

DELEGATE's Corner

Alcoholics Anonymous Around the World

At the 2015 Conference we received a report from the 23rd 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 some of the membership and group numbers from around the world.

United States/Canada: an estimated total of 66,148 groups and 1,425,472 members. The structure is divided into eight regions: six in the USA and two in Canada. There are 93 delegate areas, with each area electing a delegate for a two-year term. There is a GS Conference each year with 135 voting members. The USA published 1,935,027 books and booklets in English, French and Spanish, over 3,489,023 pamphlets. Also published: the Grapevine and La Vina magazines, and the translation of the big book in 69 languages -- 17 new translations are pending. Other literature is translated into over 93 languages.

Mexico: 200,000 members, 14,695 groups, 394 members in detention facilities, and 181 in clinics and hospitals throughout Mexico. The organization encompasses 1,509 districts, two territories, six regions, 83 areas and two incorporated entities: the office of General Services and the Office of Plenitude A.A. They support themselves through the sales of literature 74% and member and group contributions 26%. They had a prudent reserve of \$27,266,931. A committee was created to work on a comprehensive performance project of the Mexico conference, modeling closely as possible to the USA/Canada Conference.

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**AREA 09
UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 13—Sunday
Assembly

Hosted by District 11

October 11—Sunday
ELECTIONS

Hosted by District 4

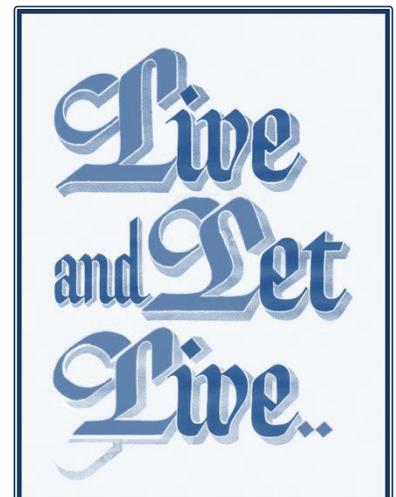
November 8 -Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 17

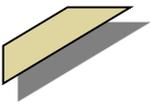
November 14 –Saturday
SERVATHON

Hosted by District 1

December 13—Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 30

December 15— DEADLINE
66th Conference Agenda Items





Argentina: Has listed in their current directory more than 900 groups, five behind the walls and 31 intergroups. The theme for the 51 General Service Conference was "Communication and Participation: Key to Our Progress" At the 50th General Service Conference 2013 adapted and approved the whole of the USA/Canada Service Manual is now being printed. Literature used by their fellowship was initially imported from Colombia and Mexico, and later from the USA. Several years ago they started locally printing several titles that moved especially well.

Australia: A Remote Communities Committee was set up to visit the remote areas of Australia. Members traveled around western parts of Queensland recently and they were met with varying degrees of success. Some were hesitant in setting up anything to do with A.A., but local individual members were there to try and carry the message. The police stations, court houses and hospitals were generally more accommodating. Australia was invited to visit both Mongolia and Honiara to help set up A.A. in their areas. They do not go to another country unless they invite them, as you can be aware this can be a time consuming process, but is necessary to ensure the message is carried in the best way.

Belarus: 2015 A.A. Belarus celebrated its 24th birthday and 12 years since the formation of the A.A. service structure. Two points are currently on the agenda: office expenses and maintenance costs (two groups make small contributions) and the issue of low trust with their A.A. office. Unfortunately, cost of rent and utility bills is so high that group contributions are not enough to pay half of the expenses. Literature sales are used to pay the salary of the executive director and the accountant. Due to a rent increase this year, they had to move to less expensive premises. A.A.s in Belarus will keep praying and serving during this difficult period of their Fellowship growth.

