

REDELA:

Joining the Americas

19th Meeting of the Americas

Mexico, D.F.

Hotel Holiday Inn Plaza Dali, October 4 – 8, 2015

Final Report

I.- Introduction

The meetings of the 19th REDELA took place on October 4 to 8, 2015, at the facilities of Hotel Holiday Inn Plaza Dali, where 18 countries and 23 representatives attended from the structures of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Honduras, Ecuador, United States, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and, as host, Mexico.

The theme of the meeting was *Redela: Joining the Americas*. The opening of this event was formally inaugurated on Sunday, October 4, at five o'clock sharp. The welcoming address was given by Dr. Ricardo Ivan Nanni Alvarado, president of the General Service Board of Mexico. The manager of the General Service Office, Antonio A., called the roll.

The participation of Roberto Minero, as special guest at the 19th Redela, highlighted the inauguration of the meetings, sharing the subject: *"The first Iberian-American meeting, today REDELA."* He said, *"During the 5th World Service Meeting (WSM), held in Helsinki, Finland, in my position as delegate from Mexico, John, delegate from Colombia, came up to me one night to comment on an idea that throbbed in my mind since the 4th WSM, which was confirmed by the Committee of Policy and Admissions at the 5th WSM. This idea was to hold a meeting where Spanish-speaking delegates from the American Continent participated. After many negotiations, in the city of Bogota, Colombia, the First Iberian-American Meeting took place on November 15 to 18, 1979, at the Hotel Dann, with the participation of the structures of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. We also invited the General Service Office in New York.*

37 years have gone by since "The First Iberian-American Meeting, today Redela." The participation of Roberto M. was very moving for everyone present; they acknowledged his words with applause and tears in their eyes and a heart filled with gratitude but, above all, for being the one who began these meetings which enable us today to reach the alcoholic in every corner of the American Continent.

Later, in the following days, the reports of the participating countries were given; the presentations, the round tables and the general sharing sessions took place.

The themes of the presentations were:

- International Literature Fund
- Non Trustee Director: His profile, How to prepare a non Trustee Director for his service, How to maintain the motivation of a non Trustee Director
- Loyalty to the principles: in the Conference, in the General Service Board, in the groups
- How to improve finances: in the groups, in the service offices, in the Redela
- Are districts necessary? For the groups, for the Conference
- Service in AA and Spirituality: the basis of my recovery, service: an indispensable tool for spirituality. Service and Spirituality: two sides of the same coin
- True leadership arises from recovery without ego: the Twelve Steps show us the way, practice the Twelve Traditions, follow the Twelve Concepts
- Bill's equation: Books=growth, did it lose its importance? For the spiritual growth of the members, for the self-support of GSO
- The importance of sponsorship between countries and the support with literature

The delegates participated in the round tables:

Unicity of purpose of the AA program before the groups that use our name, in the groups, before society

Inventory of the Redela: in the committees, in the organizing committee and the support materials

Resentment: what it means for individual recovery, for the survival of the group

The committees of Agenda, Policy/Admissions/Finance, Literature/Publications and Working with Others met according the established agenda.

In the general sharing session, "What do you think?" each one of the attending delegates participated, expressing their feelings.

The translators of the event were Hernan Merea and Amalia Castillo, who participated actively in the development of the 19th Redela.

All the work carried out during this 19th Redela is aimed at bringing our Fifth Tradition to life and reach the alcoholic who doesn't know that there is a solution to his problem of alcoholism, and lend a hand so he can arrive to the safe port of our global fellowship.

Fraternally,

Edith Ley
International Desk

Opening Speech

Good afternoon to everyone, on behalf of the great Mexican family of Alcoholics Anonymous, we offer you our warmest welcome to this, our **19th Meeting of the Americas**. My name is Ricardo and I am a Class "A" Trustee. It is a pleasure to have you here in our country.

I especially want to thank the kind attendance of the national structures of Alcoholics Anonymous, *Members of World Services*, who are participating in this 19th REDELA: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States and Canada, Uruguay, Venezuela and, of course, all those who form our Mexican structure, acting as hosts.

I also acknowledge all those structures that are absent, that could not be with us physically, you are in our minds in the enormous spirit that means being part of the great American family of Alcoholics Anonymous whose meeting acquires a special significance, considering that it is held during a festive month for the entire fellowship of the American Continent. The words of the great Pablo Neruda in "Little America" (Pequeña America) point this out:

*When I look at the shape
of America on the map,
my love, it is you I see:
the heights of copper on your head,
your breasts, wheat and snow,
your slender waist,
swift throbbing rivers, sweet hills and meadows
and in the cold of the south your feet end
its geography of duplicated gold.
(translated by Donald D. Walsh)*

This 19th Meeting of the Americas presents a new vision in its operation, since it has been adapted to the format of the World Service Meeting, thus offering the participating countries the opportunity to continue strengthening their structures, uniting in brotherhood with the rest of the structures. The reason for this is very simple: alcoholism does not rest and continues its devastating race, destroying dreams, lives and nations; we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" **Yes, it is!!!**

Let us look at some data regarding alcohol consumption in America, as reported by the Pan American Health Organization:

1. Increase in Consumption

During the last five years, almost three times the number of women and more that 60% of men take more than five drinks per occasion.

2. Silver Medal in Consumption

The American Continent is the second region of the world where more alcohol is consumed, only after Europe. In average, each person in America drinks 8.4 liters of pure alcohol every year, 2.5 liters less than in Europe, but... 2.2 liters less than the world average.

3. Every 100 Seconds, a Life is Lost

In America, alcohol is the main risk factor of death and disability for people between the ages of 15 to 49, since its consumption can cause more than 200 illnesses and lesions through accidents.

4. Beer, the Most Loved

Two thirds of the countries in the continent prefer beer.

5. Alcohol is Consumed in Large Quantities and at a Younger Age

Adolescents drink less frequently but they drink larger amounts per occasion. They had their first drink before they were 14 years old.

7. Abstinence Reduced

In America, the general index of abstinence decreased five percent for men and 2 per cent for women in the last five years.

8. The General Population Agrees with the Measures Taken to Reduce Consumption

These include the increase in taxes, greater control on the points of sale, training for healthcare workers as far as diagnosis and treatment of consumers and, especially, of the people who attend self help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

As you can see, distinguished members of Alcoholics Anonymous, important institutions and decisions makers in the field of health throughout the world and, particularly in America, fully identify us and they praise the great efforts we have made and, above all, they continue expecting the fruits of our actions. Undoubtedly, this 19th Meeting of the Americas will be the perfect framework to propose them, analyze them and fill us with motivation to put them into action when we return to our countries and give the best of ourselves.

As your hosts, we humbly want to share the experiences that we have accumulated through the local projects, such as the *Strategic Plan* which consists in carrying the message to every corner of the country; the *National Plan for Sustainable Growth* that has strengthened the entire structure of our community; the five *National Weeks of Action* that focus their information activities towards specific social sectors through actions in treatment centers, correctional institutions, public and private, as well as the *Big Book National Crusade* and the *Eighty Years of the Arrival of the Message to the World* consisting in carrying the message to the unknown alcoholic and donating a Big Book.

The theme of the 19th Redela, "**Joining the Americas**", gives us the opportunity of rekindling our spirit of **service** to **unite** into one task that is carry the message to those who are waiting and thus recover not only sobriety, but life itself, and which Jorge Luis Borges paraphrases excellently in his poem "The Mirrors":

*I felt the horror of the mirrors
not only before the impenetrable glass
where an inhabitable, impossible,
space of reflections ends and begins*

Joining the Americas will make the dream of reaching the alcoholic in all the corners of the continent possible, giving testimony of recovery from alcoholism through the program of AA. Let us go, fellow members, let's carry the good news!!!!

Therefore, I only want to wish the greatest success during the days of work ahead, emphasizing our pleasure in receiving you and offering our hospitality and the love of the Mexican people shown through all of us who form the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos.

Congratulations and welcome!!!

Sunday, October 4, 2015

*Ricardo Ivan Nanni Alvarado
Chairman of the General Service Board
Mexico*

19th Meeting of the Americas

“Joining the Americas”

International AA Delegates of the Americas

Dear fellow members,

I thank God for having allowed us live this 19th REDELA intensely, I also thank all the groups of the sister countries and each and every one of you for your participation, dedication and willingness. We are always in search of the common welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous and a greater dissemination of our message of recovery from alcoholism in each corner of America.

Throughout these last years we have detected some areas of opportunity for the correction and improvement of aspects that our countries have in common, such as:

Lack of understanding of the spiritual principles of the program, little compliance and practice of the Twelve Traditions, dominant voices in some of the structures, lack of real practice of the principle of rotation, frequent useless discussions in the service centers, ignorance of proceedings at the different levels of structure and lack of effective communication, among others. There is also a need of formal sponsorship, both in recovery as well as in service.

To a greater or lesser degree, the result is stagnancy, lack of growth and the lack of personal and group development.

The final consequence is that we are not reaching all those alcoholics who need the solution that the AA program offers and which can give them the opportunity of going from darkness into the light.

We should remember and keep in our minds and in our hearts the sole mandate given by God to each one of us: to carry the message of recovery.

We are sure that, like other Meetings of the Americas, the work and plans developed in this 19th REDELA will contribute substantially to the improvement of the services and toward the solution of the various problems at the different levels of the structures.

As part of our program, in the Three Legacies, we have spiritual tools and experiences in our hands that have demonstrated their efficacy throughout the history of AA, such as personal sponsorship, sponsorship among countries and abidance to the Third Legacy.

Through the above, we will continue improving in aspects like: greater integration of the board of trustees, balance of the responsibilities of its members, respect, obedience, and support to the decisions of group conscience at the different levels of structure, an improvement in the common welfare and greater respect to the current leadership at all levels of structure.

In the REDELA meetings, there has been continuous progress for the establishment of in-depth solutions to structural problems.

It is still very healthy to make an inventory and evaluation of our personal actions as well as to commit to the fulfillment of the agreements, plans and projects that arise from this REDELA as well as in the period and service that is given to us.

We deeply thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you in this meeting.

We are sure that by **Joining the Americas** our alcoholic brothers who are still suffering will find the experience, strength and hope in our community for the solution to their problem.

We remain with a profound and pleasant memory of each one of you; you have touched our lives forever. We hope that, when you remember the alcoholics anonymous of Mexico, you will do so with joy and the security that you can always count on us, as we know that we can count on you.

We wish to express our fraternal *"hasta luego"* ("see you soon"), paraphrasing a Mexican song that says: *"Which of two friends suffers more, he who leaves or he who stays? He who stays, remains weeping, and he who leaves, departs sighing..."*

In Mexico we have many ways of saying good-by but, deep down, all of them have our best wishes and a deep friendship; we sing the *"Golondrinas"* (a Mexican farewell song), "good-by friend," "good luck," "that all goes well," "farewell," "God be with you," "go with God"... All of these apply to this unforgettable moment!

To all our alcoholic fellow members of the countries in America and their dear families as well as to all of you, our best wishes, our unending appreciation and a great hug, Mexican style.

God be with each one of your!

Fraternally,

"Joining the Americas"

Antonio Alba Cerda
GSO Manager
Mexico

Declaration of the Objective of the Meeting of the Americas-REDELA

As in any activity in Alcoholics Anonymous, the main objective of the Meeting of the Americas is to carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering, where ever it may be in this American continent, in whatever language may be spoken. The Meeting of the Americas seeks methods to reach this objective, serving as a forum to share experience, strength and hope for the delegates from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean; meeting every two years.

In addition, it can represent the expression of the group conscience at a continental level. Experience teaches us that by organizing ourselves in a solid structure enables us to develop and offer our services in a more effective way. The Meeting of the Americas encourages the planning of a more solid structure, appropriate to the needs and capacities of the different countries, and the exploration of the possibilities to broaden the services of AA to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, the distribution of literature, sponsorship, public information, cooperation with the community and the work in institutions.

*Bob Wilcox
Estados Unidos*

Uniting the Americas

Dear brothers, I come from Brazil, I am an alcoholic and my name is Marcos. I want to thank God because I am sober today.

It is a privilege to address you in order to share some considerations regarding the orientation and motivation of the theme of the 19th Meeting of the Americas (Redela.)

The main objective of the Meeting of the Americas is the same one as every activity in Alcoholics Anonymous: to carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering; to seek ways and means to accomplish this aim and to be a forum to share the experience, strength and hope of the delegates who also represent the group conscience throughout America.

This regional forum motivates the installation of clear general service structures, and the exploration of possibilities to extend the services of Alcoholics Anonymous in order to reach the alcoholic. Experience has taught us that the development of a strong structure helps us to carry out our service more effectively.

We must continue working together in an effort to achieve all the objectives, as has been done throughout the years. Relying, as always, on our 36 principles and having the aim of this program clear, its final purpose is helping others to recover. Let us witness today, let us give testimony at this meeting, of a message, of the renewed success that the previous REDELAs have had. Let us be present, fully convinced that, besides participating in the practice of Unity, it is one of the ways to be informed and train ourselves to generate new ways to serve.

In a community where the majority of its members lack interest or knowledge of its own principles, the theme "Uniting the Americas" is of a profound and primordial importance. In first place, we must remember that AA is "more than a set of principles, it is a society in action in the world." However, it is frequent to find alcoholics whose vision goes no further than their group or, perhaps, their intergroup or their area, and they limit their actions to those fundamental, but limited services. What can we do so that these alcoholics understand that AA does not fulfill its mission in each group and in its sphere of action, but that it extends to a very vast horizon?

A fundamental service of the old-timers is precisely to help broaden the view and the interest of alcoholics of good will, and encourage them to go beyond the limits of their group and introduce them into the general services which have a fundamental importance to reach our objective.

Objective of the Redela

A letter by Will W. addressed to various countries in 1967 reads:

"There are many problems of growth and relations that demand an exchange of experiences at an international level. The problems of public relations, anonymity, self-support, as well as relations with the medical profession and religion are felt strongly in the countries where AA is present. In addition, the exchange of experiences and practices can solve, in the best way possible, the problem of publishing and distributing our AA literature."

We know that the first WSM was held in 1969. Later, in the 5th WSM in Helsinki in 1978, with the theme, "Recovery, Unity and World Service", in the round tables on "Communication among Countries", there were two recommendations that arose the excitement of all the delegates.

These recommendations had a lasting impact on world services. The establishment of a European Information Center was recommended (...) The purpose of the Center was to receive information of the participating countries in order to disseminate it among other European countries and GSO. This information would include future conventions and other events to avoid a conflict of dates, as well as the exchange of experiences on different subjects of service and structure. A specific solution that should be explored (...) was to provide regional service assemblies, according to language similarities, whenever possible, or according to geographic considerations, (...) namely, European and Latin American service meetings. And, on November 15 to 17, 1979, we held our first Latin American Meeting in Colombia.

Meeting of the Americas Declaration of Purposes

The main purpose of the Meeting of the Americas is the same as every activity in Alcoholics Anonymous: to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who is still suffering, no matter where he or she is or what language he or she speaks. The Meeting of the Americas seeks ways and means to fulfill this goal and to serve as a forum to share the experience, strength and hope of the delegates, who come from every part of America, and who also represent the group conscience throughout America. Experience has taught us that the development of a strong structure helps to carry out our service more effectively. The Meeting of the Americas motivates the installation of clear “general service structures” and, according to the needs and capacities of the different countries, the exploration of possibilities to extend the services of Alcoholics Anonymous in order to reach the alcoholic, through internal communication, the distribution of literature, public information, relations with the professional community and work in the institutions.

If we take this Declaration of Purposes into consideration, we will observe that we still have common vital needs to satisfy.

How can we convince incipient structures in America on the need to be sponsored on the Legacy of Service?

Sponsorship is the basis for growth in AA. The Responsibility Declaration says:
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.

In a process of country to country sponsorship, it is necessary for the sponsoring country to take the initiative, because it has the vision and, certainly, it has been sponsored by another country. The United States and Canada have sponsored several countries around the world, from the first days of AA. In the first 80 years of existence, the AA community today has formed several structures, nearly 60, with a General Service Board, a General Service Office and a General Service Conference. To ensure sponsorship, it is necessary that a structure offers its help and other country accepts it. It is also necessary to make a diagnosis of the sponsored country, to become acquainted with its situation. Is there a Board, GSO and a GSC? Once it has been diagnosed, an Action Plan should be elaborated. The AA member only develops through structure.

We must remember that the Alcoholic Foundation was created in 1938 in New York, with the first Board of Trustees and that there were only 50 members at the time. In 1950 –that is 12 years after the formation of an initial AA structure– we realized that the number of members had increased to about 100,000 recovered alcoholics. In April, 1951, Bill W., with the help of Dr.

Bernard Smith, the first Chairman of the General Service Board, were running against time. They invited the delegates to attend the first GSC. Dr. Bob died a few months before, in 1950.

In the South American, Central American and the Caribbean sphere, a practice that has worked is the encouragement of the sponsoring country so that the sponsee sends delegates to the Redela, because there is much experience shared among the participating countries, about 20.

Is the Redela fulfilling its objective of serving as a means of communication among the countries, attending and not attending the Meeting?

This question was made during the 17th Redela, in San Salvador, and I certify that it is still valid today. Those of us who are here at this important event, owe it to the grace of God and to the group conscience of our countries that gave us their trust to represent them; this implies a great responsibility, on one hand and, on the other, a great opportunity. The challenge is leaving this event with a firm action plan to really fulfill the theme of this 19th Redela, which is **Uniting the Americas**. As trustworthy servers, we must be calm when answering the question: Am I fulfilling with love and gratitude the responsibility I have been assigned to bring the theme to life? The answer is in each one of us, and we will achieve it if, in all our actions, we can instill all the love, all the commitment and all the dedication.

I have come to believe that what motivates us is the gratitude for the *spirit of service*, either in the group, the area, the regional service office, or the AA general service structure of our entire country –our various organizations in AA to reach the alcoholic who is suffering, wherever he may be. With this same *spirit of service*, a country helps to satisfy the need of the sick alcoholics in another country. We know that AA will surely be there someday. We know that AA works. We know that once it begins there, it will probably take hold and, in time, will develop slowly to become a wonderful force of good among the lost and desperate alcoholics. It is our responsibility, the current servers gathered in this Redela in Mexico, to accelerate the process as much as we can during our term. We must do this by informing our countries about the marvelous results of country to country sponsorship. We are gathered here to share with one another our successes and our difficulties and, when listening to our fellows tell about these experiences, we accumulate material to inspire the AAs in our respective countries. In the end, they are the ones who will carry out and support AA's international work.

If, at the end of this Redela, we leave with the conviction that the actions we take will serve to **Unite the Americas**, I believe that our duty was fulfilled. However, we are sure that we will continue making every possible effort to help the three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service of Alcoholics Anonymous to continue reaching every corner of the Americas where there is an alcoholic who is still suffering.

May God bless you all.

Thank you very much.

Marcos Pedrosa
Brasil

International Literature Fund

“Let Literature Carry the Message.” This statement is displayed on the pamphlet racks distributed by the General Service Office of the United States and Canada. Literature has always led the way of A.A. into new nations. Our co-founder Bill W. wrote in 1968 about the importance of the preparation of a standard for our literature, beginning with the Big Book. “This volume, plus the other books and many pamphlets since written, made A.A. available all over the globe. In consequence, the A.A. message could not be garbled. Thus we began our first effort to cement A.A.'s unity and functional effectiveness. It is with grateful hearts that the Directors of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Board and the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, U.S. and Canada, express their collective appreciation for your many sacrifices in the basket that help carry A.A.'s message of hope around the world, strengthening A.A.'s unity and safeguarding our future.”

As time moved on, the demand for translations and literature assistance worldwide grew immensely and the costs were becoming increasingly difficult for the U.S. and Canadian structure to meet. In 1990 at the 11th World Service Meeting in Munich Germany, a few international delegates had an idea that countries worldwide could contribute to a fund to help defray the cost of translations and literature assistance. They recommended that the World Service Meeting secretary “...write to all participating countries for the specific purpose of seeking cooperation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions.” Within one year of establishing that committee seven countries contributed nearly \$20,000 and the International Literature Fund was in full operation.

In 1992, the Literature/Publishing Committee of the World Service Meeting reported that the committee had agreed that the International Literature Fund should be under the purview of the World Service Meeting Literature/Publishing Committee. The Committee also suggested that “A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) use proceeds of (the) International Literature Fund to offset A.A.W.S.’ expenditures for foreign literature assistance, and to reimburse similar expenses incurred by other overseas A.A. offices or boards.” The Committee stated that “A.A.W.S. should have the latitude to prioritize the use of these monies based on the need as expressed by each G.S.O. and World Service delegate.” The Committee also asked that “A.A.W.S. provide World Service Meetings with an accounting of the receipts and disbursements of these monies.”

Twenty-Five years have passed since the 11th World Service Meeting established the International Literature Fund and the response from countries around our A.A. world has been – and continues to be – positive, heartwarming and most gratifying. I would like to now offer you that accounting.

The attached chart shows the International Literature Fund receipts since its inception through the current time period of September 30, 2015. As you can see, and I am pleased to report that since its inception, contributions of over 1.5 million dollars have been received. It appears the

health of our fund is keeping pace with the global economy's slow recovery. Still, some of you continue to face difficult choices daily and our Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada is certainly not exempt from today's financial uncertainty. In the face of that, I must share with you that the International Literature Fund is one aspect of A.A.W.S.' many responsibilities to A.A.'s worldwide community that actually brings us joy to administer. That is because this is a place where we get to see A.A. love in action.

Since 1991, A.A.W.S.'s International Literature Assistance expenditures to emerging countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania and the Americas total over 2.7 million dollars. In the last two years we have provided copies of complimentary Big Books and other literature to A.A.'s in places such as Albania, Bolivia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Uganda and Uruguay.

Around the world, 17 translations of the Big Book are underway, and recently after 9 years of diligent work, which included 3 translators, translation was completed in Twi (Ghana). Each contributed impeccable translations that received highly favorable translation-evaluations from independent services. A team of local women hand-sewed the bindings and covers on the books, and more than 1,000 copies are now making their way into meetings there. Also recent translations of the Big Book have been completed in Luganda (Uganda) and Arabic (for multiple countries). Arabic is particularly heartwarming because it includes local personal stories, which were created by the members of the Middle East Regional Committee for Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA). Now, with momentum established, and with MERCAA members' assistance, additional projects are in progress for the Arabic-speaking communities, including new translations of the Twelve & Twelve and Living Sober. Portions of each have received favorable reviews and are moving forward. The next translation completion of the Big Book is expected to be Rarotongan (The Cook Islands') which is now in its final stages.

Portions of the Konkani (Goa, India) and Croatian translations of the Big Book have also each just received favorable reviews and are moving forward.

International translations of books, booklets, pamphlets, PSA's, and videos have seen an increase in volume over the past couple years, as the Publishing Department has taken on a major review of country-by-country licensing and are actively shepherding dozens of ongoing and new projects in languages such as: Arabic, Georgian, Indonesian, Visaya and Tagalog (Philippines), Afrikaans, Farsi, Russian, Ukrainian, Burmese, Karen, Czech, Finnish Slovakian, Hungarian, Hebrew, Italian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Portuguese, Swedish, Thai, and more than 12 languages of India, among others.

The Publications Department has also recently been authorized to address the translation & licensing needs of Grapevine-copyrighted books, and progress has been made on licensing of The Language of the Heart to nations such as the United Kingdom, Finland, Brazil, Poland, and others, this progress will be ongoing, as there is admittedly a backlog of interest and requests.

Spanish-language audio recordings and new e-books, along with a new Quebecois French sign-language project are also among notable standouts.

It is deeply detailed and spiritual work, as the painstaking process of ensuring the integrity of A.A.'s profound message of hope carries with it a deep sense of obligation and moral responsibility. A.A.W.S. is entrusted by the Fellowship to carry A.A.'s message to the sick and suffering in all translations of A.A. literature. With the help of local committees, groups, and members we all work together to do just that.

Today, we celebrate A.A.'s presence in over 170 countries with translations of our Big Book now in 69 languages. Our other literature is available in 87 languages. None of this would be possible without continued support to the International Literature Fund– both monetarily and spiritually.

Bob Wilcox
Trustee-at-Large/U.S.

The Profile of Non Trustee Directors

This service is not well known by the young members of our community, but it is no less important and, besides, it is very necessary for the fulfillment of our primary purpose, which is to carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering.

They are servers who have provided outstanding services and are needed by the community to achieve the objectives determined by the General Service Conference, as well as by the Board of Trustees and the Corporate Boards of GSO and AA El Mensaje (AA Message). In Concept XI, the second paragraph states: "The lasting success of our General Service Board will depend not only of the skills of the Trustees as such; it will also depend on the competent and harmonious association of those non Trustee members of the committees, the directors of the service corporation, the heads and the members of staff who should actively carry out AA world services. Their qualities and dedication, or lack of them, will signify the success or ruin of our service structure. We will always depend on them in an important way."

On our Corporate Board of General Services, there are currently seven directors: a General Service Trustee, a Regional Trustee or Trustee at Large, three non Trustee Directors, a member of staff and the Manager of GSO, who, in turn, chairs it. This Board meets at least six times a year to consider the points established in the agenda, such as the preparation of budgets for the operation of services and publications, the analysis of new and revised publications, the service activities of GSO, the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference and the Board of Trustees, issues regarding literary ownership and permits to reprint our literature.

For the development of this work, there are four committees that meet in a separate session from that of the Corporate Board of General Services and, later on, submit their reports and recommendations. These committees are:

SERVICES: It is in charge of the needs of all the service departments and it strives to improve communication between the Board of Trustees and the community. This committee is responsible for the Web site and for GSO.

FINANCE: It is responsible for salaries, budgets and revision of the accounts.

PUBLICATIONS: It is devoted to reprinting and other editorial matters, for example, selecting a format among those suggested by the community.

NOMINATING: It is in charge of selecting new candidates for directors of the Corporate Board of General Services and for General Service Trustees. All the members of this committee are Trustee Directors.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT: According to Tradition Seven, all the groups should be self supporting, and this Tradition also applies to the common services provided by the General Service Office.

The Corporate Board of GSO has two sources of income: the contributions of the groups, donated to the General Fund of the National General Service Corporation, and the income from the sale of literature. The challenge today is to achieve that the service work of GSO is self-

supporting, paid completely by the members and, consequently, be able to sell literature at cost.

The Corporate Board of AA El Mensaje is formed by seven directors: one General Service Trustee, one Class A Trustee, one Regional Trustee or Trustee at Large, three non Trustee Directors and the Executive Director, who chairs this Board. One of the three non Trustee Directors acts as secretary.

This Board meets quarterly to consider matters such as financing, the elaboration and selection of articles and ways to increase the circulation of the magazine.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

AA El Mensaje is completely self-supporting with the income produced by the sale of the magazine and related material. The operative entity of AA El Mensaje does not accept individual contributions, nor from groups; it only accepts donations destined to a fund established to give subscriptions away to inmates or other members who cannot pay for it.

SELECTION OF NON TRUSTEE DIRECTORS FOR THE CORPORATE BOARDS OF GSO AND AA EL MENSAJE

The community is informed of the vacancies through the delegates. In addition, the candidates are taken from the resumes submitted during previous searches and are filed in the office, from past and current appointed members of the committee and the members of the editorial advisory committee, from recommendations made by current and past trustees, directors and members of staff of GSO and AA El Mensaje.

The Nominating Committee of the Corporate Board reduces the list of candidates, considering their professional and business experience, time of sobriety, experience in AA service and the availability of the candidate to comply with his/her commitments. Specific skills are also considered for the administration of matters pertaining to the operative entities.

The selected candidates are interviewed by the Nominating Committee of the Corporate Board of AA The Message, who recommends the name of a candidate to the Board in full. Then, the name and resume of the candidate is submitted to the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the General Service Conference for their approval.

I would like to thank you for your attention and convey a cordial greeting from the brothers in Colombia.

Eliecer Ceron Herrera
Trustee At Large, Southern Territory
Colombia

Oneness of Purpose of the AA Program before the Groups that Use our Name: In the Groups

“There are some who say that AA can become a new vanguard for a spiritual awakening in every corner of the world. When saying this, our friends are both generous and sincere as well. But we in AA need to reflect on the possibility that such a homage and such a prophesy can become an inebriating drink for most of us –in other words, if we came believe that this is the real objective of AA, we would begin to act that way, intoxicated.

Our society, therefore, will cling prudently to one single objective: to carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering. Let us resist the proud assumption that, as God has made it possible to do good in one area, we are destined to be a channel of the saving grace for everyone.”

Bill W., co founder of AA, 1955

The AA program not only signifies identification, it also signifies information. This principle definitely leaves no room for discussion. There only exists one purpose for the group and, in the same measure, for the individual member of the community; likewise, these is only requirement to be a member of AA.

At the beginning, we do not talk about the most important paradox in AA: *that we can only keep the precious gift of sobriety, if we continue passing it on. When we do not pass the message on, we could put our own sobriety, our personal survival, at risk.*

The oneness of purpose also protects us against temptations that originate in our egos: ambition for success, search for admiration, money to do good, desire to restore our reputation, become famous, an adored leader in AA. We always have to emphasize what AA can and cannot do, although some may feel disappointed when discovering the limits of AA and they would like to remain afar.

We have found a solution for ourselves. Every alcoholic must be aware of this possibility. Everyone should know that we can achieve together in the group what we could not achieve by ourselves. In our first meeting we usually hear that *only you can do it, but you cannot do it alone.*

Its oneness of purpose leads to the heart of reason, that we are AAs: “sobriety, or being free from alcohol, through the teachings and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole objective of an AA group.” As Bill wrote in the February, 1958, issue of the AA Grapevine: *Once and again, some groups have undertaken other activities and they have never been successful.*

We also learn from experience that you cannot turn non alcoholic individuals into members of AA. We must limit the members of our community to alcoholics, and our groups to one single purpose. If we do not cling to these principles, we will surely fail. And if we fail, we cannot help anybody.

This is no more than a reiteration of the Traditions that offer a clear guide to all the problems that can be encountered. Tradition One is a direct contradiction, whereby the society emphasizes once again, that it is an *individual right*. Our common welfare must come first,

which does not mean that the individual is not important, it only means that he comes after the group. The program of recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous arose when one alcoholic talked about his problems with alcohol to another alcoholic: I remain sober and continue forward with this message.

The most important factor to create unity is working together to solve our common problem: alcoholism. At an AA meeting, when one person introduces himself as an alcoholic and as something else, he is saying that he is different from the rest of the group. This represents a gap in the spirit of unity and our common purpose. A newcomer who behaves like this has no knowledge of our Traditions; however, it is the responsibility of other old-time members to gently explain the purpose of AA and the spirit of tolerance and cooperation, directly to that person, in the group or in an appropriate space to deal with the problem, stating how pleasant it is to share the program of recovery of AA and to recover from alcoholism.

Tradition Three says that: *The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.* Generally speaking, they say that our community is a place for everyone who suffers from alcoholism. This statement indicates that AA does not want to exclude anyone, when a person has the desire to stop drinking, it does not matter if he is suffering from other problems: drugs, sex, gambling, etc. His race, nationality, language, social status and the condition he comes to AA do not matter to the AA hosts.

Tradition Five tells us exactly who should carry the message to alcoholics who are still suffering. Alcoholics need AA, and the way in which we address the problem of alcoholism is by carrying the message in the best possible way. We definitely have knowledge of the main purpose of AA and in the groups, the practice of the principles can be seen in action.

Marcio Adriano Dos Santos Maciel
National Trustee
Class B - Brasil

“Primary purpose of the groups that use our name, before society”

First, one should ask oneself or one should know the meaning of “primary”, because it can be defined as **unique nature**. The primary purpose refers exactly to our Fifth Tradition: “Each group has but one (unique) primary purpose –to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

The problem is that there are some members (many or few, we do not know) who are not clear as to our primary purpose. Consequently, this derives in the distortion of our program and translates into a lack of action of the groups with multiple objectives that have used our name before society.

Once more, it is in the group where everything begins. If the member is not taught about our principles and our literature, there is little that can be done. Therefore, it is frequent to find groups where people openly say that they are not alcoholics participating in closed meetings, groups where other kinds of literature is discussed, groups where the members identify themselves by saying, “My name is X and I am an alcoholic and addict”. Then we begin to make exceptions, also allowing, “My name is X and I am an alcoholic and homosexual, a gambler, an over-eater, etc.” Do I feel different? Am I different?

We should remember that, with the growth of AA, there is a fundamental need. What is it? Literature, with the purpose of reaching more alcoholics and avoiding the distortion of the message, just as Bill expressed it when he wrote: “...because the message of recovery in which we all trust so much, could soon be taken blindly and distorted in such a way that it would be unrecognizable.” Then we would see the Twelve Step program reduced to two steps, the famous Fourth and Fifth Steps, groups with multiple objectives where people attend who do not have a drinking problem.

There are some things that AA cannot do for anybody, no matter what our individual desires and feeling are.

“Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore, we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity. An AA group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world... We have to confine our membership to alcoholics and we have to confine our AA groups to a single purpose. If we don’t stick to these principles, we will almost surely collapse.”

The other natural question is, “Pure alcoholics?” “...What will people think? chanted the pure alcoholics. Happily, this foolishness has long since evaporated.” (Written in *The Language of the Heart*, “Problems Other than Alcohol.”) If this had not been so, I am sure that many of us would not be here in this REDELA.

