various portfolios. South Africa has 11 official languages and the availability of A.A. literature in these languages is therefore a constant concern for the local General Service Office. With the generous assistance of the New York G.S.O., the Big Book has now been translated and published in Xhosa, the second most spoken language in the country. This brings the number of translated Big Book in South Africa to three: Afrikaans, Zulu and Xhosa. The original English version is, however, still the most popular and used at most A.A. meetings.

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**A.A. HISTORY OCTOBER ... continued**

**October 22**

**1963** - E. M. Jellinek, alcoholism educator and AA friend dies.

**October 24**

**1942** - L.A. Times reports AA groups in 14 California cities.

**1943** - Bill and Lois start first major A.A. tour, return Jan 19, 1944.

**1973** - Trustees Archives Committee of AA has its first meeting.

**October without specific dates:**

**1939** - First central committee formed in Cleveland; first example of A.A. rotation.

**1936** - Bill C. a Canadian "alkie" staying at Bill's house commits suicide using gas stove.

**1942** - First issue of Cleveland Central Bulletin is published.

**1954** - The "Alcoholic Foundation" renamed as "General Service Board of A.A."

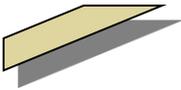
**1958** - Playhouse 90 TV airs *Days of Wine & Roses*.



**Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.**

"It is perfectly clear," says Bill, "that when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with." Otherwise, he warns, "those charged with operating responsibly will be demoralized." For example, the General Service Board owns the two operating corporations and its authority over them is absolute. Nevertheless, so long as things go well, it is highly important that the trustees do not unnecessarily interfere with or usurp the operating authority of these entities."

"To sum up: Let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and to discharge their clear responsibilities."



**Spain:** At present, the A.A. structure is made up of 25 areas divided into 4 regional zones, 598 local groups, and about 11,000 members. The General Service Board consists of two Class A Trustees and eight Class B Trustees. Their General Service Office continues operations thanks to the excellent work and dedication of two contracted staff members. The office remains responsible for Public Information in the white zones, where local groups have not yet been organized.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** a population of 1,392,000 is the most southerly of the Caribbean islands. There are 112 A.A. meetings which are held in strategic locations throughout the country, so that no alcoholic, family member or anyone who needs help feels hopeless. There are three annual publications - The A.A. Times, The Pumpkin Vine, and "Who Me" their national directory of A.A. Meetings

**Ukraine:** The first group of Alcoholics Anonymous appeared in 1989. At present time nearly 120 active A.A. groups are registered in their country and are attended by over 1,300 A.A. members. There are 6 functioning regional service structures: Kyiv, Volyn, West, Poltava, East-Ukrainian, and South ones. They were very pleased that two representatives of GSO A.A. USA/Canada; the general manager and staff member assigned to the International Desk came from New York and worked hard with them at their Conference.

**Uruguay:** covers 177,580 kilometers and approximately 3.2 million inhabitants. It is divided into 19 departments, and one half of the population lives in the capital city of Montevideo. At present, their national service structure includes three regions - North, South, and West - consisting of 230 groups organized into 21 areas. There are 15 institutional groups and a number of English-speaking groups. Their group conscience resides in the General Service Conference which takes place every year in March, although in the year 2013, due to location issues, it was held in May in La Paloma, Department of Rocha, some 240 kilometers from Montevideo, the capital. They publish their own magazine, El Triangulo, with four issues yearly and a circulation of 600 copies per issue. Great effort is put into the sale of literature, which they obtain from Argentina and the United States. Across the country, there are 40 local groups with open or closed meetings.

Service is a Legacy of Love.  
Cesar F., Panel 64 Area 09 Delegate



***Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.***

"The emphasis on inventory is heavy only because a great many of us have never really acquired the habit of accurate self-appraisal. Once this healthy practice has been groomed, it will be so interesting and profitable that the time it takes won't be missed. For these minutes and sometimes hours spent in self-examination are bound to make all the other hours of our day better and happier. And at length our inventories become a regular part of everyday living, rather than unusual or set apart."

- Twelve and Twelve, p. 89-90



***"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."***

"To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well-known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement. But should we?

...God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever. If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings? Seen from this point of view, our A.A. Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our 10th Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy -- serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions ... died in religious dissension... political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody ... has turned reformer. Each group, society and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else". Political controversy and reform by compulsion has reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension. Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

**Our best defense?** This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that A.A. must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our brother alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

*As though by some deep and compelling instinct,* we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably. May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

Bill W.  
A.A. Grapevine, September, 1948