



AA CONNECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

MANY COUNTRIES—MANY LANGUAGES—ONE ROAD

**A HUGE THANK
YOU TO ALL
MEMBERS
& GROUPS WHO
HAVE
CONTRIBUTED
TO THE COFFEE
CLUB!**

**We are able to
sponsor local &
professionals to
attend the
Convention &
pass on the
miracle of AA**

**THERE IS STILL
TIME TO BE PART
OF THE**

**12 STEP CALL TO
FIJI**

24th –27th

March

Fiji.

aanatcon.org.au



**BE PART OF OUR
12TH STEP
IN ACTION**

We need your help to carry this life saving message !

For the still suffering alcoholic in Fiji, there are no detox units, recovery centers, or public awareness of this disease. A.A. has but one meeting a week for all of Fiji with 6 members.

Treatment is usually resolved by sending the suffering alcoholic to a mental institution or being cast away from the church as a morally depraved person..



Grand Pacific Hotel,

LETTER FROM FIJI

Dear AA Fellowship,

I'm writing today from Fiji asking for your support for the 2016 Australasian Convention. Fiji desperately needs this message of recovery to reach our shores.

I am hoping that you will read this letter in meetings and will find it possible to find a way to come to the Convention or to help raise funds to support this event.

Currently there is no solution for alcoholism in Fiji. Thus I felt a miracle had happened, when the National Australian Conference selected our country for their 2016 National "Off Shore" Convention site.

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Turn back the clocks 70 years or more, and it is much like the time of Bill W and Dr. Bob. The term alcoholic is still one of a destitute, on the street person.

Think back to your call to Alcoholics Anonymous. You had awareness that there was help, and that there was recovery. However, if you woke from your drunken stupor in Fiji, you would be at a loss for help, as the generations before us were and faced with the possibility that you would continue to suffer and die drunk from this fatal disease.

Thus the 2016 Australasian AA Convention in Fiji is a special event! It is a time when we carry the message to the Fijian public about Alcoholism and recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous.

To that end, we have created a strong Public Information Day on Thursday March 24th, with the Fijian Government Ministries, Professionals and Speakers from India, Australia, and the Solomon Islands.

Donations have made it possible to bring four Fijian Villages from the Coral Coast to the conference for the Public Information Day.

We are not a glum lot, and intend during the rest of the three day Convention to enjoy and show what the adventure of sobriety is all about. Check out the program on the website to see a program with three full days of speakers, Dine and Dance under the stars, Fijian Warrior Dancer Show, and lots of sharing and fellowship.

Be a part of the miracle. Help carry the message to Fiji.

Vinaka.

Phylis G. From Fiji (Vilisi)



11th Asia Oceania Service Meeting, Dubai

29th Oct—1st Nov 2015

The purpose of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting is to pass the message of recovery within the AOSM Region, Wherever and However it is needed.

The theme for this AOSM was Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community. National Convention. The host committee, took full advantage of this , and the theme -PI&CPC to hold a Press Conference on the Thursday morning prior to the AOSM. Members of the Electronic Media & the Paper Media were in attendance. Mary who has rotated onto the International Assignment in New York as well as David Rosen who is the Publishing Director both gave interviews to the Press.

Excerpt from the "Gulf News"

"AA delegates from 20 countries across Asia gathered in Dubai on Thursday for the Alcoholic's Anonymous regional bi-annual meeting to discuss public communications strategies for the next two years.

Stressing the importance of anonymity as the organisation's name makes clear, Asia Oceania AA Regional Chairman said the need for self-supported, non-judgmental assistance for people with a drinking problem has never been greater. .

He told a press conference yesterday that the key element of AA's success is that under a collective global group, "one alcoholic carries the message to another alcoholic" offering the promise of a better tomorrow for those who believe they have been bested by a weakness that some argue is a disease.

He said that alcoholism is extremely difficult to champion given that "it's cunning, baffling and powerful".