In *The Language of the Heart*, “Problems Other than Alcohol,” Bill wrote that one of the best AAs he knew was a man who had a double stigma, the needle and alcohol (consequently, he complied with the Third Tradition) and that he had helped many AAs and some non AAs, but he also stressed that this was his personal business and not the AA group to which he belonged. In the same article, Bill wrote, “It was thus proven that,

as individuals, we can carry the AA experience and ideas into any outside field whatever, provided that we guard anonymity and refuse to use the AA name... In AA, the group has strict limitations, but the individual has scarcely any. Remembering to observe the Traditions of anonymity and non-endorsement, the AA member can carry AA's message into every troubled area of this very troubled world."

As has been written in our book Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers, in chapter XX: "You know, if someone gave me tips about baseball and I found out he had never played, I wouldn't pay much attention to him. It's the same thing with alcohol."

Let's think about the alcoholic who is yet to come and that his life is intimately linked with our own ability to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Let us be united in the framework of our principles.

Cordially,

Erik Giovanni Gonzalez Lopez
Second Term Delegate - Peru

Cirilo Lorenzo Vasquez Vargas
First Term Delegate - Peru

Loyalty to The Principles In The Conference

First, we must understand the origin of the Conference, what it is and who is involved (36 principles and the participants, respectively), when and where it begins, and why we need a Conference...

There was an **urgent** need to delegate the responsibility of world services to the community–**Concept II** (and so it was done) -- who up to this point was in the hands of the co founders (they were not eternal.) In addition, a structure that enabled AA to continue in existence was important. The fact that our co founders “exited the scene” (the delivery of our Three Legacies to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole) is an authentic example of **unity** and **humility**.

The Conference is and/or means to take our destiny into our own hands, it signifies our survival, our self-government, its coming of age. That is, we practice **responsibility**, a word with which **Concept I** begins. The Conference is the guardian of our future, as it undertakes the custody of our **Twelve Traditions** and the care of our world services, it is the heart of our **Third Legacy**; it is voice of group conscience (God) and the only successor of our co founders.

We know that once we have received the gift of sobriety, our Higher Power expects us to continue working and growing, not only in our group but also in AA as a whole; this last aspect is assured by a Conference. We must remember that we have a new Boss and He will provide us with everything we need, if we remain near Him and do our work well. But, what is its purpose? One is to guarantee our survival through service. I ask if this does not mean but acting with **sanity**, and as Bill wrote: “It is the perpetual miracle without any effort or **responsibility** on our part, it is totally an illusion.

Who **participates** in the Conference? (**Concept IV**) Basically, the delegates (former GSRs) and trustees (who were once delegates.) In other words, it all begins in the group, **the AA groups have the final responsibility and the complete authority of our world services (Concept I.)** Therefore, it is the great challenge of the entire Conference that all the members, through the structure, feel that their voice, and they themselves, are participating (**Concept IV**) and arrive at this magnificent spiritual event; that is, the voice of group conscience in a Conference is heard throughout the structure. The above gives rise to the fact that the **participants** in the Conference are leaders (**Concept IX.**) and, as such, they are but trusted servants, they do not govern (**Tradition Two**) and they are also responsible before those whom they serve (**Tradition Nine.**)

Who, then, should we elect as delegates, avoiding friction, the search for prestige and vainglory, which could be present in this election? For this, we have our election based on obtaining two thirds of the vote, including the hat. Besides, we must suppose that the candidates have their own merits to become delegates, both as far as knowledge as well as the **practice of our 36 principles**. In this way we avoid political struggles, putting personal ambition aside in favor of unity and accepting the results. This is how we are loyal to our **principles**.

In summary, what is done at a General Service Conference? Decisions are made that affect AA as a whole. The delegates form part of the permanent committees who will submit projects for recommendations for their approval or rejection, and new trustees will be elected (if appropriate.)

The projects for recommendation are discussed to obtain greater information, they are voted for approval or rejection, the minorities are heard (**Concept V.**) It is here where **we practice all our principles**, balancing our emotions (**recovery**), accepting that the decisions come from a Higher Power who manifests Himself through a well informed conscience, even if these decisions are contrary to our own ideas. It is here where the **Tradition Two** takes on a broader and magnificent meaning, when the authority and the guidance of Alcoholics Anonymous are materialized on behalf of the groups. The participants must put their personal ambitions to one side, or the classical: "I am right", or the "all or nothing", in such a way that unity is guaranteed (**Tradition One.**) All the proceedings of the Conference should be based on our General Guarantees (**Concept XII.**)

Although it is true that the delegates have the voice and they represent their area (in a second sense) and, therefore, the voice of the groups, at the time of the final decisions in the Conference, they should vote according to their own criteria and conscience. If they do not do so, the delegate would become the "instructed" one, a "messenger" and not a trusted servant; therefore, we would not be loyal to our principles (**Tradition Two and Concept III.**)

The groups delegate the responsibility and authority to the Conference, and the Conference, in turn, after taking a decision, **delegates** its execution to the Board of Trustees. Therefore, it confers the authority, responsibility, leadership and legal position to the Board, in such a way that it can work freely and efficiently. All this is within the framework of the Bylaws and the Charter.

Just like the delegates, the Board of Trustees also makes use of its traditional power of decision; in other words, we must trust that our servers will decide and apply their authority and responsibility to the problems that arise according to our principles.

Authority and responsibility go hand in hand, and they must be well defined, either by our Traditions or by the appropriate rulings (**Concept X.**)

When we refuse or disobey any ruling of the Conference, we are rebelling against our Higher Power (as each one of us understands Him), because God is who is manifested in **Tradition Two.**

The **Traditions** protect us against ourselves; therefore, during the development of the Conference, we should not only keep them in mind but also practice them.

Bill Wrote, "...the future belongs to you, eagerly embrace these **responsibilities**, do not be afraid of anything and the grace of God will be with you, no doubt it will be His."

In a Conference, all our principles, **Steps, Traditions and Concepts**, are practiced. Therefore, the development of a mature and responsible Conference will depend on the knowledge of them, their practice and, consequently, the loyalty to them. In a Conference, for

example, the servers delegate, decide, participate, vote, appeal; minorities are heard, authority and responsibility are conferred, etc.

I would like to conclude by quoting Bill, "...I am deeply, even fervently, convinced that Alcoholics Anonymous will overcome all adversities and every test that in due time, God will submit us to, as long as He needs us."

I hope that all our structures will come of age.

Happy 24 hours.

Erik Giovanni Gonzalez Lopez
Second Term Delegate - Peru

Cirilo Lorenzo Vasquez Vargas
First Term Delegate - Peru

Loyalty to The Principles In The GSB

From the very beginning in AA, the basic thing is to have a guide (sponsor.) He will teach me that, in order to start learning, the first thing I have to do to begin my recovery is to put many thing into practice. My sponsor explains that the program of recovery is contained in the Three Legacies: Recovery, Unity and Service. Initially, I have to learn how to live and be obedient and abide by the spiritual principles of the program. As I go putting these principles into practice, my recovery will be easier and that, in order to live in unity in the groups, in my family and at work, I will have to comply with what the Traditions teach me. Then, in order to serve well, I must train in service and put the AA principles into practice in all my affairs. In this way, I will not enter into conflict with any of the servers in the different service entities of my community. I will begin to achieve the greatest respect for the program and the servers, and thoroughly fulfill the services that I begin to carry out in my process in AA and, in time, arriving at the maximum service in AA, on the General Service Board, where I have to be the guardian of the principles, to try to respect them and have others respect them; I have to give an example to the future servers. On the Board, I have to dispense all the knowledge I have acquired throughout the years, to be part of the permanent committees of the Board and of the Conference. With all this, I will be loyally abiding by the principles of the General Service Board of AA.

Your truly,

*Marcelo Arcos Guama
Second Term Delegate
Ecuador*

Adherence to the Principles: At the Groups

I had my last drink on March 30, 1993. After a few days of detoxing on my couch, I ended up at my first A.A. meeting. That would begin my journey of sobriety that has brought me here today. That group had been meeting regularly since the 1940's with the sole purpose of carrying its message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers, and I certainly was suffering when I arrived. For many of us, we were not welcome anywhere anymore due to our alcoholic behavior and alienating all those around us. Then, upon arriving in Alcoholics Anonymous, we are greeted warmly with kindness and without judgment. This was my experience. I was so focused on all the problems in my life that I had no idea were caused by my alcoholism and that's what I was interested in talking about, not my problem with alcohol. The members of the group were tolerant, listened to me and encouraged me to keep coming back. How could this be when no one else was interested in putting up with my whining? I'm sure many of them had to work hard to refrain from rolling their eyes at me or telling me to be quiet and stop complaining! Why did these members work so hard to tolerate me? They knew if they didn't I most likely would have retreated from A.A. just like I did in every other situation in my life before coming to A.A. They were adhering to A.A. principles which are woven deeply within unity. Our common cause, to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety is first and foremost with the A.A. group. Without each other the group and A.A. as a whole is sure to fail. Those members that greeted me knew as annoying as I was, as hard as I might be to deal with, the group needed me and other newcomers for its survival. And those members needed the group to continue their personal sobriety and survival.

So what does it mean to adhere to A.A. principles at the group level? I believe it amounts to the group practicing the A.A. Traditions as well as other principles outlined in our Twelve Concepts and Twelve Steps. The A.A. Traditions evolved from much trial and error in the early days of our Fellowship when it was realized the only way our future could be secured is by dealing with the very big problem of living and working together. All of us hold within us tendencies to drive for money, power and prestige. These amount to poison to we alcoholics and without direction to steer clear of these, we would quickly be diverted from our primary purpose. So incorporated in our Twelve Traditions we find the principles of unity, rotation, autonomy, self support and anonymity. They also include solid experience and direction to keep us focused on the group's primary purpose of carrying its message to alcoholics by outlining the desire to stop drinking as the only requirement for membership. Sound reasoning is also given to keep far away from affiliating with outside entities by staying non-professional, not lending our A.A. name and staying out of public controversy. Our Concepts bring further principles to light such as: the right of decision, participation and appeal – the minority voice and perhaps most importantly, equality amongst each other – there are no second class citizens in A.A. They also give guidance with communication, leadership and authority. Our Twelve Steps encapsulate many helpful practices we try to incorporate in our daily lives that can also be applied to our groups such as turning our will over to the care of God, the inventory process, amends, prayer and meditation. The principles and ideas within the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts can help keep the group focused and gives it the best opportunity to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

Within our groups it is always of high importance to communicate with each other about what each of us experiences and observes within our home groups. One of the best practices a group can incorporate to encourage this is to hold regular structured business meetings. An agenda designed and accepted by the group that encourages open discussion about how the group is carrying out its A.A. work is very healthy and provides order and consistency for the business meeting. Orderly business meetings are also important to our newer members who may not have a lot of healthy past experience of solving problems in a civil manner. Healthy group business meetings provide all members an opportunity to participate and get involved in the group which can sometimes be the difference that keeps them sober and in A.A. It is also important that a group consider becoming a full participant of the service structure of A.A. by electing a group representative so it can be represented within the full fellowship and have a voice in all of A.A.'s affairs. This is also very helpful in being connected to other A.A. groups and learning how they solve similar problems. The group can also choose to take regular inventory of itself with an objective A.A. to be sure it is continuing to adhere to A.A. principles. Taking time for this type of exercise is also good for building comradery among members which can make the group more cohesive ultimately helping the group to be stronger.

As important as it is for groups to try to adhere to A.A. principles, it's also equally important to be careful not to become too rigid about them and fall into a line of thinking that there is only one way to operate a group and carry the message. Throughout our Concepts there is much attention drawn to the extraordinary liberties the Traditions afford A.A. members and groups. They were indeed designed to allow for such liberties. There are no penalties for nonconformity, no member can be expelled and membership is always the choice of the individual. Many of us have struggled with applying our A.A. principles at the group level in fear for the future of our Fellowship, particularly surrounding our singleness of purpose and the 3rd and 5th Traditions. We sometimes observe week after week members identifying as cross addicted, alcoholics/addicts or addicts only. Today, perhaps more than ever, we experience such problems at our groups. This may be one of the best examples of the need for regular group communication to help the group have a unified voice on how to handle such problems. Taking time to become fully informed about such matters, researching A.A. literature and a full discussion and debate will render the right course of action in all cases no matter what the group problem. We can trust the group's path because by taking this approach we are certain the 2nd Tradition is being followed and we have invited God to truly express Himself collectively through the group. So we trust the group's decision is God's will. We can also respect other groups' decisions as well, even when we feel certain they are mistaken. We can do this because we know how important their autonomy is. The 4th Tradition affords wide latitude to the A.A. group giving it the privilege of the "right to be wrong". This is one of the continuing miracles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have my individual ideas of how I believe a good group should function but I am just one voice. I believe we all need to remind ourselves regularly that if we confine ourselves to our own ideas we limit them from becoming better through input from others. An A.A. group certainly would be limited in fulfilling its primary purpose if it was being run by one member. So to what level or how an individual group decides to adhere to A.A. principles should be a collective decision of all of its members. By allowing God to express Himself through our group

conscience, we open each decision we make to include every applicable principle. As individual group members we all hold a responsibility to make sure the 2nd Tradition is carried out. That means we should encourage others to participate and guard against pushing for “getting our way”. Sometimes it’s also difficult to trust other groups’ decisions and we can be tempted to question their adherence to A.A. principles. We are a very diverse society; “people who ordinarily would not mix”. Having many groups that approach carrying our message in different ways is good for such a diverse society. It promotes the inclusiveness of our Fellowship. It supports the wide latitude of freedoms and liberties that allow all who suffer from alcoholism to choose membership in our society and be welcomed no matter what their other problems are. So we must trust...Concept III reminds us of this telling us “Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other

Bob Wilcox
Trustee-at-Large/U.S.

Inventory of the REDELA The Committees

I've been asked to lead this workshop on the inventory of our REDELA committees and offer some opening comments. I happen to be a big proponent of the inventory process whether it's directed toward ourselves through a 4th or 10th Step or an A.A. group or committee. Often, we see resistance to such measures but I personally have seen nothing but good come from any inventory process I have been a part of. I don't see my role here today to offer my critique or assessment of the REDELA committees but rather to offer some thoughts that will hopefully direct and guide all of us do that collectively.

To begin I offer some insight from our Big Book that tells us "A business that takes no regular inventory usually goes broke. Taking a commercial inventory is a fact-finding and fact-facing process. It is an effort to discover the truth about the stock-in-trade. One object is to disclose damaged and unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly without regret. If the owner of the business is to be successful, he cannot fool himself about values". I believe these words offer us very focused direction for today's exercise. This should be a fact finding and fact facing process where each of us can feel comfortable to share openly and freely about the committee work done at REDELA. I have had the privilege of facilitating over a hundred inventories for groups, area committee, service committees and intergroups. Through this experience I have learned there are sometimes those who are timid to bring their ideas forward in fear of being in opposition to others present. I would like to express to all present here to please feel free to express your feelings and concerns about anything regarding our REDELA committees. I would ask all of you to be patient, tolerant, and loving of all here today and above all respectful of each other's views. Everyone's insight is important and should become part of this inventory.

As you all know REDELA is our zonal meeting, held in the off years of the World Service Meeting. For the benefit of the first term delegates, the REDELA committees mirror the committees of the World Service Meeting. They are: Agenda, Literature/Publishing, Policy/Admissions/Finance and Working With Others. The committees are purposely made up of smaller numbers of people which enable it to cover much more ground and depth of discussion, which would not be possible if it were considered by the entire body. Through its deliberations, each committee sometimes reaches conclusions to report to the full REDELA body for action. These can be accepted, amended or rejected. This process is designed in support of our Traditions and Concepts. The purpose of both REDELA and the World Service Meeting is to provide a forum for countries to come together and share their experience, strength and hope of how they are carrying the A.A. message throughout their structures. The objective of our committees is to promote and support that effort so each country can gain insight into not only strengthening their own structure but also identify where they may be helpful to others. Collectively, as a zone, we hope to identify countries, regions or areas where A.A. has not taken hold and work to offer assistance to help the Fellowship take hold there.

So throughout this inventory of the REDELA committees, it may be helpful to take each of them one at time and then have a general discussion of the committee process we follow.

Agenda: This committee decides which of the many subjects for discussion will be on the agenda for REDELA.

Literature/Publishing: Literature is our primary means of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This committee shares on a wide range of ideas such as translations, availability and access.

Policy/Admissions/Finance: This committee reviews requests for admission to REDELA as well as all matters of financial policy.

Working With Others: This committee is concerned with carrying the message. They discuss a wide range of ways such as public information, working with correctional facilities and treatment centers and cooperation with the professional community.

The pamphlet “The A.A. Group...Where it all begins” offers focused questions to a group taking its inventory. I think some of those questions are helpful to address each of these committees:

1. Do we understand the basic purpose of the committee?
2. What more can the committee do to support carrying the message?
3. Are all committee members given the opportunity to participate?
4. Are the committee meetings structured and orderly?
5. Are all facts considered and the proper time taken before arriving at conclusions?

General Discussion of the Committee Process: As mentioned previously, the REDELA committees mirror the committees of the World Service Meeting. REDELA is autonomous and if it chose could decide to amend the focus or scope of these committees. It could also add or delete committees. The inventory process should be open to consider all options. One overall question to ask about our committees in general is:

1. Are the committees supporting efforts to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers?

It is my hope that my opening remarks foster discussion for a thorough inventory of our REDELA committees. There may be many other questions and ideas than I have outlined to consider during this inventory process. My inability to read or speak Spanish does put me at somewhat of a disadvantage with some the detailed history and background of the REDELA committees. Perhaps that, translation of our background materials, should be a topic of inventory discussion. If that isn't feasible practically or financially in the near future, I am confident that our language of the heart will continue to serve us well and foster unity and love among each other, ultimately helping us all to carry the message everywhere it is needed.

Bob Wilcox
Trustee-at-Large/U.S.

Inventory of the REDELA, the Organizing Committee and support materials.

Good morning, fellow members,

My name is Francisco Rodriguez Matamoros, First Term Delegate. Please receive a cordial greeting from the members of the AA community in Costa Rica, wishing you happy 24 hours of sobriety.

The theme assigned to my country for this 19th REDELA is:

Inventory of the REDELA, the Organizing Committee and support materials.

We all know the things that are important for the success of any event to take place; these are: the existence of an evaluation and constant inventory of activities, the achievement of the proposed objectives, the participation of associates. They are necessary to obtain the goals planned in an optimum way.

This is why it is extremely important for the structure of the host country of this 19th Meeting of the Americas to carry out the proposal presented in the past 18th REDELA, held in Salinas, Ecuador.

Nevertheless, in Costa Rica we consider that the work carried out by the Organizing Committees of the previous REDELAs in which we have participated has been good, but there will always be room for improvement in the participation and product of the committees, as well as in the support materials used for these events.

In our Region, we have the blessing of having one of the three strongest structures in the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, after US/Canada, Brazil and Mexico. Therefore, these blessings must be taken advantage of, strengthening our actions and achieving that the event is more productive each time. Therefore, we should carefully revise our strategies and implement those that are necessary so that more countries attend until we reach, if possible, the total presence of the existing structures in America.

We must achieve that the REDELA be a permanent event, where the different committees that comprise it keep in contact during the entire year through the existing technologies (mails, videos, etc.) to analyze and discuss issues pertaining to it. **But perhaps the most important thing is to maintain the interest prevalent and achieve that the REDELA is a constant matter of discussion in the different structures that comprise it.**

It would be convenient that the Organizing Committee maintains constant communication at the end of the REDELA, immediately after and periodically (through mails, bulletins, etc.) with all the countries that can participate in this event. With this, we would make the REDELA a frequent subject of information and discussion in GSO, areas, districts and in the AA groups. We believe this would increase the interest in participating in the great Meeting of the Americas.

Summarizing the above:

1.- That the Organizing Committee of the following REDELA maintains constant communication with the different structures, motivating and informing what is being done. With this, we would make it be seen as a permanent event and not only an annual meeting.

2.- That the Organizing Committee includes the follow up of the previous agreements and recommendations in the work of the committees of the REDELA and see that they are fulfilled. Many of these do not come to life in spite of them being what they are.

3.- The reading of the country reports should be eliminated in the plenary sessions and use that time for more round table sharing, discussion, analysis and work.

4.- The support materials have been good, although we consider that there are always things that could improve.

With respect to everything else, we believe that the work carried out by the organizing committees of the REDELAS in which we have participated, has been done with great effort, love and dedication.

Yours truly,

Francisco Rodriguez Matamoros
Fist Term Delegate
Costa Rica

How to improve finances in the groups

It is our understanding that there is apathy in the AA groups due to lack of knowledge of the scope and reach of the Seventh Tradition for the fulfillment of this principle, which covers the material as well as the spiritual aspects. Consequently, various factors result from this which directly affect the finances of the group and, therefore, of the entire structure in order to fulfill the commitment to carry the message.

The other element to consider is the little practice of our Twelve Step program, which prevents the member to understand that he must go beyond just stop drinking, which is an important factor; he must carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We believe that the little practice of the program produces a low level of recovery that does not allow him to undertake the practice of the traditions with responsibility in the same manner (especially, the Seventh Tradition that we address here today.)

This lack of practice of the principles demonstrated by a great majority of our members of the groups, does not allow them to empower the spiritual entity to which they belong; not feeling that they belong and not being aware that they must make contributions that they prudently can as a sign of gratitude for the sobriety attained, and so it can reach those who need it. It will be very important to undertake a guidance campaign to achieve a substantial improvement in the finances of the group and, therefore, reach the alcoholic who is waiting for us.

Not telling the newcomer when he comes to his first meetings the whole truth is not a very good practice (that is, not giving him effective sponsorship), where he can understand that his recovery will take time, willingness and good will, and some money to comply with the self-support of the group that will bring him back to life.

The wrong attention to the newcomer creates a culture in him that reproduces the habits of the members he found in the group, and the few contributions. This manifests the spiritual poverty demonstrated by the Seventh Tradition. Thus, the newcomer becomes the new member with the habits of the old-timers, and finances will not grow this way.

An important element to consider for the objective of increasing income is the accountability in handling money, periodically presenting a report by the treasurer with all the pertinent documentation. In this way, all the members of the group can be informed about the economic situation of the group and make decisions through group conscience on how to spend the funds.

Conclusion

Training the members of the group through workshops, round tables and the study of the Steps and Traditions is aimed at understanding the importance of always keeping in mind that the money collected by the group has a spiritual objective that gives us the opportunity of fulfilling the primary purpose of carrying the message of AA to the alcoholic who is still suffering.

Since this process of knowledge and preparation is slow, the groups should maintain in operation the plans to obtain funds that they have historically used and incorporate a few more that have had good results in other parts for raising funds, and emphasize the activation of a greater awareness of the members.

Some of these traditional plans are: the anniversary plan, the bee plan, the week of structure, the memorial plan, the anniversary of the foundation of AA, month of gratitude, etc.

Every group is free to choose the way in which to put a plan into practice and the time to make its contribution.

We should remember that our First Tradition says: "No personal sacrifice is too great in the face of the preservation of the community." The spiritual foundation of our Traditions is based on sacrifice, and this encourages gratitude; let us be generous.

Miguel Gonzalez
Class B General Service Trustee
Republica Domincana

How to Improve Finances in The Service Offices

The practice of self-support, better known as the **Seventh Tradition**, has always been a motive for long discussions during the development and growth of Alcoholics Anonymous. Eight decades have gone by and we are still overwhelmed by **fear and distrust**, leading us to unhealthy thoughts when seeking servers who must shine in the realm of perfection, with thoughts arisen from our alcoholic perversion. We must leave our egos behind with our program of recovery. Let us open the door to the principle that establishes that the **final responsibility and the fundamental authority** reside in the groups of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is a society of good faith and it works with the good will of its members; group conscience, out of its own need, has established mechanisms to form **Finance Committees** throughout the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous. The proper management of the Seventh Tradition, translated into money, is a true independence from people outside, governments, entities or non-governmental organisms; therefore, refusing to receive outside contributions. This healthy Tradition has led to us the spiritual satisfaction of the fulfillment of the responsibility of *members and servers*, groups, districts, area committees, regions and the General Service Board. The entire structure has been self-supporting, it has developed, and it has grown at an international level, and this is the great reality.

In the pamphlet on self-support, **Bill W.** says, *“Each and every one of the services in Alcoholics Anonymous are directed towards making it possible to do more and better Twelve Step work, whether it be in a local meeting of a group, the central office or intergroup... or the headquarters of world services...”* These offices are essential and indispensable for our primary purpose, for our development and our survival.

This does not mean that we should leave self-support to come about in an automatic manner. And, it is here, where the **Finance Committee** should encourage its commitment and offer options as refers to:

How to improve finances in the service offices

1. In a service office, the first action of this committee should be to supervise the management of the funds of Alcoholics Anonymous in a timely manner, without becoming in an auditor, a comptroller, against all acquisitions or a bitter enemy of the treasurer, but **periodically revise** the balance statements for **the good of the community and the servers themselves**, obtaining real trustworthy servers as a result.
2. For every purchase requirement of a piece of furniture, support equipment, etc., the servers, making use of their group conscience authority, manifest an option in the traditional manner for the acquisitions, so that these do not become a personal whim.
3. Many of the negative queries, apathy and pessimism towards the contributions will dissolve if we participate by raising awareness through the **Finance Workshop** that the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos, A.C. has. In it, you will find the actions that are our duty to carry out, besides, by taking the explanation of the **Tree of Self-support** to the service entities and the groups. Donations for our different service offices will be substantially motivated, suggesting an intense campaign with the **Finance Workshop**.
4. Naturally, the offices suffer wear; they require their own maintenance and constant improvement. Suggest a **Contributions Plan** coming from the groups and the servers themselves, motivated by the Finance Committee, with a vision of leadership, according to the adequate media that modern age demands.

5. The Service Offices of Alcoholics Anonymous ***should be precisely that, OFFICES***, with the equipment and supplies necessary for its operation, and the necessary human material; this does not mean that we should buy ostentatious or luxurious things. But the truth is not so, our service centers or offices look like warehouses. We must be optimistic, here is where we ***have to give that something extra*** in this direction, because they also represent ***the face of Alcoholics Anonymous before society***.

6. Finally, suggest to the treasurers that they present ***simple reports***, but mainly ***understandable***, of the management of the financial resources in order to have a motivated group conscience, always willing to continue offering their donations because they know they will be put to good use and destiny.

Cordially,

*Miquey Carrera Ramirez
Trustee at Large, Southern Territory and
First-term Delegate to the WSM
Mexico*

How to Improve the Finances of the Redela

As general chairman of the XVIII REDELA 2013, celebrated in Ecuador, I can share the experience I lived. I began by consulting about the general occurrences of past events, especially with regard to programming and finance. I immediately sought for the most adequate people in service for these subjects. We formed a committee; each one of us had the task of carrying out an excellent meeting, without deviating from the spirit of the event.

We looked for estimates of places that could offer comfort for this event, and we were able to get a good venue in the coastal city of Salinas, in Ecuador. A good hotel gave us first class lodging, as well as food and the rooms for the meetings to carry out the work. This enabled all those present to feel comfortable and with a lot of enthusiasm to work on the programming. We finalized in the city of Guayaquil in a hotel located on the boardwalk of the city. We were able to coordinate it with the Regional Congress, where there was the participation of the international delegates. All this happened without deviating from the format of the REDELA.

Together with the Finance Committee, we made the budget, looking at the income that we could obtain from the registration fees of the participants. We estimated the expenses that would have to be made, avoiding unnecessary expenditure and seeing that all the participants could be completely satisfied with what we were offering. This is how there was a good remnant with which we covered the many needs we had at the time. As a suggestion, everything depends on the compliance with the budget, without making unnecessary expenses.

Suggestion: In the future, handle finances as the economic part is managed in various structures when a regional or national event takes place. A percentage of the remnant is handed over for the following event. For now, we have to accept the registration fee that was checked by the REDELA in Ecuador. Due to the costs, it was difficult to raise such an amount. I think that we need to search for new options for the registration fees, other alternatives for this so that two delegates from every country can be present.

Fraternally,

*Carlos Ibarra Zamora
First Term Delegate
Ecuador*

Are Districts Necessary for the Groups? Service entities and the AA Groups

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. And the earth had no order and it was empty, and darkness covered the abyss, and the spirit of God moved on the surface of the water... (Genesis 1)... Afterward, God created man and God saw that man was lonely, He felt compassion and He created woman. Woman was not satisfied with his company and flirting with a serpent, she felt greed and took an apple from the forbidden tree; when Eve took the first bite from the apple, man found himself naked and, ashamed, he got drunk.

In **1935**, two habitual drunks found themselves in a moment of lucidity and they discovered that, by talking about themselves and their afflictions, the omnipresent desire to drink did not bother them and, as soon as they talked about their experiences, a dim light of hope shone. And thus, the first group that became the *mother cell* of what we know today as AA was formed.

First things first. Thus, first is the group; everything that came later, and is yet to come, will always exist in order to facilitate that the AA group fulfills its primary purpose, which is to help alcoholics who are still suffering to recover and reach sobriety; in other words, to live normally without drinking and without suffering for not being able to drink. Basically, this is Alcoholics Anonymous.

“No man is an island, something complete in itself; every man is a fragment of the continent, a part of a whole.” ([John Donne](#) 1572-1631) Alcoholics Anonymous applied this same idea to the groups, thus formalizing the Twelve Traditions. The **First Tradition** is the collective interpretation of John Donne’s principle: “Our experience in AA has taught us that: ‘Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. It is necessary for AA to continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward’.”

One part of the Tradition refers to the life within the group (singular), another part refers to the relation of the group with other groups (plural) and the third part refers to the relation of these with the living society.

In the gregarious spirit, after **1951** and after, the Traditions were homologated; the Conference was created, substituting the founding members and the old-timers. The service organism developed from this. It began with the division of the American and Canadian territories into areas that, in turn, were subdivided into districts. The area and district committees were created in order to serve the groups comprising it in a better way; this resulted in the traditional and legally organized structure, such as we currently know it.

Today, we recognize the Conference as the means by which the voice of the members of AA can be heard. Some have stated that it is what most looks like group conscience in AA. However, the road leading to the first Conference in 1951 was not free of obstacles.

Years before, Bill W. was convinced that the community required an annual meeting for the AA groups to express their ideas and opinions to GSO (then called the headquarters.) However, his plan met with a furious opposition from many. In one Conference, Bill wrote, “It will gather our trustees and a representative sample of the members amicably... and it will always fill that void, and it will eliminate the distance that that separates Dr. Bob and I, and many others, from the community.”

Much time has passed by since then ... and in this moment, after navigating through a myriad of abbreviations of GSR, DCM, PI, TC, CPC, the newly arrived individual to general services can doubt that any explanation concerning the areas is simple. Some exclaim, "Why were the areas created first?"

The areas were constituted to facilitate representation at the first General Service Conference, which was created to place Alcoholics Anonymous in the hands of its members and ensure *that the full voice of AA is heard*. With the development of the areas, came the creation of the position of the delegate in order to represent it. And, *as an area can be formed by a state or province, or it can be formed by several parts of more than one state or province, as appropriate, in order to serve the AA population, and satisfy their needs*, the necessity of the districts arose. It would be impossible for one area composed by, say, 200 groups, to have all the GSRs present in the area, where each one could inform the other servers what the well informed conscience of each group had seen and discussed at their work meetings.

From this, we can see the importance of the districts to make the flow of information dynamic in every direction, since they channel the transmission of the group conscience expressed in their reports, their spiritual contributions to the General Service Conference and their Seventh Tradition contributions, which arrive at the area through their intervention. In this to and fro, the groups in turn receive the materials of the other service entities: AA in the world, GSC, GSB, GSO, the area. Likewise, groups grow from the discussions in the district through their GSRs. The districts shorten distances, both physical as well as spiritual, through mutual sharing.

Here are some questions that might help my group reflect:

- ✓ Do I criticize instead of trusting and supporting the servers of my group, the committees and other AA service entities?
- ✓ Does my group have a General Service Representative? Do I believe that my group is part of AA as a whole?
- ✓ At the work meetings of my group, are we attentive of any decision that might affect AA as a whole?
- ✓ Can I give in to the group conscience in good spirits and work happily with the decisions that are taken through it?
- ✓ How can non active members of the group have their point of view taken into consideration by the group conscience?
- ✓ Do I understand that the GSR gathers the opinions of the group conscience (the well informed majority and within the spirit of AA)?
- ✓ That from the GSRs debate at the district meeting, the district conscience arises?
- ✓ That this is taken to the area by the DCM, and that the area conscience arises from those debates, and that this can help to carry out actions in common in an area, or that the delegate attends General Service Conference where it can be studied by the delegates of the other areas and the General Service Board, thus originating the AA conscience of my country?
- ✓ That the AA conscience of my country is what is expressed by the world delegate at the international meetings?

However...

Tradition Three.- Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. **Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group**, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Tradition Four.- With respect to its own affairs, **each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience.** But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect AA as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Boards. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Tradition Five.- Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose –that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Therefore, in response to the issue presented and considering these Traditions, an AA group can join the legal structure of AA, and its first step is a district, where it will find advantages in joining. No AA group should be obligated to affiliate to any AA entity, district, intergroup, area, GSO, if its collective conscience does not manifest such a desire, much less, take away the prerogative of calling itself an AA group. In simple terms, weighing the advantages and disadvantages, it is renouncing to be part of a legal organization that does not affect its being a **spiritual entity** (Tradition Five.)