Brazil: Based on the new definition of "Area" (approved in 2010 and new Service Manual approved in 2012) as of 2014 Brazil has 38 areas, 525 districts, and 5,000 groups. There are also 160 trial groups and 192 institutional groups. There are 192 groups in treatment centers and correctional institutions. The total number of members in Brazil is estimated at 120,000. They have published 16 books, 46 pamphlets and a magazine "Vivencia" ("Life Experience") published bi-monthly in Portuguese.

Guatemala: The 10th Regional Forum was held in the province of Jutiapa July 2014. At the beginning of January each year they hold a Human Relations Seminar attended by all members of the G.S.O. staff and administrative personnel with the aim of improving interpersonal relations and the services we provide to the Fellowship.

El Salvador: estimated membership of 26,117 and 1,655 districts. In October 2013 they participated as an individual structure in the 18th REDELA held in Salinas Ecuador. April of last year they held the 36th Central American Convention with a total of 5,000+ in attendance.

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A.A. HISTORY SEPTEMBER

September 1

1939 - First AA group founded in Chicago.

September 11

2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York. Location of AA's first office is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.

September 12

1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr. Bob.

September 13

1937 - Florence R, first female in AA in NY.
1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs a Spotlight on AA.

September 17

1954 - Bill D, alcoholic no. 3 dies.

September 18

1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors.

September 19

1965 - Saturday Evening Post publishes "Alcoholics Can Be Cured Despite A.A."
1975 - Jack Alexander, author of original Saturday Evening Post article, dies.

September 21

1938 - Bill W. and Hank P. form Works Publishing Co.

September 24

1940 - Bill twelve-steps Bobbie V., who later replaces Ruth Hock as his secretary.

September 30

1939 - *Liberty* magazine, "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey.

September without specific dates:

1930 - Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking

1939 - Group started by Earl T. in Chicago.

1940 - AA group started in Toledo by Duke P. and others.

1940 - *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases* gives Big Book unfavorable review.

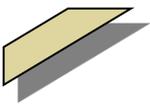
1946 - Bill and Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1946 - First A.A. group in Mexico.

1948 - Bob writes article for *Grapevine* on AA, "Fundamentals in Retrospect".

1949 - First issue of A.A. *Grapevine* was published in "pocketbook" size.





Honduras: The 42nd General Service Conference was held May 20, 2014. The 32nd National A.A. Convention took place in the city of La Ceiba, Atlantinda, October 11-13 2013. The General Service Office of Honduras publishes a bi-monthly magazine, "la Respuestas" with an annual circulation of 2,403 copies.

Nicaragua: 535 groups and some 16,000 members of whom 400 are women. The 36th Conference was held April 2014. The General Service Board is composed of two Class A and nine Class B trustees. They print their own literature with permission from A.A. World Services Inc. They experience some difficulties with the membership in regard to the Law 370, "A.A. Collaborates with the Courts". In response, the Committee of Sponsorship in Service is carrying out studies with area committees and explaining that the applications of this law do not affect "Cooperation without Affiliation."

Costa Rica: 675 groups and 8,000 members of whom 150 are women. The country has ten areas and three regions. The General Service Board is made up of three Class A and ten Class B Trustees. They have a Standing Committee on revising the Service Manual; the second edition of the Service Manual is being prepared, which will be adapted from the USA/Canada service manual.

Panama: 60 groups and 800 members in four zones (A, B, C, D). The General Service Board is composed of five Class A and seven Class B trustees. Panama (as a zone) attended the 22nd WSM in New York October 2012 and participated as a country in the 18th REDELA last year. Panama will host the 37th Central American A.A. Convention to be held March 24-26, 2016.

Chile: 100 groups and approximately 1,100 members. Their structure is divided into two territories (North and South), 11 areas, three service regions (A, B, C), 15 Districts and 9 Central Offices. The GSC meets every year the second week of May, in the City of Santiago, Chile.

Colombia: 13,500 members and 983 groups. The General Service Board is composed of 4 Class A and 8 Class B Trustees. The board has taken necessary proactive steps to strengthen the structure, allotting resources and making commitments to reach out to inactive areas and remote communities.