"The purpose of the Regional meetings is to see how we can, at a country-to-country level, carry the message," he said.

Mary, a staff member of AA's general service office in New York, told reporters that AA celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, founded in 1935 by New York stockbroker, Bill Wilson, and Akron surgeon, Dr Bob Smith.

Following the publishing of the Alcoholic's Anonymous book chronicling 30 personal stories published in 1939, the organisation over the decades mushroomed in 180 countries to now include 115,326 groups with more than two million sober members.

Ahead of its time, AA was among the first to recognise "that alcoholism is a malady of the mind, body and emotions. AA is based upon one alcoholic sharing with another, that was the founding spark," Mary said."

Continued:

Messages from the Middle East:

We the Iranian AA's have multiplied in numbers to more than 12000 members, during the last 17 years. Our fellowship consists of more than 350 groups in eight regions. The meetings in Iran are mostly for men only, some are mixed and nine meetings are for women only. We still have a very hard time convincing the officials and the public that alcoholism is a disease. In order to have indoor regular meetings we have to register Alcoholic Anonymous as a None Government Organisation (NGO) but we face a lot of resistance from the government officials and strict religious laws. That is the main reason most of our meetings are held in open spaces and parks in cold and hot weather as well.

We are strongly in need of old timers within the AA service structure to come to Iran and hold some workshops. We do need all the help we can get from anywhere and anyone. We have leased a small office space for our General Service Office for distribution of our literature and to answer phone calls.

Just to highlight the difficulties, Ali shared with us that recently whilst holding their AA meeting in the park, they were approached by a Policeman, who asked the purpose of the gathering. Not satisfied, he threatened to throw them all in jail. "What will you do then"? he asked. "We will have our AA meeting in jail" was the reply.

Qatar has a women's treatment centre.

There is there is now one hospital in Kuwait where treatment is available, without any reprisal or fear of being reported to the authorities. This is one small but important step forward in this 'dry' state to recognise alcoholism. In Kuwait 8 women are allowed to attend a meeting!

Iran is organising a group of female members to take the message to the women in Iran. The invitation is there if anyone is interested. Two of the women observers at the AOSM are trying take the message to the female population in the Middle East, however there are a great many cultural difficulties and sensitivities, so participation is low.

Around the Region

Russia has two GSO's. This has caused a great deal of disunity. Since 2013 each GSO has been granted a license to publish literature. The license is valid until November 2015.

World Services New York have been working with the Russian Fellowship to help create unity. Unfortunately, a degree of unity has not been reached. so the procedure of withdrawal of license has been being in process now since the first of July. The publishing of literature will be a business of World Services.

Thailand has many challenges translating Literature. Most of the population are illiterate. There are three types of Thai spoken: Kings Thai, College Thai, and Common Thai. The Fellowship in Bangkok have been working with the Thai Prison authorities for over two

years and finally have an AA meeting in their main prison.

With the help of the International desk at World Services Bali has made a commitment to work at linking the Fellowship in Indonesia. There are 1200 Islands that make up Indonesia. Work has begun on translating the Big Book into Bahasa Indonesian and if this is successful they will attempt to translate into Indonesian. The fellowship in Bali have two meetings a week in the infamous Hotel K- Kerobokan Prison .

At this AOSM 6 women who were part of Team India were present, either as Delegates representing their Country or as observers.

Early this year there will be a women's convention in Northern India.

Kolkata have just held their first Public Information Meeting. The invitation to attend said they were inspired to reach out by the women's delegation to India.

There have been two Steps and Traditions workshops in Mongolia. Since 2013 the Mongolian Delegate reports that female membership in the fellowship has increased 5 times .

Mongolia have been granted a licence to reproduce and distribute the Big Book and 12 x 12. Thank you to Deegi & Megan for their persistence and negotiations.

In 2016 Vladivostok are celebrating their 25th Anniversary. We have been invited to continue with the steps and Traditions workshop tagalong starting in Vladivostok, continuing to Irkutsk in Siberia, and finishing in Mongolia.