In addition, since no one can expel someone from the community from the moment he manifests his desire to be a member, the community should recognize a group as an AA group that fulfills the conditions to be considered as such, irrespective of its being part of the legal structure or not.

Up to now, we have considered what seems to be an exception, as we are accustomed to seeing things as they are today, and this intuition seems to suggest that, if the majority of the groups are adhered to formal AA entities, they certainly find more advantages than disadvantages.

No one likes to be an island, we all prefer the continent – because isolation does not bring pleasant memories to the alcoholics. Meanwhile, no one is completely free if he is not aware of the possibilities of choice. I recall an article in Box 4-5-9 that appeared many years ago. When comparing the number of groups in the US, it also mentioned an estimated number of AA groups that did not want their registration in the GSO, they assumed a number around 10% of regular groups or, in current figures, nearly six thousand,...five thousand more groups than those registered in the structure of Argentina.

Thank you for the opportunity of stimulating my thoughts and giving me the possibility of growing in service. I will certainly share this with our area assemblies and with the General Service Conference of Argentina as it has given me food for thought.

*Mario Barrera
Second Term Delegate
Argentina*

How Important are Districts to the General Service Conference?

My name is Miriam and I am a recovering alcoholic, Trustee at Large of the Eastern Territory.

Please receive a warm greeting from all the AA community in Cuba, and my appreciation to the Central Mexicana, to the Manager of GSO and the secretary of the International Desk for making the representation of my country in this 19th REDELA possible.

Theme: How important are districts to the General Service Conference?

In Cuba, the structure was formed in the year 2000 and, since then, we have been making it work in every corner of the country.

In the year 2010, I accompanied the previous Trustee at Large on a visit to the whole Eastern Territory and we observed that there were areas that were stagnant because they had no districts, the groups did not even have a GSR. They functioned with the chairman, the server of the cafeteria and the treasurer, without contributing to the structure. We undertook the task of training them and making them understand the importance of the operation of structure, especially the work of the district.

Today, these areas are functioning with their complete structure. For example, in the Z area of Guantanamo, located in the farthest corner of the eastern part of the country, with regions of difficult access due to its mountainous landscape, two districts are working with eight groups, and they are opening new groups.

In Cuba, we have 17 areas and 74 districts; any Conference would be unmanageable if we added more delegates, instead of adding more DCMs to the areas. I am certain that, for most of you, it is not a large amount, but for us it is great, because of the characteristics of our country. With all our needs and prohibitions, we still continue to carry the message and we are currently sharing the Workshop of the National Plan for Sustainable Growth in all the areas, which our sponsor in Mexico shared with us during the XVI Cuban Conference.

After a few months, we are beginning to see the results. The groups are growing with quality recovery of their members, and the servers have been strengthened and they are encouraging the new members to serve.

Cordially,

*Miriam Margori Guerra Acosta
Trustee at Large of the Eastern Territory*

Theme: AA Service and Spirituality: The Basics of my Recovery

Fellow members, please receive cordial greetings. I thank my "Higher Power" for this great opportunity to tell some anecdotes of my arrival and the development of our dear community. In the month of March, 1976, at the age of 23, for the first time, I came to the group "Firme Voluntad" (Firm Will) in the city of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. I did not like what I saw, I thought it was a small thing. It was impossible for me to realize that it was the hand of God who was receiving me. I slipped nine months after, I did not accept my defeat before alcohol. I had forgotten the auditive deliriums that ordered me end it all. What held me back was the human warmth that the members gave me. There were four more years of alcoholism.

In December, 1980, I was put into jail once again for drunk driving. When I was released, my Twelfth Step sponsor was waiting for me, and for the second time he passed the message. I began to go the AA group "Mi regreso a la vida" (My Return to Life), sometimes I was drunk, other times I was dry. It was necessary for me to do what was needed to stay, since I already had two suicide attempts caused by that spiritual void, resulting in a deep sorrow. I discovered what I had become, in addition to an impotence at not being able to do anything about it.

Through the grace of God, I stopped drinking on January 1, 1980, and continue sober up to now. In my third week after I stopped drinking, I asked a member to be my sponsor. A few days later, he said, "Pedro, make an inventory of the first time you tried to stop to see if you can find out what we were doing and analyze what you were doing that led you back to drinking."

What I saw was the following: I did not read the AA book. I threw it in trash because I read the word 'God' on some of the pages. I did not carry the message to anyone. I did not contribute to the support of the group. I did not do any task, like sweeping, cleaning, serving coffee. I did not take the podium, nor did I chair any meeting. I did not try to be friendly to any other member. I was told that I was a time bomb who did not know when it was going to explode.

With the help of the inventory, I was able to discover my alcoholic reality. I began to see in detail those character defects that were an obstacle to achieve sobriety. Then I began to participate in all those activities that allow us to reach the alcoholic who is still suffering, especially working the Twelfth Step.

With seven months of not drinking, I was appointed GSR of a new group; this was the beginning of my experience in the General Service structure in our community. It was very encouraging to attend the meetings in the district, where I found out how the other five groups worked, how the community was at a state and national level. Currently, there are more than 80 groups in my city. It was necessary for me to seek sponsorship from another member on the general services, because my first sponsor had not served in the structure and made suggestions that caused conflicts.

At some meeting of the district, I heard the CM request for candidates for delegates to the WSM. They explained that every two years, this meeting took place in New York and it was necessary for me to speak English. At that moment I had the hope of becoming delegate to the WSM and study English. I never told anybody about this desire because, when I went on to participate in other services, I realized that it was almost impossible to become a delegate to the WSM. Today, my friends, this desire came true when God so willed it. 33 years passed in order for me to be present at the 23rd WSM in Warsaw, Poland. It's okay to dream in AA.

Before my first anniversary, I asked another member to be my sponsor, he was very religious, so that he could teach me to believe in God. This was one of my biggest problems to reach a permanent sobriety. I had faith in myself but I kept God out of my life.

This is how I grew in AA, with three sponsors, going to meetings every day, giving service in the group, the district and the area. It was very helpful for my recovery to unite with the institutions and treatment centers, as well as to participate in public information, giving the Big Book and the Plenitud magazine to new members. I have come to understand that where there is no sacrifice, the spirituality of the program is not there. Spirituality is so necessary for our growth and by putting the Three Legacies into practice, our sobriety is consolidated and we develop a personality the AA way.

Dear fellow members, may God continue blessing you, and COURAGE!

Fraternally,

*Pedro Balderrama Gonzalez.
Second Term Delegate
Mexico*

Service, and Indispensable Tool for Spirituality

My name is Andres Lemonier, Trustee at Large. Please receive a fraternal greeting to each one of you from my dear AA community in Uruguay.

What I am going to tell you now is part of my testimony, what brought me to this community and what really happened to me.

I did not believe in anything nor in anyone, I was just a solitary drinker, I did not like to have company. Therefore, I was free of many problems, and I had enough money, since I only spent it on my drinks.

I did not believe in anything or in anyone, it only seemed that everything I did was right and therefore thought that I needed no help.

My alcoholic career lasted a long time; then, in 1996, I came to a group for the first time. GSO had given the information of the group, but I did not stay long because I had done nothing like what was being said; therefore, I was not an alcoholic. So I left, while my wife continued in Al Anon.

The fellow members told me that in time and with sufficient alcohol, things would happen, and even more would occur. Nevertheless, I left and paid no attention to them.

The following year, I had a strange dream. There was a white light and a hand appeared, extended towards me. I did not understand anything about that dream, but it stayed in my mind.

After several days, I received a call from a friend in Argentina, he wanted to have a talk with me at the airport. I don't know how I made the decision, but then and there, something happened that pushed me on, and I promised to meet him. On the way, I drank a small beer, then another one with him. When I was going back home, I had yet another beer and, from there, I went to a group of Alcoholics Anonymous that I knew where to find. Step by step I followed what I decided to do. On March 17, I attended the group and I continue in this blessed community ever since then.

I wanted to tell my life story, just as I experienced it and felt it because it is part of the presentation that was assigned to me.

Service, that indispensable tool for my recovery, was my salvation because I was a person who did not believe in anything or in anybody. I started going to the groups, but had very little faith that I would be able to overcome this disease.

I did not recognize it as a disease, but my fellow members tried to make me understand. Time passed and my goal was only to go the groups, to sit down and listen, as had been suggested.

Time went by and, after a year, I began to serve in my home group; first, washing the bathrooms together with my wife, since AA and Al Anon had the same schedule in the meeting place. In addition, I served the members, I prepared coffee or *mate* (TN: Popular infusion in

South America, made from *mate* leaves), offered them candies and, little by little, I started to join active service.

From that moment on, for me it was a new stage in my life, helping others as I had been helped.

As time passed, I did all kinds of service, I passed the message in psychiatric institutions, prisons, hospitals, and I also did so by telephone when someone called GSO.

However, my mind was still somewhere else and I did not know what it was. I just knew that I should help someone in need, and nothing more.

I understood that what was lacking was to believe in something else. And so it was, I lacked faith and believing that there is a Higher Power who guides us.

And so it was, I have faith that things are going to come about as one expects, although sometimes this is not so, but I believe that if something contrary happens, it is for a reason, and I respect that decision.

For me, service and spirituality go hand in hand. I hold on to that and continue ahead, trying to do the best I can with the limitations that each one of us has.

The true spiritual feeling is manifested when the principle of how to live and work together is present from the beginning for the sole consequent unity that comes about.

We should be surprised when we feel full of spirituality outside our community to transmit and receive the clear message of love, faith and hope.

With my new service, now I am able to learn much more about the full meaning of the words service and spirituality. In the last few years, I have meet fellow members from different countries, races and religions from whom I have obtained many benefits for my service and I pass these on to my community in Regional Assemblies, in areas and in the groups.

I am a person of few words, but I do like to help the community that saved my life and my family. I am grateful to God to whom I owe so much, because without that other support, I would not have overcome alcoholism and I would not be obtaining the experience to pass it on in my own structure.

I thank each and every one of you for your help during all these years. This my last year as Trustee at Large, I retire from service with sadness because I am going to leave my fellows and friends who I am sure, i will meet again. Only when the Higher Power, God to me, makes us cross paths sometime on the road of life of peace, love and service.

*Andres Lemonier
Trustee at Large
Uruguay*

Service and Spirituality: Two Side of the Same Coin

A cordial greeting from my Colombian land to the organizing hosts of this important event, to all the delegates of the American Continent and to the general public attending.

When I have understood and gone through the AA program of recovery, I observed that Spirituality is Action reflected in all our affairs, and when we find the joy of living. The joy of living increases when I freely give what I have freely received equally to the alcoholic who is still suffering, inside and outside the groups. This will only become a reality if LOVE and GRATITUDE have flourished in my heart.

Service is the expression of love, it is a great privilege. It is the opportunity to return what I have received from my sponsors and the other persons who, through time, have made it possible for the doors of AA to be open so that I could enjoy a new life. With my service, I must be able to keep them open, waiting for those who are to come, my friends, perhaps my grandchildren or the children who are born today and who destined to fall into alcoholism. Who could it be? Who will I be able to help, dear God? A huge commitment.

We can carry out service at the different levels of our structure (serve coffee, open the door, arrange the chairs, as GSR, DCM, delegate, trustee... Every time we carry it out, we will continue growing spiritually (action is the key word), because we are the most benefitted, and not only ourselves, our family, neighbors our city and country.

When the servers meet in the groups, in the areas, in the Conference, the REDELAs and the World Service Meeting, where a true group conscience is created, spirituality is manifested as the will of the Higher Power who accompanies each one of us. The loving God of the AAs is present.

Spirituality is not how important I am at any level in AA, but how useful I am to act in the exercise of our Fifth Tradition: "Each group has but one primary purpose –to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Spirituality is the joy of living the program, it is having compassion for the suffering alcoholic, and it is having emotional sobriety.

- Spirituality is not only knowing, but applying the Three Legacies of our community, it is being a leader, a statesman. Spirituality must be cultivated, because it needs the continuous and permanent nutrient of transformation, and that constant nutrient is the practice of the Twelve Steps that influence our community life in the group.
- A group where the spirituality of its members shines is the light to find God, for the existence of harmony, understanding, tolerance, acceptance, compassion and common wellbeing and to be able to carry a good message to the alcoholic who still suffers

*Hernando de J. Salcedo.
First Term Delegate
Colombia*

True Leadership Arises from Recovery, Without Ego or Pride: The Twelve Steps Indicate the Road to Follow

In order to understand this theme it is necessary for us to have the concepts of Pride and Ego clear in our minds. It is simple to recognize that pride is the human behavior that some individuals manifest and it can be seen when *we think that we are gods*. In other words, we ignore the direction of God and, as said by the common folk, we think “we are Tarzan’s mother.” We know more than the rest of the world and we are those who can act better than others in everything we do. And, what can we say about Ego; it is nothing more than feeling that we are the center of everything, that everything revolves around us, that everyone must ask our sacred permission, otherwise, we become ill at ease.

In sharing our drinking stories, it is frequent to hear that, when an individual is drinking, he says things like this: “I’m paying,” “I can handle booze more than anyone and I...,” “I...,” “I...” It is what we know as *yoyoism* (“Yo” in Spanish means “I”), it is the product of pride, egomania, egocentrism.

Luckily for the members of the AA community, our program of recovery, the Twelve Steps, are a set of principles of a spiritual nature that, if they are adopted as a way of life, can free the proud person of the obsession of thinking he is God and transform him into a whole, useful and happy person. The practice and the experience of these Steps make the proud person acquire its antidote, which is Humility; a virtue that turns an ordinary being into an extraordinary and humble being. I will speak of this humility later on.

Our Seventh Step says: *We humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings*; and, as pride is the worse character defect that the individual can have, we must acquire the degree of humility that can counterbalance it in order to heal. Therefore, I believe that it is necessary to pause in order to know what humility is and what its practice means to us.

Trying to acquire more humility every day is the fundamental principle of each one of the Twelve Steps; because without having a certain degree of humility, no alcoholic can remain sober and, without sobriety, no member of our community can give testimony of life, of actions that lead the individual to obtain a higher state of life, where the attitudes of patience, tolerance, respect, honesty, wisdom, love, etc. will enable him to exercise a strong and healthy leadership, based on a life that certainly he and others enjoy, a useful and happy life. In order to obtain this pleasant, useful and happy life, the practice of the Twelve Step program helps us to renounce to ourselves; we must extinguish egomania, beginning patiently by letting go of one thousand and one hang-ups and appropriations. We must be rigorous with ourselves; since the ego will now demand a taste of self-pity, then it will demand a moment of self-satisfaction, later, it will cry out asking you to defend it. It will bring out in you elevated ideas, such as self-realization, it will warn you against the dangers of masochism and self-destruction; it will tell you not to confuse humility with humiliation... Explanations, excuses, justifications will always be present in your inner self.

Careful! Do not get confused, maintain a cool head, be relentless, do not give in to that hungry wild beast (the *ego*.) The more you feed it, the more tyranny it will have over you. If they speak

unfavorably about you, do not mind, remain silent, don't defend yourself, let self-love suffer. Remember. Be humble, that only your Higher Power be the sole reason for your actions. Here, allow me to express the wise words of my Higher Power, Jesus Christ, my Lord, when He said: *Learn from me that I am docile and humble of heart and you will find peace in your souls.* Now, I share with you some expressions that I learned from the literature of a great friend on the concept of humility, which is simply defined as accepting oneself and accepting others just as they are. This could be an expression that summarizes the concept of humility; but this term is today like devaluated currency, a word that says little or nothing to our ears. But we in AA know that our *recovery* depends on it. And, therefore, we maintain it in one of the first steps in the practice of our program.

From the extensive reading of our AA literature, I have extracted the following reflections: *The humble man is not ashamed of himself nor is he sad; he is not ridden with guilt nor does he beg for self-compassion; he is not perturbed nor does he get angry, and he returns good from evil; he does not seek for himself, but lives for others. He is capable of forgiveness and closes the door on resentments. Day after day, the humble man appears covered with sweetness and patience, meekness and strength, softness and vigor, maturity and serenity to the eyes of others. He lives permanently, as our cofounder Bill W. said, in the dwelling of peace; and the waters of interior lakes are never agitated by waves of material interests, anxieties, passions or fears; he enjoys living in the Region of the Spirit, in silence and in anonymity, with antennas raised to always be willing to listen, listen, listen. The humble man is so sensitive that he feels the problems of others as his own, especially those of new prospects, with whom he shares all he can to make their first days in the group easier. The style of the humble man is of great and exquisite courtesy; he is capable of attracting others with the same understanding as he would have for himself. Day and night, he is devoted to slash the thousand heads of vanity and pride and, therefore, he always sleeps enveloped with serenity. The humble man discovers that the road to humility always ends at the goal of LOVE.*

In summary, I reflect on how easy recovery is without ego or pride, if I only practice the spiritual principles that the Twelve Steps have to offer, with all the integrity and fearlessness at my command from the very beginning and, thus, be a true leader who guides, understands and loves his fellows in pain and suffering.

Thank you very much for your tolerance.

*Marcelino Vargas.
Chairman of World Services, Panama
Representative of Panama*

Does true leadership come from recovery without ego or pride? Practice the Twelve Traditions.

My name is Luis Jara Alarcon, I am Trustee at Large from Chile. The theme I will address is the following:

The practice of the Twelve Steps fundamentally includes working them in depth. One of the greatest common denominators that we alcoholic possess when we come into our community is having great ego and pride. But this process of working on these two grave and very harmful character defects takes all of our lives. It is like a journey to that place where I want to be, but not making a mistake, thinking that I am already there and thinking that I do not have ego or pride to work on. At that very moment, it is the most dangerous thing that can happen to me, slipping back into being the man I used to be and, unconsciously, think that I am recovered. In this case, I may stop drinking, but my life is still unmanageable.

Undoubtedly, this permanent work on the Twelve Steps will make true and positive leadership arise to fulfill the sole reason of the community of AA, which is the Fifth Tradition: "to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic."

Unfortunately, we run the risks of true leadership, but negative. When we do not practice the Traditions or the Steps, many times we tend to improvise in service.

Therefore, leadership in Alcoholics Anonymous demands a rigorous personal improvement through the Twelve Steps and a faithful respect and practice of the Twelve Traditions.

Dear fellow members, all these opinions on the marvelous community are my own and exclusive responsibility and experience. I hope we can debate and share experiences and hopes. Happy 24 hours to all those who are participating in this 19th REDELA.

*Luis Jara Alarcon
Trustee at Large from Chile*

From Recovery Without Ego or Pride, True Leadership Arises: Following the Twelve Concepts

My name is Marcos and I am an alcoholic. When I received the kind invitation to speak about ego, pride and the Twelve Concepts, I had a feeling of satisfaction. These are crucial subjects for our new model of life and they are fundamentally important for us as servers. Well, let me try first to give a general overview.

Bill, in his article, *Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need*, states that no society can work properly if it does not have competent leaders at all levels, and AA cannot be considered an exception. However, it is necessary to mention that we AAs sometimes cherish the idea that we can do without all leadership. We have the tendency to distort the traditional idea of “placing principles before personalities” to the point of dismissing leadership from any personality. This idea would assume that leaders were automatons, without a face who strived to please everyone, no matter who he was. Other times, we tend to demand with the same vigor that the leaders in AA be people of the highest criteria and sublime inspiration –people of great energy and action, magnificent examples for all, and almost infallible.

True leadership, of course, has to take the middle road between these totally ideal extremes of desired excellency. Undoubtedly, in AA there is no faceless leaders, nor one who is perfect. Fortunately, our society is gifted with a sufficient amount of true leadership –the active people of today and, as each new generation comes storming in, they are the possible future leaders. We have an abundance of men and women who have the dedication, stability, a broad vision and the special talents that make them competent to undertake every imaginable task of service. The only thing we have to do is to seek out these people and trust that they serve us well. Somewhere in our literature there is a phrase that says, “Our leaders do not govern by mandate, they guide us example.” So, we tell them, “Work for us, but do not give us orders.”

Therefore, a leader in AA is a man (or woman) who can personally put into effect the principles, plans and policies in such a dedicated and effective manner that the rest of us want to support him and help him carry out his work. When a leader obstinately tries to impose his wishes on us, we rebel; but when, with extreme meekness, he becomes a simple messenger without ever exercising his own criteria. Then, in reality, he is not a leader. However, to achieve this model of leadership established by Bill, we have a long road ahead of us, otherwise, let us see:

Some of us have a great neurotic need to compensate a feeling of inferiority and low self worth that lead us to want to attract attention and, in this case, we can become vain, presumptuous, exhibitionists and loud-mouths. We stop consuming, the inferiority complex, the narcissist, proud and omnipotent behavior remains; we can become extremists, individuals of all or nothing. According to our literature, we are egocentric, and this is perhaps the main reason for our drinking. Egocentricity is the neurotic need to always be the center of attention; egocentrics like us have the need to be admired and applauded by others. We always want to be right and we do not know

how to listen to others. Evidently, it is a sick need, resulting from the fear of not being accepted, of being rejected by others, of not being taken into account. The egocentric individual is but a consequence of that over-compensation of the inferiority complex. From here, the need to stand out in every situation, to always be the first one, to attract attention or, in other words, the need to be the bride at weddings and the corpse at funerals. Egocentricity as a mental disposition that moves the person to refer everything to themselves and not face problems that arise, except from their strictly personal point of view, disregarding the interest of neighbors or of general interest. These individuals totally lack an altruistic sense. This feeling is found frequently in simple egotism, but it can also display unusual manners, sometimes pathological and dangerous. Now then, what happens with the exhibitionist, the boasting, conceited and bragging alcoholics with grandiose fantasies when they stop drinking? Those who work well on their emotional growth through the Twelve Step program slowly achieve greater security and self-affirmation, improving their self-esteem and reach a greater emotional equilibrium, reducing the egocentric tendencies and the disappearance of over-compensating behaviors.

With respect to conceit, pride and omnipotence, AA says, "Pride is the basic breeder of most human difficulties, the chief block to true progress. Pride lures us into making demands upon ourselves or upon others which cannot be met without perverting or misusing our God-given instincts. When the satisfaction of our instincts for sex, security and society become the sole object of our lives, then pride steps in to justify our excesses." They also say, "Those who are driven by pride, self consciously blind themselves to their liabilities. These people scarcely need comforting. The problem is to help them discover a chink in the walls their ego has built, through which the light of reason can shine." Many AA members gain a well-earned prestige for their great knowledge of AA literature, for being great speakers and having great influence over the new members who come to the group. Unfortunately, these people are infected with the egocentric virus; pride and omnipotence can cause great harm to the group because they become little tyrants, always wanting to be right and they feel offended and attacked when someone objects or contradicts them. Frequently, these people vehemently attack other members of the group who begin to shine over the others, but who does not think like them. They also tend to be eternal critics of others, although they are not members of the group, they have the moral authority to have an influence on him, such as are priests, doctors, psychologists who are exhibited by these tyrants because of the lack of knowledge of the program or for other reasons. This virtuous indignation is nothing more than a dishonest way of manipulating others in order to continue embracing that neurotic need for power generated by omnipotence. Pure and simple dry drunk!

The maximum expression of pride is omnipotence. Omnipotence can be defined as the unfolding of a highly damaged ego that engenders a malformation of the spirit, producing a narcissist being, convinced that he is the owner of truth, that reason only belongs to him, that his reason is the only one existing in the world. The omnipotent person creates his own truths, because he cannot distinguish between what is real and reasonable and what is a fallacy born from madness. The omnipotent one always

obeys the impulse of his instincts and never the guidelines of his wisdom. Since wisdom is an attribute of conscience, it cannot enter into this individual, because his actions and thoughts only feed his ego and the spirit, and because these actions are only the product of madness.

Dignity, self love and moral authority –The counterpart of pride is humility. Humility generates virtues of sobriety, such as dignity and self love that lead to the development of a moral authority. Moral authority constitutes the ideal quality of a leader. The omnipotent person exercises an irrational authority; he who has moral authority exercises a rational authority. The omnipotent is obeyed because he is feared, he who has moral authority is obeyed because he is respected. The omnipotent is arrogant, the man with moral authority is dignified. Arrogance is the daughter of pride, dignity is the daughter of humility. Self love is but a kind of respect to one's own values and personal convictions. Self love is a symptom of high personal self-esteem. When one does not grow emotionally, the first successes of abstinence can lead to the tortuous road of pride, conceit and omnipotence. Emotional growth plus a prolonged abstinence necessarily lead to the development of self love and dignity, which gives the person in recovery a high degree of moral authority. This quotation from Saint Augustine shows us the way, "Let us admit our imperfections so we can begin to grow towards perfection."

The constant practice of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions allow us to advance in our self-knowledge and spiritual growth that diminish our ego and pride mentioned at the beginning of this article. But we are going to acquire a total liberation of the prison of our ego and pride with the practice of AA service, as expressed in the Twelve Concepts for World Service. All the Concepts place us against our ego and our pride. Services are vital for the growth of AA. Without working on the ego and pride, we will not reach real leadership in AA. All the Twelve Concepts give us all the answers to the questions on leadership, responsibility and authority. In Concept I, we read, "The final responsibility and the fundamental authority of world services of AA should always reside in the collective conscience of all our community." It is encouraging to know that this enormous task is not in the hands of only one individual, but in all our hands. Bill and Dr. Bob and some veteran leaders were mainly the ones who had all the responsibility and made decisions, but they soon realized the need to transfer this responsibility to the community in its entirety. The groups accepted this responsibility during the Convention in Saint Louis in 1955.

Each one of us who represents his country in this REDELA knows what it means to accept responsibility and probably many of us have not asked ourselves, "Can I experiment authority, responsibility and leadership with humility?" My personal answer is "Yes", because I do this in first place so that my sobriety is more solid, but also for gratitude and love to AA, for my fellow members and for the alcoholic who is still suffering. As in any other organization, AA needs people who accept responsibility. Without the effort of these people, AA cannot function. To answer the question, What do I understand about responsibility and authority in AA?, we can find the answer in the Second Tradition. The principle of the Second Tradition is clear: The AA groups have the final authority, and the leaders they elect only have a delegated

responsibility. When we look around our world today, we see much pain caused by indifference and hunger for power. Fortunately for us, these pains have little chance in the midst of our community, because the members of AA are well aware that their lives depend on the program of recovery, and they realize that making mistakes against the Steps and Traditions can mean death for them and for the group.

The Second Tradition also speaks of the “dedicated trusted servants.” This means that the delegates have the trust that empowers them to make their own decisions in the context of their obligations and that they should use that authority and responsibility for situations and problems that could arise. Everything is based on mutual trust.

In Concept IX, Bill lists the requirements of a good leader, he said, “ A leader in AA is, therefore, a man or woman who can personally put principles, plans and policies into effect in such a dedicated and effective manner that others want to support him and help him carry out his work.” He also said, “Good leadership will also remember that an excellent plan or idea can come from anyone, from anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will frequently discard his own favorite plans to adopt others and he attributes merit to who it corresponds.” In my opinion, leadership is a combination of humility, responsibility, wisdom and authority. I am happy for having the wisdom to seek guidance from older and more experienced members. Sponsorship in service is extremely useful.

After Bill’s definitions concerning leadership in AA, I can close with the knowledge that there will only be true leadership through the honest practice of the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts, and in order to achieve the practice, ego and pride will have to be worked upon to make way for a leader full of humility and wisdom who will always know to put principles before personalities.

Thank you, fellow members, for allowing me to be part of the wonderful community of AA.

May God bless you.

*Marcos Pedrosa
Second Term Delegate
Brasil*

Resentment: What it Means for Individual Recovery

Resentment comes from the Latin words “re” “sentire” which means to feel those impacts or memories of a past life again which do not allow us to live the present. It means that, if the individual wants to recover, he must abandon that idea of the past. “Live as if it were the last day of your life and act as if you never had to die.”

This is how I help myself in my recovery, because if one lives the feelings of the past, one is tormented by them and they will not allow oneself to recover from the apparently incurable state of mind and have a vision of oneself and of others.

Since resentments or past feelings are going to make my life unmanageable, I cannot work the program or enter the world of Alcoholics Anonymous. This means that I will not find God and I will not have peace in my heart and with other people. Then and only then, I must let go of my resentments.

Thank you. May God bless each one of you, my brothers and sisters. May God reign in your little hearts of AA.

Yours truly,

*Julio Callejas
Delegate From Bolivia*

Resentment: What it means for the survival of the group

“Resentment is the ‘number one’ offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else. From it stem all forms of spiritual disease, for we have been not only mentally and physically ill, we have been spiritually sick.” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 64)

Resentment is feeling wrath and anger over and over (*re-sentire*) which we felt in the past for a real or imaginary injustice caused by a person, institution or circumstance. Resentment is also unresolved anger and pain for some negative occurrence that prolongs our mental, emotional and spiritual suffering, making us unable to forget and forgive.

Resentment is a condition that was given to all human beings, and some individuals have been able to resolve it successfully. We have all experienced these emotions, whether we wanted to or not. But for the people with problems of alcoholism, they are extremely dangerous because of the effects they cause on our way of thinking and feeling. For the alcoholic, frustration generates self pity, and felt pity generates the desire to drink, and drinking generates frustration, and frustration generates resentment.

In the group, all this can lead the fellow members and the newcomers present to a great confusion. Are we on the right path or did we get lost?

Those who regularly attend the group can begin to mistrust their servers, in whom they have placed their confidence to make decisions for the benefit of the community and their faith to be able to overcome their disease.

There are groups, areas and even regions that, with resentments, cannot and will not listen to the minorities, servers who still carry that resentment inside and lead the group to function inadequately. A person with resentments will usually make wrong decisions when his mind is clouded by his previous life as a drunk, obliging him to make very many mistakes and obstruct the common welfare.

There are fellow members who, after joining the community, continue thinking in this way, with resentments and acting the same way they did before when they were drinking. The solution is to work on oneself, on that resentment that we project onto

the next person, so that it can leave our mind slowly in order to help the group progress and collaborate in its growth.

I cannot live thinking continuously about my past and harboring a sick resentment because I can hurt someone and hate myself for it.

And I would like to close with this:

“It is plain that a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness... But with the alcoholic, whose hope is the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience, this business of resentment is infinitely grave.” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 66)

Andres Lemonier

Trustee at Large
Uruguay

Bill's Equation. Books=Growth, Has it lost importance in the spiritual growth of members?

Good morning, brothers in AA. My name is Jose Gerardo Vasquez.

First, I would like to thank our Higher Power (who is God) for allowing me to be here with all of you.

I would like to thank the organizing committee for having taken us into account and inviting us and to thank you all for being here at this important and magnificent event.

The reason for this is to speak to you about the theme that was assigned to me: Bill's Equation. Books = Growth. Has it lost its importance in the spiritual growth of the members?

This reminds me of the first time I came to Alcoholics Anonymous. Through the interventions of the older members, each one of the people in that group gathered there said that they were able to achieve growth by means of a spiritual awakening. At that time, in December, 1934, when Bill began his way to the spiritual world, he felt something more and very important, to carry the good news of the message of AA. The first one who received the message was Dr. Bob, then Bill D. This continues up to this day. The co founders had to work relentlessly on the dream of those people, which was that the society of AA would expand throughout the world. They never lost interest, as is written in the book "AA Comes of Age."

Bill W. tells the exciting story of the beginning of AA, how the Steps and Traditions came to be.

Through these people, it is evident that the presence of God was with them.

Now it is our task so that spiritual growth is not forgotten or its importance is not lost. We, as members of this great organization, have this important commitment, that the members are interested in growing spiritually in our program which is expressed in our principles.

Bill states that the members should change ignorance with knowledge, this is one of the realities.

In first place, we need to motivate the members so that the groups have study meetings of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, so they can begin to grow based on principles.

There are two things that would be appropriate, to place emphasis on the interest, simplicity of our program, that we do not lose sight of it and that we do not ruin it. We should have great interest in doing Twelfth Step work.

When this seeps in, it turns into words of love and service.

We understand these two things, what love is and we comprehend what service is. In addition, none of us would be here today if someone would not have taken the time to explain things, to take us to meetings, to do small acts full of kindness and consideration for us. Everything that has happened in AA, has not been a coincidence, it came to be because of a need. This is how our society was created, through the need of one alcoholic. This is why in AA, creed, race, economic position or language are not important to be a member.

The Third Tradition tells us that the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking; therefore, AA is a universal message where we all can fit. From the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous, the first members realized that carrying the message verbally was not enough, it needs something more to reach the thousands and thousands who suffer the disease of alcoholism in the world. We discover that this can only be possible when the AA message is written, so that everyone can read it. Today, literature continues to be a very important means to inform any interested person about our program.

From the very beginning, we hear that, in AA, each member acts the way he thinks he or she should. We are, therefore, contradicting ourselves when we establish certain norms. We do not believe this is true. We all have a debt of gratitude for the message that saved our lives. Each and every one of us, the groups, the service entities, even the Conference, feel the need to maintain the written message of AA. In a very special way, we are not concerned with any other kind of message, except that relating to alcoholism or other related issues. Bill W. and Dr. Bob lit the flame of Alcoholics Anonymous. While they lived on this earth, they were careful that this flame did not extinguish with a slight threatening wind.