Czech Republic: 56 groups with more than 500 members in 40 cities. Indications are A.A. is growing. Some groups do not follow the Traditions, either because they lack knowledge or are unwilling to honor them. Some distinguish between open and closed meetings. The 2014 World Service Meeting was the first time for them and looked forward for help on sharing experience, strength and hope.

Denmark: As June 2014, 447 official A.A. meeting are held each week. Three meetings (groups) are Icelandic-speaking, three are Greenlandic, one Polish, and six English-speaking. Four Danish-speaking meetings are held in other countries.

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"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

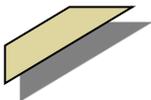
"Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office in New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Editorial --- by Bill W.
A.A. Grapevine, August 1948

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure .. Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures." Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure and source of our leadership—is the General Service Representative. The GSR is the service leader for his/her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole.

-- Twelve Concepts Illustrated



Ecuador: 1,100 members and 560 groups. Ecuador held the 18th REDELA October 8-12, 2013 in Salinas Ecuador with the theme "Carrying the Message is Everybody's Responsibility". Twenty Delegates attended, representing 14 structures and 15 countries.

Finland: 660 A.A. groups with almost 10,000 members, an indication that for a relatively small country they have with an active and large A.A. Community. The highest decision-making body in the Finnish Fellowship is the Annual Great Meeting of all Finnish A.A. groups: "in this we differ from many other countries as we do not have General Service Board of Meeting. In spite of the different structure, the primary purpose in Finnish A.A. remains the same: *Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the Alcoholic who still suffers.*"

Great Britain: approximately 4,500 groups formed into 16 regions. Each Region has a GSB trustee and sends six delegates to our national Conference in April every year. At present there are five nonalcoholic trustees. The fellowship is supported by the General Service Office in New York and has two satellite offices in Glasgow and London.

Hong Kong: The message of A.A. arrived 45 years ago on September 2, 1969. Hong Kong is one of the smallest Fellowships in our A.A. family. They share similar problems to others of their size: 150-200 members and 14 groups. There are two women's groups and three meetings weekly in Cantonese.

Iceland: Does not change too dramatically from year to year. They still have 300 meetings held each week on the whole island. The population in Iceland is roughly 300,000 and 3,000 people attend A.A. meetings on a regular basis.

India: Over the past 57 years A.A. has seen inconsistent growth in the number of groups and A.A. members practicing the 12 Steps. A substantial increase was seen after year 2000 when the service structure was properly introduced in the Fellowship. Since then has been no looking back. There are about 30,000 members and 1,450 groups.

Iran: Nameless Sobers (Alcoholics Anonymous) are taking their first steps with hopes the Fellowship will continue to grow according to A.A.'s principles of the Three Legacies. In 1998 the first group was formed in Tehran and has been growing ever since. Currently there are 300 groups across six regions, 10,000 members of whom 500 are women. In 1993 the Persian translation of the Big Book was approved by A.A.W.S, Inc.

This translation was done by an Iranian A.A. old-timer who lived in Southern California and was a member of Area 09 at that time.

Part II of this article will appear in the October edition.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Service is a Legacy of Love.

Cesar F.

Panel 64 Mid-Southern California Area 09 Delegate



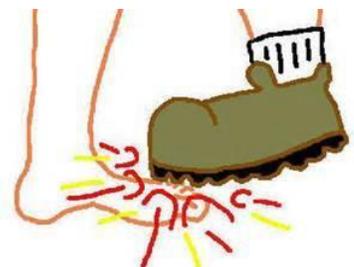
Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

"Now we need more action, without which we find that "Faith without works is dead." Let's look at Steps Eight and Nine. We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal. Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven't the will to do this, we ask until it comes.

Remember it was agreed at the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol.

... At the moment we are trying to put our lives in order. But this is not an end in itself. Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us. ..."

Alcoholics Anonymous – Page 76, 77



Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate.

-- Alcoholics Anonymous, page 62