

INTERNATIONAL AA

Information presented from Scott R., Trustee at Large Canada / International Trustee

1. AA is now in 180 countries, with the big book translated into 69 languages and other AA literature translated into 92 languages
2. Uganda (in Africa) has the highest per person alcohol consumption in the world
 - a. 50 AA members making up 4 AA groups
3. “When things are easy, I get lazy, and say things to myself like, I’ve done my share’ instead of ‘Have I done everything I can’. This quote was prompted by seeing the effort put forth by groups in the Ukraine, Slovenia, and other developing countries who have to fight to get a group started.
4. They closed the international delegates meeting (REDELA: Meeting of the Americas) with the serenity prayer, not the lords prayer, and said it in 27 languages simultaneously.
5. Women face unique challenges culturally in latin countries
 - a. Honduras has 14,000 AA members but only 50 of them are women
6. Venezuelan delegate was asked to come up with \$800 to cover costs for coming to the REDELA, and was only able to come up with \$500 – this is a great example of where your contributions to GSO are being used to help AAs in areas where funding is a major obstacle. \$800 in Venezuela was equated to 2 years of salary as a university professor.
7. Next time you think it is too far to go 90 minutes to an Area Meeting, think on this: at the REDELA in central America, the Trustee at Large from Canada was tired from traveling 12 hours by plane to get there. He met with a number of delegates from central and south American countries who had travelled 36-48 HOURS by school bus to be there. We have it easy.
8. Question/Quote: “What is my sacrifice for AA?” Giving what is easy to give is not sacrifice. “I don’t give my spare time. I give my most important time.”

TECHNOLOGY

1. AA website redesign coming in the next 12 months
2. AA.org gets 36,000 visitors per day
 - a. 26,000 visits to the Daily Reflections page daily
 - b. “Is AA for You” page gets 900 visits a day
3. The anonymity statement read before every session at NERF (and Founders Day) has been changed to read: “at the level of press, radio, film, and the internet, especially social media”
4. “The Doors” public service announcement video was rated #26 out of 1800 PSA’s by the Neilson Ratings Group
5. New Grapevine website (mobile friendly) coming soon

SERVICE SPONSORSHIP

1. In a group discussion of 30 people, the unanimous consensus was that a service sponsor was necessary if your normal sponsor is not involved in general service.
2. What is a service sponsor
 - a. Just as the recovery sponsor is someone who has what you want in regards to their spiritual life and takes you through the steps, a service sponsor is someone who has what you want as far as service is concerned, is experienced in a variety of service positions, and can guide you through the service side of the triangle as it relates to general service.
 - b. A service sponsor adds a much needed layer of accountability to all things general service related.
3. A service sponsor does NOT have to have held the position you are in, or the position you think you should be in. General service knowledge, and the willingness to help you find the answers is what is required – just like a normal sponsor.
4. General service is not for everyone, but those who get involved in general service generally are those with long term sobriety – this is not a coincidence. A service sponsor can help someone who is not involved in general service find a starting point, or help with service outside of the AA structure.

“THE AA GROUP” WORKSHOP

1. Most AA groups hold their group conscience once a month
2. Home Group Quorum: many AA groups have a minimum number of home group members that must be present in order to call a vote on anything. 2 or 3 members is hardly a true group conscience.
3. A “group” with only a few members should complete a group inventory to see if they are truly fulfilling their purpose, and consider how to get new members or if they should merge with another group to form a more informed group conscience.
4. Greeters are a very important service position to fill at the group level, and a greeter does not just “greet” – they look for new or visiting members and introduce them to other, more established members of the group and actively help newcomers and visitors feel at home.
5. Avoid the routine of sitting in the same seat, talking to the same people, and instead focus on the newcomers, the people you don’t know. This benefits you and them.
6. Newcomers should NOT be the focus of a meeting and should NOT be addressed directly during the meeting.

MISC NERF QUOTES

1. “Plagiarism isn’t frowned upon, and is in fact, greatly encouraged” – Mike, CT Delegate
2. “The 12 steps boil down to “LOVE AND SERVICE””
3. “My life got BIGGER” – Ken, Delegate Rhode Island, speaking on General Service
4. “My job is to share the steps as outlined. Everything else is just interesting.”