We are now guardians of this flame; with the help of our Higher Power, we will keep it alive and pure, while there is an alcoholic who needs it. So that the spirit never dies, we share the written message, subject to the will of God, which is manifested in the conscience of our entire community.

To finalize, I feel very grateful to the organizing committee of the 19th REDELA, to the men and women of the different structures for their support, and the honor of representing my country, El Salvador. .

Jose Gerardo Vasquez Hernandez

*Delegate to the REDELA
El Salvador*

**Bill's Equation: Books = Growth
Has It Lost Importance For The Self-Support Of Gso?**

Receive a very special greeting from the community of Alcoholics Anonymous in Venezuela, who is very grateful to every instance of service that has made our presence and participation in this event of the Americas possible. Personally, I feel an immense interior joy for the opportunity that God and AA offer to come back to this country, to which I owe a great part of my academic education. Also, one of my daughters, who was ill due to an unknown syndrome, was returned to health and life in this city by a well known Mexican doctor, Fernando Ortiz Monasterios of the Londres Clinic, at the beginning of the 80s.

After several years in this community (19), I have been able to discover how "MAN'S EXISTENTIAL TRAGEDY" was used by God, as I understand Him, to create one of His most complete and loving projects for humanity.

After having suffered the most horrendous tragedy of his chronic alcoholism, which led Bill to the doors of "physical and mental death", he survived through a "spiritual experience" to become the pioneer of the program of recovery for the alcoholics of the world, written off by science and any human power.

A moral philosophy born from THE WORD, THE DIALOGUE AND THE ENCOUNTER of two terminally ill alcoholics, transmitting the most intimate truths of similar diseases, is today a worldwide structure that, in spite of not being rigid and not having a traditional organization, is composed of working committees that, from the beginning, has enabled its expansion to almost every corner of the earth. It is not for me to tell the story of Alcoholics Anonymous, but I remember it when I refer to the subject that was assigned to me. Our co-founders always faced the circumstances and the challenges that the moment demanded. At the beginning, there was great

enthusiasm for having found the PHYSICAL SOBRIETY of a significant number of drunks in two groups in the United States, but the level of difficulties increased, because, from simple dialogues and directed readings, plus the lessons that they were able to take from the Oxford group, from scriptures and from their own lives, they encountered huge demands from the internal and external population. What seemed like a finite movement to some, went on to achieve greater value and relevance thanks to the support received from the North American medical societies, religions, the media and outstanding individuals in different fields of knowledge.

This reality produced an ACCELERATED GROWTH, obliging the co-founders to seek outside help, which could enable them to direct and invigorate their high demands. Here is when the first concrete reality appears allowing the transmission and dissemination of the road traveled so that the drunks all over the world, who claimed for alternatives for their sad lives, did not fail in their effort, since an important group of diverse types and conditions had reached sobriety in New York and Akron.

Once the first grandiose ideas of having hospitals and paid workers were discarded, Bill understood that it was by way of writing and books that this movement could continue developing with the original spirit and without deviations which could endanger the development of the community. The theoretical frame of reference that had been able to gather all the initial experiences are carried very precisely and clearly in the text that will always serve as our best friend, the BASIC TEXT OF *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*, which, besides serving as the fundamental guide for the recovery of the alcoholic, would be the source of financing for what could be seen as the movement to be. Clearly, the BASIC TEXT and the reviews in newspapers and magazines with very relevant titles created the avalanche of drunks asking for help arrived and their efforts must be multiplied. A great number of important figures and non alcoholic friends of AA also began to ask for help, suggestions and a solution to many problems that were arising as a result of the massive and varied population that arose asking for help. Bill travelled from one place to another, but his efforts were insufficient to solve the problems derived from GROWTH.

Again, it would be the books and different writings that would give massive answers. Traditions were written for the unity of the groups and to guarantee the necessary wellbeing for recovery and growth. Structure began to consolidate in an organization, in finances and projects of conservation, in dissemination and definition of our policy for relations with the outside world, in publications and other matters that daily issues demanded.

After the mid 40s, Bill began to work on the idea that the alcoholics anonymous would have to be responsible for their own affairs and, for this, many books were written in the decade of the 50s, which contained the truth for the spiritual development and the recovery from alcoholism, for unity and also for the services that we would later on have to undertake directly. This is how *The Language of the Heart*, *Dr. Bob and Good Old-timers*, *AA comes of age*, *Pass It On*, and many other texts and pamphlets that contain the thought and guide of the founder, guarantee an immense and profound literature for the community which show us the way from different angles for SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND THE CONTINUITY OF THE GENERAL SERVICES, extended to every part of the world where the message progressed.

As we see it, the books were always a source of growth, individually and collectively. With the death of Bob, Bill saw an increased need to create a General Service Conference to give a rest to the non alcoholic friends who were in charge of the operation, and that would allow the continuity of the community for ever. With this idea, we come to Saint Louis where ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE AND ASSUMES THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ITS SERVICES. Bill designed the entire general service structure and the proceedings that will govern it. This meant that, from this point on, we had to establish a representative conference of our community which would meet annually and would assume the responsibility of guardianship of AA Traditions and all the matters of service. With this new reality, THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE becomes very important because, on it, the fulfillment of policies and recommendations arising from the Conference will be delegated.

This entire journey led us to the great effort that the construction of the community and their respective service entities has meant as a source of growth. Later on, Bill gave us *The Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Services*, which marked the consolidation of the project in the hands of the community itself.

In my country, the structure is not so new, I believe that the wisdom contained in the books of AA has not reached the majority of its members and, therefore, the KEY THAT CONTAINED IN THE BOOKS IS THE BASIS FOR GROWTH WHICH WE HAVE IGNORED. Consequently, our progress has been very slow and the financial resources for self-support, not only of GSO but of many service entities, have not arrived sufficiently, as we would have hoped, because we lack the fuel to light the spirit of service and commitment of the alcoholic who is waiting for us.

In spite of the sponsorship, the Mexican structure has indicated the path to overcome stagnancy and invigorate the Venezuelan structure toward spiritual growth and our national coverage. Deep-rooted internal obstacles have impeded us to take

full advantage of this sponsorship. Since the last Conference, the work teams have been renewed, the Mexico-Venezuela action plans have been revitalized, with the regionalization as a working strategy, with a new national plan for self-support and with an operative project of public information and work with professionals and institutions of varied orientations, we believe that in the coming years we can recover Bill's equation in a timely manner for the growth and the responsibility of our mission.

We are currently facing a serious problem for the reproduction of our literature due to the situation in the country. In the past two years, we have had to increase the price in more than 200% as a result of the distorted exchange rate and the levels of inflation and the scarce raw materials with which we must live, but this is an external matter that cannot stop our project. They are the same challenges that the history of Alcoholics Anonymous has had to overcome at different times. As we have seen before, the sale of the Basic Text produced funds to develop and maintain the structure but, what is happening today? At present, literature does not provide to the finances of our office, a vital service entity for our existence and, without it, we would be unable to survive.

During this meeting, we will surely find much accumulated experience of other sister structures in the field of finances from literature and GSO. In my country, we have asked ourselves if there is the possibility of selling literature outside our direct sphere and achieve the dissemination of our message and improve our finances a bit. Any orientation in this respect would help us to develop a policy that allows the sale of literature to contribute to the resources for GSO. Our project as a structure is to improve the operation of the office and, to this end, we have appointed the board of directors as its modernizing entity.

Thank you for allowing me to share these ideas. May God bless our continental project and allow us to render better results in the future.

Franklin Ramirez
First Term Delegate
Venezuela

The Significance of Sponsorship and Support With Literature Among Countries

My name is Scott Huyghebaert and I am alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve the U.S./Canada structure as trustee at large, Canada. I have been asked to speak today about "The Significance of Sponsorship And Support With Literature Among Countries".

For most of us we can simply look to our own personal recovery experience to see the significance of sponsorship and the availability of literature in the lives of alcoholics. In my own case, when I arrived at the doors of A.A., having been referred by a professional who knew about A.A., what happened to me was the same thing that happened at Bill W's kitchen table in Brooklyn, NY and what happened when Bill W met with Dr. Bob. The message of recovery was passed from one alcoholic to another. Someone who had been where I had been showed me the way out.

These people introduced me to our Big Book and other literature that was readily available in every meeting I attended. I was able to read Bill's story and say, "Yes, I am like that". I was able to read about Jim the car salesman and say, "Yes, I have thought like that". I was able to read the story of the jaywalker and say, "Yes, I have acted like that when it comes to alcohol".

One man in particular helped me to understand our program of action and how those spiritual principles could be applied in my life. When I first came to A.A., I thought you would show me how not to drink. What this man and others helped me to find was a

way of living my life where it was no longer necessary to drink just to survive the day. He never told me what to do, but simply shared his experience and allowed me to decide for myself how that applied in my life circumstances.

I was not really sure why this man and those others gave so much of their time and energy to try to help me. They said they were receiving more from their efforts than I was. I could not then see how that would be so.

It was only after being sober a little while that I could see that the spiritual awakening that was significant in my life was the same as had happened for Bill. Not a flash of white light, but the realization that there were thousands of alcoholics who might be helped by what had been so freely given to me. They in turn might help others. I found what that man and those others have found: my life is enriched in ways beyond my imagination by reaching out to help another alcoholic.

I suggest to you that the significance of sponsorship and support with literature is no less significant for countries than it was for us individually.

We all know that A.A. began in Akron, Ohio and spread slowly as the result of A.A. members travelling and taking our message of recovery with them to other cities and other countries on the basis of one alcoholic reaching out to another. The first A.A. members had many grand visions, but the one that truly propelled the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous was the publishing of a book to allow our message of recovery to be transmitted to those alcoholics who they may not encounter face to face.

Our Big Book has been enormously successful in that regard. A non-alcoholic from Canada obtained a copy of the Big Book by mail in 1942 and that was the beginning of A.A. in Canada. A.A. had similar beginnings in Australia and Finland.

In 1950 Bill took a trip to Europe where he visited A.A. groups in seven countries. What he saw was that these countries were experiencing the same challenges that the U.S. and Canada faced when A.A. was just getting on its feet. He also saw the need for A.A. literature in their own languages for these countries. I think what he also saw was that while A.A. had come to these places, A.A. could effectively help more people if a structure existed that would allow for groups and members to work collectively. Bill believed that if representatives of A.A. internationally could get together to learn from each other, all could benefit. This is where the World Service Meeting was born. This zonal meeting was, in turn, born out of the World Service Meeting.

Country to Country sponsorship generally involves one country assisting another where A.A. is emerging by providing them with literature and sharing experience

about our Three Legacies. Assistance is also often provided to allow delegates from these emerging countries to attend Zonal Meetings or World Service Meetings.

The provision of literature to those countries where A.A. is just emerging, again, parallels our personal recovery. It is common where I live for a sober member of A.A., or even the group, to buy a Big Book for the new member.

Experience shared at the World Service Meeting shows that developing a sound structure is essential for effectively delivering services to A.A. groups and members. Zonal meetings, in particular, provide a forum for countries to share their experience across borders. Countries with more developed structures can share their experience with countries that have evolving structures. And for each Country that is sponsored, the shared experience will work best when adapted to their own needs and capabilities. This is just the way it was with my own recovery sponsor. I adapted his experience to my own life. This process allows all of us, whether member, group or country the opportunity not to have to make all of the mistakes others have made before. We will certainly make some, but we may not make them all.

I heard a report recently from a member who attended another zonal meeting where a delegate from a country with a very young structure related how their members were growing corn to help raise funds to provide social services. The other delegates gently chimed in with their experience with the Traditions to help this delegate understand that such activity was outside the scope of Alcoholics Anonymous. These sponsors were very much like my own. Gently helping me to find my own way, showing that our Traditions are not hammers with which we might beat each other, but more like a hug that brings us together.

Countries that have been the beneficiaries of sponsorship from another Country grow to help others. There are numerous examples of this rippling effect. Germany sponsored Poland in the 1980's. Since then Poland has been in a position to help A.A. spread to other Eastern European countries. Japan has helped to carry the message to Korea. Mexico has helped Cuba as well as a number of Central and South American Countries.

I spoke earlier about the ready availability of A.A. literature to me when I was new. I also spoke of how our Big Book (and other literature) helped the message of Alcoholics Anonymous spread to other countries. In 1950 Bill recognized the need for literature in translation. As an English speaker it is sometimes difficult for me to have a true appreciation for what it is like to struggle to understand A.A. literature written in a foreign language. However, in preparing for this Redela I had the opportunity to see how difficult it was to understand something as simple as the invitation to attend written in a language that is not my own.

The International Literature Fund has been instrumental in the growth of A.A. worldwide because the translation of our literature is fundamental to being able to fully communicate our message to those who have not yet heard it. It also allows for the preservation of the integrity of the A.A. message. Since 1990, over 1.4 million dollars has been contributed to this fund.

This fund was established in 1990 when the 11th World Services meeting recommended that all participating countries be contacted for “the specific purpose of seeking cooperation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions”. Thus began the International Literature Fund.

Is there a way to measure the effect or the significance of sponsorship and support with literature among countries? As alcoholics we seem not to respond well at efforts to measure results or keep statistics, but we have seen some change in A.A. that may allow us to draw some conclusions.

We began with the Big Book in English only in 1939. By 1990, we had 20 further translations of the Big Book. We now have 68 translations of the Big Book with others in progress. We have some kind of A.A. literature in 87 languages.

At the first World Service Meeting in 1969, 27 delegates from 16 countries participated. In 2014, 61 delegates from 41 countries participated, including four new countries. In 1950 there were 3,527 groups in approximately 34 countries. Today there are more than 114,000 groups in approximately 170 countries.

In 1939 there was one General Service Office. In 2015 there are 63 more.

There are a number of factors that will have contributed to the increased rate of the translation of our literature and increased participation in both the World Service Meeting and Zonal Meetings. Certainly the International Literature fund and the other support that established countries offer to emerging countries with literature and shared experience will be significant factors.

Since the beginning of A.A. communication has been at the heart of helping another alcoholic. Our primary purpose is to carry the message of A.A. to “communicate” our message. We tell what we used to be like, what happened to us, and what we are like now in order to communicate our experience strength and hope. This is effectively what happens with country to country sponsorship. One structure that has made some progress shares with another structure that is growing up, to help them find what works for them.

The most effective way we have found to effectively preserve the integrity of the A.A. message is through our literature. Sharing our experience and the provision of literature have been and will continue to be integral to helping us reach the alcoholic who has heretofore been condemned to die an alcoholic death.

For those of us in countries where A.A. is well established, we see, as a structure, that the same benefits that came to us as individuals when we worked to help another alcoholic, also accrue to our entire structure.

There are no borders in the realm of the spirit. We will continue to be blessed by our higher power for so long as we continue to seek opportunities to help other alcoholics find this life saving message.

Thank you for allowing me to be here with you today. My life is enriched by the experience.

Scott Huyghebaert

*Trustee at Large
Canada*

Argentina

Brief Historical Summary

In September, 1952, Hector G. was admitted to a clinic in Buenos Aires for a serious alcoholism problem. He was treated by Dr. Roberto Pochat, a doctor from Argentina who had just returned from the United States where he had studied a course on alcoholism at Yale University, and he had been in contact with many members of AA in that country. They explained in detail the methods of Alcoholics Anonymous.

During Hector's stay in the clinic, Dr. Pochat made him read some AA pamphlets and the Big Book in English. As soon as he was released, the doctor suggested that he go to the General Service Office in New York and ask for help.

Hector G. wrote his first letter to AA in New York on December 18, 1952, and he established abundant correspondence with GSO in that city. Hector tried unsuccessfully to form an AA group in Buenos Aires. In September, 1953, Hector got in contact with another alcoholic, Arthur M., a British national, who had made a trip to the US where he was treated for his alcoholism in a specialized clinic, and he joined an AA group in Dallas, Texas. In New York, he was given Hector's address. When he

returned to Buenos Aires, he got in touch with him and together they worked with new enthusiasm. Arthur's experience in the groups in the US was invaluable.

A small group of about eight people was formed, which, in spite of numerous difficulties and inconveniences, it strengthened and grew. It served as the foundation for the later development of Alcoholics Anonymous. Hector G. died on March 5, 1991, in Argentina.

Current Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous in Argentina is legally represented by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Civil Association. Its bylaws foresee its composition of 21 trustees: seven Class A and fourteen Class B Trustees.

Up to now, four Class A Trustees, four General Service Trustees, four Regional Trustees and one Trustee at Large are in office.

This Board carries out a great deal of its work through its permanent committees and the General Service Office. GSO is comprised by a director on the payroll, other paid employees and AA volunteers.

The Chairman of the Conference, his alternate and several fellow members, who are also volunteers, act as chairpersons of the different desks: Agenda, Public Information, Intergroups, Forums and Events, Finance, Literature, etc. They also act as secretaries of the Conference Committees.

This General Service Office is supervised by an Operative Committee, formed by its director and two trustees of the General Service Board.

In the current directory there are more than 900 groups, five groups in correctional facilities and 31 intergroups.

Argentina is divided into six regions, two of which have no General Service structure, only unstructured groups and several intergroups. However, today we are pleased to inform that one of them, the region of Cuyo, in the Province of Mendoza, where thirteen groups that decided to appoint their GSR, are forming an area. A delegate participated in the last Conference, and they are carrying out workshops for the training of servers.

In the remaining four regions, sixteen areas are functioning; each one of them elects a delegate to the General Service Conference for a two-year term. At any given time, approximately one half of the delegates are in their first year of service, while the second half is in their second year. The delegates are elected in the area assemblies formed by the general service representatives, structured groups, members of the district committees that represent their districts, and area officers who have been elected by the members of the district committee.

Region I is comprised by eight areas; it is the largest as far as the amount of members and groups that form it, and it is the second largest in extension.

The smallest is Region III that is formed by one area only. In turn, this area, given the distance between the four provinces that comprise it, is divided into four districts, corresponding to each one of the provinces. We stress this fact because it is a very unusual case. Nevertheless, it is obtaining good results for the integration of groups to the AA structure.

On June 27 and 28, we held our 52nd General Service Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the theme: "Sponsorship, the Base for the Three Legacies." Fourteen delegates of the sixteen existing areas attended (they have 66.7% of the power of decision), as well as eleven trustees and the chairpersons of the committees of the Board and of the Office (they have the other 33.3%), a guest delegate from Paraguay and another one from Uruguay, as well as the delegate from the Province of Mendoza, as an observer.

Our Board considers the strengthening of the structure a priority. We know that if the groups are isolated, in the long run, they disappear. For this, besides the important task that our Regional Trustees develop, Sharing Meetings and Special and Regional Forums are organized throughout the year, at the request of some of the areas. The General Service Trustees attend in order to inform and support the strengthening of a given area or Region.

We believe that our community should remain as it arose at its birth, with the sharing of alcoholics, and these trips seem to confirm this. As a result, we have obtained very good results up to now, as we had cases of many groups that would not integrate to the structure, simply due to ignorance.

With the sole objective of carrying the message, for several years now we have been making a national survey of our members, but there is still a weak response to the questionnaire of the survey. Therefore, it would be hasty to draw conclusions now. As we know, in AA we should not expect immediate answers; we will continue insisting on this.

In support of the unity with our neighboring countries, for the third consecutive year, we have had the pleasant experience of carrying out the Meeting of the Triple Frontier. The first one of them was held in 2012 in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. The second one was held in 2013 in Wanda, Province of Misiones, Argentina. In 2014, was the third one in Foz do Iguazú, Brazil, with the theme: "Alcoholism Has no Frontiers, Neither Does Alcoholics Anonymous." In March of this year, the fourth one was carried out in Paraguay, with the theme: "Sponsorship in Service."

General Service Board

Our General Service Board has been partially renewed in the past few years. It is currently composed of three Class A Trustees, four Regional Trustees, four General Service Trustees and one Trustee at Large. Therefore, we believe to be facing an interesting opportunity to strengthen the work of TCO (Working with Others, by its abbreviation in Spanish), since, for the first time in more than 60 years, our chairman is a Class A Trustee.

We are also enthused because the areas have designated a Trustee at Large for the first time in many years. He was appointed World Delegate by the Chairman of the Board. This enables us to have constant communication with the rest of the countries. After many years of being absent, we participated in the 18th REDELA in Salinas, Ecuador. And after almost 12 years, we participated in the 23rd World Service Meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

In addition, we have participated in the General Service Conferences of other countries, such as Uruguay and Brazil, where the lessons learned have been valuable. Our community has become aware of the significance of this vital communication, and we are beginning to see its fruits.

Besides, the quantity and number of participants in the Regional and Special Forums, the sharing venues and the workshops for the training of servers in the entire country has grown through transmitting the Third Legacy: Service.

Public Information

Two years ago, we celebrated the 8th National Congress in one of the most important universities of the country with a numerous attendance of the community and of society, carrying the message to several educational institutions of the third level. We contacted the Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires, enabling the opening of doors of this Ministry, summoning the Directors of Attention Centers in all the municipalities of Buenos Aires. We offered information to transportation companies, placed posters in train stations, and had talks with corps of the Federal Police of Argentina.

For years now, we have been present at the Book Fair. According to Fundacion El Libro (the Book Foundation), 1,250,000 people visited it during the three weeks that it lasted. There, we distributed more than 600 information packages.

Our Class A Trustees, participated in congresses, venues and different events, with the media, newspapers, television and radio stations, where the AA program was made available for whoever needs it.

One of the tasks that is important to point out, as far as Public Information is concerned, is the National Radio Dissemination Campaign which we carry out every year. Several of our television spots were brought from GSO in New York which we adapted here to suit our particular language. These will soon be aired as soon as the publicity organism of the state grants us an adequate space.

Students of an important university in the country took our community as a thesis subject, and they created a new Web page for us that is more dynamic and that can also be downloaded to cellular telephones.

Given the interest that our society in general has shown towards the problem of alcoholism, we developed an almost daily task of interviews with different social media: national ministries, provincial governments, municipal authorities, enterprises, public law enforcing entities, etc.

Our Public Information Committee negotiates interviews with each one of them and then directs the actions towards the different areas, as appropriate, according to the geographical zone. The structure seems to function marvelously for these tasks.

Literature

The literature that our community used was initially printed in our country. Later, it was imported for a brief period from Colombia, the "Service Manual" and the Public Information guides from Mexico, and the basic books and pamphlets from US/Canada. Afterwards, we began substituting these imports with the local printing, with the authorization of AA World Services, Inc., of the titles that were more widely sold. The serious crisis experienced at the end of 2001, obliged us to speed this process, because the increase in the cost of imported books and pamphlets rose to unattainable levels for the members of AA. Currently, we are no longer importing literature from the US, as we had been doing for many years.

The operation is handled by the General Service Office, under the supervision of the General Service Board. Based on the great difference between international and domestic costs, a demand for literature produced in Argentina arose from the neighboring countries. To a certain extent, this enabled us to shorten the rotation period of the stock, reducing the cost per unit by increasing the printed volumes.

GSO periodically publishes its informative bulletin, "*El Candil de AA*" (The AA Light), with information of general interest for our community. It is distributed among subscribers, also reaching many members through the area. Also, the annual issue following the Conference Meeting, which includes preliminary information, is sent to all the groups in the country.

Finance

In this field, we have problems for the economic circumstances due to the sale of literature (40%) and the Seventh Tradition contributions.

We have presented this brief summary of the work of AA in Argentina with the sole aim of sharing experiences.

Fraternally,

*Mario Adolfo Barrera
Trustee at Large of Argentina and
2nd Term Delegate to the WSM*

Bolivia

Very happy 24 hours for the day, fellow members. Today, I am pleased to share with you the report of my country.

Bolivia has a population of approximately nine million inhabitants; there are 80 groups of Alcoholics Anonymous in the different departments with their corresponding area committees. There are 8 institutional groups in prisons and psychiatric hospitals.

Our General Service Office (GSO) operates at calle Alcides D`Orbigny Num. 95, office 8, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It is composed by:

1. A director of the General Service Office (GSO) and the Board of Trustees (JUSGAAB, by its abbreviation in Spanish.)
2. A Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
3. A General Service Trustee.
4. Three Class A Trustees and three Class B Trustees
- 5.

Bolivia is divided into three regions: A, B, and C.

As a country, Bolivia is in the process of adapting the Manual of the United States to our country, as suggested a recommendation of the previous Redela. This also implies that we are in the process of structuring ourselves firmly in order to say that we already have a solid structure and our own Manual adapted to Bolivia. Consequently, we are working on Literature, PI, CCP and the other service committees.

As a Delegate to the 19th Redela, it has been for me a privilege and an honor to give the report of Bolivia. May God bless you and award each one of my fellow members in AA, as servers, beginning with the one who serves coffee to the co founders of AA, especially the hosts of the 19th Redela who made and make is possible for God to manifest Himself through each one of them, demonstrating the entire society that we are: a miracle of God.

Thank you.

Julio Callejas

Brasil

The AA message arrived in Brazil 68 years ago. Our first official book was "Alcoholics Anonymous", published for the first time in 1969. In Brazil, our AA General Service Board was created on February 29, 1976; in April, 1977, we celebrated our first General Service Conference. Our structure is formed by the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the General Service Office.

Structure

As of the year 2015, we have thirty-nine areas. We had an increase of twelve new areas since we changed the definition of the concept of area, and we adapted our “Service Manual” to that of the US/Canada structure. Each one of these areas is represented at the Conference by a delegate who serves for a two-year term.

Currently, we have nearly 500 districts in the thirty-nine areas with approximately 7,000 groups, 5,000 of which are registered in GSO, 80 Local Service Offices and a General Service Office. There are also close to 100 groups in training and 150 groups in institutions. The total number of members in Brazil is estimated at 130,000. All the areas participate in the Conference and they have at least one local service office.

During the month of April, 2015, we held our XXXIX General Service Conference in the city of Serra Negra/SP; thirty-eight delegates, fourteen trustees, the chairpersons of the Committees of the General Service Board attended, as well as a guest delegate from Argentina. We had a total of 52 voting members. The theme of the Conference was *Reflecting on the new Structure of AA in Brazil*. During this event, a new area was approved.

The Brazilian General Service Board is administrated by the General Service Board that is currently comprised by fourteen trustees: ten Class B, alcoholic, and four Class A non alcoholic. Of the ten Class B trustees, two are General Service Trustees, two National Trustees who are delegates to the World Service Meeting (WSM), and six of these are Regional Trustees who represent the six regions into which the country is divided. The Board also has the director, the members of the executive committee, members of the finance committee and the twelve chairpersons of the Committees of the General Service Board.

The Executive Committee is formed by a managing director, a finance director, two general treasurers and twelve permanent committees: Working with Others (CTO, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Finance (CF, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Literature (CL, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Periodical Publications (CPP, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Historical Affairs (CAHist, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Conference Matters (CAC, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Technological Information Affairs (CATI, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Service Manual (CMS, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Executive (CE by its abbreviation in Spanish), National Convention (CEC, by its abbreviation in Spanish), International (CI, by its abbreviation in Spanish) and Nominations (CN, by its abbreviation in Spanish).

The General Service Office has a General Manager and twelve employees, none of which are alcoholics.

The Consulting Committees of the Board

Periodical Publications: The magazine *Vivencia* (Living Experience), published bimonthly, has been in existence for thirty years. It has 7,500 subscribers. We also

have two quarterly publications that are sent to all the groups through the local offices (ESL, by its abbreviation in Spanish). The "JUNAAB Informa" (*JUNAAB Informs*) shares our experience carrying the message, public information and sponsorship; and "Mural de Bob" (*Bob's Mural*) where general information of the groups and activities of GSO are published.

Literature Committee: The committee does a good job revising our literature and obtaining the authorization for other publications. We are working on the visual modernization, updating the texts of our books and pamphlets, based on the literature from the structure of US/Canada. The copyrights of all the items of our literature are being registered in the National Library. The latest launching was the book ***Alcoholics Anonymous, Commemorating 80 years of our Fellowship***. **This book is similar to the Big Book published in 2014 in the United States, the same cover but with different contents. We merged two books: *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *De las tinieblas a la luz* ("Experience, Strength and Hope") into one.** The book ***Emotional Sobriety, the Next Frontier*** was also translated and published. Other titles are being worked upon for their publishing. We have also printed "***Colcha de Retalhos***" (Patchwork Quilt) in substitution of *Letter to a Woman Alcoholic* which was discontinued by the American structure.

Brazil currently publishes 19 books, 48 pamphlets and the magazine *Vivencia*.

Working with Others (CTO): The committee is undergoing a restructure, seeking to maintain a greater proximity with the areas. The subcommittees of Correctional Facilities (CIC, by its abbreviation Spanish), Public Information (CIP, by its abbreviation in Spanish), Cooperation with the Professional Community (CCP, by its abbreviation in Spanish) and Treatment (CIT, by its abbreviation in Spanish) are not established as they should be.

All the areas have a CTO Committee and some of them have subcommittees, but the majority, do not. The CTO guidelines have been revised and were published following the approval of the XXXII Conference. All the areas celebrate one week in September dedicated to CTO, commemorating the arrival of AA to Brazil. The last Conference approved the production and distribution of a pamphlet explaining our relation with the law and with those individuals sent by the court. The DVD "Young People" was adapted and is now being distributed. The next DVDs to be launched will be "I'm the GSO" and "How the CTO Works- Committee Working with Others."

Finance Committee: Our prudent reserve is currently of R\$1.120.000, approximately \$345.000.00 US dollars. As the fixed cost of the General Service Office is of R\$150.000.00, approximately \$46.000.00 US dollars, we have a reserve that covers about 7-5 months of our fixed costs.

Our structure contributes \$ 2,000.00 US dollars a year to the International Literature Fund. And we paid \$2,200.00 US dollars for the participation of our delegates to the 23rd World Service Meeting in 2014, held in Warsaw, Poland.

Conference Matters Committee: This committee works as the secretary of the Conference and follows up on all the matters of the Conference. It also publishes a

report for all the groups with information on the activities of the Board of Trustees and its Committees, GSO and the areas. In this way, we have an annual overview of how our community is working.

International Committee: The committee is responsible of maintaining communication between our GSO and other structures in order to share service experiences and to find the best way in which to sponsor other structures. In the last few years, we have participated in the Conferences of Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay. In 2013, we were invited to sponsor the structure of Uruguay, which we are very proud of doing. We also sent texts of our literatura to a new group in Angola, Africa, with the purpose of sponsorship.

Technological Information Committee: Management of the group of activities and solutions provided by computer resources. Among the tasks carried out by this committee are the sending of Newsletters for the Service entities, maintenance of the Official Home Page and the development of a system that is in charge of all the information about the groups and the AA entities. The AA Orientation Guides for the Internet were published which served to guide the community about this powerful means of communication. Our Home Page is always up dated in its content, and almost all the groups in Brazil have their address uploaded on this site. The most visited page is precisely that of the location of the groups. This committee is also responsible for the information system of our General Service Office.

Historical Matters Committee: This committee organizes our archives, which occupy a space in our GSO where there are books, pamphlets and other articles that help to illustrate the history of AA in Brazil and the world. Since 2014, this committee is undergoing a reform to adapt to the operation similar to that of GSO in the United States.

Executive Committee: This committee is formed by the Executive Director, the Administrative Manager and the Chairpersons of the Committees of the General Service Board. They serve as advisors in matters of administrative policy in the GSO.

Nominations Committee: It reviews the resumes of the candidates proposed for members of the Board and the Directors. With the approval of the new "Service Manual", it currently reviews the documentation for the creation of new areas and directs it for the approval of the Conference.

Service Manual Committee: It is responsible for the revision of the "AA Service Manual" that was recently approved in the GSC, and for the elaboration of AA Guides for the orientation of the community on local services.

Special Commission for the Convention: Our XIX National Convention will be held in the city of Maceio, State of Alagoas, in the month of April, 2016.

We are grateful for the opportunity of participating in the IXX Meeting of the Americas – REDELA – and sharing our experience, strength and hope with all our fellow members.

Marcos Antonio Pedrosa
National Trustee, 2nd Term - Brazil

Information for a panoramic view

There are two territories, Northern and Southern Territories. This year, a Trustee at Large for the Southern Territory was nominated for the first time.

There are three regions, A, B and C, North, Center and South. Each region has a Regional Trustee.

There are ten service areas, there should be 20 delegates to the Conference. There are eight districts. We are promoting the growth of the districts in the past years.

Number of existing groups in Chile: 89.

Approximate number of members of AA in Chile: 1100.

Non alcoholic Class A Trustees: In total there should be four Class A Trustees, but in the practice there only two who are integrated to this Conference. We will soon replace the Trustees who are not operating.

Alcoholic Class B Trustees: In total, there are seven, as follows:

*General Service Trustees, there are three.

*Regional Trustees, A, B and C: There are three.

*Trustee at Large of the Southern Territory: One will be nominated in this Conference. Six Class B Trustees participated in the Conference. During the Conference, the seventh one was elected.

Representatives of GSO and the General Service Corporate Board: The former Manager did not attend. Only one representative of the General Service Corporate Board attended. Representatives of the magazine "Renacer" (Rebirth) and of the Corporate Board of Renacer: Only the Editor in Chief attended, and no members of the Corporate Board of Renacer were present.