HELP TO CARRY THE MESSAGE



**FIJI NEEDS
YOUR HELP!**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
AUSTRALASIAN CONVENTION
MARCH 24-27TH 2016
GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL
SUVA FIJI**

Fiji needs you! Make a difference! Attend a convention where the primary purpose is to carry the message of recovery to those that still suffer. Share your sobriety and help create awareness. Fijian Ministries & Professional Community will be participating on Public Information



**Sober Fellowship
and Fun in the Sun**

**Carry the message
of AA to Fiji**

**Enjoy the Tropics
Dance, BBQ, Fijian
performance**

**Share recovery
Public Information
Day**

**AA Speakers from
India, Solomon
Islands, Fiji,
Australia**

Website:
www.aanatcon.org

email:
fijicon2016@aa.org.au

Register online!

Just for Today.

34th Annual Philippines AA National Convention

February 5, 6, and 7, 2016

Bethel Guest House, Dumaguete City, Philippines

www.dumagueteaa.org

Steps to Miracles

Join us in our 2016 Round-up

Saturday & Sunday, February 27th – 28th

Damien Hall

Damien Center - Blessed Sacrament Church
1 Commonwealth Drive, #1605

The Round-up will be held
on Level 1 in the main hall
at the Damien Center – Damien Hall

For more information & directions visit
www.singaporeaa.org

Or contact us by email
events@singaporeaa.org

Special Feature

we've got a great round-up planned

Listen to our guest speaker Cindy M from Dallas as
she shares her experience strength and hope and
leads us in a steps workshop on Sunday the 28th

Registration charge at door \$20

A buffet lunch, tea and coffee will be provided
Saturday & Sunday

Wanted !

Editor for Loner's International Meeting Newsletter

**Members of LIM in Australia
desperately need an editor to
produce their Newsletter
every 2nd month .**

**Please contact me if you are
willing and able to fulfil this
service position**

sharex@netspace.net.au



The 53rd Convention for Alcoholics Anonymous will be
held at the Copthorne Resort in historic Waitangi on
Friday 22nd January through Sunday 24th January 2016.

The theme "THE NEXT FRONTIER" reflects the faith
and hope that is available to us in the new life we have
been offered in this programme of recovery.

"We give up the idea that the world must always respond
promptly to our demands. We cease trying to run the
show – ours and everybody else's. We stop playing God –
and it turns out there is relief and freedom in that."

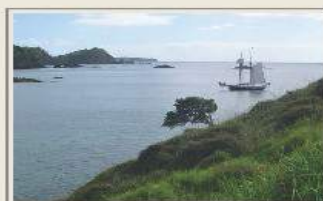
Emotional Sobriety, The Next Frontier, pg. 39

The Millennium-Copthorne Resort is situated adjacent
to the Treaty Grounds at historic Waitangi in the
picturesque Bay of Islands. Bolster your journey by
taking time-out to enjoy the wonderful beaches, bays and
islands, revered throughout the world. Drop in at the
many local AA meetings and fellowship along the way.

Meetings are listed at www.aa.org.nz



BAY OF ISLANDS



WAITANGI

THE NATIONS BIRTHPLACE

Make the most of this spectacular location,
in and on the water, in the rainforest, on
the golf course or swimming with dolphins
in the bay.

Visit the Treaty Grounds, one of New
Zealand's most important historical
locations and see fascinating architecture,
Maori carvings and beautiful gardens.

CONVENTION CONTACTS

Convention Secretary - Craig B. (022) 020-3855
Convention Chair - Sue M. (021) 032-8254
waitangi.2016@gmail.com
(09) 406-7767
www.aaconvention.org.nz

THE NEXT FRONTIER



Alcoholics Anonymous
53rd Annual Convention

January 22, 23 & 24 2016
Millennium-Copthorne Resort
Waitangi



"The Next Frontier" from Emotional Sobriety by Bill Wilson © AA Copyright, Inc. January 2016