Our sponsors: Since 2008, they attend our Conference. Usually, one sponsor is present. This year, it was the Trustee at Large, Pedro Balderrama, of Mexico. While the sponsorship of Mexico lasts, they are members of our Conference. Their participation is to clear any doubt and to give training during the development of the Conference which is extremely important. Obviously, they do not vote, but their words are important.

The Metropolitan Region (or Greater Santiago) is divided into four service areas (North, South, East and West), each area with two delegates. They all have OCA (Central Area Office, by its abbreviation in Spanish.) They all have an area committee. Two of them have all the operative districts in the country.

GSO is located in the Metropolitan Area, and it is also the headquarters to the GSB and GSB committees and the Conference committees.

Fraternaly

Luis Jara

Colombia

The General Service Board and General Service Office of Colombia are pleased to share with you the activities carried out by our structure.

Inventory of the Annual Conference Meeting

As a result of this inventory, we observed the weaknesses and strengths of our structure.

Strengths

- The objectives of the annual meeting were achieved.
- Good procedures.
- The reports are of great informative aid and for training before and during the Conference.
- Principles are respected.
- We have a well designed service structure and in unison with the Concepts.
- Minorities can express themselves without limitations.

Weaknesses

1. The regional forums are carried in some regions, and not in others.
2. There is a lack of socialization of the final report of the Conference and, therefore, lack of knowledge of the recommendations of the Conference.
3. Difficulties in sponsorship among delegates and trustees.
4. Areas with minimal structure, lack of growth and commitment of the servers.
5. Deficient self-support of the areas.
6. Low percentages of assemblies before and after the Conference.
7. Spontaneous and informal sponsorship.
8. The same plans are not worked upon at a national level.
9. Weak communication for GSO.
10. The Regional Trustee is not committed to training in the areas.
11. Weak leadership and lack of knowledge of the principles.

Conclusions, Points to be Addressed

- Respect, practice and put the Three Legacies into action.
- Maintain sponsorship as a permanent action at a personal and service level.

- Develop, practice and put the service structure into action, according to the “Service Manual.”
- Be effective in service.

National Strengthening Plan

Its approval will set the road to follow in the following seven years, emphasizing the base of our structure: *the groups*, where we are working from the inside (recovery of servers, leaders, finance) and from outside (carry the message of CTO [Working with Others, by its abbreviation in Spanish]), hoping to obtain the expected results.

- Strengthening of groups
- Strengthening of leaders
- Strengthening of servers
- Strengthening of self-support
- Strengthening the presence of AA in society
- Strengthening of the AA magazine “*El Mensaje*” (The Message)

The prudent reserve is currently at approximately \$122,500,000.00. Taking our budget into account, our reserve would be sufficient for 3.5 months of operation of our GSO, which we hope to continue increasing.

National Census

The results of the National Census indicate that we have 804 groups and 11,250 members in Colombia, which demonstrates that we have maintained stable during the past ten years, considering the Conference Census of the year 2006.

Areas: 51

Districts: 75

Necessary Committees: 966

Functioning Committees: 166

Level of the structure: 10%

The financial result for the year 2014 was good, taking into consideration that we celebrated our National Convention which yielded excellent economic results. We had a surplus of 76 million pesos, plus an increase of 13% in the sale of literature. We are concerned about the interest of the community which is to the down-side, although we maintained no increase, it did not decrease either.

International Events

We were present at the World Service Meeting, held in Warsaw, Poland, and at the 18th REDELA, held in Ecuador. In addition, we continue sponsoring Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

National Events

The X National Convention was held in the city of Bogota, with an abundant attendance of national and international members. We had the presence of Phyllis Halliday, Manager of GSO in the US/Canada, and delegations from Spain, Venezuela, Bolivia, Mexico and Ecuador. We shared experience, strength and hope. We were also successful in our Sixth National Service Forum carried out in the city of Santa Marta, and the celebration of 50 years of service of our GSO in the city of Medellin. These activities help us toward spiritual growth and the strengthening of general services.

Media Plan

It was approved by our General Service Board to improve communication inside our structure and to take advantage of external means of communication at a national level: press, radio, television, etc., with a spirit of love and service.

Fraternally,

*Elicer Ceron Herrera
Trustee at Large of the Southern
Territory and Second Term
Delegate to the WSM*

*Hernando Salzedo Salom
Trustee at Large of the Northern
Territory and First Term
Delegate to the WSM*

Costa Rica

In June, 2014, we moved to our new General Service Office. The address is:

San Jose, Paseo Colon, avenidas 1 y 3 calle 22, Costado Este de la Escuela Juan Rafael Mora.

We maintain our former telephone number, 22-22-52-24, fax 22-58-47-15,

Email:aaosgcr@gmail.com

Date on which AA begins in our country: June 30, 1958.

Today we have 701 groups and approximately 9,000 members, of these, 300 are women.

The structure has 10 areas.

Three regions are defined the following way:

- A) **Atlantic Region** (it includes all of area 7 in the Eastern part of the country)
- B) **South Region** (it covers areas 8 and 10 Perez Zeledon and South zone)
- C) **Guanacaste Region** (It includes area 7, all Guanacaste and peninsular Puntarenas)

The Association of the General Service Board for Alcoholics Anonymous of Costa Rica is duly registered in the Registry of Associations, according to the Legal Ruling of Costa Rica. According to its Bylaws, it is integrated by 13 Trustees, of these, ten are Class B and three are Class A.

The ten Class B Trustees come in the following way: a) Four are called General Service Class B Trustees, they are chosen and proposed by the Permanent Committees of the Board, they are assessed by the Board and the vacancies are filled with the appointments of the Board and the National Conference Meeting ratifies them or rejects them. b) Three Class B Trustees, called Trustees at Large, are proposed by the area assemblies, the Nominating Committee interviews them and takes him or her on the list of candidates in question and sends them directly to the National Conference Meeting that is finally in charge of the election. The Regional Trustees are proposed by the regions and they go directly to the Conference Meeting that is also in charge of their election.

The National Conference Meeting takes place every year on a weekend between October 15 and November 15.

The first National Conference Meeting in Costa Rica was carried out in 1978, and this year, the XXXVIII Conference will be held on October 30 and 31 and November 1, in Grecia de Alajuela.

Every two months, we edit the “National Magazine Accion” (Action) (previously, it was called “National Bulletin Accion” and three years ago, by an agreement of the Conference, it was named “National Magazine Accion”).

Important Aspects

A. Policy:

- a. We have seriously proposed the policy of obtaining a well-deserved place for women in Alcoholics Anonymous, beginning in the groups where it all starts. We agreed to include themes for women in all the events of the structure. The World Service Commission is kept active in order to aid the community for the information about everything that occurs in world services, and we maintain the representation in the World Service Meeting as South Zone of Central America.

We have participated in the last Regional Meetings, such as the Redela, including the 17th Redela held in El Salvador and the 18th Redela held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. We are currently requesting to be the venue for some future Redela meetings.

- b. The GSB shares frequently with the areas, seeking the strengthening, motivation and better communication with the servers.
- c. We have just celebrated the happy anniversary of the 80 years since the birth of AA, and we had a nice sharing with the professional community, through the Public Information Committee. We also included the media, giving special information on this event, from which we received very good opinions oriented to the general population.
- d. From July 20 to 26, we will be having the celebration of “Open Doors” in the General Service Office, to commemorate 58 years of the coming of Alcoholics Anonymous to Costa Rica.
- e. We plan an event of Information and CPC next August, according to an agreement of the XXXVII Conference Meeting.

B. Literature

We buy our literature from World Services, Inc., we make an annual purchase order that goes from 17,000 to 20,000 dollars. In addition, we buy about 4,000 dollars from our sister structure in El Salvador. We have the internal edition of the "National Magazine Action" every two months, and at least about 8,000 issues of the pamphlet, "Brief Information." In the following months we will have to edit the new General Service Manual, which the past Conference Meetings ordered to be as close to the one of US/Canada as possible. The draft of this Manual is ready and it will be revised in the XXXVIII National Conference Meeting (RNC, by its abbreviation in Spanish.)

By agreement of the Conference we carry out every year the "Activity of Gratitude", lately with a dinner-dance, in the months of November or December.

*Enrique Rodríguez Matamoros
First Term Delegate to the Redela
Costa Rica*

Cuba

My name is Miriam and I am an alcoholic, Trustee at Large of the Eastern Territory of Cuba.

I bring greetings to all the participants on behalf of the General Service Board and its president, the corporations of GSO and *Sobriedad sin Fin* (Endless Sobriety), and of the community of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cuba.

Fellow delegates, I begin by thanking the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos, A.C., the secretary of the International Committee and the Manager of GSO for having made it possible for me to be a representative at this 19th Meeting of the Americas.

Alcoholics Anonymous began operating in Cuba twenty years ago. Since then, we have received unconditional sponsorship from the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos, A.C.

Today, in Cuba we have a structure functioning with its GSO and the corporation *Sobriedad sin Fin*, two territories, 17 areas, 34 districts, 187 groups, 1,906 members; of these 267 are women.

We are working on our primary objective, although with the predicament that we are not yet legalized, which implies that we cannot print literature, we cannot make use of the means of communication, nor all the advanced technologies that make communication easier. Nonetheless, we make ourselves known by working mainly in churches, with our identification on the exterior of the churches, and giving public information in neighborhoods and work centers.

The AA community in Cuba is generous with their Seventh Tradition, as the members know that we are of the few countries in the world that supports its structure with the contributions of members through various means: contributions of literature, equipment, etc. from the Central Mexicana and other structures, as well as from thankful members who have visited us.

During the 16th Conference, our sponsor, Miquey C., gave us a workshop on the Sustainable Growth Plan, and we immediately began the task of adapting it and putting it in practice, seeking the growth and strengthening of the Cuban structure, as are having difficulties in Service due to the hasty elections from the base.

I thank you for the attention of all those present. May God bless you, and happy 24 hours!!

Miriam Margori Guerra Acosta

Ecuador

Birth of AA in Ecuador

According to data registered in our historical archives, which have been accepted by the Conferences in our country, the message arrived for the first time in the city of Cuenca on March 20, 1966, when some distinguished doctors and a few priests were all committed with this terrible problem that was affecting the city. Among them were Antonio Salgado, Jaime Victimilla, Cesar Hermida, Leoncio Cordero and the following priests: Father Juan Fernandez and Father Blas Bernal; they were the pioneers of this crusade of love. This is how the group *Alianza Amiga* (Friendly Alliance) was born, and then the second one in the city of Guayaquil on April 29, 1968, with the conversation of Eduardo, an alcoholic who received the message in the US. Upon his return to Ecuador, he got in contact with Rev. Raymond Rif, who was acquainted with the program in Brazil and, with them, an Englishman by the name of Jeffrey. In this way, the Guayaquil group was born from their meeting. A great deal of time passed and, only recently, in the year 1982, with the sponsorship of Colombia, the first General Service Board of AA was formed, and it was reformed during the Congress held in the city of Guayaquil in the month of April, 1984. The first information office of AA is organized in Guayaquil, which was later established as to what we know today as the General Service Office of AA in Ecuador.

The Corporation of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ecuador was created on March 18, 1988, with official registration number 896 and agreement number 461 of the Ministry of Social Wellbeing, with domicile in the city of Guayaquil.

General Service Conference

The first meeting of the General Service Conference took place in the year 1988 and we were only unable to hold it in 1990 due to reasons of *force majeure*. As of 1991, the Conference meetings were resumed. In the past, it took place in the month of August, but after 2010, it has been held in the month of April. Currently, two delegates per

area attend the Conference, one first-term delegate and one of second-term, in addition to the members of the General Service Board and GSO staff.

With the regionalization, the AA General Service Board is currently composed by three Class A Trustees (non alcoholic), six Class B Regional Trustees, two Trustees at Large of the territory (yet to be appointed) and two General Service Trustees, one on behalf of SENAAE (by its abbreviation in Spanish) and the other on behalf of the Board of the magazine "*Sobriedad*" (Sobriety), thirteen in total. The Board meets every three months and, if there are important issues of the community, it meets in a virtual manner

Events

After the year 2011, the National Conventions have taken place every five years. Then, the Conference recommended that forums and regional congresses be held at the venues for this important event; these have commenced to take place, one per region. In addition to the National Convention, a National Forum will be held simultaneously. Thus, in the year 2016, the Convention will be celebrated in the Province of Loja and the National Service Forum in the region A, thus experiencing all of this with one sole objective, the Unity of AA in Ecuador.

Areas and Groups

To this date, our registers and the last national survey of the 24 areas show activity in thirteen areas. There is still a great deal of work to be done by the trustees with the delegates in each region. Action plans are already being elaborated in order to reach the cities where there are no groups, so that, in the not too distant future, they can join the structure. At GSO, we have close to 560 groups registered; but during the last survey, only 300 responded; they are the ones that have doors open to receive active AAs and those who come for the first time. In addition, the survey shows that 1,500 AA members normally attend the meetings.

Sponsorship from Colombia

Since the year 2009, the AA General Service Conference in Ecuador consolidated the request for the Colombian structure to sponsor this structure. Therefore, the corresponding communication was sent, and we received a positive response. This sponsorship began immediately with the visit of the international delegate, the trustee Mario Valdivieso, who presented a five-year action plan. Since then, we have had an exchange of our delegates to the Conference of Colombia, and Colombia has attended our Conferences, putting the issues that we need to work on into practice. All of this has benefitted our structure and our membership, fulfilling the unified service in order to carry the message to every corner of our country.

Publications

Since 1991, the Conference recommended the initial negotiation to print pamphlets, such as: "This is AA", "44 Questions", "Is AA for you?" and "A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous". Literature was brought from Colombia through the GSO.

With the creation of SENAAE (National Services of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ecuador, by its abbreviation Spanish), it is responsible for the printing, distribution and sale of AA literature. By means of bonds, it is able to create a fund to begin reprinting AA books and pamphlets with the permission granted by World Services. Today, we have eleven pamphlets, four books and the *Service Manual and Twelve Concepts*.

We continue acquiring the rest of the titles from Colombia and US/Canada, granting us credit.

Cordially,

*Marcelo Arcos Guama
Delegate, Second Term*

*Carlos Ibarra Zamora
Delegate, First Term*

El Salvador

Dear fellow members in AA, my name is Jose Gerardo Vasquez, first term delegate from El Salvador. Please receive a warm and cordial greeting from the AA community and the General Service Board of El Salvador. This report is to inform you of the political aspect of the work at a national level

History

As part of the American Continent, El Salvador received the saving light of the message on February 28, 1955, a commemorative date for all our community, since it was on that date that a man from North America, known by all the AAs of our country as Mr. Eddie, began to work selflessly and with good will, just as every member of AA does, thankful for the program of recovery.

The activities that were first carried out in the homes of people allowed the information to have had positive echoes. We currently have more than 1,604 groups and 22,464 members at a national level, including 732 women, who day after day express their gratitude for the recovery program.

Structure

The General Service Board was established on October 17, 1968, as a first step to summon the first General Service Conference. Up to now, we have held 46 annual

Conference meetings. If our Higher Power keeps us alive, we will have our 47th Annual Conference Meeting in the January, 2016.

Approximately 126 members of the Conference attend, with voice and vote. They come from the 14 departments that comprise the territory of El Salvador. They debate in the Conference committees, which are: Relations, Finance and Literature, on Trustees, Public Information, Institutions, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Editorial, Agenda and Admissions.

Our General Service Board is formed by 13 Trustees (eight Class B Trustees and five Class A Trustees) who are incorporated to the previously mentioned Conference committees (*sic*).

The service organisms created by the Board are: National Services of Alcoholics Anonymous (SENAA, by its abbreviation in Spanish) which is formed by 18 directors, and Editorial, comprised by 5 directors who are responsible for the elaboration of the "AA Magazine El Salvador."

The planning, study, preparation of the themes aimed at strengthening the guidance of the 30 service organisms at a national level are carried out every day in the SNAA (14 departmental districts, four central offices and 12 local intergroups.)

Activities

At a national level, regional forums, seminars, conventions, encounters of young people, women and old-timers, the Week of Gratitude in the month of the Traditions, the event "Open Doors" of GSO in the month of November are carried out every year. In 2014, we held the 36th Convention of Central America in the month of April. As part of the North Zone, we have met with Guatemala and Honduras to make agreements on the sponsorship of Belize. Among the agreements taken, the visits are to be made in the months of June and November, 2015. We also agreed that Belize join the North Zone in the same year.

We participate in the conferences of the sister structures of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica as an observer. One delegate participated as a country in the 18th Redela in Salinas, Ecuador.

By regions, we have carried out dissemination of the 23rd World Service Meeting, which took place in Warsaw, Poland, and in which the delegate of the Republic of Honduras, Class B Trustee, Wilfredo Saravia Madariaga, participated as representative of the North Zone.

Since 1989, we have published the Alcoholics Anonymous magazine in El Salvador. Up to now, we have printed 105 quarterly editions. We have 4,500 subscribing members. We maintain the exchange of magazines with other structures of the world.

There are currently 20 institutional groups that are informed through bulletins, magazines, etc. Public Information and CPC work is done, providing information to the general public, with the financial support of all our AA community. The activities carried out are having results through letters sent to the groups where they are informed in a transparent and clear manner, about the management of the funds sent by the entire AA community. All the financial activities are known through the quarterly bulletins elaborated by GSO and which are sent free of charge to all the groups registered in the national directory of AA and the 30 Service organisms.

Others

- We are updating our Web page.
- We are increasing public information work.
- We donate literature to groups of professionals.

Yours truly,

*Jose Gerardo Vasquez
Class B Trustee and Delegate, First Term
El Salvador*

United States/Canada

Structure

There are 66,664 registered A.A. groups and an estimated 1,408,925 members in the U.S. and Canada. There are also thousands of groups and meetings that are not registered with G.S.O., but may be listed in directories that are published by various intergroup offices. Each group is autonomous, and participation in the service structure is up to the group conscience.

Our structure is divided into ninety-three delegate areas, with each area electing a delegate for a two-year term. At any given time, approximately half the delegates are in their first year and the other half are in their second year. Delegates are elected at area assemblies that are made up of general service representatives who represent their groups, district committee members who represent their districts, and area officers that have been elected by the District Committee Members.

General Service Conference

The General Service Conference meets annually in the spring in New York City, and consists of approximately 135 voting members. The ninety-three delegates account for at least two-thirds of the voting members and the balance is made up of the following -- twenty-one trustees, six directors of the corporate boards, management of G.S.O. and the Grapevine and Staff Members of G.S.O.

The General Service Conference elects twenty-one General Service Board trustees along with six A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors who serve staggered terms. The fourteen Class B (alcoholic) trustees serve one four-year term, while the Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees may be elected to serve two three-year terms.

General Service Board

The General Service Board of A.A. is the principal service provider of the Conference. The Conference Charter recognizes the board's responsibilities as custodial in nature, except for decisions on matters of policy and finance and A.A. tradition that might affect the Fellowship as a whole. The General Service Board has freedom of action in the routine conduct of policy and business of the two service corporations, A.A. World Service, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

A.A.W.S., Inc. is responsible for group services, which include the operations of the General Service Office, and the publication and distribution of books and pamphlets and other A.A. literature.

Through A.A.W.S., Inc., all books and literature approved by the General Service Conference are protected by copyright law to ensure the integrity and the accuracy of the A.A. message. The copyrights on all books and literature are held in trust by A.A.W.S., Inc. for the entire A.A. Fellowship worldwide. The General Service Board insists that all who wish to make use of A.A. copyrighted material submit the appropriate requests to translate, reprint or distribute A.A. literature.

Literature

In 2014 gross literature sales were \$17,128,071 and contributions from groups and members were \$6,898,068.

A.A.W.S. recently published a facsimile First Edition Big Book to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Big Book.

We also recently saw a new pamphlet introduced called "Many Paths to Spirituality" with sharing about the varied paths members find to a higher power.

A.A. Grapevine Inc.

A.A. Grapevine Inc. publishes the A.A. Grapevine magazine and La Vina, a bi-monthly publication for Spanish speaking members. It also publishes a number of books that are collections of stories that have appeared in the magazine. Since we last met three new books have been added to the publication list: “Daily Quote” - a collection of inspirational quotations from the pages of the magazine; “Sober and Out” - a collection of stories of A.A. members who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgendered; “Happy, Joyous & Free: The Lighter Side of Sobriety” - a collection of stories about some of the funnier experiences we have in sobriety.

La Viña magazine celebrated its 19th anniversary. For those interested, La Viña’s website offers a free weekly quote from Bill and Bob that may be viewed online or sent to your email if you sign up (called “La Cita Semanal Con La Viña”).

International Literature Fund

The 11th World Service Meeting recommended that the WSM secretary “...write to all participating countries for the specific purpose of seeking cooperation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions.” Since that time, the response from countries around our A.A. world has been, and continues to be positive, heartwarming and most gratifying.

In 1992, the Literature/Publishing Committee of the World Service Meeting reported that the committee had agreed that the International Literature Fund should be under the purview of the World Service Meeting Literature/Publishing Committee. The Committee also suggested that “A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) use proceeds of (the) International Literature Fund to offset A.A.W.S.’ expenditures for foreign literature assistance, and to reimburse similar expenses incurred by other overseas A.A. offices or boards.” And, stated that “A.A.W.S. should have the latitude to prioritize the use of these monies based on the need as expressed by each G.S.O. and World Service delegate.”

There are currently 69 translations of the Big Book available with more translations pending, including Albanian (Albania), Aasamee (India), Bambara (Mali), Haitian Creole (Haiti), Konkani (India), K’iche’ (Mayan), Macedonian (Macedonia), Navajo (U.S.), Q’eqchi’ (Mayan), Quechua (Incan), and Rarotongan (Cook Islands). Work is also underway on several retranslations. Big Book translations are often multi-year projects with challenges in locating an experienced translator, in negotiating translation fees; in the actual translation of Bill’s language, and, finally, in an extended local and professional review process

In the last year, on behalf of the International Literature Fund, we have sent complimentary literature to Albania, Macedonia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe.

Internet

The Internet continues to grow and to be an important means of communication to the Fellowship as well as the general public. Following a reorganization of the website in 2014, the General Service Office's Web site, www.aa.org attracted between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors a day.

2015 International Convention

The 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous was held July 2 - 5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free." Approximately 57,000 A.A. members and guests from around the world celebrated A.A.'s 80th year with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Georgia Dome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, took place throughout the weekend in the Georgia World Congress Center and local hotels. The city of Atlanta was filled with A.A. members who were indeed happy, joyous and free.

Scott Huyghebaert

Trustee at Large/Canada

Zona Norte América Central

Guatemala:

Every year, at the beginning of the month of January, we carry out a Seminar on Human Relations with the participation of member officers and administrative staff of GSO, with the purpose of improving interpersonal relations and the services we provide for the community.

The National Public Information Assemblies are carried out with the objective of improving communication with the media. We also hold National Assemblies of the Institutions Committee, aimed at improving services in the correctional facilities,

hospitals and de-tox centers. We have signed an agreement with the Corrections System which enables better and easier access to jails and prisons.

We celebrated our 45th Conference Meeting on April 17, 18 and 19, 2015, and our 45th National Convention will take place on November 28 and 29, 2015 in Mazatenango, Suchitepequez. The GSO publishes the bimonthly magazine, “*Compartimiento*” (Sharing), with the printing of 5,000 issues which are distributed in the groups of our 31 areas.

El Salvador:

In April, 2014, the 36th Central American Convention took place, with the presence of more than 5,000 people and the sister structures of Central America and members from the United States of America. Every year, in November, we celebrate the *Gratitude Month* when we carry out our traditional *Open Doors of GSO*, attracting more than 2,500 members.

Our editorial department publishes the magazine, “*Alcoholicos Anonimos de El Salvador*” (Alcoholics Anonymous in El Salvador). 5,000 issues are currently published. On January 23, 24 and 25, 2015, we carried out our 46th General Service Conference. We also participated in the 18th REDELA, celebrated in Salinas, Ecuador, in the year 2013, and we will participate in the 19th REDELA to be held in Mexico City.

Honduras:

The 43rd General Service Conference took place on May 1st, 2 and 3, 2015 and last year, on November 15, we held the 5th Open Door Meeting, which we believe was very successful. GSO in Honduras publishes the magazine “*La respuesta*” (The answer) every two months, printing 2,400 issues.

The General Service Board continues to encourage our various service units in order to improve participation in all the activities aimed the wellbeing of AA and to eliminate apathy in service. We have close communication ties with the service structures in Central America, especially with the countries that integrate the North Zone: Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize.

Together with Guatemala and El Salvador, we are sponsoring Belize, and we consider that there has been important progress. Belize is in the process of forming part of the North Zone.

The Web page and email addresses of the North Zone are:

Country	Web Page	Email Address
Guatemala	wwwaaguatemala.org	osg@aaguatemala.org
El Salvador	wwwaelsalvador.org	osgdeelsalvador@hotmail.org

Honduras wwwaahonduras.org osgdehonduras@yahoo.es
Belize wwwaabelize.org GSB: aabelize.org@gmail.com
Gustavo Mendez:
mendezagustavo@gmail.com

Some telephone numbers:

Country	GSO/Person	Telephone
Guatemala	GSO	00 502 2288 5139
		00 502 2254 6565
El Salvador	GSO	00 503 2225 1430
		00 503 2225 9526
	GSO	00 50422387930
Honduras	Calixto Garcia	00 504 99017571
	Calixto Garcia	00 504 22271558
Belize	Area Committee	00 501 6374724
	Gustavo Mendez	005016102265

Fraternally,

*Wilfredo Saravia Maradiaga.
Delegate from Honduras to the WSM*

Mexico

The 49th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous of Mexico was carried out at the Holiday Inn Plaza Dali Hotel, in the Federal District, from March 30 to April 3, 2015. It was composed of a total of 123 voting members: 83 delegates of the country, 19 members of the General Service Board, 6 non Trustee Directors, the Managers of the General Service Office and the Plenitud Office and 13 members of staff, acting as secretaries. The theme of the Conference was "Service: Shared Action and Responsibility."

Every day, at the beginning of the sessions, a theme was proposed, in which the members participated by ballot. These were: "Service: Shared Action and Responsibility"; "Your Time in Service is Brief, Do not Waste It"; "The Privilege of Being an Alcoholic"; "Understanding the Server as a Human Being"; "Without Obstructing, Let's Motivate Young People and Women Toward Service in Structure"; "The Importance of Unity for the New Generations."

Questions concerning the reports of the permanent and transitory committees were sent in advance to all the members of the Conference. These were answered, in the most part, by those responsible. And, in a traditional way, the questions that were not answered in the plenary session, were included in a CD delivered to the members of the Conference at the end of the event.

During the simultaneous regional meetings, the theme of the year 2014 was: "Year of the Message to Professionals." In six round table meetings, issues related to national problems were discussed in order to find alternatives of solution for the strengthening of the practice of our Three Legacies. In a simultaneous meeting, the Northern and Southern territories evaluated the progress and results of the National Plan for Sustainable Growth.

All the recommendations as well as the analysis and approval of the budgets of our corporate offices were considered by the members of the Conference on Thursday and Friday. The General Service Board also made its annual inventory.

Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous in Mexico has approximately 200,000 members, 14, 695 groups; 430 groups in prisons and 181 in clinics and hospitals. The structure includes 1,509 districts, two territories, six regions and 83 areas, two corporate offices: the General Service Office and the Plenitud AA Office.

The General Service Board is comprised by 19 trustees: six Class A Trustees, five Class B General Service Trustees, six Regional Trustees and two Trustees at Large. It has

twelve committees: Finance, Correctional Institutions, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, Treatment Centers, Literature, Nominating, Agenda, National Events, Historical Archives, International and General Sharing Session. All the committees are chaired by Class A and Class B trustees, and they have been adapted to the composition in the US/Canada.

The 83 delegates of the Mexican Republic participate in the thirteen Conference committees: Finance, Correctional Institutions, Literature, Nominating, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment Centers, Public Information, Policy and Admissions, Agenda, Plenitud, Report and Charter, and two secondary committees: National Events and Historical Archives.

The General Service Directive Board is formed by nine directors: two Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, three non Trustee Directors, one member of staff and the Manager of the General Service Office. Its duty is to supervise the operation of GSO.

The Plenitud AA Directive Board is composed by nine directors: two Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, three non Trustee Directors, one volunteer secretary and the Manager. Its responsibility is to supervise the operations corresponding to the "Plenitud" magazine and its special products.

We have two offices: the General Service Office of AA (known to the majority of the members of AA as GSO) and the Office of the Plenitud AA magazine, both are located in Mexico City.

Guest Countries

Our guests of honor were the countries of Cuba and Venezuela, represented by Miriam Margori Guerra Acosta, Class B Trustee; Dr. Nubia Rivero Bello, Class A Trustee and Chairwoman of the General Service Board, Roman Enrique Sanchez Galindo, Class B Trustee, respectively.

Outstanding Points of the Committees

Public Information

The 22nd National Week of Public Information, Sharing Efforts, took place from January 19 to 25, 2015, with the theme "Network of Institutions, Media and Alcoholics Anonymous" and with the motto, "20 Years Joining Efforts to Make the Mexicans Aware of Alcoholism and its Consequences." The inaugural event of the week was held at the Reforma Marriott Hotel, where more than 170 professionals and more than 20 media organizations attended. The 6th National Week of Radio "A Broadcast Message", was carried out from June 8 to 14, 2015, with a poster and a radio spot for the community and the general public. The opening of the 3rd National Week of Alcoholics Anonymous for Young People, in area Veracruz, was held at the gymnasium, "Miguel A. Rios" of the University of Veracruz from September 21 to 27, 2015, with the theme "Alcoholism in the Student Sphere. We are Loosing Them!" which seeks to reach the great majority of the young population of the country.

We sent a guide for PI services to the areas of the country, as well as the AA Service Guide for Internet and Social Networks, in order to strengthen anonymity in the Internet and social networks.

Correctional Institutions

We currently have 430 institutional groups operating in municipal, state and federal prisons. The 13th National Week of the Alcoholic Inmate was held from June 22 to 27, 2015, in the prison in Chilpancingo, Guerrero.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

The committee works opening doors of public and government institutions and liaises the cooperation with non affiliation of AA in these institutions through the signing of agreements, cooperation without affiliation.

Treatment Centers

As part of carrying the AA message in treatment centers, different materials are elaborated that serve as an aid to the servers, such as the DVD "Hope", for the community to use in hospitals, health centers and clinics; posters are also placed in hospitals and there are radio and television spots.

Every year in the month of October, the National Week of the Alcoholic Patient is organized. Its purpose is to carry the message of life to all the people who are hospitalized because of their drinking, as well as to bring awareness and inform the authorities of health institutions that participate in the information venue and the new generations of professionals in the field of health about the alternative of recovery offered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The inauguration of the 6th National Week of the Alcoholic Patient was held on October 13, at the Juarez Hospital of Mexico. Our 7th National Week will be held in Culiacan, Sinaloa, from October 12 to 17 in the Auditorium of the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS, by its abbreviation in Spanish.)

Historical Archives

Committees at the area level continue to be implemented throughout the country. The national museum of Alcoholics Anonymous, "Our Roots", is an attraction for the community, we have received about 788 visits of AA members and members of the structures of Bolivia, Colombia and US/Canada. This historical site is a source of pride for our community, which has begun to promote the creation of other museums or exhibition rooms in some areas of the Mexican Republic.

Literature

Since May, 2014, the book “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” has been available for the community, and the separate pamphlets of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions have ceased to be printed.

XI National Convention

It was held from February 13 to 15, 2015, in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, with the theme, “AA: Unity, Love and Gratitude.” Information about the convention was uploaded to the REDELA’s Web site. The Committee of International Convention Attendees was installed; members from Costa Rica, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Honduras and US/Canada attended. There were 26,138 participants.

National Projects

National Plan for Sustainable Growth

This plan was created as a strategy at a national level in the medium and long term, structured according to the following scheme. We now have a guide for the areas and we are working on its implementation.

General objective: Harmonize our efforts in the community to strengthen the entire General Service structure and ensure, through this means, the sustainable growth of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Specific objective: Promote and strengthen growth and the practice of the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout the entire community.

Strategic points:

- a. Positioning and growth
- b. Trust
- c. Leadership
- d. Servers
- e. Community services
- f. Approach the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales to the community
- g. Strengthening of the base structure, the groups
- h. Self-support

Country to Country Sponsorship

By mutual agreement with our sponsored countries (Cuba, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic and Venezuela), we have established a plan for each one called “Six-Year Sponsorship Plan.” This plan is adapted to the specific situation and needs of each country. The points are mutually agreed upon and the sponsored country chooses, on one hand, the points it wishes to begin working on and, on the other hand, it also assigns the persons responsible for its execution. In this way, progress can be verified by its own national group conscience in the framework of its conference. In general, the plan contemplates the following:

- Integration and establishment of the committees, both of the Conference and the General Service Board.
- Study of the Service Manual.

- Adaptation of the operation of the structure with the model of US/Canada, as it represents the original conception, operationally proven, of our co founder, Bill W.
- Operation of the General Service Board.
- Project of regionalization.
- Conformity and application of the Service Manual and integration of the General Service Board and of the Conference.
- Structuring of the operation of areas and districts.
- Regionalization.
- Integration of its directive or corporate boards.
- Registration of the association, its trademark, logotypes, etc. before the governmental entities.
- Design of the agenda and mechanics of the Conference.
- Budget planning.
- Planning of the national convention.
- Self-support at all levels.
- Permanent Twelfth Step work through the orientation of the committees for the work of the groups.
- Plans and strategies for growth.
- Licenses for the exclusive reproduction and distribution in the country of the workshops created by Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos, A.C.

Information Center of the REDELA

We had problems with the Web page due to errors of our supplier; it is currently working again.

Support Material

The translation and edition in Spanish was made for the Confidential Final Reports of the 23rd World Service Meeting, as well as the 18th REDELA, and they were sent to the structures of the service zone, and also in ePub format (electronic publication.)

Cordially,

*Miquey Carrera Ramírez
Class B Trustee and Delegate, First Term
Mexico*

Nicaragua

The AA program arrives in Nicaragua through an American, Jack Muypy, who founded the Central Group La Merced that occupied a premise in the Church of La Merced in the Department of Leon. It began meetings on October 12, 1953. To date, we have 535 groups and approximately 16,000 members, of these, 400 are women.

Our General Service Board has its headquarters in the capital, Managua, where the General Service Office is located; it is attended by a Director and an alcoholic Manager. We acquired the Internet service. Email: aaosgdenicaragua@hotmail.com Web page: www.osgnicaragua.webpin.com

The first Annual Conference took place in 1977, and we currently hold it every year, one week before Holy Week. This year we had the 36th Conference in the North One Region, Esteli area, on April 11, 12 and 13, 2014. As invited guests, the trustees of the structure of the countries in Central America attended as observers. In order to obtain adequate financing to fulfill the General Service tasks, an Income and Expense Budget project is submitted at each Conference.

Our 36th Conference approved the division of the Central Region, which was formed by the following areas: Boaco, Chontales, Bluefields (RAAS) and Rio San Juan. In 2013, the RAAN (North Atlantic Autonomous Region, by its abbreviation in Spanish) area was integrated. The division resulted in the Central North Region, formed by the areas of Boaco and RAAN, and the Central South Region formed by the areas of Chontales, Bluefields (RAAS) and Rio San Juan.

Our structure currently has 17 areas and six regions: Metropolitan Area; Central North Region formed by the Boaco and RAAN areas; the South Central Region formed by Chontales, Bluefields, Rio San Juan; the Southeastern Region with Masaya, Granada,

Carazo, Rivas; the Western Region with Leon, Chinandega; the North 1 Region with Esteli, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and the North 2 Region with Matagalpa and Jinotega.

We are working to facilitate the process at the Ministry of the Interior to obtain the approval of the reforms to our bylaws, such as the issue regarding the division of the Central Region.

The General Service Board is comprised by two Class A Trustees and nine Class B Trustees, of these, five are Regional Trustees (they come from the previously mentioned Regions where they have served), four General Service Trustees (they have collaborated in the Permanent Committees of the GSB and they come from the area committees.) There are nine committees. From these, three, as well as the GSO staff, are under the direction of the General Service Trustees and the other three are under the responsibility of the non Trustee Directors. The members of GSO staff are their secretaries.

We maintain the publication of the national magazine, *Nuestra Voz* (Our Voice), which is issued every two months: We intend to turn it into an instrument that liaises one suffering alcoholic with another. We encourage the members to share their points of view on their recovery, the AA program and our literature.

We continue the work of Public Information through radio, printed press and television, and through the free distribution of the magazine, *Nuestra Voz*, and planning donations of literature to the main libraries.

The Committee of Institutions coordinates the service of information in institutions (prisons, hospitals,) a task that is directly in the hands of the Area Committees and the Intergroup Central Office. We have at least seven institutional groups.

We are having problems with the members of our groups, concerning Law 370: "AA collaborates with the courts." Therefore the Committee of Sponsorship for Service is carrying out studies with the area committees, where we explain the mechanisms and that this law does not affect us, "Cooperation without Affiliation."

We are reprinting our own literature with permission from AA World Services, Inc.

In the 36th Central American Convention, held in San Salvador on April 17, 18 and 19 of this year, we reached an agreement that the North Zone and the South Zone would participate in the Central American Meetings, with voice and vote.

Fraternaly

Pablo Sandino

Panama

Alcoholics Anonymous arrives in Panama through a member recently released from the Panama Hospital on November 11, 1945. He, together with a few others seeking to stop drinking, wrote to the Central Offices of AA in New York. From the secretary, they received by mail a personal letter from her with AA literature and the name of an old-timer from the groups in New York who was living in Cristobal, Canal Zone. Thus, the English-speaking Ancon Group was originated from a weak and insecure *nucleus* to form something that appeared to be a solid AA group, and it still maintains its doors open. By 1958, the Atlantico Groups is born, sharing is also in English; today, it is no longer in existence.

In 1964, the first indication for the need to create a Spanish-speaking group in the national region arose. On December 28, 1964, "*La Estrella de Panama*" (The Star of Panama) publishes a letter sent from AA members of the San Jose Group in Costa Rica. The letter informed about the program of recovery from alcoholism, known as Alcoholics Anonymous, and it expressed their desire to serve the persons with problems caused by alcohol. It came in response to queries made by individuals from Panama. A curious anecdote: they sent the letter to the Panama AA Group, without a specific address. This is celebrated by the old-timers, and so, the still to be consolidated group is named the Panama Group of AA.

This is how the group opens its doors for the first time on February 23, 1965, although in a rather informal manner and with five founding members: Negro Vos, Juan J., Tinti Diaz, a mister Boyd and Rolando M. It began in a small office borrowed from Nacho Aleman, manager of the Armour Company that distributes hams and sausages,

previously located on 4 de Julio (now, Avenida de los Martires), and whose brother was one of the first members of the group.

Then various groups arose in the national territory, such as the Central San Felipe and the San Miguelito groups; the latter one was a direct product of the 12th C.A. AA Convention, Mexico, Panama and the Caribbean.

The formation of several groups in the national territory followed and, by 1978, during the 8th General Assembly of the AA groups in Panama, the establishment of an organism representing all of AA in Panama was promoted. The point was approved and the organism was named *General Information Office of AA of Panama* (OGI, by its abbreviation in Spanish). On June 14, 1981, as a result of an AA General Assembly, the change to a new name was approved: *General Service Office of AA of Panama*.

Finally, during the XIII Mini-Conference in 1996, the change of the name from Mini-Conference to General Service Conference is recommended; thus, our 1st Conference as a structure is held in 1997. Eventually, on January 22, 1999, we obtain the legal incorporation as ***Asociacion de Servicios Generales de Alcoholicos Anonimos de Panama (Association of General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous of Panama) as an organized structure.***

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous in Panama is comprised by five Class A trustees and seven Class B trustees; of these, four are chairpersons of the permanent committees and three are Zonal Trustees. Today, we have 68 groups and 800 members in four Zones (A, B, C and D.)

Since 1997, the Annual Conference Meeting takes place every year in the month of April, and we have held eighteen Conferences after our formal restructuring. We continue the work of providing public information through radio, press and television. The Correctionals Committee gives service in jails and prisons. Likewise, we cooperate with the professional community, receiving the individuals who are sent to AA by the authorities, and we serve at the hospital of the Mental Health Institute. All the literature provided by World Services in New York and the AA Grapevine, Inc. is acquired from the United States.

To this day, we have printed nine quarterly issues of our new national official magazine, "*Recuperacion*" (Recovery), in addition to a bimonthly service Bulletin for the AA community.

After adapting "The Service Manual" of Panama to that of US/Canada, the Structure Committee is proceeding with a second revision, with the intention of improving the General Services that we provide.

Panama attends the Conferences of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. For the first time as a structure, we attended the 15th REDELA (2007) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the 16th REDELA

(2009) in Arequipa, Peru, the 17th REDELA (2011) in El Salvador and the 18th REDELA in Salinas, Ecuador, in October 2013.

We were present at the 21st WSM in Mexico in October, 2010 and the 22nd WSM in New York in October, 2012.

During the past 36th Central American Convention held in El Salvador in 2014, Panama accepted the responsibility of organizing the 37th Central American Convention in March, 2016, whose process is in full swing and where the committee in charge of the organization is working so that this event is a complete success.

Marcelino Vargas V.

Paraguay

Dear fellow members of the REDELA, I express cordial greeting to all of you. With this report, we wish to be present once again at such an important event for our community in the American hemisphere.

On January 23 of this year, we celebrated the 39th anniversary of the arrival of the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to Paraguay.

As of the year 2005, we have been sponsored by the Brazilian structure, a commitment that began at the 5th REDELA in 2001 in Cartagena, Colombia. Thanks to our sponsors, we were able to draw up our own bylaws, the "Service Manual" (adapted from the American Manual) and the CTO (by its abbreviation in Spanish) Guides.

Our growth has been constant, because we continue carrying out events based on our principles. This year, we held National Literature Events in different parts of the country. They are the following:

-Meeting of the Three Frontiers (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay) on March 14 and 15 in Ciudad del Este.

This type of reunion is carried out annually in the different countries of the border zones that unite us, changing the venue every time.

-On May 9 and 10 in the city of Campo 9 with the theme of the Twelve Traditions.

-On July 19 in the city of General Artigas, we addressed the subject of service in the groups.

-Also, on August 8 and 9 in the city of Encarnacion, we addressed the Twelve Concepts for World Service; in it, we also included a talk for professionals and a dissertation on alcoholism, with the presence of Dr. Manuel Fresco, current president of the General Service Board of AA in Paraguay, and Judge Dr. Juan Bogarin Fatecha.

-On November 7 and 8, we will carry out our *XXIII General Service Conference* with the theme: FROM HUMILITY TOWARDS UNITY.

At present, we are devoted to the structuring of districts with the energy we are obtaining from the greater knowledge of our principles, where, undoubtedly, the contact with the servers of our sister countries plays a very important role.

Although our structure is still precarious, we trust that the moment will come when we can definitely advance toward a sustained growth, based on the sum of experiences.

For this to be possible, we will always need the spiritual support of all our brothers and sisters of the community of Alcoholics Anonymous around the world and, particularly, the members of the REDELA, with whom we are united, in addition to a cause, by very important cultural ties.

We hope that this new meeting of the REDELA, guided by a Higher Power, as each one understands Him, will enable that all the decisions taken are for the benefit of our dear community. We are still unable to share with you, but we are sure that, in the near future, we will achieve this and our presence will continue, with the help of the Higher Power.

With this simple report, please receive cordial greetings from all the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Paraguay.

Happy 24 hours of sobriety and service.

Oscar D. Mereles
Trustee and 2nd Term
Delegate to the WSM

Juan Duarte
Trustee and 1st Term
Delegate to the WSM

Peru

Structure

Since the last REDELA, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 2013, the XXV and XXVI General Service Conferences have taken place, with the themes, **“Recovery, Basis for Good Service”** and **“Responsibility and Unity in Action for a Structured Service”**, respectively.

In Peru, today there are about 190 groups (this has not changed in recent years), 50% of them are in the capital, Lima, and the rest are in the different departments of the country.

There is little presence of AA in prisons, treatment centers and/or hospitals.

Eleven and ten delegates attended the 2014 and 2015 Conferences, respectively. Our Service Manual determines 25 areas, theoretically. The situation has not changed much in recent years.

Besides GSO, three Central Information Offices operate, one in Arequipa, another in Tacna and the last in Cuzco.

The Conference Committees are in accordance with our current Service Manual. Since the 2010 Conference, they meet in the month of September to strengthen their work. However, in the 2014 reunion, only five of the eleven delegates attended the Conference that year. In other words, there is still little awareness of the authority and responsibility of the Permanent Conference Committees.

Currently, the Corporate Boards of the General Service Office and the national magazine are operating and they (only recently) are structured as follows:

Corporate Board of the General Service Office (JCOSG, by its abbreviation in Spanish) is comprised of:

- 1 Trustee at Large
- 2 non Trustee Directors
- The Manager of GSO
- 1 One General Service Trustee
- Vacancies: paid staff of GSO

The Corporate Board of the national magazine is comprised of:

- Executive Director of the national magazine, who presides it
- Trustee at Large
- Vacancies: General Service Trustee, Class A Trustee, 2 non Trustee Directors

Summons have been made to complete the structure of the corporate offices.

There has been no progress in the country to country sponsorship, through our own responsibility and the changes that took place in the last two years.

The General Service Board is comprised by 7 Class B Trustees who represent: 4 Regional Trustees, 2 Trustees at Large and one General Service Trustee. Up to now, the vacancies are: 2 Class A Trustees, 1 General Service Trustee (national magazine) and 2 Regional Trustees. Our Manual establishes that there should be 12 Trustees: 2 Class A and 10 Class B.

The different committees of the Board that relate to the Conference Committees have chairmen, seeking and effective practice of Concept I. However the chairs of the committees are practically null.

There is still no budget in GSO to cover the expenses of the Trustees in order to carry out their service (internal and external), such as the Annual General Service Conference, the WSM, REDELA and invitations from other structures. These expenses are paid by the Trustees; notwithstanding, we hope this situation can change in the future.

In 2014 and 2015, we did not attend the Colombian and Brazilian Conferences, as we traditionally did.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees are held in the city of Lima, and the Trustees who do not live in Lima receive S/.100, one hundred new *soles* (approximately USD 30.00 American dollars.)

Very few districts are operating properly, they are non-existent in the majority of the areas.

We have very few non alcoholic friends, to the extent of not having a Class A Trustee since our last Conference.

Services

The services we are currently providing are:

- Public information through the radio and printed media
- Cooperation with the professional community
- In treatment centers, visiting hospitals and treatment centers

The external services need to be improved, since we have very few non alcoholic friends.

Finances

The General Service Office continues with a strong process of administrative restructuring.

Up to August, 2013, we had a female non alcoholic manager. Then, our Chairwoman of the Board at the time (a Class A Trustee) took charge, internally, of the management. From December, 2013, to June 2, 2014, a female member of AA was appointed as manager; later, up to June, 2015, a non alcoholic manager was hired. Finally (in September 1, to be more exact) we have an alcoholic manager (as is established in our current Service Manual.) Now, our GSO works with a manager and a non AA administrative secretary.

The expenses of GSO have been reduced to a minimum and they are covered in 40% by the contributions of the areas and the various individual members; the balance is paid by the sale of literature. However, one of the projects is to lease a larger office,

since the current one is very small and has two rooms, the reception and the manager's office.

Literature – Publications

We have the authorization to print literature. In this sense, we have the support of World Services.

To date, we have printed our Basic Text, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *Daily Reflections*, *Living Sober* and several pamphlets. We have no historical books in stock.

A sub-committee of literature was formed which is in charge of revising the literature before it is printed and, later on, sold.

On line meetings and the creation of the Web Site

We currently have a Web page, with detailed information for members as well as for the general public; although it needs to be improved.

Today, communication of the public and AA members with GSO is through the following emails:

- Secretary: secretaria.aosgperu@gmail.com
- Manager: gerenteaa.osgperu@gmail.com

We do not take advantage of technology (Internet) to carry the message; besides, all meetings of the GSB and the JCOSG are personally attended, although some of them could be on line.

In spite of technological progress, one of our main deficiencies is communication at all levels of structured service.

Erik Giovanni Gonzalez Lopez
Second Term Delegate

Cirilo Lorenzo Vasquez Vargas
First Term Delegate

Dominican Republic

Brief History

After the first two groups of AA in the Dominican Republic were formed, members of the community from Puerto Rico, the United States and Canada began visiting the country, and there was a kind of spontaneous sponsorship. Just like the way in which spontaneous sponsorship took place, the message began to spread to other parts of the national territory, either when some members moved to live or work to other places, new groups were formed.

Current Structure

In the year 1990, our sponsors from Puerto Rico suggested the creation of a “Comité Timón” (Guiding Committee) in order to put the Third Legacy into practice. In 1993, an AA National Assembly took place and a “Pro-structure Committee” was created, but it was not until September 24, 1996, that an Incorporating Assembly of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of the Dominican Republic was carried out. The Board was legally recognized on December 6 of that same year, through the decree of the Executive Power no. 631-96.

AA in this country is divided in two territories (North and South) and four regions, two in each territory. The seven Class B Trustees are distributed as follows: one Trustee at Large of the Northern Territory, one Trustee at Large of the Southern Territory, two Regional Trustees of the Northern Territory, one Service Trustee, Two Regional Trustees of the Southern Territory (vacant). Two Class A Trustees and the president and vice president of the Board complete the total of nine Trustees.

There are two areas duly structured, with eight districts, and two intergroup offices in another two provinces.

We have 63 groups with 455 members and 3 groups in correctional facilities, with about 45 members, making a total of 66 groups and about 500 members in the country.

Politically, the territory of the country is divided into 32 provinces. For Conferences purposes, in the provinces where there is an AA group, they are given the opportunity to be represented by a delegate who participates in conditions of equality with the others, seeking a greater participation.

GSO

Since its establishment in 1996, GSO carries out multiple activities with the aim of providing service to the areas, districts, groups and to the non alcoholic community.

The General Service Office (GSO) is located in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros; it has an employee who acts as Manager and, among her duties, she purchases literature from World Services or the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de A.A., she sells literature to the areas and controls inventories, she is secretary to the Literature and Finance Committees and makes the summons of the Board and the Conference, among other activities.

Conference

The first General Service Conference in our country was held in 1997. As of 2005, we have had the sponsorship and participation of Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales and its Trustees. The Conference of last year took place in the month of December, as usual, and we had the accompaniment of a server of the Mexican structure.

National Convention

Every four years we hold a very successful National Convention. This convention is the most important group event that our community carries out at a national level. A large part of our members gather here with the main purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

This year 2015, the IV National Convention took place in the Dominican University O&M, Recinto Santiago de los Caballeros, on September 19 and 20.

Fraternaly

*Miguel Gonzalez
Class B Service Trustee*

Uruguay

Background

In the decade of the 40's, Dr. Chans Caviglia met Bill W. in New York. In 1948, the International Congress against Alcoholism is held in Montevideo. That same year, Dr. Chans Caviglia began to have meetings every Tuesday with his alcoholic patients and

their families in Montevideo. This group appears in the International Directory in the year 1960. On March 18, 1974, AA began to function with closed meetings. Our brothers from Argentina were instrumental in the appearance of AA. On August 11, 1978, the first National Service Board is established and, in the 1982, the 1st National Service Conference took place. Our 3rd National Convention was held in Montevideo, in the building of the Municipal Office of Montevideo in 1999, commemorating 25 years of AA in Uruguay. The participation of the public, journalists, professionals and representatives of the government was impressive; it is a day that is hard to forget – merit to those who organized that convention.

Structure

The National Service Board is comprised by eleven trustees, two of which are Class A, four Regional Trustees, four General Service Trustees, who distribute their service responsibilities of Finance, Literature and Publications, CTO (Working with Others) and GSO. As of March, 2012, there is a Trustee at Large elected for the first time at the XXXI General Service Conference.

Unfortunately, at this time the Board lacks servers; for example, this year there are no trustees in GSO, CTO and the South Region.

Currently, our structure is formed by four regions: North, South, East and West; it has 240 groups that integrate the districts and they are grouped in 21 areas. There are institutional groups, study groups and an English speaking group. In the year 2011, the Welcome Group began to meet in English.

The group conscience of our community lies in the General Service Conference. This year, in the month of May, it was held at the resort city of Atlantida, located 40 kilometers from the capital, Montevideo, with the theme: *Service, Basis for Responsibility. Are we responsible as Alcoholics Anonymous?*

The trustees of the GSB, the area delegates and their respective alternates attend our Conference with voice and vote.

This Conference is chaired by the Agenda Committee, which is composed of the director, the deputy director, the secretary, the treasurer and the deputy treasurer; they, in turn, have a Support Committee.

Events

We have not attended the WSM since 1998, in New Zealand. Thanks to our Higher Power, to the efforts of GSO in New York and our GSO, we participated with one delegate in the XIX WSM in Malahide, Ireland. Since then, we have participated in all

the REDELAs and WSMs that were carried out, except the XX WSM in New York, where two delegates took part, since one of them was sponsored by AAWS. For the celebration of the 80 years of AA in the world, we have actively worked with the oral, written and televised media; this latter one addressed the subject of alcoholism in several programs on open television. We also participated in the conferences of our sister countries, such as Argentina and Brazil. At the Brazilian Conference in 2013, we requested country to country sponsorship.

Literature and Publications

We have literature groups with open and closed meetings; there are approximately 40 at a national level. The subjects are always based on our program of recovery and on literature approved by the Conference. In 2004, in the city of Colonia del Sacramento, the X National and International Literature Event took place with an abundant participation. We are working hard on the sale and dissemination of our books which we acquire from the United States and Argentina. Our country publishes a magazine, "*El Triangulo*" (The Triangle), with four annual editions. It is commercialized in all the groups of the country; its content is based on testimonies and material from the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and the themes are always related to alcoholism. This magazine has its own office at GSO.

Working with Others (CTO, by its abbreviation in Spanish)

This responsibility is undertaken by the trustee of CTO. It has two committees: one is Public Information, with a secretary from CPCC, and the other is Institutions. They are chaired and attended by their respective heads and alternates and the fellow members who give service. Institutions attend all the public and private clinics of the country where AA presence is requested; it also attends hospitals and prisons where we are allowed to enter. There are institutional groups in public hospitals; we have 15 of these.

The delegates and trustees of the regions meet three times a year in the national committees whose locations in the country are rotated. The persons responsible for being secretary (Literature and Publications, Finance and CTO) and the GSRs of the areas participate in the regional committees; each committee is chaired by its corresponding trustee.

Our "Service Manual" was replaced by the Manual of US/Canada, with its corresponding adjustments to our structure; it was approved by our 33rd General Service Conference.

The Web page started in the year 1977, but this year it changed its name to WWW.ALCOHOLICOSANONIMOS.COM.UY.

It is updated according to the modifications to the National Directory of all the groups, and various events that the community carries out every month are published. The National Directory is updated periodically, it specifies if they are open or closed reading meetings, closed meetings, for young people, women or institutional groups, etc.

We maintain service in a few radio stations and we participate in some private television channels, especially in the interior of the country. We permanently give public information in schools, high schools, state institutions and other public and private organisms. We carry out workshops on sponsorship in service.

Legal Structure

For all legal effects, our community has legal standing through FAADU (Foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous of Uruguay); it was founded in 1996. It has two boards: National Board and Supervision Board.

In September, 2008, the amendment to our bylaws was authorized, with a modification approved by the Conference in order to improve its operation, its use and, therefore, obtain tax exonerations.

The boards are formed only by trustees and former trustees, elected by vote. Its creation is necessary in order to be able to lease, hire staff and carry out eventual extraordinary expenses.

GSO

Our GSO begins to operate in the year 1978 in Montevideo. It has a hired official and works with the cooperation of alcoholics from the Reception and Guarding Committee.

The GSO trustee is in charge of the responsibility of service. The office is open Monday through Friday from 1.00 PM to 7.00 PM. There, all the telephone requests are answered, material is delivered, our literature is sold, and meetings of the different committees are held there and the NSB also meets there. Many fellow members participate in meetings on the Internet. We also take part in meetings on alcohol and addiction, when invited by the Presidency of the Republic and the National Board on Drugs.

At GSO, we have a physical space for our historical archives, where you can find our first office equipment, such as telephones, typewriters, minutes books of the founding of groups, the book of the first meeting of the NSB, etc.

Finance

We are self-supporting and, although our structure is not the best one, we have overcome the economic crisis of the year 2002, which affected us very much, and we are getting by satisfactorily. Our main income comes from the contributions of the Seventh Tradition and our 5th Recommendation, although they have diminished a great deal. With the sale of literature we pay for our expenses. Our community supports itself economically and it does not have a prudent reserve, but we have a healthy and real financial situation that enables us to carry the message.

In the name of our entire community of men and women in Uruguay, I wish you happy 24 hours of sobriety and service, hoping that the Higher Power is always with you.

Fraternally,

Andres Lemonier
Trustee at Large of Uruguay and
Delegate to the WSM

Venezuela

It is my privilege to be here in Mexico City and share with you the most relevant aspects of AA service in Venezuela at this 19th Meeting of the Americas. Likewise, we are honored to be in the company of all the countries that form the REDELA, hoping that it will be a very productive meeting.

It is of utmost importance for the Venezuelan structure to be here at this event, in spite of the enormous economic and logistic difficulties that leaving our country implies. In the past years, the sponsoring trustees who visited our country, have drafted reports that, although true, strongly oblige us to re-establish and organize plans and projects that enable, not only the internal re-structuring, but to put two plans into practice that, in our eyes, are necessary and urgent. The first one has to do with the SINCERITY of the structure, not only to find out how many we are, where we are at and what level of education and spiritual structure we have (for this, our Mexican sponsors gave us the tools six years ago.) But in a period of conflict characterized by the rising of divisions and the violation of Tradition One, it delayed them and also created a very pronounced involution period. We objectively and humbly believe that it is a phase that we are already overcoming. The second plan of capital importance is the *formulation and execution* of an aggressive, feasible and coherent plan of public information and cooperation with the professional community, which, combined with an intense activity in treatment and correctional institutions, can bring us closer to society and its intermediate institutions in a positive, effective and loving way. For now, we believe we are BEGINNING THE UPHILL ROAD. These plans would be based on parochial regionalization, that would liaise later with the existing groups in each sector y new districts can be formed, which Bill defined as district organization (*"the growth of the community must be organized in districts and not in new areas."*) We currently have some districts in areas of greater development, but the idea is to grow in numbers of groups in order to grow in numbers of districts.

From the Structural Point of View

Up to April of this year, our General Service Board was formed by three Class B Trustees and one Class A Trustee, making a total of four; today we have six trustees (five Class B and one Class A.) We believe that the ideal number of this Board would be of eleven trustees (eight Class B and three Class A Trustees.) Our work this year will be arduous in order to complete the number of desired trustees in the following Conference. Among the five trustees that are in service, four are Regional Trustees and they are responsible for the Committees of the Board, and one Trustee at Large of the Western Territory, who also chairs the IP and CPC Committees. He is representing us at this REDELA meeting. The other trustee is a Class A Trustee, she is president of the corporation and of the Board.

The Directive of the General Service Board was appointed, and it is integrated as follows: President, Nubia Ysbeth Rivero Bello, Class A Trustee; Secretary, Luis Taipo,

Class B Trustee; Voting Members, Franklin Ramirez, Class B Trustee, and Prisco Quintero, Class B Trustee.

The General Service Directive Board (GSO) was also appointed; it is comprised as follows: President, Franklin Ramirez, Trustee at Large; secretary, Roman Sanchez; voting members, Jesus Gomez, General Manager of the office and Carmen Herrera, Administrative Manager. Jesus, the General Manager, submitted his resignation as of July 31, 2015. We have summoned the entire community for those who wish to carry out this service, according to well defined requirements and profile. We also made a public summon to the members of the community so that they apply their candidacy as Director non Trustee, to give service in GSO, with well defined professional profiles for the office. Likewise, we hope to incorporate volunteers to serve in GSO in the areas of finance, publications, work with the community, among others. In the following Board meeting, to be held in July, we will be revising these applications.

The structure is formed by five regions, divided into two territories. The Eastern Territory has three regions that will elect their Trustee at Large at the foreseen time, and two regions already have their Trustee at Large. (*sic*) In the three regions of the Western Territory, the numbers reveal the enormous effort that we must carry out: we have approximately 1,200 members in eleven areas that have 180 groups, and about 65 GSRs. In the two regions of the Western Territory, things are not much different, approximately 700 members in 80 groups and 50 GSRs. This scenario reflects the situation that we mentioned earlier; but it is our commitment to change this reality in a significant way, because plans are being developed, work teams are being formed and the atmosphere of motivation and unity is beginning to rise.

The committee of the magazine, "Gratitude," is working very well, and we hope to increase the number of subscriptions that we have had up to 2014.

We insist, and we are achieving, that the committees of Board work in unison with the committees of the Conference.

Regional sharing is being carried out as planned.

The ethic and behavior code for the members of the General Service Board was approved.

The VI Convention was held recently; we observed the unpleasant aftermath of the situation experienced in the years of lack of unity. The Convention Committee operated disconnected from the Board, and the results demonstrated that this is not the road to follow. Provisions will be made for the VII Convention that will be held in five years in Region Two of the Eastern Territory.

Literature

In this field, we have a very complicated situation, because the levels of inflation in the country in the past few years have been in the three digit arena. The exchange control and rest of the

economy is closed and is under the sole management of the State; currency is only handled by the government through organisms created for this. The scenario that you and the rest of the world knows has created a problem, as the printing of our literature is at black market value because it is the reference for offer and demand in the country. Imagine the hardships we suffer, not only for the literature, but to leave the country to attend international AA events. The registration fee for the REDELA is 800 dollars, at the time when I am drafting this report, equal to 520 million bolivares, which will be the equivalent to the salary of a university professor in two years. These numeric references are neutral. We do not have any political or ideological agenda, it is only to illustrate the problem we are having with literature and with the participation of our structure in international events. We assume that the amount will be higher in the month of October when the REDELA will take place. We hope to be there in spite of the difficulties. The Higher Power and some fellow members are already working on this, in addition to the efforts and work that the Board will make. The base of Alcoholics Anonymous suffers the rigors of this situation, because in only one year, we have been obliged to increase the price of literature in 200%, as an only way to maintain the capital for our existence.

Greetings to all the fellow first and second term delegates. God willing, we will explain our projections in depth.

I embrace you all and may God bless you.

Franklin Ramirez

*Trustee at Large of the Western Territory of Venezuela and
Delegate to the WSM*

Reports of the Committees

Agenda

Once the agenda was approved, the committee addressed the protocol and the order of the day.

The composition of the Agenda Committee was approved, the committee addressed the protocol and the order of the day.

After evaluating the need to have timely reports and documents of the participating countries, the committee issues the

1st Recommendation

After submitting the proposals for the themes of the 20th Redela to vote, the committee recommends the theme:

“Communication: Vital for Uniting the Americas”

The committee recommends the following themes for the presentations in the agenda of the next 20th Redela:

2nd Recommendation

3.1 What are we doing to position Alcoholics Anonymous?

- a) before the public?
- b) before governmental institutions?

3.2 Do we have sufficient servers for the action committees?

- a) In the area committee
- b) In the districts

3.3 Is it necessary to practice these principles in all our affairs?

- 3.4 What is being done about the right of participation?
- 3.5 Women in the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous
- 3.6 Communication with the courts
- 3.7 The fundamental responsibility in the groups
- 3.8 How are we receiving the newcomers in our groups?

3rd Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the round tables to be included in the 20th Redela:

Round table 1: *“How to use the Internet to communicate effectively”*

Round table 2: *“Licenses and intellectual property”*

Round table 3: *“Unicity in language to communicate a good message”*

a) In the group

b) In society

The election of the next chairman and alternate of the Agenda Committee of the 20th Redela took place:

Carlos Ibarra, chairman (Ecuador)

Luis Jara, alternate (Chile)

Policy, Admissions and Finance

Once the agenda was approved, the committee addressed the protocol and the order of the day.

The composition of the Committee of Policy, Admissions and Finance was approved.

Only a few structures contribute to the International Literature Fund (ILF); it is necessary to inform all the community so that it is aware of the ILF, so that all the members can contribute to the fund.

Some structures have problems with the contributions from the groups; it is a difficult challenge. I have learned about some stories of how ILF has supported other

structures with literature; literature has saved the lives of many. The TB was in Spanish.

Every structure has a Literature Committee, they are responsible of motivating.

Concerning the inscription to the Redela, analyze if its increase or reduction is feasible.

The structures that form the Redela can include the attendance to international events in their budget and, under that item, their participation in the Redela.

The inscription fee for the 20th Redela could be of 600 or 700 dollars.

Today, in this 19th Redela, we are 18 countries; Cuba and El Salvador were unable to attend.

After evaluating the need of having timely reports and documents of the participating countries, the committee issues the

1st Recommendation

Inform the entire community (members, groups, areas and all levels of service) about the existence of the International Literature Fund, its functions, and motivate all for their contributions through structure.

2nd Recommendation

The inscription fee of 800 dollars for the 20th Redela was approved.

3rd Recommendation

That the Information Center of the Redela sends the Final Report of every Redela to all the structures of the Americas by electronic mail and post, in order to motivate the participation of all the countries that did not attend.

4th Recommendation

The venue of the following 20th Redela will be Costa Rica, and Colombia as the alternate venue.

5th Suggestion

As of this 19th Redela, and from here on, in all the Redelas, if there be any surplus, it will be divided: 50% to the following venue and 50% to ILF, which will be sent, in principle, to the Central Office of the Redela.

Motion to Remember

Re-establish the electronic addresses of the delegates of the Redela, also including the non participating countries, in order to make the exchange of information and experiences easier.

3.- The election of the following chairman and alternate of the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee of the 20th Redela took place:

Hernando de J. Salcedo, chairman (Colombia)

Cirilo Vasquez Vargas, alternate (Peru)

Literature and Publications

Once the agenda was approved, the committee addressed the protocol and the order of the day.

The composition of the Committee of Literature and Publications was approved.

The delegate, Bob Wilcox, asked if there were any proposals from the countries, or any requirement of translations in order to present them to AA World Services.

Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru asked about their request for the translation of TB into the Quechua language which was presented at the 17th Redela in El Salvador.

Mexico asked for an answer to the request for approval of the translation of TB into the Purepecha language, which was sent to AAWS in 2013.

Costa Rica mentioned some problems regarding their orders for literature.

Panama mentioned that, although literature is available in digital form, it is affecting the sale of literature that helps support the service offices.

The protection of literature uploaded to the Internet was suggested.

Panama made it clear that they are not against technological progress, but they would like to find a way to compensate service offices.

Conclusions:

1.- They will ask AA World Services about the status of the pending translations of TB to the indigenous languages of Quechua and Purepecha.

2.- The will speak with the Publications Department of AA World Services about the orders dispatched to the different structures and update the situation of the orders that take a long time to arrive, as well as the damaged products.

3.- Redela will send a request to GSO in New York and to the WSM, so that more protection is given to the literature uploaded to the Internet for its reading, and that this does not affect other structures.

The election of the following chairman and alternate of the Committee of Literature and Publications for the 20th Redela took place:

Marcelino Vargas, chairman (Panama)

Pablo Sandino, alternate (Nicaragua)

Working with Others

Once the agenda was approved, the committee addressed the protocol and the order of the day.

The composition of the Committee Working with Others was approved.

This committee issues the following:

1st Recommendation

That the support materials be sent to all the countries through the Secretariat of the Redela, in an approximate time of three months and upload them to the Web page. And to fulfill the recommendations.

The committee issues the following motion to remember:

In order to fulfill the recommendation of the 18th Redela, which reads:

“That a compilation of the CWO materials be made, through the Central Information Office of the Redela, according to what is established in previous recommendations, and that the members of the committee are informed as soon as possible.”

With the aggregate that Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, US/Canada and Venezuela send their materials to the Central Information Office, and these, in turn, be sent to the countries that integrate the Redela as soon as possible, and the chairman of CWO follows this up.

The election of the chairman of the Committee Working with Others for the 20th Redela took place:

Scott Huyghebaert, chairman (Canada)

Miquey Carrera, alternate (Mexico)

Committees of the 19th REDELA

Agenda Committee

Second Term

Eliecer Ceron*	Colombia
Bob Wilcox	US/Canada
Erick Gonzalez	Peru
Marcos A. Pedrosa**	Brasil
Pedro Balderrama	Mexico

First Term

Luis Jara Alarcon	Chile
Carlos Ibarra Z.	Ecuador
Enrique Rodriguez	Costa Rica
Gerardo Vazquez	El Salvador
Marcelino Vargas	Panama
Miguel Gonzalez	Dominican Rep.
Pablo Sandino	Nicaragua
Juan Duarte	Paraguay

*Chairman **Alternate

Literature and Publications

Second Term

Pedro Balderrama*	Mexico
Bob Wilcox	US/Canada
Erick Gonzalez	Peru
Marcos A. Pedrosa	Brazil

First Term

Luis Jara Alarcon	Chile
Carlos Ibarra Z.	Ecuador
Enrique Rodriguez	Costa Rica
Gerardo Vazquez	El Salvador

Eliecer Ceron	Colombia	Marcelino Vargas	Panama
		Miguel Gonzalez	Dominican Rep.
		Pablo Sandino	Nicaragua
		Juan Duarte	Paraguay

***Chairman **Alternate, vacant**

Policy, Admissions and Finance

Second Term

First Term

Andres Lemonier*	Uruguay
Mario Barrera A.**	Argentina

Miquey Carrera R.	Mexico
Hernando Salcedo	Colombia
Marcio Adriano	Brazil
Franklin Ramirez	Venezuela
Scott Huyghebaert	US/Canada
Miriam M. Guerra	Cuba
Leo Callejas	Bolivia
Wilfrido Saravia	Honduras
Cirilo Vasquez	Peru

Marcelo Arcos G.	Ecuador
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***Chairman **Alternate**

Working with Others

Second Term

First Term

Marcelo Arcos*	Ecuador
Mario Barrera	Argentina
Andres Lemonier	Uruguay

Miquey Carrera R.	Mexico
Hernando Salcedo	Colombia
Marcio Adriano	Brazil
Franklin Ramirez	Venezuela
Scott Huyghebaert	US/Canada
Miriam M. Guerra	Cuba
Leo Callejas	Bolivia
Wilfrido Saravia	Honduras
Cirilo Vasquez	Peru

***Chairman **Alternate, vacant**

Reports of the Round Tables

7.1. Round table one

Theme: Unicity of purpose of the AA program before those that use our name in the groups

Conclusions:

- Be aware and remember that the new members of AA are going to make the same mistakes.
- Be sympathetic and give the new member of AA the chance to learn, and guide them by example.
- Not be rigid, denying the opportunity of life and of recovery to a human being and a family.
- There are groups that are not structured, support them.
- That the newcomer also learns about the Traditions and that he practice them. They are not rules, they are spiritual principles.
- It is important to make an inventory of the group.
- Sponsorship is vital, it is a life that is at stake.

7.2. Round table two

Theme: Inventory of the Redela, in the committees

Conclusions:

- The recommendations of the Redela are being repeated and they are not put into action; it is an inconvenience, and they are no longer effective.
- After two years, nothing happens.
- There was no communication among the members.
- In AA, we add, we do not subtract.
- The responsibility is not only of the chairmen, it is also the responsibility of the members.
- «The Language of the Heart» will promote the carrying of the message.

7.3. Round table three

Theme: Resentment, what it means to individual recovery

Conclusions:

- Resentment is pure poison for the male and female alcoholic.
- Living with resentments is living in the past.
- Resentments affect our social surroundings.
- Resentments do not allow us to live in freedom of the spirit.
- Deep-rooted resentments lead us to a useless and unhappy life.
- Resentments prevent God from entering into our lives.
- Create awareness in the male and female fellow members.
- Practice the Twelve Steps for recovery.
- Sponsorship.

8. Recommendations of the committees of the REDELA

8.1. Agenda

§19th REDELA

1st Recommendation

After having submitted to vote the proposals for the theme of the 20th REDELA, the committee recommends the slogan: "Communication: Vital to Unite the Americas."

2nd Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the presentation in the agenda of the next 20th REDELA:

3.1. What are we doing to position Alcoholics Anonymous...

a) ...before the public?

b) ...before government institutions?

3.2. Do we have sufficient servers for the action committees...

a) ...in the area committee?

b) ...in the districts?

3.3. Is it necessary to put these principles into practice in all our affairs?

3.4. What is being done with respect to the right of participation?

3.5. Women in the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous

3.6. Communication with the courts

3.7. The fundamental responsibility in the groups

3.8. How are we receiving the newcomers in our groups?

3rd Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the round tables to be included in the 20th REDELA:

Round table one: «How to use the Internet to communicate effectively»

Round table two: «Licenses and intellectual property»

Round table three: «Unicity of language to communicate a good message...

a) ...in the group»

b) ...in society»

The election of the next chairman and alternate of the Agenda Committee of the 20th REDELA took place.

Carlos Ibarra, chairman (Ecuador)

Luis Jara, alterante (Chile)

§18th REDELA

1st Recommendation

The committee recommends that the country report and the themes of the agenda be sent to the Information Center of the REDELA no later than two months before the meeting and that the Center sends them to the delegates and the GSOs together with the preliminary material in a timely manner, in addition to uploading them on the Web page of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

The committee recommends that the recommendations of previous REDELAs be grouped by subjects in the confidential final report in order to facilitate their reading, study and follow up.

3rd Recommendation

Mexico is designated as the venue for the 19th REDELA, and Colombia as the alternate venue.

4th Recommendation

This committee recommends the following slogan for the 19th REDELA: «REDELA: Joining the Americas.»

5th Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the presentations to be included in the agenda of the 19th REDELA:

i. Non Trustee Directors

a) Profile of the non Trustee director

- b) How to prepare the non Trustee director for his service
- c) How to maintain the motivation of the non Trustee director
- 2. Loyalty to the principles
 - a) in the groups
 - b) in the General Service Conference
 - c) in the General Service Board
- 3. How to improve finances
 - a) of the structures of each country
 - b) of the REDELA

6th Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the round tables, to be included in the agenda of the 19th REDELA:

- 1. Unicity of purpose of the AA program before groups that use our name
 - a) in the groups (Round table one)
 - b) before society (Round table two)
- 2. Inventory of the REDELA:
 - a) committees of the REDELA (Both round tables)
 - b) organizing committee (Both round tables)
 - c) support materials (Both round tables)

§17th REDELA

1st Recommendation

This committee recommends the following slogan for the 18th REDELA: «Carrying the message is the responsibility of everyone».

2nd Recommendation

Ecuador is designated as the venue for the 18th REDELA, and Colombia, as the alternate venue.

3rd Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the presentations and discussion, to be included in the agenda of the 18th REDELA:

- a) How to reach the countries where there are no AA groups or service structures
- b) Contribution Fund for international sponsorship
- c) How to promote the participation of women in the Third Legacy
- d) Contribution of the Internet for the effective communication in AA
- e) The contribution of the REDELA for country to country sponsorship

4th Recommendation

The committee recommends the following themes for the round tables, to be included in the agenda for the 18th REDELA:

Contributions and opportunities for the improvement of the REDELA

- a) to the service structures

- b) to achieve unity in our countries
- c) in the capacity to carry the message in our countries

§16th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the proposals for the themes be sent two months before the starting date of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

That the countries who wish to be a venue of the REDELA, send their request in writing, at least two months before said meeting.

3rd Recommendation

That the themes of the previous REDELAs be included in the confidential final report of the REDELA.

4th Recommendation

That the country reports and themes arrive well in advance and that they be re-sent via electronic mail to the addresses of the delegates and to their corresponding GSOs; they should also be uploaded to the Web page of the REDELA before said meeting.

5th Recommendation

Themes for the 17th REDELA:

1. Experiences (in country to country sponsorship) of sponsors (two participants)
2. Experiences (in country to country sponsorship) of sponsees (two participants)
3. Strategic plan for country to country sponsorship (two participants)
4. Regionalization — how to carry it out
5. Successful experiences of the agreement of the *Service Manual* to that of US/Canada in each one of our structures

Round tables:

1. Country to country sponsorship: origin, development, benefit

2. Is the REDELA fulfilling its objective of serving as a fundamental means of communication among all the countries, attending as well as non attending the meeting.
3. How can we convince the incipient structure of the Americas of the need of sponsorship in the Service Legacy?

§15th REDELA

1st Recommendation

Arequipa, Peru, was designated by majority vote to be the venue of the next event of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

Slogan of the 2009 REDELA: Communication, Fundamental Basis of a Good Service.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that the delegates of the different countries attending the next 16th REDELA in Arequipa, Peru, send their reports and presentations at least two months in advance.

4th Recommendation

Themes for the REDELA in 2009:

1. How to promote service:
 - a) Service in the group
 - b) Service in the Service Board
 - c) Service at a global level
2. Working with others
 - a) Effective work of WOC
 - b) Public information
 - c) Work in prison and hospital institutions
3. Using the means of communication
 - a) Television, radio, press
 - b) Web page (Internet)
 - c) Communication with professionals
4. Communication between sponsor and sponsee countries
 - a) Project of sponsorship
 - b) Scope of the responsibilities of the sponsoring country
 - c) Result of country to country sponsorship
5. Communication, fundamental basis in AA
 - a) At a group level.
 - b) At a national structure level
 - c) At the international service level
6. The leader in AA in effective communication
 - a) The sponsor as a leader.
 - b) Our example communicates
 - c) Qualities of a good leader

5th Recommendation

Round tables:

1. How to carry the message to countries that do not have a structure
2. What we can do so that countries that do not participate join the REDELA
3. How we can improve the REDELA

§14th REDELA

1st Recommendation

This committee recommends the following slogan for the 15th REDELA: Strengthening Unity in our Countries.

2nd Recommendation

That Brazil be the venue for the 15th REDELA.

3rd Recommendation

That Costa Rica be the alternate venue for the 15th REDELA.

4th Recommendation

That the countries of the REDELA send their reports and presentations at least two months in advance for their discussion and avoid only reading them.

5th Recommendation

That each structure elaborates a «Plan of Sponsorship» and that it be shared with the participating countries in the REDELA.

6th Recommendation

That the country designated as the information office of the REDELA revise and expand the issue of «Origin and Development of the REDELA» in the «Guide for the Organization of the REDELA.»

7th Recommendation

That the «Guide for the Organization of the REDELA» be amended in the point «Country Reports», which should read as follows:

Each country should send its report several months in advance so it can be included in the binder that is delivered to the delegates of the REDELA at the beginning of the meeting. Each country should use 20 minutes maximum to read the report and answer the questions from other countries. The questions should be in writing.

8th Recommendation

This committee recommends the following themes for the presentations and round tables for the agenda of the 15th REDELA:

Themes:

1. Tradition One

- a) Unity of the individual member
- b) Unity in the group
- c) Unity in the country

2. Unity through the AA literature

- a) International Literature Fund
- b) The integrity of the message
- c) Literature and sponsorship

3. Unity through service

- a) Service in AA: from a cup of coffee to world services
- b) Does a server in AA retire?
- c) What is the relation between the REDELA and the World Service Meeting?

4. Unity through working with others (WOC)

- a) Working with the members of the group
- b) Working with professionals
- c) Working with other countries

5. Unity through communication

- a) From individual to individual
- b) From group to group
- c) From country to country

6. Tradition Seven: The spirit of participation

- a) In the group
- b) In the structure
- c) In the REDELA

Round tables:

- 1. Literature, policy and licensing (copyright) in each country
- 2. How can we, the countries of the REDELA, participate in the International Literature Fund?, in the «Organization Guide of the REDELA»
- 3. How are we working with the WOC in our country?

§13th REDELA

1st Recommendation

Theme: Sponsorship: Gratitude in action from country to country

2nd Recommendation

It recommends that the Dominican Republic be the venue for the next REDELA.

3rd Recommendation

That Brazil be the alternate venue.

4th Recommendation

It recommends that the 14th REDELA be held on the second week-end of the month of October, 2005.

5th Recommendation

We recommend that the report be delivered in advance for the sharing discussion and avoid that they only be read.

6th Recommendation

That the structures elaborate a sponsorship plan and it be presented to the countries participating in the REDELA.

7th Recommendation

Themes for the 14th REDELA:

1. Leadership, a vital necessity.
 - a) Leadership in the group (GSR)
 - b) Leadership in the Conference (delegate)
 - c) Leadership in the General Service Board (trustee)
2. The spiritual value of generosity
 - a) Time
 - b) Money
 - c) Effort
3. The importance of recovery in the servers
 - a) The importance of sponsorship
 - b) Why the server needs to practice the Twelve Steps
 - c) How the Twelve Traditions help the recovery of the services
4. AA group sharing, how it works
 - a) The importance of the personal story
 - b) How the group sharing therapy is working in my country
 - c) Sharing or aggression
5. What is the obstacle for the countries in America for not attending the REDELA?
 - a) Economic problems?
 - b) Problems with unity?
 - c) Lack of leadership?
6. The AA service structure
 - a) How it works in my country
 - b) The need of having an efficient structure

To serve, not to govern

7. AA and the professional community

a) In the districts

b) In the areas

c) In the Board of trustees at large

8. Self-support

a) Individual responsibility

b) Plans for self-support

c) Why we do not accept contributions from outside

§12th REDELA

1st Recommendation

This committee recommends that the slogan of the 13th REDELA be «Our foundation, a spiritual awakening»

2nd Recommendation

It recommends that the themes for the 13th REDELA be the following:

1. The «Big Book», an occasional friend or a constant companion?

a) The «Big Book»: an invariable message

b) The «Big Book»: a gold mine for sponsors

c) The «Big Book»: a practical program of action that restores and transforms lives

2. The spiritual awakening: basis for service

a) Living with myself

b) Living with your Higher Power

c) Living with others

3. The spirit of the Traditions ensures our future

a) Our primary purpose

b) Economic or spiritual crisis?

c) Problems other than alcohol

4. The spirituality of the Twelve Concepts for world service

a) What they are and what they are for

b) How they can be applied in the group

c) What is the spiritual part?

5. Spiritual leadership: a challenge in the 21st century

a) Solution to leadership in crisis

b) Leadership in the light of Tradition Two

c) Leadership in the light of Step Twelve

6. Carry the AA message through the electronic media

a) The use of websites for public information

b) The use of websites as an instrument for service

c) Creation of a website according to the Traditions in AA

7. Is AA still attractive in this changing world?

a) How are we attracting young people?

b) How are we attracting the professional community?

c) What is being done in the group so that the AA message continues being simple and attractive?

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that the 13th REDELA be held in Venezuela.

4th Recommendation

It recommends that the 13th REDELA be held on the second week-end of October, 2003.

5th Recommendation

It recommends that a guide be elaborated for the operation to carry out the REDELA. That Colombia presents the project of the corresponding guide at the 13th REDELA.

6th Recommendation

It recommends that the countries, members of the REDELA, promote the participation of more countries to this event of the Americas.

7th Recommendation

It recommends that the site for the historical archive of the REDELA be the structure of Mexico, that will be in charge of its exhibition and custody.

§11th REDELA

1st Recommendation

This committee recommends that the next REDELA be held in Colombia.

2nd Recommendation

This committee recommends the slogan for the 12th REDELA to be: Unity: our path to survive.

3rd Recommendation

This committee recommends that the 12th REDELA be held on the second week-end of October, 2001.

4th Recommendation

This committee recommends that the organizing committee specifies and clarifies in advance to the first-term delegates regarding their report on the operation of Alcoholics Anonymous in their respective countries. (5 minutes)

5th Recommendation

This committee suggests that the following subjects be addressed as the theme of the presentations:

1. Working with others
 - a) How to improve our relations with the media, using the advice of the press
 - b) The AA message in prisons
 - c) How to carry the message to the homeless
2. Recovery: the basis for good service
 - a) Without recovery there is no service
 - b) The Three Legacies are the basis of recovery
 - c) Recovery: fundamental basis for the growth of AA
3. Gratitude: fundamental basis for the Third Legacy
 - a) Gratitude with responsibility
 - b) Live gratitude through the Step Twelve
 - c) The language of the heart expresses gratitude
4. The doors of AA are open to the young people
 - a) Better relation of AA with young people
 - b) Youth and problems other than alcohol
5. Unity: the pillar of recovery and service
 - a) The spiritual contents of unity
 - b) With unity, a better service is carried out
 - c) Anonymity: path to unity
6. Self-support: fundamental basis of the growth of AA
 - a) The challenge of Tradition Seven
 - b) Why we should practice Tradition Seven
 - c) Self-support is your responsibility
7. Globalization and spirituality
 - a) Our primary purpose as citizens of the world
 - b) Globalization of AA from its beginning
 - c) Globalization is a world in AA

§10th REDELA

1st Recommendation

We recommend that the slogan of the next REDELA be: "AA beyond the future," and that it be a theme for a special presentation.

2nd Recommendation

We recommend that three round table meetings take place where the following themes are to be addressed:

1. Service: permanent gratitude

- a) Communication, an important element among servers
 - b) Sponsorship in service
 - c) Spiritual strengthening through service
2. Leadership: our constant concern
- a) In the group
 - b) In the area
 - c) In the general structure
3. Class A trustees
- a) Profile of a Class A trustee
 - b) How to integrate them into service
 - c) How to maintain the spirit of service in present and former Class A trustees

3rd Recommendation

We recommend the following for meetings in full:

1. Return to the basics (the Three Legacies)
2. Dissident groups
3. Growing numbers of new members with problems other than alcohol
4. How do you serve newcomers in your country?
5. AA in the Internet
6. Anonymity: the spiritual base of our principles
7. How to attract more women to AA
8. What results have we obtained from the REDELAs?

4th Recommendation

Ratify as a Recommendation that the final reports of the 10th and future REDELAs be sent to all the countries of the Americas that participate or not, and to the World Service Meetings and European and Asia-Oceania Meetings.

§9th Ibero-American Meeting

1st Recommendation

That the name of RIA be changed to REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

That the slogan of the 10th REDELA be: "In search of a new destiny."

3rd Recommendation

The Agenda Committee suggests to the organizing committee of future REDELAs to have constant contact with the countries of the Americas through different means of communication to inform, communicate, develop and carry out the multiple needs of the organization.

4th Recommendation

We recommend that all the presentations made in this RIA and future REDELAs be published in bulletins and final reports so all our communities are duly informed.

§8th Ibero-American Meeting

1st Recommendation

Optimize the time that each event has, so as to take full and total advantage of them.

2nd Recommendation

Suggest the prompt dispatch of the themes for each participant, so the organizing country can compile the binder in a timely manner, no later than thirty days before the date of the inauguration.

3rd Recommendation

When the inscription fee is paid, deliver the binder so that the delegates can study the contents of the presentations.

4th Recommendation

We suggest that the organizing committee of the host country send the correspondence through three ways: (1) to GSO, (2) to the second-term world delegate, and (3) to the first-term world delegate.

5th Recommendation

That the final report of each Ibero-American Meeting includes a appendix, in addition to the personal address of each participant, and of the GSOs of each country.

8.2. Policy, Admissions and Finances

§19th REDELA

1st Recommendation

Inform the entire community (members, groups, areas and all the levels of service) of the existence of the International Literature Fund, what is its purpose and motivate everyone to contribute through structure.

2nd Recommendation

The inscription fee of 800 USD for the 20th REDELA is approved.

3rd Recommendation

That the information center of the REDELA send the final report of each REDELA to all the structures of the Americas, by electronic mail and post, in order to motivate the participation of the countries that were not present.

4th Recommendation

Costa Rica will be the venue of the next 20th REDELA, and Colombia will the alternate venue.

5th Suggestion

As of this 19th REDELA, and from now on, in all the REDELAs, if there is any surplus, it will be divided: 50% to the future venue and the other 50% to ILF, which will be sent, in principle, to the central office of the REDELA.

Motion to Remember

Re-establish the email addresses of the delegates of the REDELA, also including the countries that did not participate, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences

The election of the next chairman and alternate of the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee for the following 20th REDELA took place:

Hernando de J. Salcedo, Chairman (Colombia)

Cirilo Vasquez Vargas, alternate (Peru)

§18th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the operation of the REDELA is adjusted to the design of the WSM, and that it be implemented as of the 19th REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

The inscription fee of 800 USD per delegate is recommended.

3rd Recommendation

The composition of the committees of the REDELA, according to the WSM, is approved.

§17th REDELA

1st Recommendation

The minimum amount of the inscription fee of 600 USD per delegate is recommended.

2nd Recommendation

It is recommended to motivate the countries that have a service structure or a GSO to attend the REDELA and, in the cases of the countries that do not have them and wish to attend, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring country to request the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee to include them in the REDELA in advance.

3rd Recommendation

Mexico is ratified as the Central Information Office of the REDELA.

4th Recommendation

That a mechanism is established to give guidance to the development of the foreseen agenda of the REDELA.

5th Recommendation

That the composition of the committees of the REDELA be structured in the following three sections:

- a) Composition
- b) Objective, and
- c) Procedure

and they be presented for their analysis, discussion and approval by all the committees in the 18th REDELA.

§16th REDELA

1st Recommendation

Mexico is ratified as the seat of the Central Information Office of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

That Mexico be in charge of elaborating a Web site for the REDELA, with an approximate cost of 200 USD plus tax, which is to be distributed equally among the countries members of the REDELA.

3rd Recommendation

That the structures that have a country sponsorship plan send it to the Central Information Office of the REDELA, in an immediate period of one year.

4th Recommendation

That the sponsor and sponsee countries elaborate an annual work plan, duly approved by their corresponding General Service Boards or Conferences, respecting the autonomy of each country.

5th Recommendation

The committee issues no opinion with respect to the proposal of Colombia, concerning the events of an international nature that rotate from country to country, respectful of the autonomy of each country.

6th Recommendation

It recommends a minimum inscription fee of 600 USD per delegate.

7th Recommendation

It urges the countries that are financially capable to make larger contributions, in the measure of their possibilities, in order to facilitate the attendance of countries with less resources.

§15th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends a minimum inscription fee of 600USD, American currency, per delegate.

2nd Recommendation

It urges the countries that are financially capable, to contribute larger amounts in the measure if their possibilities.

3rd Recommendation

All the available information for the next REDELA, including the approved recommendations from previous meetings, should be sent to all the member countries two months in advance, including, if possible, the name of the committee in which the delegate(s) will participate.

4th Recommendation

The financial report of the REDELA should be incorporated in the final report.

5th Recommendation

That the information office of the REDELA compiles all the recommendations in force, by committees.

§14th REDELA

1. Recommendations of the 13th REDELA

a) That there be permanent liaison by electronic mail. We observed that it exists in some countries, but it is not permanent.

We recommend: that this liaison be permanent in our structures. Only Mexico and Costa Rica have it.

We recommend: That it is created in all the countries and that it be coordinated by the trustee, delegate to the REDELA and the World Service Meeting.

1st Recommendation

The REDELA will suggest their member countries to comply with the requirements for the delegates, as follows:

That he/she be a first term trustee and that he/she be appointed to attend two REDELAS, according to the rotation principle in order to ensure the continuity of the service and take advantage of the accumulated experience.

2nd Recommendation

That Mexico be appointed as site of the information office of the REDELA (2005-2009.) That this office compile all the historical information and the agreements of the REDELA.

3rd Recommendation

REDELA will recommend its member countries to adjust their service manuals in order to unify criteria with respect to the requirements of the delegate to the REDELA and the World Service Meeting.

4th Recommendation

REDELA declares that the REDELA and the World Service Meeting are directly related activities; therefore, representation to both service forums should not be separated.

5th Recommendation

Each delegate should send to the information office the information of the REDELA relating to his/her country as soon as it is produced.

6th Recommendation

Every delegate should promote in his/her country the due fulfillment of the recommendations of the REDELA in the best possible way.

7th Recommendation

REDELA recommends its member countries to make the corresponding information flow in a responsible manner, both from the delegate as well as the General Service Board and their service structures.

8th Recommendation

It recommends to maintain the inscription fee per delegate at 600 USD, American currency.

§13th REDELA

1st Recommendation

In order to be more effective in service, it recommends that all the countries of the REDELA liaise permanently through the system of electronic mail.

2nd Recommendation

It suggests the formation of a committee of International Affairs in each country of the REDELA, in order to strengthen international unity.

3rd Recommendation

That the country organizing the REDELA includes a secretary to take the corresponding minutes at all the meetings and to support the operation of the REDELA.

Rejected

4th Recommendation

As a principle of solidarity, it recommends that, if the sponsoring country does not have sufficient financial funds, it can resort to other countries to fulfill this spiritual service. The collection of funds in his/her country should be exhausted first.

5th Recommendation

It recommends that self-support should be motivated in the sponsored country.

§12th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends Ecuador as a new member of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

It recommends Colombia for the organization of the information office of the REDELA, for an experimental period of time, from 2001 to 2005.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends the (inscription) fee to continue being 600 USD.

4th Recommendation

That the countries with a greater economic and experimental capacity, pay according to their possibilities, either the total or part of the expenses of the countries with less economic resources so that they can send at least one delegate to the REDELA.

5th Recommendation

That the reports, bulletins and all kinds of information on the REDELA be sent, not only to the structures of all the countries in America, but also to all the attending delegates and the observers, to the home addresses of each one of them.

6th Recommendation

It suggests that each delegate to the REDELA of all the structures of the Americas could attend two consecutive meetings of this event, in order to take advantage of the experience acquired and comply with the first and second term delegates in said meetings.

§11th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends that all the information or reports of the Meetings of the Americas be sent to all the participating and non participating countries of the Americas.

2nd Recommendation

That the Dominican Republic be ratified as a participating country to the Meeting of the Americas.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that Mexico, as Information Center for the REDELA, compiles, in the form of a pamphlet, all the recommendations taken previously and sends them to the member countries, as soon as possible.

4th Recommendation

We recommend that, in addition to the payment for the right of participation of the delegates, a voluntary economic contribution be paid so that other countries can attend the event.

5th Recommendation

It recommends that the country hosting the event informs the Expense Budget Project to all the member countries, at least one year before the event and the possible variations regarding it every three months.

6th Recommendation

It recommends that the participation fee of the delegates for the 12th REDELA be of 600 USD and that it be sent at least six months before the event.

7th Recommendation

It recommends that the work committees be integrated by first and second term delegates.

§10th REDELA

1st Recommendation

The committee ratified the decision of the 9th Ibero American Meeting regarding the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales de AA as responsible for the services and information of the REDELA.

2nd Recommendation

The committee approved the admission of Cuba as a new member.

3rd Recommendation

The committee ratifies point three of the 9th RIA (now REDELA), stressing that the contributions of the countries are voluntary. We considered that the previous meetings were financially deficient and suggests a future action in order to achieve a better economic balance.

4th Recommendation

It agrees that the inscription fee for the 11th REDELA be of 600 USD per delegate.

5th Recommendation

The Republic of El Salvador was chosen as venue, and the Republic of Colombia as alternate. The committee considers the ideal date for the next REDELA to be the first half of October, 1999.

§9th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

It agrees that it is necessary to have an information office for the members of RIA, as a very important instrument for communication and development of the regional meeting. It agrees to propose the GSO of the Central Mexicana de Servicios Generales to take charge of these services.

2nd Recommendation

It agrees to establish a special financial fund, through the voluntary contributions of the structures of the countries, in order to promote and ensure the good operation and growth of this regional meeting.

3rd Recommendation

It agrees that the regional meeting, from now on and as a service group, should seek financial self-support. Therefore, in each event, as of the present one, the income and expenditure balance sheets should be elaborated for the due knowledge of the delegates and all the service structures of the different countries. It agrees to set the amount at 600 USD American currency.

4th Recommendation

It agrees to intensify communication among countries, exchanging directories and addresses of the GSOs of the region. Entrust the work to the delegates before the GSOs of their respective countries to obtain the periodic delivery of relevant communication for the services, between one event and the next, especially the change of addresses and telephone numbers, informing GSO of New York in order to update the world directory permanently. It considers that these measures are very necessary to overcome the existing obstacles of communication of the structures of the countries in America.

5th Recommendation

It ratifies the same requirements requested for the world delegates. It recommends that the delegates be elected by their community, that they have knowledge of the services and the necessary time to pass on the experiences and suggestions in their countries which are received in the Ibero American Meeting.

§8th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

Establish close unity through the communication among the Ibero American countries and share the development of AA in each one of them.

2nd Recommendation

Support the strengthening of the structures (their own and the ones they sponsor.)

3rd Recommendation

Establish one single fee for all the delegates, where everything pertaining to the expenses of the delegate is included.

4th Recommendation

Quartely communications with the world delegates and the GSOs of the participating countries in the Ibero American Meeting, under the responsibility of the GSO of the country hosting the event.

5th Recommendation

The continuity of this exchange is agreed (Conference reports, bulletins, magazines, literature) in each Ibero American Meeting.

6th Recommendation

It agrees to continue inviting the Conferences of these countries of (nearby countries.)

7th Recommendation

It agrees that the Policy, Finance and Admissions Committee should inform the others in order to make decisions, through the hosting country.

8.3. Literature and Publications

§19th REDELA

No recommendations were issued.

§18th REDELA

That the information Center of the REDELA edit and publish an informative bulletin on issues related to the REDELA, the World Service Meeting and the reports of the member countries of the REDELA every six months, beginning in the month of April, 2014, and that it be sent to the structures and delegates in the most expedite manner.

2nd Recommendation

The committee recommended the following modifications to the Web site of the REDELA:

- a) The title of the Web page of the REDELA says, "Consult the history of the REDELA, the bulletins and the next international events." It should be modified to say, "Consult the history of the REDELA, the bulletins of the REDELA and the member countries, and the next international events."
- b) In the title, "Delegates to the REDELA", at the end, it says, "Whoever has been a delegate previously, should not be elected." It should be modified to; "Whoever was a delegate previously, should not be reelected."
- c) Under the title "Patronage to countries", eliminate the word "fee" and substitute it by "contribution."
- d) Under the title "Functions of the committees, Literature and Publications," it says, "The permanent site of the REDELA (Information Center), should issue an informative bulleting every three months and it should be sent to the different countries." This was already revoked by the 2nd Recommendation of the 15th REDELA, which says, "That the informative bulletin of the REDELA be edited and published every six months and that it be sent immediately to all the structures."

3rd Recommendation

For the following 19th REDELA, each member country of the REDELA should contribute two books "Alcoholics Anonymous", one to present in an exhibit of the

different editions of the Big Book of AA of the member countries of the REDELA and another for the host country of the event.

4th Recommendation

That the material in the binder of the REDELA be translated into the language of each participant.

5th Recommendation

That the Web site (page) be bilingual.

§17th REDELA

No recommendations were issued.

§16th REDELA

1st Recommendation

The 1st Recommendation of the 12th REDELA (2001) be changed to the following text:

That the Central Information Office of the REDELA send the report, bulletins and all kinds of information regarding the REDELA to the structures of all the countries in America, to the delegates attending and to their corresponding home addresses.

§15th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends the adjustment of the AA structures to the *Service Manual* of US/Canada.

2nd Recommendation

That the 3rd Recommendation of the 14th REDELA be changed to the following text:

That the informative bulletin of the REDELA be edited and published every six months and that it be sent immediately to all the structures.

3rd Recommendation

Change the 4th Recommendation of the 14th REDELA to the following text:

That each edition of the informative bulletin of the REDELA publish the updated directory of the delegates and the General Service Offices of the member countries.

§14th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the countries that have a literature catalogue share it with the structures that form the REDELA and that every new title is immediately sent by Internet.

2nd Recommendation

That the sale of literature be done exclusively from structure to structure; therefore, the origin of the order should be verified.

3rd Recommendation

That the informative bulletin of the REDELA be published every four months and sent immediately to all the structures of America.

4th Recommendation

That a new directory be published with the addresses of the General Service Offices of the countries of the REDELA and that the addresses of the delegates be updated every two years.

§13th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the new titles of publications related to the literature be shared at the structure level through catalogues.

2nd Recommendation

That the sale of literature be carried out only from structure to structure.

3rd Recommendation

That literature approved exclusively by AA be sold in all the events.

4th Recommendation

That the informative bulletin of the REDELA continue being published every three months.

§12th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends that the informative bulletin of the REDELA be published every three months, through the information office of the REDELA, and that it is distributed free of charge to all the member countries.

2nd Recommendation

Reaffirming the 15th World Service Meeting, it recommends that we should continue protecting our copyright, licenses for publication granted to each one of the structures.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that there be an exchange among our offices of America of publications, such as magazines and bulletins, in the number considered necessary.

§11th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That an informative bulletin of the REDELA be published every three months through the information office of the REDELA, located in Mexico City, beginning the first publication in the month of January, 2000, continuing in the months of April, July and October of each year, respectively, and distributed free of charge to all the countries in the American continent.

2nd Recommendation

Reaffirming the 15th World Service Meeting, we should continue protecting our copyright and the licenses for publication granted to each one of our structures.

3rd Recommendation

We consider the topic regarding the prices of literature and that they be discussed in the following REDELA, where each structure can provide the catalogues of what they offer.

§10th REDELA

1st Recommendation

The exchange of bulletins or magazines among countries is ratified.

2nd Recommendation

Send an acknowledgement of receipt to confirm that the material from another county was received and maintain communication.

§9th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

To ensure that our literature is in our own hands, each country should safeguard the assigned copyright to avoid its misuse.

2nd Recommendation

To be remembered, no photocopies of our literature.

3rd Recommendation

That each country try to have its own editions, as well as tapes, cassettes, adjusted to its needs.

4th Recommendation

That an exchange of bulletins or magazines among countries takes place.

§8th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

Review and share translations to ensure the preservation of the AA spirit in the original texts.

2nd Recommendation

Constant communication in the field of literature among Latin countries and GSO in New York.

3rd Recommendation

Request permission from AA World Services to make re-prints.

4th Recommendation

Request authorization to translate literature approved by the Conference of US/Canada.

8.4. Working with Others

§19th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the support materials be sent to all the countries through the secretariat of the REDELA in an approximate time of three months and that they be uploaded to the Web page, and comply with the recommendations.

The committee issues the following motion to remember:

For the fulfillment of the recommendation of the 18th REDELA which reads:

“That a compilation of the materials of the CWO be made through the Central Information Office of the REDELA, according to what is established in previous recommendations, and that the members of the committee be informed as soon as possible.”

Adding that Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, United States/Canada and Venezuela will send their materials to the Central Information Office and that they be sent as soon as possible to the countries that integrate the REDELA. The chairman of CWO will be in charge of following this up.

The election of the chairman of the Committee Working with Others for the 20th REDELA took place:

Scott Huyghebaer chairman (Canada)

Miquey Carrera, alternate (Mexico)

§18th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That a compilation of the materials of the CWO be made through the Central Information Office of the REDELA, according to what is established in previous recommendations, and that the members of the committee be informed as soon as possible.

§17th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the structures of all the member countries be motivated to exchange support material of the CWO, through the Central Information Office of the REDELA.

§16th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That all the countries of the REDELA assume the responsibility of sharing their experiences of the CWO.

2nd Recommendation

That the structures participating in the REDELA carry out workshops, forums and other ways of sharing, in order to train the members of the CWO.

3rd Recommendation

That the countries of the REDELA send to the Central Information Office, preferably in digital format, their work guides, manuals, pamphlets, workbooks and other documents relating to the CWO, so that they can be uploaded to the Web site, in process of elaboration.

§15th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That all the countries of the REDELA act, sharing their experiences of the CWO.

2nd Recommendation

That the structures participating in the REDELA carry out workshops, forums and seminars in order to train the members of the CWO.

3rd Recommendation

That all the countries of the REDELA share their guides for acting, manuals, pamphlets, workbooks and other documents related to the CWO with the others, and that they immediately inform the information office.

4th Recommendation

That the structures having a sponsorship plan, share it with the countries participating in the REDELA.

5th Recommendation

That the countries that use the Internet in their CWO, share their experiences with those participating in the REDELA.

6th Recommendation

That Final Report of each REDELA update the list of the electronic addresses of the General Service Offices y of the delegates attending the REDELA.

§14th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the 13th REDELA be resumed, which says: It recommends that all the countries of the REDELA share their experiences of the CWO immediately after the conclusion of the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

2nd Recommendation

That the 2nd Recommendation of the 13th REDELA be eliminated: That the recommendations of the past REDELA be fulfilled.

3rd Recommendation

That what the following be resumed: It recommends the structures of the REDELA to carry out workshops, forums and seminars, in order to train the members of the CWO, and share the experiences and support material with the others. .

4th Recommendation

It recommends the information office of the REDELA to compile all the recommendations in force, by committees.

5th Recommendation

It recommends all the countries of the REDELA to share their guides for action, manuals, pamphlets and other documents relating to the CWO with others, and immediately inform the information office.

§13th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends that all the countries of the REDELA to share their experiences of the CWO immediately after the conclusion of their Board meetings.

2nd Recommendation

That the recommendations of the past REDELA be fulfilled.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends the structures of the REDELA to carry out workshops, forums and seminars in order to train the members of the CWO and share the experiences and support material with others.

§12th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends sponsoring the Class A Trustees so they help us to pass the message through television, and that they have more participation in the media.

2nd Recommendation

It recommends more time for the committees in the following REDELA.

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that all the structures of the countries in the American continent to intensify working with others through the CWO, as an effective tool to fulfill the primary objective of AA: to carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering.

§11th REDELA

1st Recommendation

It recommends that, when working with the media, the professional press advice is used to improve our contact with the media for a more effective message.

2nd Recommendation

It recommends the countries to form the CCPC, according to their needs, for a closer relation with professionals.

3rd Recommendation

We recommend the countries to seek solutions to resolve structural problems in relation to the motivation and absence of servers, and complement an action plan at a national level, using audiovisual material and any other kind of information for the training.

4th Recommendation

It recommends that each country elaborate an action plan to carry the AA message to the elderly persons that suffer alcoholism, according to their needs.

§10th REDELA

1st Recommendation

That the activities of the Committee Working with Others comply with the principles and the corresponding manuals (PI, CPC and Institutions.)

2nd Recommendation

That, whenever possible, use is made of essays (dramatizations and simulacrum) for a better understanding of the responsibilities of the Committee Working with Others.

3rd Recommendation

Seek to address the requests for help efficiently, through every possible means.

4th Recommendation

That, whenever possible, the Committee Working with Others in the structures of each country transmits efficiently a uniform message through the media, according to the corresponding manuals.

§9th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

It recommends that the information office of the REDELA, with its seat in Mexico, deliver a compilation of the history and all the recommendations of past RIAs, a means already used by the WSM.

2nd Recommendation

That in all meeting, the following is carried out:

- a) Exchange of experiences on WO (CWO.)
 - b) Public information.
 - c) Cooperation with the professional community.
- Work in treatment centers.
Work in correctional institutions.

§8th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

This commission recommends the execution of the work of public information, cooperation with the professional community and institutions, following the guidelines established in the manuals and operative guides, adjusting their contents.

2nd Recommendation

This commission recommends the training of servers, through an adequate patronage, establishing an efficient training system that contemplates simulacrum of performance to ensure the correct compliance of service, through the servers.

3rd Recommendation

This commission suggests the convenience that our friends, the Class A Trustees, be the main spokesmen in the work of making us known in the media. In addition, complement the form of an adequate implementation for the use of audiovisual projections.

Every opening should always take into account the concept of cooperation without affiliation, attraction without promotion and the conservation of anonymity.

4th Recommendation

This commission recommends the implementation of special meetings for the members of the press, radio and television, the professionals and authorities in general, in order to inform what AA does and what it does not do.

5th Recommendation

Based on the experiences of the correctional committees, this commission considers that it is more convenient for women to visit female prisons and men to attend male prisons. In the case of a mixed participation, it suggests applying the slogan: Respect me as a woman and understand me as an alcoholic.

6th Recommendation

This commission suggests advancing the participation of properly trained new servers in the hospital committees in order to carry out Twelfth Step work.

7th Recommendation

This commission reminds those countries that have not yet been informed that there is literature in Spanish available in Braille (for the blind), as well as audiovisuals for the illiterate. It also suggests the use of interpreters in order to reach indigenous sectors where the message has not been received.

9. General Recommendations

§7th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

After reading and discussing the country reports, the 7th Ibero American Meeting agrees, of course, with the need of strengthening our service structures. In addition, it ratifies the importance of stimulating personal vocations through the patronage in service, of which we are all responsible.

2nd Recommendation

The 7th Ibero American Meeting suggests the adoption of the action plan of public information presented by Mexico, with the aim of sharing experiences and the magnificent results obtained by that country. It also appreciates its generous offer for the graphic material exhibited in this meeting and the video to be used by the structured service offices in the public information work.

3rd Recommendation

After having seen the proposal presented by the assistant of the GSO in New York, the 7th Ibero American Meeting suggests that the translation into Spanish of the Conference approved literature should be the responsibility of the Latin American GSO of New York and the CIATAL. It is understood that this office will carry out the translations and that CIATAL will be their custodian.

4th Recommendation

The 7th Ibero American Meeting suggests that each country should establish the Day of Patronage, sponsorship and sponsoring.

5th Recommendation

The 7th Ibero American Meeting approves the preliminary version of the translation made by the General Service Office of the Republic of Argentina, corresponding to the work "Ibero American Service Meetings and the European Service Meetings."

It also requests the analysis of the possibility of this work to be included in the literature of the World Service Meeting.

6th Recommendation

The 7th Ibero American Meeting suggests that each country deliver two packages of published literature to the Ibero American Service Meeting; then organize an exhibit with one for the delegates and another to be exhibited by the GSO of the host country

The 7th Ibero American Meeting suggests that the 8th Ibero American Meeting include the following subjects in the agenda:

- a) Current panorama of AA in the different countries
- b) AA work in prisons
- c) Anonymity
- d) Public relations of AA
- e) The Ibero American Service Meetings

7th Recommendation

The 7th Ibero American Meeting decides that Brazil be the venue of the 8th Ibero American Service Meeting and Uruguay be the alternate venue. Its slogan will be "Serving in unity, we grow."

§6th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

It suggests that the servers at any level of the structure have the adequate knowledge of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the *Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service*, for the best achievement of their responsibility.

2nd Recommendation

Propose the agreements of the Ibero American Meetings to the conferences or assemblies through the corresponding committees in order to grow in recommendations.

3rd Recommendation

It agrees that it is not adequate to hold public information meetings in spaces open to the public.

4th Recommendation

It considers adequate that the permanent committees of the General Service Boards hold joint meetings with the similar committees of the areas.

5th Recommendation

It recommends that, in the month of May of every year, the Ibero American countries implement the activities that they consider necessary to carry the message to women.

6th Recommendation

It considers it necessary to increase the relation with public authorities who are in charge of institutions, and carry the message in them in the following way:

- a) More than four people should not enter.
- b) It is not convenient for fellow members to enter if they suffer nausea with the smell of medicines or when they see blood.
- c) Do not introduce food.
- d) Refrain from smoking.
- e) Do not sit on the bed.
- f) Do not read the clinical file of the patient.
- g) Do not speak to the patient when the doctor is giving consultation.

7th Recommendation

Sponsor the members who leave the hospitals and prisons in order to lead them to the outside groups.

8th Recommendation

Abide by the guides indicated in the pamphlet of institutions, and establish procedures to carry the message in these centers.

9th Recommendation

It approves continuing with the process of translations and adaptations of the AA literature that the CIATAL has been carrying out.

10th Recommendation

It agrees that it is important to establish actions that tend to foster a good image of AA in the community, identifying what AA is, what its objectives are, as well as its principles.

11th Recommendation

It considers that it is necessary to have round tables with all the massive media, as well as with institutions interested in the problem of alcoholism.

12th Recommendation

It considers that it is more beneficial to use the short spaces in the media (radio and television) which are granted to AA.

13th Recommendation

It is considered adequate for the service centers to administrate prudently the material resources by means of a financial policy with a projection towards the future.

14th Recommendation

It suggests establishing adequate actions in order to interest the community in the activities of the world and Ibero American delegates, with the aim of having more support and structural collaboration of these activities.

15th Recommendation

With respect to sponsorship, Colombia agreed to sponsor Peru, Ecuador and Panama; Uruguay to sponsor Paraguay; Argentina to sponsor Bolivia and Chile.

16th Recommendation

It suggests the creation of International Relations Committees in the borders of neighboring countries.

17th Recommendation

The venue for the 7th Ibero American Meeting will be Argentina, and Guatemala as the alternate venue.

18th Recommendation

The slogan for the following meeting: "Uniting AA in Ibero America every day."

§5th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

That the agreements resulting from the Ibero American Encounters be submitted to the consideration of the respective conferences (national assemblies), through the internal procedures of each structure.

2nd Recommendation

It agrees that the name of the Ibero American Encounters be changed to "Ibero American General Service Meetings of AA."

3rd Recommendation

That the delegate to the Ibero American Meetings attend two Ibero American Meetings.

4th Recommendation

That each country have the right to participate with only one delegate to the Ibero American Meeting of AA. The cost of the inscription fee will be of 500 USD, and

the countries that do not have a structure can participate with one delegate, paying 50% of the value of the inscription fee.

5th Recommendation

That each participating country send an organization chart of its structure to the organizing committees of the 5th and 6th Ibero American Meetings, no later than 90 days, in order to distribute it among each one of the participating countries.

6th Recommendation

It ratifies Mexico as the venue for the 6th Ibero American Meeting of AA in 1989, and Honduras the alternate venue.

7th Recommendation

The CIATAL requests the 5th Ibero American Encounter to maintain the process in force that is being followed for the translation and adaptation of the literature, according to what was recommended in the 4th Encounter.

8th Recommendation

The slogan for the following Encounter will be: "Alcoholics Anonymous in Ibero America carrying the message."

9th Recommendation

The Ibero American Meeting suggests the structures of each country to apply the "One for One Plan."

10th Recommendation

It agrees to sponsor the countries that do not have a structure in the following manner:

Colombia: Peru, Ecuador, Panama and Chile.

Mexico: Spain and Cuba.

Brazil: Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Uruguay: Paraguay.

Argentina: Bolivia.

El Salvador: Costa Rica.

Honduras: Nicaragua.

11th Recommendation

It agrees that the duration of the Meeting be of four working days.

§4th Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

In view of the language differences, Argentina proposes that Brazil sponsor Portugal, coordinating with Spain to provide all the support to Portugal.

2nd Recommendation

Mexico proposes that all the AA communities of the Ibero American countries be invited, whether they have an established structure or not, to the conventions that Argentina and Brazil hold every two years, alternating the countries. It also suggests that themes of service structure be included.

3rd Recommendation

It proposes that, to strengthen the bonds of unity among the sponsoring and sponsee countries, the reports of this encounter be sent to the sponsoring countries, and that these, in turn, send them to the countries they are sponsoring, as follows:

United States: Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Peru and the Spanish-speaking groups in the United States.

Argentina: Paraguay, Bolivia and Chile.

Mexico: Spain.

Brazil: Portugal and Colombia.

El Salvador: Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

4th Recommendation

It also recommends that the following theme be included in the agenda of the 5th Ibero American Encounter: "The analysis of results obtained from sponsorship and communication among Ibero American countries."

5th Recommendation

El Salvador proposes that the presentation made by Mexico is published in all the bulletins of the Spanish-speaking structures. Proposition that was seconded by all the participants, and unanimously approved.

6th Recommendation

Mexico proposes that, in the 5th Ibero American Encounter, a theme is included which allows others to share the ways of working in their respective structures, sending their presentations in advance to the hosting country.

7th Recommendation

With respect to the confirmation of the host country for the 5th Ibero American Encounter, Mexico presents the request to be host of the 5th Encounter., It was informed that, since the 3rd Encounter, the procedure to designate the host country of the encounter is being followed. In this case, it corresponds to El Salvador to be host of the 5th Encounter to be held in 1987, and proposing Mexico

as an alternate, in which case, it will correspond this country to host the 6th Encounter in 1989.

8th Recommendation

With respect to the slogan of the 5th Encounter, after analyzing the eight proposals presented, the following was selected: "The AAs of Ibero America united through the message."

9th Recommendation

After an ample discussion, it agrees that the apportion be invalidated and that each country pay the transportation of their delegates. In the case of Mexico, this time, the inscription fee will be included in the transportation. This system will be valid in the future, independent of the inscription fee of 500 USD per delegate.

10th Recommendation

Brazil presents the following text and requests that it be included in the final report: "Today, we have to congratulate ourselves because we have become self-supporting, when we decided that each country is responsible for its participation in the following Ibero American events, making the declaration of Toronto effective: 'I am are responsible'."

11th Recommendation

El Salvador proposes that the translation of the book, *Pass it on* (the biography of Bill W.) be made by the different service structures of Ibero America, according to the distribution proposed by GSO in New York, as follows:

Chapters 1-4: US/Canada

Chapters 5-8: Mexico

Chapters 9-10: Guatemala

Chapters 11-12: El Salvador

Chapters 13-14: Honduras

Chapters 15-16: Costa Rica

Chapters 17-20: Colombia

Chapters 21-22: Uruguay

Chapters 23-25: Argentina

Note: It suggests that, once the translations of each one of the chapters is finished individually, it be sent as soon as possible to the General Service Office in New York.

This list is subject to the approval of the corresponding sections of the absent countries.

12th Recommendation

That the Inter American Commission for Translations and Adaptations of the AA Literature (CIATAL, by its abbreviation in Spanish) meets once a year; therefore, it will request the coordination of world services to include a slot in the agenda of the World Service Meeting, allowing the presence of the world delegates of other countries as observers.

13th Recommendation

That the structure of US/Canada be permanently invited to participate with two delegates in the Ibero American Encounters, since their structure is formed by many Spanish-speaking groups. In addition, we propose that the other participating countries seek formulas to learn about the participation in advance in the host country.

14th Recommendation

Argentina proposes that we request AAWS, INC. that, if possible, personal experiences (stories) of each one of the service structures of Ibero America be included in the new version of the "Big Book" in Spanish, which is about to be published.

15th Recommendation

El Salvador proposes that, for the 5th Ibero American Encounter, there is the possibility of the different service structures to send a qualified representative for his services in literature to the CIATAL.

16th Recommendation

Argentina proposes that the work sent by Spain be included in the final report of this Encounter, expressing in this way the spiritual presence of this country in the Encounter is felt.

17th Recommendation

The United States present to the Encounter in full a text of a declaration. Argentina picks it up and presents it as a motion, so that it is included in the final report; this was seconded by Brazil. It is submitted to vote and is unanimously approved.

§3rd Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

That the work begins in order to try to unify the existing titles of books and pamphlets.

2nd Recommendation

Revise the Preamble of AA, noting that, every time it is used, the following must be written at the bottom: "Reprinted with permission of the AA Grapevine, Inc." according to what is specified on page 87 of the *1981-82 Service Manual*, under the section "Suggestions for publications and bulletins." (US edition)

3rd Recommendation

It recommends that the countries elaborate their own pamphlets and send them to the chair countries to make them known in other Ibero American countries.

4th Recommendation

That a copy of the final report of the 3rd Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA be sent to the secretariat of the 8th World Service Meeting, with the aim of making the creation and fulfillment known of the 3rd Recommendation of the Literature and Publications Committee of the 7th WSM.

5th Recommendation

It recommends that the chairman of the 3rd Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA send a copy of the final report of this event to all the Ibero American countries.

6th Recommendation

It recommends that the GSOs of the countries participating here consider the way to send the means of sharing such as literature, bulletins, AA magazines and reports of the Conferences to all the countries, in addition to extending invitations to the events they organize. The GSOs can use the services of traveling AAs that go to the sponsored countries, as a last resort.

7th Recommendation

It recommends the different GSOs of the Ibero American countries to collaborate with Mexico to attend the solitary and the international AAs in the Spanish-speaking RIS.

8th Recommendation

It recommends the different countries to share experiences among themselves on the ways to carry the message to indigenous and marginalized communities in order to motivate this work in all Ibero America.

9th Recommendation

The slogan for the 4th Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA will be: "For AA, there are no distances."

10th Recommendation

The agenda will include the following points:

- a) Ibero American Commission for Translations and Adaptations of AA Literature.
- b) Sponsorship among countries.
- c) The Twelfth Step: synthesis of the symbol of AA.
- d) Past, Present and future of AA.

11th Recommendation

With respect to finances, it recommends the publication of a book on the history of AA in the different countries of Latin America, whose profit will be destined to a fund for Ibero American Encounters. The chairman of the following Encounters will coordinate the work. The objective will be to make the encounter self-sustainable.

12th Recommendation

The fee for the next encounter will be 500 USD per delegate, including those from the chair country. With respect to the transportation of the delegates, it will be apportioned in such a way that the costs will be same for the delegates, including those of the chair country.

13th Recommendation

The venue for the 4th Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA will be Uruguay, and El Salvador with the alternate venue.

14th Recommendation

It recommends that the chairmen, members of the Ibero American Commission of Translations and Adaptations of Literature of AA, meet to evaluate the activities carried out, taking advantage of their attendance to the 7th World Service Meeting.

15th Recommendation

The Ibero American Commission of Translations and Adaptations of Literature of AA (in its first meeting) recommends that the following titles of the publications be adopted:

a) *AA llega a su mayoría de edad* (Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age), instead of «AA llega a su mayor edad».

b) *Como la ve Bill* — La manera de vivir en AA — (As Bill Sees It — The AA Way of Life), before, «El sendero de vida».

c) *Viviendo sobrio* (Living Sober), instead of «*Vivir en sobriedad*».

16th Recommendation

The 3rd Ibero American Encounter decides that the members send proposals to the chairman, in order to unify the text of the Preamble, the Steps, the Traditions, the Concepts and any other publications.

17th Recommendation

That only the presence of the delegates, the chairman and his/her assistants be allowed to enter the facilities where the work is being carried out of the future Ibero American Encounters (while they are being carried out).

18th Recommendation

That the delegates of the host country do not make any other simultaneous engagement that could impede their attendance to the work of the Encounters.

19th Recommendation

That only the delegates have the right to vote.

§2nd Ibero American Meeting

1st Recommendation

Maintain the Commission for the translation into Spanish in force, which is integrated by El Salvador, Mexico and Argentina, and inviting the rest of the structured countries to form part of it; they will have the authorization to edit literature. The Commission will be integrated by the representatives that each country designates within the next 60 days. The chairman of the 2nd Encounter will make the corresponding invitations to fulfill this suggestion.

2nd Recommendation

That, in all the countries with rapid growth of AA, the formation of OSGs be carried out slowly with the sponsorship of similar organism in Ibero America and with the collaboration and support of their communities, and they will try to consolidate the new structures in this stage of transition, with regional experience and strengthened with the spirit of AA as a whole, always maintaining the distinction between local and national services.

3rd Recommendation

That the countries organizing the Encounters reckon what is collected so that their supporters receive the information of the summons, their programs, agendas and list of subjects in advance. The suggestions that the guest countries send will enable the formation of themes and definite programs. In addition, as soon as the Encounters are concluded, it suggests that the organizers pass on the detailed experiences which were gathered so that those continuing and the countries, in agreement or not, can see the operation of the services.

4th Recommendation

As venue and alternate venue of the 3rd Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA the sister republics of Brazil and Uruguay are respectively designated.

5th Recommendation

It resolves to incorporate to the final report the work presented by Brazil, as an informative element and for the knowledge of the alcoholic community in Ibero America, titled: "AA: its Traditions in the evolving countries."

§1st Ibero American Meeting

Committee for the Planning of the Encounter

1st Recommendation

That one venue and one alternate venue be determined to avoid any difficulty.

2nd Recommendation

In case the venue assigned to carry out the Encounter cannot do so due to *force majeure*, it must inform the alternate venue and all the participating countries as soon as possible; the alternate venue automatically commits to assume the

position of the first country. In these circumstances, the country of the first venue will deliver the moneys already received to the alternate venue, or to the venue designated, as a last resort.

3rd Recommendation

The organizing country will consider minimizing the costs of the encounter for the participants to the maximum.

4th Recommendation

The value of the inscription should be fixed in US dollars. This value should be established as definite at the moment it is set and the distribution of the definite report of the previous Encounter is received.

5th Recommendation

The venue for the 2nd Ibero American Encounter of General Services of AA will be the Republic of Argentina, and the Republic of Brazil as an alternate venue.

6th Recommendation

The expenses relating to the preparation, edition and distribution of the final report must be included in the budget which will serve to determine the inscription fee. The host country will be responsible for its drafting.

7th Recommendation

The final report of the 1st Encounter will be drafted by the organizing committee of the Encounter and it will send a copy to each country. In particular, the delegates who receive each copy will be in charge of disseminating it in their respective countries and in the countries of influence as a result of international sponsorship.

8th Recommendation

In order to send the final report, the contacts with the countries that did not attend the 1st Encounter are the following:

Argentina: Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay y Paraguay.

Brazil: Portugal.

Mexico: Spain and, if possible, Cuba.

El Salvador: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá.

9th Recommendation

The organizing country will be responsible of seeking contact with all the countries to inform them in detail about the Encounter.

10th Recommendation

It is the general consensus that we continue inviting these two countries (Spain and Portugal.)

11th Recommendation

It recommends that the next Encounter should have one more day of duration.

12th Recommendation

The presentation made by the Mexican delegation was amply discussed; it deals with the probability of incorporating the rights mentioned in Concepts II, IV and V of the book *Twelve Concepts for World Service* to Article 12 of the Charter of Incorporation, especially the rights of appeal and petition.

The 1st Encounter of General Services of AA presents the presentation made by Mexico for the consideration of the Agenda Committee of the 6th World Service Meeting, which is attached to this request, and it expresses its manifest wish that this presentation be carefully considered, in the hope that it can be executed in case it is approved through the established proceedings.

13th Recommendation

That the Ibero American delegates to the next World Service Meeting commit to motion the installation of simultaneous translation, from English to Spanish, so that the requirement of appointing delegates to said meetings be eliminated, which is that they have knowledge of English.

10. Slogans of the REDELA

19th REDELA — Mexico City, Mexico, from October 4 to 8, 2015:
«Joining the Americas»

18th REDELA — Salinas, Ecuador from October 8 to 12, 2013:
«Carrying the message is the responsibility of all»

17th REDELA — San Salvador, El Salvador from October 19 to 23, 2011:
«Country to country sponsorship: a vital need for the growth of AA»

16th REDELA — Arequipa, Peru from October 14 to 18, 2009:
«Communication: the fundamental basis of a good service»

15th REDELA — São Paulo, Brazil from October 17 to 21, 2007:
«Strengthening unity in our countries»

14th REDELA — Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic from October 5 to 9, 2005:
«Sponsorship: gratitude in action from country to country»

13th REDELA — Maracaibo, Venezuela from October 8 to 9, 2003:
«Our basis: spiritual awakening»

12th REDELA — Cartagena, Colombia from October 11 to 14, 2001:
«Unity: our path to survival»

11th REDELA — San Salvador, El Salvador from October 8 to 12, 1999:
«AA beyond in the future»

10th REDELA — Guadalajara, Mexico from October 22 to 26, 1997:
«In search of a new destiny»

9th Ibero American Meeting — Punta del Este, Uruguay from October 18 to 22, 1995:
«Message of universal love»

8th Ibero American Meeting — Brazil from October 27 to 30, 1993:
«Serving in unity, we grow»

7th Ibero American Meeting — Argentina from November 13 to 16, 1991:
«Uniting AA in Ibero America every day»

6th Ibero American Meeting — Mexico from August 22 to 25, 1989:
«Alcoholics Anonymous in Ibero America Transmitting the message»

5th Ibero American Meeting — El Salvador from August 3 to 6, 1987:
«The AAs in Ibero America united through the message»

4th Ibero American Encounter — Uruguay from October 7 to 12, 1985:
«For AA there are no distances»

3rd Ibero American Encounter — Brazil from July 26 to 30, 1983.

2.º Ibero American Encounter — Argentina from August 13 to 16, 1981.

1st Ibero American Encounter — Colombia from November 15 to 17, 1979.

Summary of the 19th REDELA

11. Evaluation Questionnaire

The 23 delegates who participated in the 19th REDELA answered the evaluation questionnaire; below is a summary of the responses.

What presentation did you think were most valuable?

All the presentations were very useful, we have good material to share with our structures. The themes relating to the issues on the structures, such as “The District”, ILF, CWO, Finances, “Loyalty to the principles in the group,” “Unicity of purpose of the AA program before the groups that use our name in the groups,” “Service with spirituality and respect to the principles of AA.”

We suggest that you consider giving more time to the participations.

What round tables did consider to be the most valuable?

The three round tables were very good, among them, the following themes: “Resentment,” CWO, “Unicity of purpose of the AA program before the groups that use our name in the groups.”

The theme concerning the inventory of the REDELA is useful. We can only move forward if we know where we are.

Suggestion: more themes on structure and Concepts.

Do you think we should continue with the outstanding points of the countries?

Yes, it is valuable information; we need these details of every country in order to be informed on the state of AA in each structure. The members of AA want to know about other structures, their operation, the challenges they face and the successes they obtain.

Suggestion: Avoid very long texts, that they be precise, outstanding points and underline their problems. Include the outstanding points that occur from REDELA to REDELA.

That the structures that participate for the first time, give a historical summary of their country and that they be precise in their weaknesses.

Do you think the delegates participated sufficiently?

Yes, the participations, presentations and sessions of Exchange of ideas were enriching.

The participation of the chairmen were by ballot. Well done! It was democratic.

There were more participations than in the past REDELA.

We suggest more time for the round tables and that the participations be more precise.

The communication and information you received before the meeting, was it adequate?

There were problems with the server; the Web site of the REDELA can contribute to improve the communication.

The information received was efficient, timely and provided orientation. Sometimes, we are forgetful.

The translation from Spanish to English in the binder was very helpful.

Suggestion: Send the agenda beforehand; translate the conclusions of past REDELAS into English.

How can the Meeting of the Americas be improved?

The translation into English of all the past conclusions and relevant information would be an improvement.

We must continue striving to reach the countries that cannot be present. As delegates of structures, we should know about our responsibilities in the preparatory work, themes and other areas in order to facilitate the work of the organizing committee. Send the proposals and slogans on time. Sponsor the first term delegates.

Improve communication; that it be not only in the Web site of the REDELA, but exchange experiences among the delegates and on the work elaborated between each one of the REDELAS. Fulfill the recommendations that are issued. The responsibility is of everyone.

Your comments, suggestions or criticism:

The delegates commented that it would be useful if the binder is sent by electronic mail, as well as the approach and greater exchange of information among delegates. Punctuality. Project the presentations on a screen. Comply with the agreements established in each REDELA.

It is important that, at the beginning of the event, the procedure for the development of the work, voting, and agreements is explained. Sponsorship is important.

Suggestions: In the next 20th REDELA, present a study in order to create a fund and support the information center and the International Literature Fund (ILF.)

That there not be too many spaces of "What do you think?"

That the second term delegates who conclude their service, continue receiving information of the REDELA. In the 20th REDELA, share the way to approach the countries that have not been able to be present in this event. The binder translated into English was very helpful, it allowed us to follow the sharing, themes and reports much better. The exchange of experiences and service was very good!

The visit to GSO and the office of Plenitud was marvelous!

The hospitality was very pleasant. The hosting committee did a marvelous job. The supporting staff was very accommodating and they were well prepared, especially the assistants who were very helpful for the development of the event during the week. The trips on the Turibus were very interesting and allowed us to see the historical part of Mexico City.

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13.Directory of the General Service Offices

Argentina

Oficina de Servicios Generales

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(1054) Buenos Aires Argentina
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Sitio web: <http://www.aa.org.ar>

Bolivia

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Brazil

Escritorio de Servicios Gerais
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Tatuapé Sao Paulo
C.P. 03066-010
Tel.55 1132 293611 y 55 1133 133395
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alcoolicosanonimos@com.br
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Sitio web: <http://www.alcoolicosaninimos.org.br>

Colombia

Oficina de Servicios Generales
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Edificio Furatena
Medellín Colombia.
Tels: 57-4-2517887
Fax: 57-4-231-6458
E-mail: corporacionaa@epm.net.com
Sitio web: <http://www.cnaa.org.co>

Costa Rica

Oficina de Servicios Generales
Calles 7 y 9
Avenida 12 100 metros al sur y 75 al oeste de Acueductos y Alcantarillados
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San José, Costa Rica
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Cuba

Oficina de Servicios Generales
Calle 27 No. 156 A e/c L y M, Vedado
C.P. 10400
Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba
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Chile

Oficina de Servicios Generales

Bellavista No. 0330, Providencia-Santiago, Chile.
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Paraguay

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